

Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog

Friday Newsletter

Friday 22nd May 2026
Dydd GWener 22ain Mai 2026



We have had a lovely end to this half term with the whole school enjoying our sports afternoon today, thank you to Mr Roberts and the Innovators for organising it. This half term has flown by, it is hard to believe we return after next week to the final half term of the academic year!

Next week we have Holiday Club running in the cabin Tuesday to Thursday and then on Friday Denbighshire Play Rangers will be on the school field from 2.30 to 3.30 for a free hour of sport. If your child would like to attend please just turn up on the day and Denbighshire Play Ranger staff will be here to meet you, please see the flyer below for further information.

Wishing you a lovely half term, fingers crossed for a sunny bank holiday weekend. We look forward to seeing all children back in school on Monday 1st June.

Forest School sessions

After half term Nursery and the Investigators will be having weekly Forest School sessions.

Nursery - Friday afternoons
Investigators - Tuesday afternoons

For these sessions the children will need to come to school in appropriate clothing, their arms and legs must be covered please. If it is sunny then a sun hat would also be helpful.

Any questions regarding these sessions please contact Miss Cherina.

Sessions are child lead, so they choose what they want to do, or what equipment they use

PLAY RANGERS

ON TOUR!

Come and join in the fun at a location near you

FREE	MONDAY 25th May	TUESDAY 26th May	WEDNESDAY 27th May	THURSDAY 28th May	FRIDAY 29th May
10:30- 11:30AM		CARROG Carrog Park LL21 9AW	DENBIGH Middle Parc/ Recreation field LL16 3FD	RHUALLT Dyffryn Teg LL17 OTE	RHYL Bruton Park LL18 4EY
12:30- 1:30PM	Bank Holiday Monday	LLANFERRES Llanferres Park CH7 5SL	HENLLAN Meifod Road LL16 5AP	LLANDYRNOG Sports Pavillion LL16 4HE	BODELWYDDAN Community Field LL18 5SS
2:30-3:30PM		RHEWL Rhewl Pavillion LL15 1TG	LLANRHAEDR Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch LL16 4NL	TREFNANT Village Hall Memorial Field LL16 5UG	CEFN MEIRIADOG Ysgol Cefn Meiriadog LL22 9DS

Sessions are 'OPEN ACCESS' meaning that children are free to come and go. Under 6's are welcome but must be accompanied by a responsible adult.



This week's Golden children are:

Harry, Evan, Skyler, Ettie, Cai and Georgia

Da iawn pawb!

Last week we put a plea out for a sponsor for our new school football kit and we are delighted, and incredibly grateful, that Noah's dad has agreed to support us. We can't wait to get it ordered and show you all. Thank you so much to Mr Allin for his support and sponsorship.

Next half term our Summer Fair will be held on Tuesday 30th June from 3pm on the school field. We have two non uniform days planned in exchange for items for the bottle tombola and the summer tombola, please see the dates at the end of this newsletter.

We are now looking for prizes for the raffle so if you know anyone/ any business who may be willing to support us please get in touch.

We will also need volunteers to help us set up and man the stalls so, again, if you are able to help please get in touch.

Thank you.

This week in our outdoor learning sessions we have introduced some digital tasks alongside the regular challenges. The children are now required to upload their own photos and videos to Seesaw to share their learning with you. You may have noticed some of these posts this week, this is a new skill for many of our children but is one they are thoroughly enjoying.

This afternoon we ended the half term with a whole school sports event. This was led by our older pupils and it was a pleasure to observe them support, praise and care for our younger pupils. There were many smiles on display this afternoon and the children enjoyed taking part in some new, fun challenges with their friends. Thank you to the Innovators for their amazing work today, I was incredibly proud of them all.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about MINECRAFT

As the best-selling game in history, Minecraft has made a name for itself by empowering audiences of all ages to harness their creativity. Originally an indie hit, it's become a cultural phenomenon with merchandise, spin-off titles, and wider media adaptations. Even if you don't know your Creepers from your Endermen, this guide will explore the risks of Minecraft in 2026 and explain how to support a safe gaming experience for the children in your care.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

PUBLIC SERVER COMMUNICATION

Many players enjoy Minecraft with others, including friends and unknown players online. In-game text chat is commonly used to coordinate building projects and gameplay, and this can extend to real-life messages via voice chat. While often harmless, this creates risks around contact with strangers, and in some cases servers host inappropriate or addresses of hate (independently), which raises privacy and security concerns.

GRIEFING BEHAVIOUR

Some players deliberately damage or destroy other players' creations. This behaviour, known as 'griefing', is a form of bullying that can waste hours of effort and cause frustration or distress to affected players. Although many servers treat griefing as a serious offence, enforcement varies. Children who prefer to build independently may feel safer working on private worlds or modded servers.

ADDICTIVE GAMEPLAY LOOPS

Minecraft's creative focus can make it easy for players to lose track of time. The cycle of gathering resources and building projects can be highly engaging, which may challenge children to balance game time with responsibilities. Effectively, this can impact children's academic, extracurricular, and real-world social interaction.

SCARY GAME ELEMENTS

Although often compared to digital construction toys, some gameplay modes include hostile creatures with unsettling sounds and sudden encounters. While there is no graphic violence, younger players may still find zombies, spiders, or dark environments frightening. These experiences can lead to anxiety or reluctance to play, depending on the child's age and sensitivity.

IN-GAME SPENDING

Minecraft requires a one-off purchase offer a free trial, in-game currency (Etc), but additional spending is possible. Players can buy cosmetic content or subscribe to Minecraft Realms for private servers. Without supervision, children may make unintended purchases. Subscription services and add-ons can also increase overall costs over time if not monitored.

ONLINE INTERACTIONS

Playing with others can introduce broader online safety concerns, including exposure to inappropriate language or behaviour. Some players may attempt to move conversations beyond the game, which can increase risks to children's safety and welfare. Children may not always recognise these interactions, meaning guidance and ongoing supervision about safe interactions are essential.

Advice for Parents & Educators

CHOOSE SUITABLE GAME MODES

Creative or Peaceful modes remove hostile creatures and reduce the pressure during gameplay. These options allow children to focus on building and exploration without fear of attacks. They are also ideal for shared play between siblings and children, creating a calmer environment to learn the game and enjoy collaborative projects.

USE PRIVATE SERVERS

Setting up a private server gives control who can join a child's game. Access can be limited by friends through passwords or invitations. This reduces the likelihood of unwanted interactions and gives adults greater oversight. While some options involve a subscription fee, they offer a safer and more controlled multiplayer experience.

DISCUSS ONLINE STRANGERS

Children should understand that not everyone they meet online is who they claim to be. Clear guidance about not sharing personal information is essential. Encourage children to report any worrying or uncomfortable interactions and reassure them that they can seek help without fear of punishment. Open, ongoing conversations help build their confidence and awareness of these issues.

SET SPENDING BOUNDARIES

Agree on clear rules around purchases before letting children play, and use device settings or platform controls to restrict in-game purchases. Explaining that in-game currency uses real-world money can help children make informed decisions. Regularly reviewing purchases together can also prevent unexpected costs and encourage responsible behaviour.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Corcoran spent 7 years in games media, before moving into the games industry via PR and marketing. A parent himself to a Minecraft-loving son, he understands why it's so important to stay safe online.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

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

Another half term has whizzed by! The Discoverers are really enjoying our topic and have all shown great enthusiasm towards their learning this half term. This week we welcomed Reverend Ginny into class to tell the children the story of creation from the Bible. The children always enjoy a visit from Ginny and completed some lovely activities linked to the story. This week the children have had the opportunity to use their imagination in the small world, which was set up to represent the Garden of Eden. We have also had lots of learning in the water this week, the children have been testing different objects to see which ones would float and sink. Our Nursery children have learnt 'h' this week and made new playdough, as well as working on numbers to 10. Our older children have been using their BSL to sign along to the song 'What a Wonderful World.' They are extremely good with their sign language, I am super impressed. After half term we will be learning about the lifecycle of a butterfly, before we move into space. I hope you all enjoy the half term break, let's hope we see some sunshine!



Investigators

The children have been enjoying learning about Brazil this week, in particular another one of the Seven Wonders of the World-the Christ the Redeemer statue!

On Monday morning, Johnny Baxter from the Denbighshire Musical Cooperative visited us to give the children a samba drumming workshop. Once again, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and kept a steady beat!

In class this week, the children have taken part in lots of activities to do with the statue. In the construction area, they have made the statue and the surrounding area using the different materials we have in that area. They also had the opportunity to create a carnival mask in the creative area. Yesterday, the children were given a numeracy challenge-to use a variety of 2D shapes to tessellate inside the silhouette of the statue. They worked with a partner on this challenge and were able to cover the majority of the shape!

This afternoon, we ended the term with a fun sports event with the rest of the school. Enjoy your half term break!



Innovators

The half term has flown by in the Innovators! This week the class have been learning about why we have seasons, using Welsh and BSL to describe the changes we see throughout the year, as well as composing musical pieces to represent Earth after listening to Gustav Holst's The Planets Suite. In Maths we have been learning about the properties of different types of triangles, and in Literacy we have been honing our grammatical skills by using causal conjunctions. After the half term holiday the children will be planning, writing and performing their balanced arguments about alien communication!



Affirmation of the Week

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

"EVEN IMPOSSIBLE SAYS I'M POSSIBLE!"

Attendance

Discoverers - 91.9%
Investigators - 96.8%
Innovators - 98.6%

An improvement for all classes this week - a great effort, da iawn pawb! If you have a holiday planned please ensure you fill in an absence request form (available from Miss Anna) so we can code any absences correctly. A reminder that holidays are not authorised, as per our policy, unless there are extenuating circumstances.

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's the matter?"

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 sy'n bod?"
"What's the matter?"

Dates for your diary:

- Monday 1st June - School reopens
- Friday 5th June - Non-Uniform day in exchange for Summer items for the Summer Fair
- 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
- Friday 19th June - Non Uniform day in exchange for bottles for the bottle tombola
- 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
- Tuesday 1st September - INSET Day
- Wednesday 3rd September - INSET Day