

Weekly Newsletter

April 16th 2021

A Caring, Respectful and Open Environment, where Success and Opportunity flourish



Please find our school newsletter for the week ending 16th April 2021. Click on the links for more information.

Please visit our website
www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk

Kind regards,
Cofion cynnes,

Dean Taylor



Pentrepoeth Primary School

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Weekly Newsletter

16th April 2021

Dear Parent and Carer,
Annwyl Rhieni,

Welcome back to the Summer term. I hope our families have had a restful Easter. We are all looking forward to the Summer term. We are all hopeful that we will continue to see reductions in the covid-19 transmission rates and that further periods of isolation or fuller lockdown are avoided.

Striking the Balance

Schools and settings have experienced their own unique set of circumstances during the pandemic. There is no one size fits all model and schools have adopted differing approaches which are best suited to the needs and circumstances of their learners and families. At the start of the pandemic no one knew what good distance and blended learning looked like, so as a school we have shared our experiences and learned from other schools to shape our approaches to teaching and learning.



As we hopefully move in to a more sustained face to face teaching and learning scenario our pledge as a school will be to:

- Place wellbeing at the heart of all our work.
- Continue to communicate clearly with you on a regular basis.
- Ask your opinions as a parent / carer and refine our approaches in line with your feedback.
- Continue to embrace change and learn from this period of time, particularly in relation to the use of technology.
- Support all families and carers to encourage their children to engage in their learning whilst face to face with their teachers, or when they are learning from home.

So far as a school we have:

- Placed wellbeing at the centre of everything we have done
- Developed a flexible approach to ensure our children have been safe and have continued to



learn

- Upskilled all staff to enable them to use appropriate digital technology
- Provided a range of different learning activities that encouraged children to learn both digitally, creatively, practically and sometimes outdoors
- Provided guidance and resources to parents and carers of children
- Continued to prepare for the implementation of Curriculum for Wales
- Stayed connected through a range of networking opportunities with our families, school community and schools from across the SE Wales region
- Listened to feedback from parents and carers – my thanks for your feedback via staff, e mail and in conversations I have had with many of you over the last year.

It is appropriate to acknowledge that the pandemic has not necessarily been a positive time as many have experienced loss and had difficult lockdown experiences. Home learning experiences will have been varied. We know that some children have struggled and due to a range of factors many have not engaged fully.

However, some children have excelled, showing that they can work with independence, and adapt to using technology as well as many more skills that they may not have had an opportunity to exercise in the period pre-pandemic.

It is important that as a school we can evaluate and assess the progress your child has made during this period and for those who are in key transition years we will support them through this process. We will work with you and your child to identify any support they may require in the coming months. I have been holding pupil progress meetings with all staff this week and talking through each child – focussing on wellbeing, progress in skills etc.

Promoting positivity in language

As a school we are going to continue to build on the positive experiences and opportunities that have arisen since the start of the pandemic and therefore you will notice us using the following vocabulary wherever possible:



- Powering Up
- Reconnect
- Renewal
- Supporting each other
- Working together
- Seizing opportunities
- Bringing solutions and solving problems
- Engaging with our community
- Moving together
- Opportunity and innovation
- 'Tomorrow will be a good day' (Captain Sir Tom Moore)

It is important at this time that we surround our children with positive thoughts and language and that we avoid focusing on the negatives. We will therefore use the following language with caution and would encourage you to do the same:



- Loss of learning
- Everyone needs to Catch-up
- Narrowing the COVID gap
- Start learning
- Falling behind
- Gaps in learning

During the Summer term, we will work to do the following:

- Keep wellbeing at the fore of all that we do and support all children according to their needs
- Ensure the school is as covid safe as possible and continue to work with parents to promote this.
- Use feedback from children's questionnaires to ensure any possible future online learning continues to evolve – *all pupils have completed a questionnaire – I have attached some overall results that may be of interest to you from years 2-6*
- Continue a dialogue with parents around online learning, pupil wellbeing and progress
- Ensure children have plenty of opportunities to talk with the children in their class
- Ensure we utilise as much time as possible in group and team activities
- Provide a rich blend of experiences and topics asking children what topics they would like to be involved in
- Provide 'boost' for skills where needed

Parent Forums

I am proposing to hold two virtual online meetings in the next weeks about online learning. If you would like to attend please e mail Mrs Harman via the school office e mail who will send you a link to the Teams meeting.

It would be interesting to hear further feedback and this will be helpful for the team in planning for any further online learning periods should a class have to isolate for a period etc.

I will also be sending out a link to a short parent questionnaire on Monday. Your time in completing this will be very much appreciated.

Dates for Parent Forums



Wednesday 28th April 2021 @ 9.30am

Wednesday 28th April 2021 @ 5.30pm



Covid-19

Thank you for continuing to let us know of any covid-19 results or periods that children have to self-isolate due to waiting for a test result.

Online Learning

Should a period of online learning be needed due to a class self-isolating then we will utilise a blend of live, pre recorded and independent activities. I will send you a copy of the plan on Monday.

Parent Consultations



- A reminder to fill in the Microsoft Form link sent to you recently so that we have your e mail of choice for Microsoft Teams meetings next term.
- The booking system will be available to book a consultation on Monday 19th April 2021
- Teachers will send you a Teams appointment closer to the consultation date

PE/Forest Schools Days

Reception	Thursday
Year 1	Friday
Year 2	Monday/ Tuesday
Year 3	Wednesday
Year 4	Tuesday
Year 5	Tuesday
Year 6	Wednesday



Sports days



Unfortunately, parents will not be able to attend due to the covid-19 restrictions however we will ensure that classes have sports afternoons or mornings. See Dates for Diary below.





Our **Nursery** pupils have practised the “l” sound of the week. They have enjoyed a sound hunt, made a sound booklet and practised their letter formation focussing on the correct pencil grip and pencil control. Pupils have

been developing their oracy skills and enjoyed discussing their Easter holidays and drew pictures to help them talk in detail about their holiday. They continue to further develop their fine motor skills and have practised their colour mixing and pattern making using Spring colours as well as developing their cutting skills. Numeracy activities include the counting of sets using 1:1 matching, number formation and practising our number rhymes and songs. They have enjoyed being outdoors taking part in physical activities and games.

It has been a very exciting week for our **Reception** pupils as they have started their new topic ‘Pirates’. Ahoy matey!! They have shared the story ‘Pirates Love Underpants’ and enjoyed an adventure to find the golden underpants hidden in the classroom. Pupils have created their own pirate maps and used them to help retell the story. They have enjoyed making paper plate pirates, digging for the missing treasure and climbing aboard the Jolly Roger to buy items using coins from the pirate shop. They have also loved being bug detectives, exploring our school grounds to find minibeasts and recorded the data on a bar graph. During Forest School they used their mapping skills to find x marks the spot and to locate the missing treasure.

This week our **Year 1** pupils have started their new topic on Africa. They have looked at different African animals and made their own books on African animals using Book Creator on the IPADs. They also looked at landmarks in Africa and labelled them in their learning journals. Numeracy activities have involved voting for their favourite African animal and constructing a tally of their results. They also worked on reliably counting up to 20 objects and anchoring on 10. Pupils have continued to enjoy lots of learning outdoors and played a continents game on the yard looking at Africa. They also enjoyed moving like African animals in and around our forest school.

In Literacy, Language and Communication our **Year 2** pupils have enjoyed a new book called “The Great Race” about the Chinese Zodiac. They have extracted the relevant information from the text and answered in complete sentences, as well as sequencing the story and finding out which animal sign they were born under. They have studied the world map and located China and Wales as well as reading the Welsh book, “Byw yn China”. Numeracy activities have involved using a variety of mental strategies to add and subtract numbers. Pupils have developed their creative skills by making Chinese fans using origami and painting pictures of the Jade Emperor's palace. In Music, pupils have learned the Mandarin greetings song.

Our pupils in **Year 3** have continued to keep their Literacy skills sharp by using our Read Write Inc Spelling Planet challenges and Nessy programme to investigate the prefixes -in, dis and un. They continue to develop their handwriting skills by practising the correct formation of capital letters. They continue to enjoy “The Snow Queen” and have planned and designed a Wanted Poster to find Kay and completed problem solving activities regarding Gerda’s dilemma. Numeracy activities have centred on representing data using tables, tally charts, bar charts, pictograms and graphs.



Pupils have been given the chance to decide on what they would like to learn about their new topic on Invertebrates. They have investigated the classification of different insects and looked at the different jobs that insects do. Forest school activities have centred around the story "Into the Woods"

In Literacy **Year 4** pupils have started their new class novel "How to Train Your Dragon" and discussed what inspired Cressida Cowell to write these adventures. They have looked at the setting and Hiccup, our unconventional hero and shared ideas and opinions about what makes a person a hero. They have investigated synonyms and antonyms and written synonyms for key words e.g., big, scary, friendly to use in our future writing. In Numeracy, pupils have collected and presented data as tally charts, frequency tables and pictograms. They have also practised reading pictograms to obtain and interpret information. The new topic in Science is Woodland Detectives, children have discussed the plants and animals they would expect to find in a woodland habitat. They have reflected on the Countryside Code and discussed the importance of taking care of the countryside. They have researched information on the internet about the tallest mountain, largest active volcano and the deepest part of the ocean and produced non-chronological reports to write about the natural record breakers.

Our **Year 5** pupils have started reading their new book 'Clockwork' by Phillip Pullman. They have used VIPERS skills to answer a range of questions based on the front cover, preface and first section of the book. Pupils have drawn pictures and written descriptions of famous buildings around the world, inspired by the 'clock of Glockenheim' from Clockwork. Numeracy work has focussed on comparing and converting fractions, decimals and percentages. They have created quizzes and completed online activities and games linked with this topic. The new 'Daily Mile' challenge has been introduced and children have run around the field as many times as possible in 15 minutes and then calculated how far they have run. Children have started to design their own daily mile course for the rest of the school to complete. ICT activities have involved completing research on buildings of their choice from around the world as well as researching and finding out about Ramadan. The new Science topic is Electricity, children have discussed and highlighted key safety features when using electrical equipment. They have started work on circuits, preparing to make working circuits and electrical models next week. They have enjoyed an orienteering lesson, using maps to locate certain areas around our school grounds.

And so the final term of the year begins and for **Year 6** their final term at Pentrepoeth! Our Year 6 pupils I have enjoyed working in their groups to complete a variety of activities. They have practised their oracy skills in Welsh using place mats to support their learning and worked in pairs to develop their skills in Welsh conversations about themselves and played "Gem Detectif" to move their understanding of new language patterns forward. In Numeracy, pupils have developed their understanding of ratio through a number of activities and applied their knowledge and understanding to a variety of problem solving activities. Yet again, a good understanding and quick recall of times tables has proved invaluable. In Literacy they have edited and improved narratives written about "The Fox and the Squirrel" based on Daniel Morden's version from the "Tales from the Dark Woods". Pupils have used a variety of literacy devices including similes, onomatopoeia and a variety of sentence openers. Their new topic is "Creeping Coastlines", pupils have researched and identified different types of coastlines and worked independently to write a



definition of a coastline. They have researched the top ten coastlines in the world, trying to predict from looking at a world map the length of the top ten coastlines. As always it is wonderful to see pupils chatting and laughing together as they learn.

Healthy Schools Information

Pentrepoeth Primary School strives to be a healthy school. We encourage drinking water, washing hands and eating healthily. Help your child to stay healthy by following these guidelines below:

Water bottles

It is recommended that clear purpose-made sports-style bottles are used and are clearly labelled with the pupil's name. Bottles should be kept on pupil's desks or for younger pupils stored in a crate in the classroom. Bottles are for water only. Bottles are sent home daily to be cleaned, they should be washed in warm soapy water, the sports caps scrubbed with a brush, and bottles left to air-dry upside down in a hygienic place; or they can be washed in a dishwasher if the bottles are suitable.



Lunch boxes

Keep me cool, keep me clean!



Keep your lunchbox healthy!





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Time	Event/Activity
April		
Monday 12 th April	All day	Summer term starts
May		
Monday 3 rd May	All day	May Day
Tuesday 4 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Nursery Miss Williams
Wednesday 5 th May	12.00pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Nursery Miss Williams
Wednesday 5 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Reception Mrs Starke
Tuesday 4 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Reception Mrs Starke
Wednesday 5 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Reception Miss Ellis
Tuesday 4 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Reception Miss Ellis
Wednesday 5 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 1 Mrs Batrouni
Thursday 6 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 1 Mrs Batrouni
Wednesday 5 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 1 Mrs Drummond
Thursday 6 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 1 Mrs Drummond
Tuesday 4 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 2 Mrs Beard
Wednesday 5 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 2 Mrs Beard
Tuesday 4 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 2 Mr Nocivelli
Wednesday 5 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 2 Mr Nocivelli
Tuesday 11 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 3 Mrs Baxter
Tuesday 11 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 3 Mrs Davies
Wednesday 12 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 3 Mrs Davies
Tuesday 11 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 4 Mrs Jones
Wednesday 12 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 4 Mrs Jones
Tuesday 11 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 4 Mrs Gooding
Wednesday 12 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 4 Mrs Gooding
Tuesday 18 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 5 Mr Willmore
Wednesday 19 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 5 Mr Willmore
Tuesday 18 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 5 Mr Merriman
Wednesday 19 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 5 Mr Merriman
Wednesday 19 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 6 Mr Cleaves
Tuesday 18 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 6 Mr Cleaves
Wednesday 19 th May	9.30am – 4.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 6 Mrs Symes
Tuesday 18 th May	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations - Year 6 Mrs Symes
Thursday 27 th May	All day	INSET Day 3 – Curriculum – <i>School closed for children</i>
Friday 28 th May	All day	INSET Day 4 – Curriculum - <i>School closed for children</i>
Mon 31 st May – Fri 4 th June		Half Term
June		
Monday 14 th June	9.30am – 10.30am	Morning Nursery Sports
	1.30pm – 2.30pm	Afternoon Nursery Sports
Tuesday 15 th June	9.30am – 11.30am	Reception Classes Sports
Wednesday 16 th June	9.30am – 11.30am	Year 1 Classes Sports
Thursday 17 th June	9.30am – 11.30am	Year 2 Classes Sports
Tuesday 22 nd June	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Welcome Meeting NEW Reception Parents – by TEAMS



Wednesday 23 rd June	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Welcome Meeting NEW Nursery Parents – by TEAMS
Thursday 24 th June	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Year 2 Meeting Parents – transition to Year 3 – by TEAMS
Thursday 24 th June	9.30am – 12.00pm	Year 3 Classes Sports
	1.00pm – 3.00pm	Year 4 Classes Sports
	6.00pm – 7.00pm	Year 2 Meeting Parents – transition to Year 3 – by TEAMS
Friday 25 th June	9.30am – 12.00pm	Year 5 Classes Sports
	1.00pm – 3.00pm	Year 6 Classes Sports
July		
Friday 2 nd July	End of Day	Pupil Reports issued to Parents
Monday 12 th July	3.50pm – 6.00pm	Parent Consultations – <i>to discuss any issues relating to reports</i>
Friday 16 th July		End of Summer Term for Pupils
Monday 19 th July	All day	INSET Day 5 -ALN - <i>School closed for children</i>
Tuesday 20 th July	All day	INSET Day 6 – ALN- <i>School closed for children</i>



Website - www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk

Twitter - @PentrepoethPrim

Other Twitter Pages ...



Click on the links in blue!

Class	Twitter	Area	Twitter
Nursery – Mrs Williams	@PPSMrsWilliams	Whole School	@PentrepoethPrim
Reception – Mrs Starke	@PPSMrsStarke	Expressive Arts	@PPSExpressiveArts
Reception – Miss Ellis	@PPSMissEllis	Health and Wellbeing	@PPSHealth_Well
Year 1 – Mrs Batrouni	@PPSMrsBatrouni	Humanities	@PPSHumanites
Year 1- Mrs Drummond	@PPSMrsDrummond	Languages, Literacy and Communication	@PPSLangandLit
Year 2- Mrs Beard	@PPSMrsBeard2jb	Mathematics and Numeracy	@PPSMathsandNum
Year 2 – Mr Nocivelli	@PPSMrNocivelli	Science and Technology	@PPSciandTech
Year 3 – Mrs Baxter	@PPSMrsBaxter		
Year 3 – Mrs Davies	@PPSMrsDavies		
Year 4 – Mrs Gooding	@PPSMrsGooding		
Year 4 – Mrs Jones	@PPSMrsJones		
Year 5 – Mr Merriman	@PPSMrMerriman		
Year 5 – Mr Willmore	@PPSMrWillmore		
Year 6 – Mr Cleaves	@PPSMrCleaves		
Year 6 – Mrs Symes	@PPSMrsSymes		

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely,
Cofion cynnes,

Dean Taylor
Headteacher

