

Federation News



We were delighted that almost every child in Y5/6 was able to join us on our residential trip for this year to Margam Park. The behaviour of almost all pupils was very good; nearly all were fantastically well behaved and their politeness was commented upon by many of the staff members at the centre. During the week, the pupils took part in a wide variety of activities including

orienteering, mapping, river walking, mud running, quizzing, shelter building, investigating, singing and lots of walking. It was great to see pupils from each of the different schools getting to know each other - what a fantastic preparation for when the time comes to move schools! We hope you were able to follow the pupils' week with the updates on Twitter - pics and videos are still on there. A public thank you also to the staff who gave up their own time to allow the trip to run.



Attendance Update

Figures are averages for this academic year, ie from September to present. We aim for **AT LEAST 95%**

N	Rec	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Whole School	Croeserw	Glyn	Pen Afan	Fed	NPT
89.8%	93.1%	95.3%	89.7%	97.9%	96.9%	97.4%	95.3%	94.8%	92.5%	94.4%	91.4 %	94.4%	94.7%

School News



We had a wonderful assembly with Paul from 'Wales Air Ambulance' to tell us all about the work they do and how they help people in an emergency.

Following the assembly, our school council met and decided they would like to do some fund raising for the Air Ambulance in the future.

Look out after half term for more info.



eSafety

Safer Internet Day (SID) is an annual, worldwide event held on Tuesday 6 February 2018 to help encourage a better internet. This year's theme was 'Create, Connect and Share Respect: A better internet starts with you'. We celebrated Internet Safety day at Cymer Afan with a number of activities. We had a special assembly on this year's theme and what we can do to be safe online. We discussed how using the internet made us feel and what we need to do if we see anything unkind.

Year 5/6 have watched videos to listen to other children's stories about using the internet and how it makes them feel.

The children then created a poster explaining how the internet makes them feel and what they should do if they encounter negative comments, unkind words or see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.



Cymer Afan Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Cymer Afan Newsletter February 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

With February half term fast approaching we are nearing the halfway point of the academic year. It's a good time to look at what we've achieved so far and to plan ahead for the rest of the year. Parents' evenings will take place straight after half term and we hope that you will be able to join us to discuss with your child's teacher the progress your child is making in school and how you can best support your child at home. Please remember the positive difference it makes if you read with your child regularly.

With regard to attendance, despite a number of coughs and sniffles through the winter, we're on course to have a good attendance record for the year in school and across the valley. There are a minority of families whose children seem to be off quite regularly, sometimes with little or no reason given – we must highlight how important it is for all children to be in school as often as possible. It is essential that this is the case for every child to reach his or her potential.

Primary Assessment Week: Wednesday May 2nd – Wednesday 9th May 2018 (inclusive)

It is very important that all children are present during these weeks. Assessment activities will be provided including National Numeracy & Literacy Tests for Y2-Y6 in order to set educational targets and to assess the children's progress. Please do not book a holiday under any circumstances between these dates as tests cannot be sat outside this time frame.

We hope you have an enjoyable half term break.

Mr C. Burden (Acting Headteacher), Mr R. Appleby (Primary Phase Leader) and Mrs V Quinn (Lead Learner)



Dates For Your Diary

- Monday 26th February – Return to School and beginning of Fair Trade fortnight.
- Tuesday 27th February (for 6 weeks) – Cycling sessions for Year 4 and 5 pupils. Pupils who can already ride a bike. You must bring your own bike and a helmet.
- Wednesday 28th February – Year 5/6 Swimming (fortnightly) (following week Year 3 and 4)
- Thursday 1st March - St David's Day - Activities Day
- Thursday 8th March – RNLI Assembly
- Wednesday 14th March - World Book Day in School
- Thursday 15th March - Years 5 and 6 go to Tecniquest. Leaving at approximately 8.30am
- Friday 16th March - Years 3,4,5 and 6 Grass Fires Assembly
- Tuesday 27th March - Year 5/6 Writers' Day at the Comp
- Wednesday 28th March Easter Bonnet Parade – Nursery am Rec to Y6 pm
- March 29th End Of Term Happy Easter
- Monday 16th April – INSET DAY
- Tuesday 17th April - Whole School Photo



Safeguarding Across The Federation

For the safety of our children, we would like to remind the community that the school car park is to be used by staff only as there is a risk of accidents happening (as has happened in the past) if a large volume of traffic were to enter the area. **This also applies to Breakfast Club times when pupils are entering the premises.**

Those who hold blue badges can visit the office where suitable arrangements will be made to suit your needs.

Visitors and delivery vans can access the grounds but **MUST close the gate behind them and proceed at a sensible speed.**

We are aware that there are times when the gate is left open but stress that at the times when a number of children are likely to be accessing the area **NO VEHICLES are to enter or leave.**



Nursery News Spring Term (1) 2018



The children have had a very busy start to the New Year. Our topic has been 'Can We Explore It? The children have been exploring a variety of different ways in which we travel.

During 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' week, we retold the story, went on a bear hunt during PE and even made a map and binoculars to help us find Ginger Bear! During the third week, where we were learning about Hansel and Gretel, we opened up our very own sweet shop and recreated Kandinsky's circles. We even created a Witch's potion!

We spent the final two weeks learning about different types of Transport.

We used junk modelling to create cars, boats, aeroplanes and trains.

Together we have worked hard getting our fingers ready for writing. We have been to the 'dough disco' and enjoyed lots of finger gym activities. The children have really enjoyed these activities! The boys and girls have been working hard on their letter formation this half term using dough, shaving foam and glitter to practise. Hopefully the weather will be kinder to us in the next half term so we can get outdoors and have some fun for our topic 'Are eggs alive?'



Rec/Year 1/Year 2 Spring Term (1) 2017

Our topic 'Paws, Claws and Whiskers' has been great fun so far and we're only half way through! To start off the topic we found out about pets and how to care for them. Lydia's Mum came in with her pet dog Oscar and told us all about him and his needs.

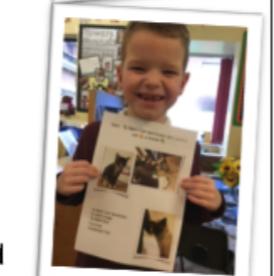
We then started focusing on cats, what they need and how to look after them. We went on a wonderful visit to Ty Nant Cat Sanctuary in Cymmer, to find out about domestic cats and how they help to find the cats a new home. Thank you to everyone that kindly donated cat food, blankets, cat litter, toys etc for the cats. The donations were gratefully received by the ladies at the Sanctuary. Back in class we designed posters to post around the village to raise awareness and hopefully help to find the cats a new forever home.



We then moved onto 'Big Cats' focusing on Tigers. We did lots of work on the famous book 'The Tiger came to tea' by Judith Kerr and researched Tiger facts using the internet and non-fiction books from the library.



We were so lucky to be able to visit Noah's Ark Zoo Farm this week. We had a wonderful time looking around the park and especially enjoyed meeting the zoo keeper and finding out about how they look after the Big Cats.



Y3/4 Burps, Bottoms and Bile

This term we have loved learning about the human body. We have spent a lot of time finding out facts about our teeth and enjoyed counting each other's teeth so we could create a tally chart and graph of our findings. We had a visit from the dental nurse who explained how much sugar was in lots of the foods and drinks we consume. We have planned and carried out an investigation to see which drinks are the worst for our teeth. Our results were very interesting! We learnt lots when explored the digestive system and 'made poo'. We found out that day who has a weak stomach in our class! We are now all able to label the parts of the digestive system and explain how they help us to digest food.

In maths we have looked at time and linked this with our topic to read a dentist's appointment book and work out word problems. In English we have written a report about teeth and a set of instructions to brush your teeth.

We have spent time exploring positive and negative behaviours online during Internet Safety Day as well as appreciating Welsh music during Dydd Miwsig Cymru.



Please could we have your continued support with reading books and homework being sent back in on the correct day. It's very important that your child reads frequently at home.

Mrs Jones and Miss Thomas



Year 5 and Year 6

We've had a very busy half term! Year 5 & 6 went to Margam Park on their residential trip for a week! What a fantastic fun filled week we had! We were very lucky with the weather and got super dirty completing fun river and mud activities. We were able to make shelters, run through the mud and river, have unlimited hot chocolate and be with our friends for a week! The children's behaviour was exceptional and they showed great independence.

This term we have started a very exciting space topic, 'Stargazers'. We have discovered the order of the planets, created databases on the planets, completed oracy presentations and have started our range of science investigations. This topic is very interesting and has lots of opportunities to delve deeper into science! We can't wait!

Year 5 & 6 have also participated in the Wizards League netball and rugby matches and both teams did very well! We have had our hygiene talk, Writers' Day at the comprehensive and wrote persuasive letters for the comprehensive to stop the closure of the school.

