

'Live Well, Laugh Together, Learn Forever'



January Right of the Month ~ Article 29 'The right to become the best you can be!'

Reception News ~ We have had a great first 2 weeks back in school. On our first day we were thinking about the New Year and said goodbye to 2023 and hello to 2024. We had fun making a handprint picture to celebrate. We also shared our holiday news, Mrs Challenger recorded each of us and created

a QR code. Next, we have been exploring our new concept 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets'. We shared what we know and what we would like to find out. We have decided to explore who lives in a castle and what castles were like. To develop our knowledge about who lives in a castle we took part in a higher order thinking skills activity. Where we had to listen to information and then choose information to share with our cooperative group. This was a great activity to develop our memory skills. Within our maths we have

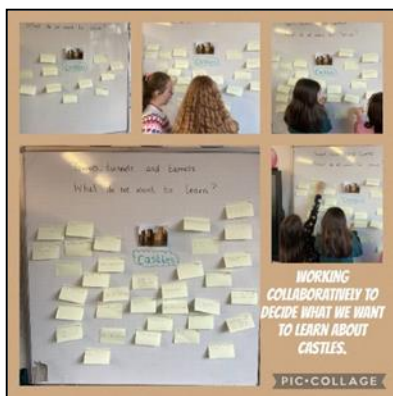
been taking part in outdoor numicon hunts and then creating number lines, thinking about 1 more and less and adding two shapes together.



Year 3 News ~ Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to a new term. In Year 3 we have been happy to return to school and talk about our Christmas holidays and our New Year celebrations. In class we have started our new topic on "Towers, Tunnels and

Turrets". We brainstormed our ideas to decide what we would like to learn and what interested us the most. We had some really good ideas. We started by looking at the Normans and how they came to Britain from France. We carried out a cooperative HOTS activity to read interesting information from a research sheet and report back to our group. It was good fun and the following day we were able to recall lots of the facts we had read and spoken about. We also carried out an activity where we had to label a Norman castle and discuss the people who lived inside the castle walls. Following on from that we diamond ranked





people's jobs and responsibilities in order of importance. As part of our Rights Respecting we looked at Article 24 to be the best you can be. We all designed our shields and spoke about things that we are good at. In maths we have been looking at multiplication and practicing our times tables. All of Key Stage 2



pupils visited Cardiff Castle this week. It was a brilliant day out and we learned a lot about castles.



Year 1 & 2 News ~ Blwyddyn Newydd Dda/Happy New Year to all our family and friends. We have had a great first two weeks back in school. It has been lovely to see our friends and share our news about our Christmas holidays. We have begun our new topic called 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets' and started to learn about castles, why they were built and who lives in them. We started with a story 'The Castle the King Built' but we quickly learnt it was not a king who built the castle it was his army and servants. We have been working in co-operative groups to read

and find out about a local castle ruin 'Castell-Nedd/Neath-Castle'. We also had a visit from our local Heritage Education Officer Harriet and she taught us all about how castles evolved, how they were used for defence and protection and how they were attacked. She also taught us about local castles in our area. Did you know Baglan, Aberavon, Kenfig and Neath have had castles in the past. In maths we have been revisiting number, addition and subtraction. We are all improving these skills so much. In music with Mrs James we have been learning a new castle song and learning how to dance medieval style like they would have in castle banquets a long time ago.



Nursery News ~ This week in Nursery we have started exploring our new concept all about Castles. We have enjoyed listening to the story 'Two Left Feet' about a little boy who visited Raglan Castle. The focus of the story is about supporting and encouraging each other in everything we do. We have also enjoyed playing with the small world castles in the tuff spots. We are very excited to learn more about castles and 'Who lives in a Castle?' this term.



We have also been exploring the ice from the cold weather we have been having this week. We were to recall when we learnt about solids and liquids last term. The ice is solid and very cold and then it will melt into a liquid. We have been practising our Welsh language pattern 'Mae hi'n oer' (It is cold) lots this week.

For our focused task this week, we have practising writing our names. We all worked very hard with our letter formation and writing skills. Da iawn plant!



Year 5 News ~ We have had a lovely start to our new topic 'Towers, Tunnels and Turrets'. We have learnt a lot about castles and the different types of castles. We looked briefly at how the Norman Era began and we have identified the different features of castles. To start off the topic, we had a lovely visit from Harriet who works for the library and museum services. She showed us different artefacts you would find in most castles and taught us lots of new vocabulary. Using this, we created a glossary of castle related terminology that we will be using throughout this topic.



We looked at the castle that would have been in Baglan during the Norman Era, Plas Baglan. We had fun doing a 'reading boat' activity, where there were lots of sheets around the hall with information about Plas Baglan. We had to work as teams in our cooperative learning groups to read the information and try to answer questions that we had been given.

We had a fantastic time on our trip to Cardiff Castle at the beginning of the week. We were able to spot lots of the features that we had been learning about around the castle as we had our tour. We had a workshop on different types of armour and how armour had developed over the years. We even had the chance to try on a chainmail helmet! We enjoyed visiting the keep and climbing all the steps to reach the very top. It gave us a wonderful view of Cardiff City Centre. We also walked through the air raid shelter from World War 2, the sound effects being played made us feel as if we had travelled back in time.

We have been studying different coats of arms of families who would have owned and lived in castles in Wales. We used these as inspiration to design our own coat of arms for our families.

In maths, we have learning to tell the time. We started off with analogue time and moved onto digital the following week. We are now able to convert digital times to analogue and vice versa.



Year 2 & 3 News ~ We hope you all had a wonderful break, the pupils were very excited coming back to school and couldn't wait to tell us their news about Christmas. We have enjoyed listening to each other asking questions about their Christmas day and their break. In Literacy, the pupils have carried out a recount about their Christmas day, they had to write in time order and provide lots of detail.

The pupils are excited for our new topic learning all about 'Towers, turrets and tunnels.' We have begun by looking at castles. We have discussed their features and the reason for each feature. We have also begun to look at comprehensions, looking at the

importance of reading, skimming, scanning and underlining to make sure we find the correct answer for each question.

In maths, we have been looking at halving and doubling 2 digits, using the partitioning method, then checking doubling using halving. Each morning we recite our times tables, 2, 5, 10. We have begun to recite our 3 times tables. Pupils enjoy our daily 10 mental maths activity, where they are encouraged to think and answer against a time. The pupils have

been able to multiply by 10/100. We have started multiplying two digits using the column method.

Year 3's had a fantastic time on their visit to Cardiff Castle, where they listened carefully to the history of the castle, when it was built and who used to live there. They enjoyed dressing up in the armour and thought it was very heavy.

The pupils have also enjoyed their session in the 'Forest School' area, where they had the opportunity to create a castle for a fairy using natural materials. They enjoyed squishing the mud to make the walls for the castle.



Cricket Wales ~ We would like to congratulate one of our pupils, Kara G, who has been selected for the Cricket Wales South Squad. We are very proud and look forward to hearing about Kara's achievements over the summer term. Ardderchog Kara.

Attendance Week Ending: 19.01.2024

This year, one of our school development priorities is to improve the attendance of all our pupils.

Class	Attendance
Nursery ~ Morning	96.4%
Nursery ~ Afternoon	89.8%
Reception	90.4%
Year 1	99%
Year 1 & 2	96.7%
Year 2 & 3	96%
Year 3	98.3%
Year 4	94.8%
Year 5	96.7%
Year 6	90.6%

A huge congratulations to Year 1 this week with a fantastic 99% attendance, closely followed by Year 3. Keep up the brilliant work!

Dates for the Diary	
24.01.2024	Playgroup ~ Splat Messy Play
01.02.2024	Open afternoon for parents to view pupils' books 2:30 pm
05.02.2024	Parental consultation day
06.02.2024	PTA Movie Night; 3.30pm ~ 5.00pm
09.02.2024	Last day of school before the spring break
04.03.2024	Fluoride Varnish; Nursery ~ Year 2
04.03.2024	Finesse; Year 6 Class Photographs
07.03.2024	Open afternoon for Nursery; 12.15pm ~ 1.15pm
14.03.2024	Café Cynefin; 9.00 ~ 10.30am
19.03.2024	Morning Nursery ~ Easter Concert
20.03.2024	Easter songs for playgroup
21.03.2024	Easter songs for afternoon Nursery



Shining Stars ~ Ser Disglair



Miss Wilson ~ Nursery	Eliza T ~ for being such a kind and helpful friend this week. Super sharing too. Ardderchog Eliza. Arthur D ~ for his super letter formation when writing his name. Da iawn.
Mrs Challenger ~ Reception	Cordelia G and Xavier P ~ for using their great skills when remembering information about 'who lives in a castle?'
Mr Atkins ~ Dosbarth 1	Sebastian MW ~ for trying really hard to write his name independently, da iawn. Ralph D ~ for an amazing job, learning to sign the song, 'Sing.'
Mrs Giles ~ Dosbarth 1 & 2	Charlie A ~ for his excellent subtraction in maths, gwyh Charlie. Teddy F ~ for his fantastic Welsh and sharing his news about our class mascot. Bendigedig.
Miss Randall ~ Dosbarth 2 & 3	Saxon W ~ for his careful listening to instructions and signing our song. Well done. Olivia D ~ for following step by step instructions on how to draw a castle. Da iawn Olivia.
Mrs Roosmalen ~ Dosbarth 3	Florence P, Romeo E and Rosie A ~ for their great understanding of multiplication and using it to solve word problems. Gwaith da.
Mrs Selley ~ Dosbarth 4	Daisy S ~ for her excellent work when reading and understanding a Castles of Wales text. Ardderchog! Javi M ~ for his super contribution to our drilio sessions. Bendigedig.
Miss Noon/ Mrs Myatt ~ Dosbarth 5	Jonathan VN ~ for working really hard in Giglets; reading and answering the questions, well done. Jude B ~ for remembering lots of facts that we learned on our trip to Cardiff Castle and contributing many ideas when planning our recounts. Ardderchog Jude.
Mrs Smart ~ Dosbarth 6	Luca N ~ for his excellent homework on Castell Coch. Ardderchog Luca. Mason R ~ for the super progress he has made in mathematics, well done. Jeff CE ~ for working so hard on his writing of accurate sentences, da iawn Jeff.
Mrs White ~ all classes	Jesse E (Year 4) ~ Gwaith gwyh! Great research work on castles. Kenza E (Year 4) ~ Gwaith da! Working hard whilst taking part in a cooperative group activity.