



SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been such a busy spring term here at Gnoll Primary with both staff and pupils working hard to plan and organise lots of events and exciting learning experiences.

Our concept this term is 'Exploration'. The children have been enjoying exploring this concept and developing their understanding. I would like to extend my thanks to you all for supporting your children with their 'Learning Logs', we really have been blown away by the standard of work created at home and the pride which the pupils show when they bring it in to school!

It has been so lovely to welcome lots of you in to school this term to enjoy class assemblies and celebrate your children's work. We have lots more assemblies planned so every class will hold an assembly by the end of the year.

Many thanks to you all for your continued support and for your many kind words and wishes which the staff and I have been sure to pass on to Mr Harris.

Kindest regards,

Miss Faye Evans

Acting Headteacher

What's been going on this term?

In January, all pupils celebrated St Dwynwen's Day (25.01.23). To celebrate this important day, we all wore red to school and enjoyed taking part in lots of activities including singing, baking, poetry and story telling.

In February, pupils also celebrated 'Dydd Miwsig Cymru' on 10.02.23. The pupils in 'Cryw Cymraeg' worked so hard with Mrs Daniel to organise this day and the whole school enjoyed wearing 'party clothes', performing and appraising welsh songs! They also created a video of our celebrations which has been placed on the school YouTube channel.

In March, we celebrated Dydd Gwyl Dewi! This is such an important time for us here in Wales that we had a whole school 'Welsh Week' and immersed the pupils in learning about our culture for the whole week. We thoroughly enjoyed art work, research, music, performances during the week, and especially seeing every class perform so brilliantly in our Eisteddfod. The key message which we all learned this week was 'Gwneud y pethau bychain' – 'do the little things' and as a staff, we can honestly say that we are so proud of our children who frequently go out of their way to 'do the little things' - a smile, a kind word and holding doors open for others are all 'little things' which we see regularly around our school.



The winners of our competitions, organised and judged by the 'Cryw Cymraeg' were invited to attend Caffi Cymraeg with Mrs Daniel where they enjoyed some sweet treats as a reward for their effort! Da iawn pawb!

In March, we also celebrated 'World Book Day' where our theme was 'bedtime stories'. The pupils took part in lots of reading activities and thoroughly enjoyed swapping classes to read to one another as well as welcoming staff and visitors into their classes to read. A huge thank you to our lovely governors who came in to read their favourite bedtime stories!



On Safer Internet Day in February our 'Digital Leaders' set out to raise awareness of keeping safe online. The whole school focused on raising awareness of the 'SMART' rules through class assemblies and activities set by digital leaders. KS2 also took part in an online live lesson with BBC Teach. The children designed a digital defence squad character and designed their own posters to display around the school about keeping safe online.



The pupils in the Rainbow Room have enjoyed a Music Session with staff from the Local Authority. The pupils used a variety of percussion instruments and interactive programmes to practise playing different songs and styles of music.

Many classes have enjoyed welcoming their families in to school to share what they have been learning and celebrate their work through our Class Assemblies including Nursery, Y2 SM, Y1 SC, Y3 JJ & DH and LSC ET and RK. The children have enjoyed sharing lots of themes including Mother's Day, Chinese New Year, Dydd Santes Dwynwen and Valentine's Day, the importance of music and our whole school concept of 'Exploration'.



This term, Reception parents have been invited in for a 5 week course to introduce the Read Write Inc programme, and to support them to develop their children phonological awareness and reading skills at home. This will continue higher up the school when this course is completed. Feedback has been really positive and attendance has increased week on week.

Our Y6 pupils have recently enjoyed a week long residential at Manor Adventure Outdoor Activity Centre in Brecon. They made us all so proud, representing the school so well off site and joining in lots of exciting activities including stand up paddling, boarding, raft building, zip wiring, rifle shooting, aeroball and an evening disco! I would like to thank the staff that took the pupils and helped make sure they had an enjoyable and memorable week away.



PTFA-

We are so lucky here in Gnoll Primary to have such a hardworking and proactive PTFA. They have recently funded a renovation of the Football Pitch with new surfacing and a MUGA goal area as well, we are truly grateful to them for all of their hard work and upon completion, we will be having a grand opening which I hope lots of you will be able to attend.

Dates for your diary-

Vision Review Session – On **31st March** we will be holding a ‘Vision Review Session’ where the parents, governors and members of the school community will be invited in to work alongside staff and children to review and update our school vision. We would love to welcome you in to join us at **2.30pm!**

SDP Coffee Club- Come and join us for a coffee and a chat about how our School Development Priorities are progressing this year. We welcome feedback and input and would love to share our progress with you on **April 27th at 2.30pm.**

INSET Days- **5th June and 21st July**

Notices-

Parking- A polite reminder to please be mindful of local residents when parking around the school. The back lane is a particularly tricky area to park which can be quite dangerous particularly during Nursery and PALs arrival and dismissal time so please try to avoid this. The local PCSOs are scheduled to do parking patrol this term.

School Crossing Patrol- Unfortunately, we do not currently have a school crossing patrol. The council have advertised and are working hard to appoint someone.

Healthy Snacks- We are a healthy school and so pupils are only permitted to bring fruit or vegetables for snack time in school. Please avoid giving your child crisps, biscuits etc. Also, pupils are encouraged to drink water or milk, which is provided. Please refrain from flavoured water or squash. Thank you.

Our School Development Plan (SDP)-

This year, we have identified 4 priorities for school development based on our carefully planned cycle of self-evaluation. They are as follows:

Priority 1: To develop the teaching and learning of reading in Languages, Literacy and Communication in order to improve standards in reading

Priority 2: To develop pupils' depth of understanding of mathematical concepts..

Priority 3: To further develop a shared understanding of how to implement a concepts-based approach of Curriculum for Wales

Priority 4: To implement new curriculum reform guidance on assessing pupil progress

So far this year we have held training sessions, carried out monitoring, visited others schools to view good practise, welcomed visits her to celebrate in our successes, developed family learning groups, worked with Education Support Officers from the Local Authority and worked with our Governors. To find out more about our SDP, please join us for a coffee and a chat on April 27th at 2.30pm.

Attendance-

A huge thank you to you all for your effort in maintaining and encouraging good attendance. Our target this year is 90% and we are currently at 89%. I'm sure with continued effort from you all as well as the invaluable support from our EWO, Nicola Bryant that we will get there! Our school 'Senedd' (a wonderful pupil voice group made up of members of our school council, Eco Committee, Healthy School Council, Digital Leaders, Criw Cymraeg and Rights Respecting School Council) are currently working hard with Mrs Bryant and I on our exciting 'Punctuality Project' which will soon be launched!



Remember...

Our school day is 8.50am – 3.20pm

A huge thank you to you all once again for being such a fantastic and supportive part of our school community. We looking forward to working with you all during the summer term in order to develop our school as a happy, nurturing, exciting environment where your child will grow, progress, develop lifelong skills and a love of learning to last a lifetime.