

Newsletter

November 6th 2020

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



Please find our school newsletter for November 6th 2020. Click on the links for more information.

Please visit our website
www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk

Kind regards,
Cofion cynnes,

Dean Taylor



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November 6th 2020

Newsletter

Dear Parent and Carer,
Annwyl Rhieni,

Welcome back to Autumn 2, I hope you all had an enjoyable half term – despite the rain – and that you are all keeping safe and well. We had a good training day on Monday – looking at reading strategies and blended learning.

Please find some updates for this week.

Covid-19

My ongoing thanks for your support with social distancing and with drop off and pick up arrangements. I want to reassure you that I am constantly reviewing all procedures in line with the latest guidance from Welsh Government and Newport City Council. The school has a robust risk assessment in place – we are keeping this constantly under review.

I refer you to the following guidelines issued previously. Please find the link [here](#). This provides guidance on timescales and procedures should cases be confirmed in school or within families.

This is a joint effort between school and families and with our partner secondary and other schools where siblings may attend. As stated previously each of our classes are 'contact' groups and no children mix with other contact groups during the day in school. Nursery (am and pm together) are treated as a contact group as nursery staff are in both groups – so if there was a positive case in either morning or afternoon nursery – the whole nursery would need to self - isolate for the appropriate period. All schools have different contexts and curriculum requirements which will impact on the size of the 'contact' group. Many of you will be aware that Bassaleg, our partner High school has had to self-isolate most year groups and I know that Miss Lambe has written to parents explaining the reasons for this. We work together as a group of Headteacher colleagues and please be assured that we are all following guidelines strictly.



A number of points made in a recent letter from Miss Lambe were very helpful for me to communicate with **our** school community. I have adapted them for primary phase.

It is absolutely essential that if any member of a household displays symptoms or goes for a test then the whole household must isolate immediately whilst awaiting the test result. As previously communicated with all families, **no pupil must come into school if they or a household member are awaiting test results.** Should a pupil test come back as positive and that pupil has been in school up to 48 hours previously, this will result in the 'contact group' needing to self-isolate. The school therefore is putting trust in all parents/carers to strictly adhere to this protocol and keep us informed of your situation, so that we can work together to keep all members of our school community safe.

Should there be a positive case in a contact 'class' confirmed, the school liaises with Environmental Health to establish the self-isolation dates for both the child and the contact group; **these dates are fixed and not ones set by the school. The decision to self-isolate 'contact groups' for 'x' number of days is one that has been taken by Welsh Government and is something all schools across Wales are adhering to.** Our responsibility is to ensure that should such a scenario occur then we would need to have a 'blended learning model' in place so that all of our pupils are as purposefully engaged in their learning as possible. I am confident that the blended learning in which your child will be engaged is the best it can be; we continue to research, upskill and experiment so that pupils make as much progress as possible

As I stated earlier, thank you for your continued support and grace – this is a real community effort and as we continue to work and communicate together we will ensure the safety of all during these challenging times. Thank you.

Blended Learning



We have been continually developing and updating our blended learning approach to ensure the continuity of learning should a class or year group have to self isolate or indeed we face a longer period of school closure.

The text you receive after this newsletter will give you details of how Blended Learning will operate should we need to use it.

Digitally Excluded Learners

A reminder that during lockdown we made a number of our school iPads, laptops and dongles available to children if they were not able to access home learning due to a lack of device or if there was no internet connection.

If this is the case for you, please let us know via the school office so that we may help should you need this technology for a period of self-isolation.



INSET Days

School will be closed for children on the following days:

Friday February 12th 2021

Monday July 19th 2021

Tuesday July 20th 2021

There will be one other day, to be confirmed
– I will be in touch as soon as this is agreed.



Term	Start	Half-term starts	Half-term ends	Term ends
Autumn	1 Sept 2020	26 Oct 2020	30 Oct 2020	18 Dec 2020
Spring	4 Jan 2021	15 Feb 2021	19 Feb 2021	26 Mar 2021
Summer	12 April 2021	31 May 2021	4 June 2021	20 July 2021

Catering

Chartwell's started the school meal service last week and the hot meal boxes have proved very popular! These are delivered by Chartwells to classrooms where children are eating their lunch. This helps to maintain contact groups.



Meals are to be paid for in the usual way via Parent pay. Children will give their meal choices to the teacher when they are in school.

Please see the menu in last week's newsletter.

A reminder that no nuts or nut containing products are allowed in school.

Christmas 2020 in school



I will provide full details of Christmas activities and how we will ensure we celebrate, keep learning and keep safe next week in a separate communication!



Parents' Evenings

For obvious reasons and in line with our risk assessment we are unable to hold face to face parent consultation meetings this term. We will however be offering **10 minute** pupil progress conversations with parents. Slots for telephone calls will be available to book via Teachers to parents in the next few weeks and the timetable for phone calls is listed below. Consultations will start at 2pm and end at 5.30pm.



Date	Year Groups
10 th , 11 th November	Years 3 and 5
17 th , 18 th November	Years 4 and 6
25 th , 26 th November	Year 2
3 rd , 4 th December	Year 1
8 th , 9 th December	Nursery
9 th , 10 th December	Reception

For any new parents the following things are usually discussed during the Autumn:

- How your child is settling into their new class
- General progress in English, Maths and Thematic work
- Child's targets for learning
- Class routines e.g. PE days, homework etc.
- Any questions you may have

You would normally be able to look at your children's learning in books, however, of course this will not be possible this term.

School Meal Debt

We still have a number of accounts that need to be brought in to balance. Please will you ensure that accounts are kept in credit via Parent pay and that credit is available before meals are chosen. Thank you.



Mr Taylor's 50 - 75- 100 Reading Challenge

You will remember that I mentioned my Reading Challenge a few weeks back... well, here are a few more details....

The challenge is to read as many books as possible (up to 100) over a 2 or 3 year period, depending on which part of the school you are in.

Foundation Phase - over 3 years Reception, Years 1 and 2
Years 3 and 4 – over 2 years
Years 5 and 6 – over 2 years

The full list of titles to be read are available by clicking the link below... you can download a word copy for your records – for children in years 2 to 6 they will be available via Google Classroom also.

If children read 50,75 or 100 books in that period they will get a prize and a certificate from me.

I am aiming to start the challenge (slightly delayed) from the 1st December – we are still awaiting some of the titles to arrive at school. If you have some of the titles at home then please feel free to use your own books.

I would ask that children from year 2 upwards write a very short comment on the book and whether they enjoyed it and parents to sign off to confirm they have read it!

We will be in touch with Nursery parents with a separate reading challenge – where children can listen to and share a number of books with you.

I will speak with the children next week and as soon as all the books are in we will start! We really want to foster a love of reading and hope as many children as possible will take part in it! For clarity, this is not homework and children do not have to take part ... but I am hoping you will join with me in encouraging and promoting a love of reading!

Click [here](#)



Mr Taylor's 50 - 75- 100 Reading Challenge





Our Nursery pupils have been discussing the season of Autumn using stories, multimedia and natural objects. They have enjoyed reading their new book "Leaf Man" and have spent time outdoors looking for signs of Autumn. They have enjoyed using their observational skills to colour match Autumnal natural objects to colour charts. Numeracy

work has involved counting the sets of natural objects and mark making the quantities. They have used their creative skills to complete an Autumn repeated patterns with very pleasing colourful results. They have also been practising discussing the weather using Welsh language patterns

Our children in Reception have enjoyed the story "Superworm" and have loved building their own class wormery using natural resources to enhance it. They have had great fun collecting worms to add to the wormery. They have also enjoyed their time in Forest School using natural resources to make a home for their worms. In Numeracy they have enjoyed cutting and sticking activities to determine the longest and shortest worm. They have developed their creative skills by using clay to make their own worms and used pipe cleaners and Cheerios to make wiggly worms and promote fine motor skills. They have also used tweezers and small objects to make patterns in the Block play.

Year 1 pupils have enjoyed reading "The Emperor's Egg." They have learned lots of interesting facts about penguins and made a fact file to share the information. Our pupils have enjoyed pretending to be penguins and balancing the eggs on their feet! They have used their imagination and written sentences to describe what they would do if they were a penguin and have made their own eggs out of clay and explored patterns on the eggs. In Numeracy they have weighed their eggs to see which were the heaviest and the lightest. They have explored counting in 2's this week and worked as a team to count socks and put them in pairs. Our pupils have been enjoying the fine weather and have been outdoors practising their ball skills.

Pupils in Year 2 have enjoyed reading the Big Book "The Bear that wouldn't grow!" and learning about the different species of bears. They are continuing to practise their phonemes and graphemes and have been concentrating on the "ow" grapheme. Pupils have celebrated what they are good at and what they could do in order to improve. Numeracy work has centred around telling the time using an analogue display. Our Year 2 pupils have also enjoyed reading "We're going on a bear hunt" and loved hunting for bears in our Forest School as well as building dens for the bears to hide in! In Music they have looked at rhythm and pulse and have had lots of fun taking part in rhythmical games. Commando Joe activities have centred around completing tasks around the story of Pocahontas.

Our Year 3 pupils are continuing to enjoy learning about the Romans. They have been investigating features of non-chronological reports and have written very interesting reports about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. They have been investigating Roman towns and looked at maps showing the Roman fortress at Isca (Caerleon). They have even had a go at drawing their own map of the area. Numeracy tasks have involved multiplication by 10 and using bar models to find fact families. In Welsh they have been learning the language patterns to describe who they live with.

Pupils in Year 4 have been focussing on past tense verbs, writing sentences in the past tense and



investigating regular and irregular spelling patterns. Numeracy work has involved experimenting with different strategies to add numbers together. Our pupils have looked at informal pencil and paper methods using partitioning skills and expanded methods of addition. The Rainforest topic has continued with pupils using the IT drawing package to create a picture of a rainforest animal and have practised using different shapes and colours. Our pupils have been learning about the history of Bonfire Night and created a firework Safety Poster. They have used their creative skills to produce a pastel picture of a firework display with very colourful, creative results.

Year 5 children have been developing their IT skills using the chrome books to edit and upgrade their Harry Potter diary entries. They have used the description of the setting of Diagon Alley to complete a "slow write" using a wide variety of sentence structures. They have investigated written methods of "bus stop" division to calculate answers with and without remainders. They have been solving word problems deciding whether to multiply or divide. Our super scientists have been carrying out a "melting candle" experiment using their numeracy skills to measure changes in weight when the wax changed from a solid to liquid and gas. They have challenged themselves and shown their results in the form of line graphs. Our pupils have written detailed character descriptions using third person Welsh language patterns to describe their character's age, where they live and their likes and dislikes.

Year 6 pupils have been looking at the features of legends particularly Theseus and the Minotaur. There is definitely a love of Greek mythology this week in both classes. In Numeracy year 6 pupils have learned to be accountants and have calculated the profit and loss of Dominoes pizza. These are definitely life skills for maths. Our Science has become Oscar nominated as year 6 are now using their creative skills to produce a drama based around pollination. Bees are buzzing and flowers are looking beautiful as the pollen is passed from flower to flower. Videos of the creations will be posted via twitter asap. Our pupils have also been practising their oracy skills at home and have delivered their presentations to the class throughout the week. RE activities have involved looking at different churches in the local area and discussing similarities and differences between them. Pupils have looked at the rules of our Forest School area and discussed reasons for the rules. They continue to practise their Welsh oracy skills whilst looking at the recount of Ynys y Barri. As always, it has been a very busy week. Please keep up to date with school activities by following classes via their class Twitter pages.

Click the Classes tab on the school website.

www.pentrepoethprimary.co.uk

Poppy Appeal



We will be supporting the British Legion Poppy appeal this year. In order to comply with our risk assessment and to maintain social distancing we will provide all children with a Poppy on their desk when they arrive in school on Wednesday 11th November.

We kindly ask that parents donate 20p or a contribution of your choice via a collection bucket that will be at the top of the turning circle for children or adults to drop the donation in on your way in to school.



Children In Need – Friday 13th November



Children In Need Day 2020 – Five to Thrive activities in school*Non uniform – Hilarious hair and hats can be worn!*

A donation bucket will be at the gate at the top of the turning circle for parents and children to drop a donation in on Friday 13th!

Dates For Your Diary !

November	
Mon Nov 2 nd	INSET Day 2 – <i>School Closed for Children</i>
Fri Nov 13 th	Children In Need Day 2020 – Five to Thrive activities in school <i>Non uniform – Hilarious hair and hats can be worn!</i>
Mon 16 th – Fri 20 th Nov	Anti- Bullying Week
Mon Nov 23 rd – Fri Nov 30 th	<i>Mathematical Development Week</i>
December	
Dec 1 st	<i>Mr Taylor’s 100 Book Reading Challenge Starts! Books arriving soon!!</i>
Wed Dec 16 th	School Christmas Dinner Christmas Movie Afternoon
Thu Dec 17 th	Class Christmas Parties
Fri Dec 18 th	Class Christmas Assemblies
Mon 21 st Dec – Fri 1 st Jan	CHRISTMAS BREAK
January	
Mon Jan 4 th	Start of Spring Term 2021

PTA Newsletter will be sent in a separate text.

I hope you all enjoy a really lovely weekend,

Kind regards,
Cofion cynnes,

Dean Taylor
Headteacher

