



Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Aberdaugleddau Milford Haven Community Primary School

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MILFORD HAVEN COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 18th February 2022

DA IAWN PAWB

Well done to all the children for all of their learning and achievements since Christmas. Our Milford learners have shown **perseverance, creativity and teamwork** as they have found positive ways to respond to the challenges that the pandemic brings.

Since Christmas children have spent learning and break times in class 'bubbles'. A minority of children and staff have had to isolate following positive tests, and yet we have been looking after each other with hope and optimism, which has resulted in enthusiastic learning.



I would like to note how impressed I have been with the enthusiasm of the children at Milford Primary. I look forward each day to engaging with **children who are respectful, sociable and curious** (in the best sense of the word!). It is clear to me that, in the main, the children are ready for learning.

TOGETHER

Wales' National Mission for Education states that 'Together, we are all responsible for ensuring that every young person in Wales has an equal opportunity to reach the highest standards.'

'Togetherness' has always been a guiding value for me, and I relish the opportunity to work together with the children, parents, staff and governors of Milford Haven Community Primary School during my time as interim head teacher for these two terms until July 2022.



I will do my very best to lead a school that is a learning organisation for all, and a place where children are absorbed by their learning. Where children develop the skills and resilience to be effective learners, where they achieve more than they thought possible, and have hope and high aspirations for their futures.

Most important is that the children to continue to know and feel that that school is a safe place where they belong and are valued as individuals.

COVID SITUATION AFTER HALF TERM

I am very pleased to say that Welsh Government have confirmed that schools will revert to the [Local COVID-19 infection control decision framework for schools](#). It is highly likely that Pembrokeshire will assess the level of risk to return to 'moderate'. For schools, this means:

A halt to bubbles or contact groups. It is great news that year groups will be able to mix again during play and lunchtimes.

- *No large group gatherings such as assemblies*
- *The continued use of one way systems*
- *Using outdoor spaces where possible*
- *Physical distancing wherever possible*
- *Good ventilation*
- *Good respiratory and hand hygiene*
- *Levels of cleaning in line with other communicable diseases*
- *Face coverings are not routinely recommended for classrooms, but are to be worn by staff and visitors when moving around indoors in communal areas where physical distancing cannot be maintained.*

The school will continue to issue 'inform' letters when there is a single positive case in a class, and a 'warn and inform' letter if there are more than one positive confirmed cases within seven days in a class. Please continue to follow the isolation guidance <https://gov.wales/self-isolation>

Thank you for continuing to be vigilant in all you do to help keep our whole community safe.

SAFETY AT DROP-OFFS AND PICK-UPS

I would like to thank all our parents who take care during drop-off and pick-up times. I would however like to give a reminder that safety is very important at these times, and is greatly enhanced by correct use of the one-way systems, by using footways and pavements, and by choosing active travel journeys to and from school. Vehicles are only permitted on site for blue badge holders who need to leave their vehicle.

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Considering the necessary absence for COVID isolation since Christmas, attendance has stayed consistent at a similar level, at about 89%, so well done and thank you.

I know this is not a 'normal' year, but 89% is of course still too low. Please help us support your child in achieving success in school. Absence in school will not be authorised for:

- *shopping;*
- *haircuts;*
- *missed bus;*
- *overslept;*
- *no uniform;*
- *minding the house;*
- *looking after brothers, sisters or unwell parents;*
- *birthdays;*
- *holidays / day trips taken in term time (discretionary)*



One easy thing that many parents could do to give their child a better chance to be ready for learning and to make the best progress possible, **is to be in school on time**. Punctuality could definitely be improved, so I thank you for your help and cooperation with this.

Please do contact the school if you would like our support to help your child with their attendance.

RECENT LEARNING AT MILFORD PRIMARY

RECEPTION YEAR

The theme 'Come Outside!' is leading our learning in Reception this term. The children began their adventures in the outdoors by becoming 'Weather Wizards!'. Donned with wet weather suits and warm clothing we took advantage of the frosty weather. We discussed the possibilities and risks to develop our learning outdoors. Literacy skills were developed through mark making in the frost and ice, oracy skills through discussing how we felt after 'breathing like dragons', making 'snow angels' in the crunchy grass and going for winter walks into our wonderful woodland area. We became scientists and explored what would happen if we left water in a variety of containers outside our classrooms overnight in the freezing temperatures. The children enjoyed the challenge to become weather watchers by observing the daily



weather and creating weather

charts. Weather stations and weather cafes have been created by the children during expressive arts activities to enhance our learning environments. The RSPB Big Bird Watch has enabled the children to become ambitious and capable learners by using their number skills in lots of different activities. Through daily observations data has been collected to gather information about the birds who have visited our bird feeding stations. Bird cake was made in the 'bird kitchen' by weighing and measuring ingredients we thought the birds would enjoy. Finally, bird hides were set up in our outdoor areas so we could observe our garden visitors. We look forward to sharing our data with the RSPB.



YEAR 1

During the Spring Term we have been learning to become healthy, confident individuals who know how to stay safe online. We made eye-catching internet safety posters for our classrooms. We enjoyed using different technology to write emails and create animations whilst following our online safety rules that we learnt.

We used pupil voice to identify that the Year 1 children would like to improve their playtimes. We wrote letters to Mr Dyer to persuade him to help us to improve our playground. We had lots of fun learning how to play playground games which developed our social skills. We were ambitious, capable learners, collecting information about our favourite playground equipment and presenting this data using bar graphs.

We counted the playground equipment in multiples.





*Fantastic independent learning,
creating a bar graph*

After Half Term, we will continue to take part in Kerbcraft, learning all about road safety. We are looking forward to beginning our next topic 'Land of the Dragons' which will begin with a visit from The Red Dragon on St David's Day. Throughout this topic, the children will begin to understand where they are in world. They will develop a sense of belonging and pride as a citizen of Wales.



We created animations on Hwb



*We used a traffic light activity to decide
whether the information was safe or unsafe
to share online*

YEAR 2

Currently Year 2 are being 'Wickedly Welsh'. The purpose of their learning for the term is to be immersed in all things Welsh. They have started to explore their 'Welshness' through the expressive arts. The children have already met with a Welsh musician and have used their questioning skills to interview a local Welsh rugby star. The children's challenge for this half term has been to organise the School's Eisteddfod which will be held on March 1st. After half term we are looking forward to welcoming more local Welsh artists into school...watch this space as Year 2 are going to be designing a new mural for our shared outdoor area! They will also be planning an exhibition of their work for their parents, before Easter, showing the range of their newly acquired creative skills.

YEAR 3

Picture Perfect! Year three have had an exciting start to the term. They have been participating in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. We are very lucky in MHCPs to have well established gardens that see many birds visit and nest here. The children were keen to identify the birds and gather information about them, both to send to the RSPB and to encourage other children in the school to learn about and enjoy the garden.



The children have begun their bird count, which will be ongoing throughout the term, created charts to share and analyse their findings and produced fact files on the birds, identifying the key features. These have been shared with Year 6, who are using the information we have gathered to create bird classification posters, which will be displayed in the garden, enabling other pupils to participate in the project.

We are very excited to see the changes to the bird numbers in spring!

YEAR 4

Over the past few weeks Year 4 have had an amazing time planning their own learning.

In our topic we are investigating the different diets people choose to follow and this has involved researching and comparing supermarket and locally produced fruit and vegetables. The children have developed this learning into a "Smoothie" project whereby they intend to design, make and sell their own smoothie. They have surveyed people at the school, analysed the data and are now in the middle of developing their recipes.

Our maths curriculum is following the lead from our topic work and the children are learning to buy and sell, budget, analyse data and weigh and measure ingredients.

Again, literacy is linked to topic and the children have so far learned about giving clear and successful instructions. They will now be concentrating on creating an advertising campaign for their smoothie and raising the capital needed to buy the raw ingredients using persuasive language.

Alongside this the children have developed a real love of reading and writing stories and have told us that they are keen to have more personal reading time in class. This has been encouraged and hopefully they are continuing this at home at well.

YEAR 5

The term, so far, has been a busy one in Year 5. It all started with our 'Launch day' dressing as inventors and recreating a number of first inventions (the two clear favourites being the lightbulb and the rocket!). From this, the children decided that they would like to find out about inventors from the past. The children have improved their historical enquiry skills by learning what questions are best for finding out about the past when finding out about Brunel and how he put Neyland on the map! Using reliable sources was another skill that the children learned about when using the Census and letters and diaries when finding out about Brunel and Prince Albert's Great exhibition. In literacy, the children have been learning how to write a good encyclopaedia entry. This skill was transferred to topic where all the information found out about Brunel was used in an encyclopaedia entry. Enquiry skills were once again used (in Science this time) where the children investigated forces on objects, deciding on independent and dependent variables. The children have been so excited to plan a potential trip on the train where they were encouraged to see if it is worth taking the risk.

When we return after half term, the children will be having lots of opportunities to apply all of the skills they have learned when designing and creating their own inventions. Hopefully, we will be able to go on the train trip that the children have planned -we will let you know about this nearer the time. We are hoping that you will be able to join us on our land day when the children will be show casing their inventions at our Year 5 Science fair.'

YEAR 6



We've had a busy half-term in term in Year 6, starting our 'Where the Mountains meet the Sea' topic with a launch day scavenger hunt in Milford Marina. A field trip in the first week saw us heading up the Preseli Hills to find the source of the river and follow its course all the way back to Milford, stopping along the way to see how the river changes: lots of fun had by all. This led to writing explanation texts, using their first-hand experiences of how a river changes from source to mouth. With all the enquiry skills we have learnt this term we are now going further afield and applying these to the Seine, in France, and Ganges, in India, to see how these countries differ from ours geographically and socially.



We have really enjoyed having several visitors (via Teams) who have been telling the children about their businesses that rely on the river. The children have been eager to pick their brains because after half term we will be establishing our own business ideas based on or around the river. This will culminate in the 'MHCPS Business Awards' that we will have at the end of term for our land day.



Well done to the children across the school for their great learning – keep it going!

******Upcoming events: Please keep an eye out for posts on Facebook about World Book Day and St David's Day******