



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 'Location'. The children have been enjoying exploring this concept and developing their understanding with our younger children enjoying creating their own explorations and adventures and our older learners taking the concept wider and looking at themes of social justice.

I would like to extend my thanks to you all for supporting your children with their 'Learning Logs', in particular, the T shirts created for our Eisteddfod last week! 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! They looked so beautiful on display in the hall and the children were very proud to see their wonderful work on show!



Many thanks to you all for your continued support and for your many kind words and wishes which so many of you continue 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 09.02.23. The pupils in 'Criw Cymraeg' worked so hard with Mrs Daniel to organise this day and the whole school enjoyed performing and appraising welsh songs!





This week, we have 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 winners of our competitions, organised and judged by the 'Cryw Cymraeg' have been invited to attend Caffi Cymraeg with Mrs Daniel where they will enjoyed some sweet treats as a reward for their efforts! Da iawn pawb!

On March 7th, we celebrated 'World Book Day' where the theme was 'Read Your Way'. The pupils took part in lots of reading activities and read to one another, as well as welcoming staff and governors into their classes to read. A huge thank you to our lovely governors agreed to come in to read their favourite bedtime stories!



Year 3 pupils have enjoyed 'An Introduction to Harp' session from NPT Music Service. They enjoyed learning about and playing their very own harps!

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 amazing staff - Mr Graham, Mr Owens, Mrs Jones and Miss Wood - who looked after the pupils so well and made sure they had an enjoyable week making memories with their friends!



We were lucky enough to secure a place on the 'Call of the Wild Resilient Pupil Programme' this term, where our Year 6 pupils were engaged in a full week of activities to develop confidence, resilience and support their transition to comprehensive school! They enjoyed team building activities, rock climbing and hiking!



We have welcomed our friends from Catwg Primary over to school this term for football and netball tournaments. We have all thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are very proud of the drive, determination and sportsmanship on show!





Years 3 and 4 pupils have enjoyed their trip to Plantasia as part of their work on 'Location', and Years 1 and 2 also had a brilliant time at Technquest! A huge thank you to all of the parents/ carers who contributed to make these wonderful learning experiences possible.



We love to celebrate community engagement and, in recognition of World Thinking Day, our lovely Brownies, Guides, Rainbows, Cubs, Beavers and Scouts came to school wearing their special uniforms for a day and enjoyed telling their friends all about the badges which they have earned.

PTFA-

We are so lucky here in Gnoll Primary to have such a hardworking and proactive PTFA. They are hard at work as always thinking of creative and exciting ways of fundraising for the children of the school.

Penny War! This term has seen the return of the **Penny War!** Please rummage down the back of the sofa and in coat pockets and send any surplus pennies into school for your child to add to their class jar! The winning class will be awarded a very special Easter treat during the last week of term!

Craft Fair! On March 21st there will be a spring craft fair in the school hall from 3.30pm- 5.30pm. Please come along to visit lots of lovely stalls from our PTFA as well as local crafters and small businesses! If you or anyone you know would like to hold a stall, please contact the school office.

Dates for your diary-

15th March- Comic Relief School Council have decided to hold a non-uniform day and to collect donations for the Food Bank this year, no payment will be required, just bring an item of food to school as a donation!

21st March- World Down Syndrome Awareness Day. Please come to school wearing **odd socks!** Full school uniform is required as normal!

INSET Days- 3rd June, 18th July, 19th July

Speech & Language Parent Group- 14th March

Class Assemblies:

Y4 Miss Jones- 12th April

Y3/4 Mrs Harcombe- 19th April

Y2 Miss Mogford- 26th April

Y1/2 Miss Evans- 22nd March

Y5 Mrs Fielding/ Mrs Davies- 15th March THIS WILL BE THE YEAR 5 CHILDREN ONLY, the Year 6 children will be performing something special as a cohort later in the year...

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.

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, fruit etc. Also, pupils are encouraged to drink water or milk, which is provided. Please refrain from flavoured water or squash.

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

Priority 5: To improve attendance

So far this year we have held training sessions, carried out monitoring, visited other schools to view good practice, welcomed visits here to celebrate our successes, developed family learning opportunities, received our Estyn inspection, worked with Education Support Officers from the Local Authority and worked with our Governors to monitor progress.

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' have continued with their attendance project including carrying out 'late patrols'! They have noticed that punctuality is worse on cold or rainy days! Please be mindful that school starts at 8.50am promptly, with Literacy sessions across the school beginning at 9am- please make every effort to get your child to school on time to minimise impact on learning time!



Pupil voice –

Criw Cymraeg-

We have some exciting news to share with you all ... our Criw Cymraeg committee has decided to start a 'Caffi Cymraeg' for our children which will help raise money for Welsh resources for our classes. The Caffi Cymraeg will be run by our lovely Criw Cymraeg members, and the aim of this initiative is to encourage pupils to use the Welsh language out of the classroom in a fun and friendly environment. The Caffi Cymraeg will start in the summer term. More details will be out soon.

Rights Respecting School Committee-

Our Rights Committee have been busy working with Rhian Howells from 'Child Legal Wales' to write their own story book all about children's rights! It will feature illustrations from the children and the star of the story is our very own mascot, Riley! We cannot wait to see the final piece!

Healthy Schools Committee-



Our Healthy Schools Committee have decided to take part in the 'Active Travel' programme. Active Travel is funded by the Welsh Government to encourage walking, scooting and cycling to school. By leaving the car at home, you are creating a cleaner, safer environment for the children, as well as encouraging exercise and healthy habits.

If it's not far, leave the car!

Remember...

Our school day is 8.50am – 3.20pm

Literacy sessions start **PROMPTLY** at 9am so if you regular come to school a few minutes late, this is going to have a significant effect upon your child's progress. 😊

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.