

Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Friday Newsletter

Friday 24th April 2026
Dydd Gwener 24ain Ebrill 2026

What a lovely week, the sunshine definitely puts a smile on all our faces! This week has been as busy as ever, the children are engaging really well in their new topic and there is some excellent work taking place in all classes.

For those classes having Forest School sessions this half term can I please remind you that children must wear trousers and long sleeves in order to attend. This is a requirement of the programme to help us keep children safe and we would appreciate your cooperation with this.

Next week we will begin furnishing the Community Cabin in the hope that it will be used from the week after, we will confirm this next week. If you are able to help Miss Cherina at all next week with building the furniture please let her know, we'd be very grateful.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Yesterday we held a Coffee Morning with all money raised going to St Kentigern, our local hospice. We have supported St Kentigern for a few years now and are always blown away when we visit them, they work so hard and provide such vital support for our area - we are proud to support them in any way we can.

A huge thank you to those who baked cakes for us and to all who attended, we raised over £160 which is brilliant.



This week the lovely weather has meant classes have all enjoyed their outdoor learning sessions even more than usual. Children have continued to challenge themselves in the different areas and it is pleasing to see progress being made, particularly with the skills of perseverance and cooperation. Da iawn pawb.



This week's Golden children are:

Caiser, Eleanor, Pippa, Noah, Grace, Enzo, Ellie-May and Maddison.

Da iawn pawb!

Attendance

Discoverers - 90.95%
 Investigators - 93.7%
 Innovators - 89.05%



Huge congratulations to Emily who represented Denbighshire, and us, in Cardiff at the weekend in the Welsh Schools football finals. Well done Emily, we are all so proud of you.

After School Club

This half term we are offering the following after school clubs:
 Football with Mr Roberts on a Monday for Years 3-6
 Sports Club with Mrs Martin on a Tuesday for Reception - Year 2
 Clubs will run until 4pm

FOOD and FUN

Places are now very limited for this year's Food and Fun FREE Summer Holiday programme. The link to fill the form in can be found on Seesaw and Facebook, if you haven't completed it yet please do so as soon as possible.

We are looking for volunteers to help us tidy up the school grounds. If you can spare an hour or two on Saturday 16th May between 9am and 12pm please let us know. Jobs that we need to do include painting, strimming, building and sanding. There is a lot to do and unfortunately we just don't have the time in the school day to tackle them. Your support would be very much appreciated, please see the poster on Seesaw for more information. If you can join us please get in touch, thank you.

We have a child in school with a nut allergy. Can we please you to ensure that your child does not bring any nuts into school for snack or any snacks that include nuts. Thank you for your support with this.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MAKING FRIENDS ONLINE

In today's digital world, it's increasingly common for children to form friendships with people they've never met in person. While online connections can offer children a sense of belonging, they also carry significant risks. Around 19% of children aged 10 to 15 in England and Wales have chatted online with someone they've never met face to face. This guide offers expert advice for parents and educators on helping children navigate online friendships safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- ONLINE GROOMING THREATS**: Predators can use games, chat apps or social media platforms to build relationships with children and gain their trust. This may quickly develop into grooming or exploitation. Between April 2017 and March 2020, the police recorded nearly 24,000 online grooming offences - an 82% increase in just five years.
- EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT**: Children may encounter distressing or explicit material while interacting with online contacts - especially via live streaming on Instagram or Snapchat. This is evidenced in a survey by the Children's Commissioner for England, which found that 44% of children aged 8 to 17 had seen content online that made them feel uncomfortable, worried or scared.
- PRIVACY AND DATA RISKS**: Children and young people often overshare personal details - such as where they live or go to school - without understanding the consequences. In fact, 4.4% of 10 to 15-year-olds in the UK have met up in real life with someone they only speak to online.
- COMPROMISED PERSONAL SAFETY**: Meeting an online 'friend' in real life risks placing a child in various dangers, including abduction to coercion, the cross-border abduction to coercion, the cross-border abduction to coercion, the cross-border abduction to coercion. Reports of children being harmed after such meetings are becoming increasingly common in the UK, highlighting the need for safeguarding intervention.
- PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS**: Online harassment - such as cyberbullying, grooming or exposure to disturbing content - can lead to long-term emotional issues, including anxiety, depression and PTSD. 'Sexortion' gangs, who threaten to release sexual information about a person unless they pay them money, have reportedly targeted children as young as 11, leaving them traumatised and ashamed.
- LONG-TERM REPERCUSSIONS**: Children exposed to harmful online relationships early on may develop unhealthy beliefs about relationships, consent, or self-worth. In a recent case, a 20-year-old victim of a UK sex extortionist (a 16-year-old victim aged 10 to 16, manipulating them into sexual activity and causing profound emotional distress) was later tragically died by suicide, highlighting the long-term psychological harm online friendships with strangers can cause.

26 FRIENDS ONLINE NOW

Advice for Parents & Educators

- TEACH SAFE ONLINE HABITS**: Help children understand how to use privacy settings; protect their personal information, spot fake profiles, and report anything suspicious or concerning like pressure tactics. Encourage them to think critically about what they share - and whom they're talking to.
- ENCOURAGE REAL-WORLD CONNECTIONS**: Support children in building friendships through school, clubs, hobbies and activities in the real world. Strong offline relationships help reduce children's reliance on online platforms for social interaction, and can help them develop resilience and social confidence.
- KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN**: Let children know they can talk to you about their online life. Avoid reacting with anger or judgement, as this may prevent them from opening up in the future. A child who feels listened to is more likely to disclose problems before they escalate.
- USE PARENTAL CONTROLS**: Parental control settings on devices, games and apps can help manage screen time, filter out inappropriate content, and monitor activity. While no system is perfect, they provide a valuable layer of protection as children explore digital spaces.

Meet Our Expert
 Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with over 20 years' experience in supporting children, families, and adults across education, local authority, and mental health settings - both in the UK (including at parliamentary level) and internationally.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

SAFEGUARDING CORNER

Key Safeguarding Contact Numbers:

- Police (Immediate Danger): 999
- Non-Emergency Police: 101
- NSPCC Helpline: 0808 800 5000 (Mon-Fri 10am-4pm)
- Childline: 0800 1111 (24/7)
- Denbighshire Social Services: 01824 712200 (Daytime) / 0345 053 3116 (Out of hours)
- Live Fear Free Helpline (Domestic Abuse/Wales): 0808 8010 800

Discoverers

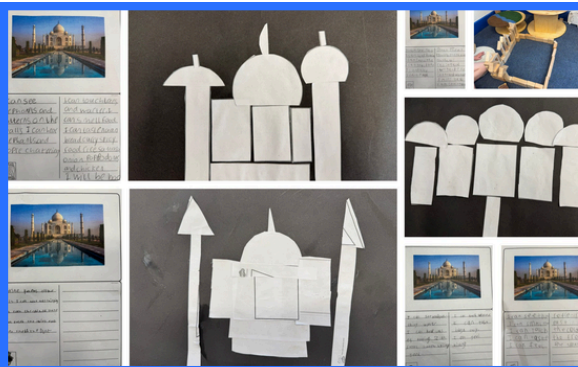
We have had a lovely week in the Discoverers and our topic is well underway. This week we have continued to learn about what is beneath our feet. The children learnt about earthworms in more detail and we made our own wormery. The children worked together and followed instructions, Year 1 children wrote their own instructions after completing this task. We have been enjoying the sunshine in the outdoor area, this week children have had the opportunity to catch worms and count them, compare worms in the water area using mathematical language to compare their lengths. Year 1 children were challenged to measure these with a ruler to practise their measuring skills. Our Nursery children have been working on 'b' this week and worked hard to form the grapheme. They have also been using the playdough to make their own worms and compare the different lengths. We continue to watch our tadpoles in class and check for any changes. The children are taking it in turns to feed them everyday and make sure they are looked after. In gymnastics, our older children have been working on travelling in different ways and adding those movements to the balances we worked on last week. Next week, we will begin to look at plants and we will be planting our own sunflower seeds. Finally, I would like to welcome Ellie-May and Noah and their families into the Discoverers class. I hope you all have a wonderful weekend.



Investigators

The children have been working hard this week in all areas of the curriculum and are thoroughly enjoying the new topic of Awe and Wonder. This week, they have been learning about one of the wonders of the World-the Taj Mahal in India. The children have had the opportunity to create a model of it in the construction area in the classroom whilst some children used their numeracy skills to make it out of a variety of 2D shapes. Other children decided to use their literacy skills this week to write a postcard about the wonder using their 5 senses. In DCF this week, the children have designed a poster of the Taj Mahal on Adobe Express. In our LLC lessons this week, we have read a bit more of our Book Fizz book which is called 'The Magic Hat Shop'. The children have been learning about different types of hats and have used the internet to do some research about them.

Everyone is enjoying the Outdoor Learning sessions this week which has been lovely in the nice warm sunshine. Let's hope the good weather is here to stay! Enjoy your weekend.



Innovators

This week the Innovators have continued their Awe and Wonder topic, and have continued on their space exploration! We learnt about how we communicate using radio waves in space and were able to write explanation texts in literacy. Later, in Topic we used our coding skills to program micro:bits to send and receive messages via radio waves. Our messages transmitted from one end of the field to the other (or should we say, from Mission Control to the ISS!). In Maths every group has been working well on their topics of divisibility rules, number line subtraction and measurement. We ended the week with some astronaut art inspired by our class book. The children used shading and sketching skills really well. Everyone has also enjoyed getting outdoors in the sunshine this week in their Forest school and PE sessions. Da iawn bawb!



Affirmation of the Week

This week's affirmation of the week, as chosen by our Head Girls, is:

"HATE IS A STRONG WORD BUT LOVE IS STRONGER"

Clwb Cefn Playgroup

This week in playgroup we have enjoyed the nice weather again playing outside on the field. We took the opportunity to practice our Makaton and Welsh words outside too. This week these are Butterfly - Pili-pala and Caterpillar - Lindysyn. We have had some dolls clothes donated which have made the baby dolls very popular this week. The children have also used the LCD drawing boards which enable the children to doodle and write and then to erase this by clicking the "bin" button! Yesterday afternoon the children had their snacks "picnic style" sitting on the table cloth as a picnic blanket. What a fun and busy week.



Clwb Cefn After School Club
This week in after school club they children have enjoyed spending as much time outside as possible, particularly on the field. They all worked together well to build an obstacle course in the large construction area they then enjoyed trying to get around it. Everyone has also had fun playing with the magnets, the Lego and the small world toys.



If anyone could spare a few hours next week to help us build the furniture for the new cabin we would really appreciate it. Thank you.

British Sign Language

As a whole school we are working hard to learn and use British Sign Language as much as possible. Each week we will be sharing a sign for the whole school to learn. This week's sign is "WHAT CAN YOU SEE?" Please ask your child to show you the sign.



Cymraeg Campus - Criw Cymraeg

Phrases to use at home this week/ Brawddeg i'w ddefnyddio adref yr wythnos yma:

"BETH WYT TI'N GWELD?"
"WHAT CAN YOU SEE?"

Dates for your diary:

- Wednesday 29th April - Denbigh Music Cooperative to Investigators
- Monday 4th May - Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 5th May - Years 3 - 6 athletics competition
- Friday 8th May - XPlore Science to Innovators
- Tuesday 12th & Wednesday 13th May - Innovators residential
- Monday 18th May - Denbigh Music Cooperative to Investigators
- Tuesday 19th May - Reverend Ginny to Discoverers
- Friday 22nd May - Break Up for half term
- Thursday 11th June - Bikeability Year 6
- Wednesday 17th June - Year 6 Leavers photo
- Wednesday 17th June - Denbigh Music Cooperative to Investigators
- Tuesday 23rd June - Innovators to Ysgol Trefnant for Small schools netball tournament
- Wednesday 24th June - Sports day (Discoverers am, Investigators & Innovators pm)
- Tuesday 30th June - Summer Fair (3.00 - 4.30)
- Wednesday 1st July - Reception to Year 3 school trip
- Friday 3rd July - Reports out to parents
- Tuesday 7th July - drop in parents evening
- Wednesday 15th July - Year 6 Leavers party
- Thursday 16th July - Year 6 Leavers Service
- Friday 17th July - break up for the summer
- Monday 20th July - INSET day