

Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Friday Newsletter

Friday 15th May 2026
Dydd GWener 15fed Mai 2026

It has been a very busy week this week in Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog, the highlight for the Innovators was of course their residential, more about that further down. Although the weather hasn't always been on our side, classes are still enjoying their outdoor learning sessions and it is lovely to see all of the plants growing so well. We have unfortunately cancelled tomorrow's volunteer session but do still have plenty of painting to be done outdoors. If you can spare an hour or two to help us over the next few weeks we'd be really grateful.

Next week brings this half term to a close before the final half term of this academic year. The last half term is notoriously busy so please keep an eye on Seesaw and the calendar for dates and upcoming events.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

With the opening of our new Community Cabin I just wanted to clarify a couple of points:

- Clwb Cefn are a separate business to school, they are not run by school but rent the cabin to run their business from. Clwb Cefn are responsible for Playgroup, After School Club and Holiday Club. If you have any questions regarding any of these provisions please contact Miss Cherina, the registered person for Clwb, via Seesaw, cefnclwb@gmail.com or 07467474046.
- Playgroup begins at 8.45am, please do not drop children off before this time unless they are Nursery age and are attending Breakfast Club.
- If you are bringing your child to Playgroup and arrive later than 9am, or you need to collect your child, please use the number above to contact Playgroup staff so they can let you in.
- If you are dropping your Nursery child off for school at 12.30 please phone the school number to be let in as the school Nursery session begins at 12.30 therefore they become the responsibility of school staff from 12.30.
- Breakfast Club is a school run provision, if you have any questions regarding Breakfast Club please do not contact Clwb Cefn, please get in touch with school.
- Breakfast Club runs from 7.45 to 8.45, please can we ask that you take your child to the cabin door for Breakfast Club so staff know they have arrived. If children are dropped off at the gate then staff have no idea they are on site, we would appreciate your cooperation with this.
- From Monday we will be asking children to drop their school bags and coats at the gazebo on their way to Breakfast Club, this will alleviate some of the piles of belongings that are currently being left near the door. This is a temporary measure whilst we sort a more permanent solution.

I appreciate there has been a lot of change over the last couple of weeks as well as a lot of information so please do speak to a staff member if you have any questions. Please bear with us, having only just moved into the cabin we have, as expected, run into a couple of problems but these will be ironed out over the coming days and weeks.

It is always easy to find the negatives in anything but from a school point of view the Community Cabin is a real positive, it has brought much needed space for the school as well as a modern and appropriate space for our wrap around care to run from. The staff have worked so hard, alongside DCC, to make this possible and I would hate for people to find only negatives in what should be a celebration for our school and staff.



This week's Golden children are:

Esmé, Martha, Mara, Jaxson, Gareth and Elsie-May.

Da iawn pawb!

This week the Innovators have enjoyed two days at Plas Menai in Caernarfon. The group took part in plenty of fantastic activities including canoeing, kayaking, climbing, bushcraft and all had a fun ride on a speed boat along the Menai Straits. It is always such a wonderful experience for our learners, they get to spend time with their friends learning new skills and taking part in brand new activities. It was wonderful to see the group supporting each other, helping each other and encouraging each other to really push themselves and give everything a go. As always the Innovators represented our school brilliantly, they were praised many times by the centre staff for their manners, behaviour and attitudes which is a credit to them all.

There is no obligation for schools to provide these trips and we can only do so because of the goodwill of our staff. Staff give up their own time and time with their own families to ensure that our children experience these residential and have the opportunity to make such lovely memories so I'd like to thank Mrs Pitt-Lacey and Miss Cherina on behalf of the children, parents and myself for giving up their time this week.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about APP & PLAY STORES

Since the introduction of Apple's App Store and Google's Play Store, an estimated two million apps have been made available on each. Ofcom's 2025 media use and attitudes report states that more than half of children aged between 3 and 7 use apps or sites to communicate with each other, and, by the ages of 12 to 15, 45% of children are playing games on their mobile phones. This guide will help you ensure that children use the app stores and their content safely.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MALICIOUS APPS WITH MALWARE
Although Google and Apple must approve the apps on their official stores, malicious apps can sometimes slip through the net. For example, in 2023, the security company Researcher found that roughly 100 and Android apps contained malware and security patches to be patched to prevent the malware from installing or to remove the malware from devices.

UNOFFICIAL COPYCAT APPS
Many official apps always contain a 'copycat' app. These are designed to look like the original app but contain malware and security patches to be patched to prevent the malware from installing or to remove the malware from devices.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT
As the App Store and Play Store are so large, there is a lot of content available that is inappropriate for children. Examples include apps that have references to alcohol, drugs, sex, violence or gambling. Some apps also contain inappropriate content, such as sexual nudity, which can be accessed by children. Some apps also contain inappropriate content, such as sexual nudity, which can be accessed by children.

PREDATORY IN-APP PURCHASES
App-making is a business, and many creators have found that "freemium" software is the way to make money. That means the app will be free initially but will either require the user to watch ads or pay to remove ads. In-app purchases for some apps can be predatory and there are a number of measures that can be taken to help protect children from in-app purchases.

ADDICTIVE BY DESIGN
Phone addiction is fast becoming recognized as a real concern, and apps are a big part of this. Some apps have been designed to keep children checking in every day by using a variety of techniques such as notifications, social media, and other features.

SIDeloaded BANNED APPS
"Sideloading" - the more complicated practice of installing applications on a device from sources other than the official app stores - is a big part of the problem. Some apps are banned from the App Store and Google Play Store but can still be installed on devices. These apps can be dangerous and may contain malware or other harmful content.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACTIVATE PARENTAL CONTROLS FOR APPS
Both Google and Apple have apps that can give adults greater control over what their children can access. These are called "Parental Controls" (Android) or "Screen Time" (iOS). These controls can be used to restrict the types of apps that children can use, set daily time limits on specific apps, and restrict in-app purchases.

LOOK BEYOND THE REVIEWS
App store reviews are helpful, but they are usually general, and some parents may not notice that an app is inappropriate. It's important to look beyond the reviews and check the app's content, permissions, and other details.

DO YOUR RESEARCH
If children use permission to download on apps, do your due diligence and research. Read the app summary and search the internet for reviews and discover if the app is appropriate, useful, and appropriate. If it doesn't seem to be appropriate, look for other alternatives.

TALK TO YOUR CHILD
Talk to children and make sure they're aware that apps can be risky. As part of a wider digital literacy strategy, ensure they don't download apps from the app stores. If they do, make sure they understand that they're giving away a piece of their personal information.

Meet Our Expert
Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the BBC, Wired, TechCrunch, The Telegraph, The Evening Standard, The Guardian and The Independent.

Wake Up Wednesday
The National College

Twitter: @wake_up_weds | Facebook: /www.thenationalcollege | Instagram: @wake_up_wednesday | TikTok: @wake_up.weds

SAFEGUARDING CORNER

Key Safeguarding Contact Numbers:

- Police (Immediate Danger): 999
- Non-Emergency Police: 101
- NSPCC Helpline: 0800 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): 0800 8010 800

Discoverers

This week the Discoverers have continued to work hard and have been focusing on comparing towns and the countryside. The children have been sorting and recording what they would find in each environment. Our Nursery children have been completing some artwork for our class display, they have also worked on a new sound, 'l'. The older children have been putting some simple sequences together in gymnastics. This week the focus story was 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears.' There were some excellent balances displayed, we have one more session before we change to running and throwing skills in preparation for sports day. We now have some stick insects in class, we prepared their home and we will continue to observe and look after them. The children are still enjoying caring for our tadpoles, they are certainly growing and changing! The children have also noticed that their seeds are growing, they have been very good at watering them to help them to grow. We have welcomed a student into class this week, Mr McMonnies. He has joined us from Chester University and will spend a few weeks with us. Next week we will be learning about the creation story and we have a special visit planned from Ginny. I hope you enjoy your weekend!



Investigators

The children have been scientists within the classroom this week as part of their topic work and have been investigating light and shadows. They have been working closely together on investigating how shadows are formed and whether they can be changed. They have also been looking at how the Sun can be both helpful and harmful and we have had lots of great discussions about this.

In other lessons, the children have been finishing their work on the book *The Magic Hat Shop* and have written their very own list poem and have completed an exit task by designing their very own magic hat.

In our independent outdoor challenges this week, the children have been working on tasks linked to light and shadows. Some children created a shadow dance in the Dance and Drama area and in the construction area, some children decided to work together to build the tallest possible structure so that it would make a large shadow.

Next week, the children are looking forward to another visit from Johnny Baxter from the Denbighshire Musical Cooperative who will be doing some more samba drumming with them and will be learning about another wonder of the World- Christ the Redeemer statue in Brazil!

Have a lovely weekend.



Innovators

We have had an action packed week with our trip to Plas Menai. The children will be ready for a rest this weekend (and so will the staff!). The class enjoyed taking part in climbing, kayaking, team building, bushcraft and canoeing.

They even got a ride in a power boat to zoom up and down the Menai Straits! It was great to see the children stepping out of their comfort zone and being brave, and we were very proud of them. We also enjoyed seeing Angela, Miss Ffion and Dasher the hearing dog again this week, and our BSL skills are becoming more advanced each session! Mwynhewch eich penwythnos.



Affirmation of the Week

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

"YOU CAN'T SPELL CAN'T WITHOUT CAN!"

Attendance

Discoverers - 88%
Investigators - 88%
Innovators - 92.5%

Not a great week for classes this week, we have had a number of unauthorised holidays taken along with a sickness bug doing the rounds. A reminder that holidays taken during term time will not be authorised and, should the days absent exceed 10 per term, then a fixed penalty notice could be issued.

We have recorded a number of lates this week too, please can we remind you that all children should be in school by 9am at the latest to ensure they are ready to start their school day.

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 is your favourite animal?"

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 ydy dy hoff anifail di?"
"What is your favourite animal?"

Dates for your diary:

- Monday 18th May - Denbigh Music Cooperative to Investigators
- Tuesday 19th May - Reverend Ginny to Discoverers
- Friday 22nd May - Break Up for half term
- Monday 1st June - School reopens
- Tuesday 9th June - Cricket sessions for Investigators and Innovators
- Tuesday 9th June - New Nursery Stay and Play @ 2pm
- Thursday 11th June - Bikeability Year 6
- Tuesday 16th June - New Nursery Stay and Play @ 2pm
- Wednesday 17th June - Year 6 Leavers photo
- Wednesday 17th June - Denbigh Music Cooperative to Investigators
- Tuesday 23rd June - Year 6 to Ysgol Trefnant for Small schools netball tournament
- Wednesday 24th June - Moving Up afternoon
- Wednesday 24th - Friday 26th June - Emrys ap Iwan transition days
- Thursday 2nd July - 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
- Friday 3rd July - Musical instrument showcase for parents @ 9.15 (for all pupils learning an instrument)
- Tuesday 7th July - drop in parents evening
- Wednesday 8th July - Discoverers Coffee Morning @ 9.15am
- Thursday 9th & Friday 10th July - St Brigids transition days
- 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