



March 2025  
Mawrth 2025

# St Francis R.C. Primary School



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*A message from our Headteacher,*

*Miss Langsdale*



Dear Parents and Carers,

This month the children have been very busy. They have celebrated St David's Day with the annual Eisteddfod and also World Book day. On both occasions the children were full of enthusiasm and took part in many ways. Thank you for supporting your children with the home/school project and outfits for World Book Day. The children looked truly amazing!

At this time of year we also embrace the season of Lent, a time for reflection, renewal, and growth. We have an opportunity to pause and consider the values that guide our actions and decisions, both within our school community and beyond. At Mass on Ash Wednesday Fr Solomon reminded us about the three pillars of Lent. He reminded us all to pray, to fast from doing unkind things and to share with one another. The Year 5 and 6 children who attended listened attentively and are trying hard to act upon this.

Academically the children have continued to work hard and have shown dedication and resilience in their learning through the topic 'Fantastic Physics'. We are proud of all they have achieved.

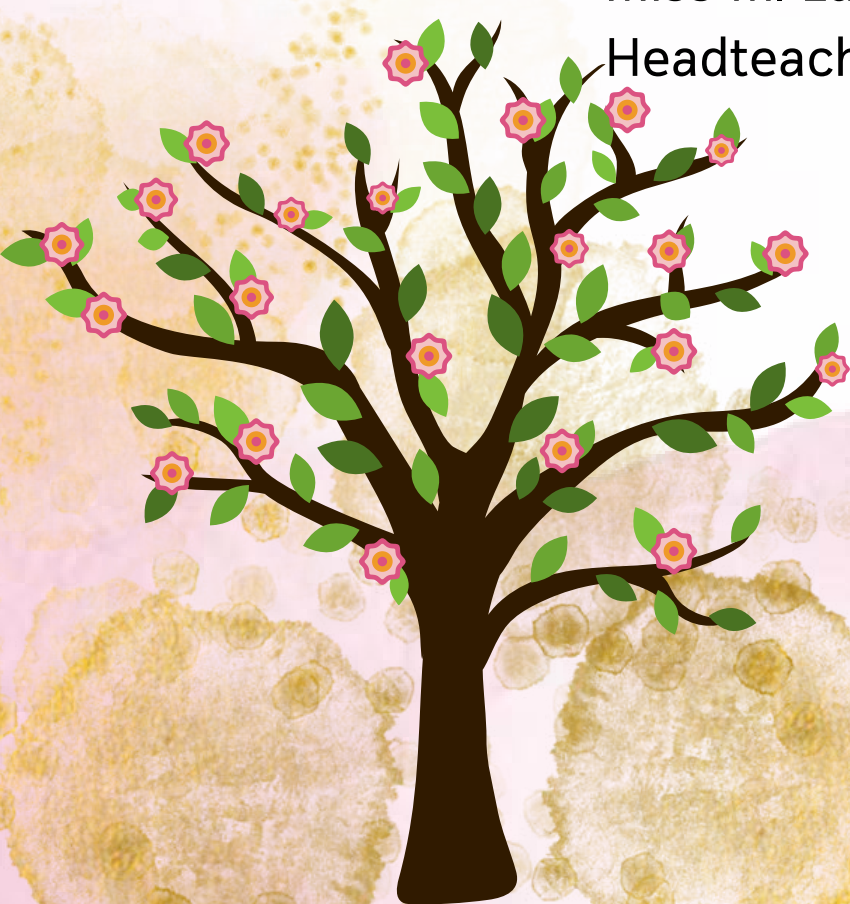
We are also looking forward to our upcoming Parents' Evening. These meetings are an invaluable opportunity for us to discuss your child's progress.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Wishing you all a peaceful and reflective Lent.

Warm regards,

Miss M. Langsdale  
Headteacher





# Religious Education Directory

Prayer of the Month



*Gweddi'r Mis*

Loving God,  
Help us to work together  
to share what we have  
so that everyone has what  
they need.

Help us to build a better world  
where each of us can become  
the best person we can be.

Amen

## CAFOD LENT PRAYER





# Religious Education Directory



## Virtues

# Attentive and Discerning

### Attentive: (Samuel 16:7)

But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”

### Discerning: (Corinthians 9-14)

“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived”.

The things God has prepared for those who love him— these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.





# Religious Education Directory

## Assemblies

### Ash Wednesday



Year 5 and 6 were welcomed to our church to receive ashes from Father Solomon. Fr Solomon took the time to explain the 3 Pillars during Lent of Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving and the children came back to school eager to explain and give examples of the 3 Pillars to other children and staff.

It was a lovely service to be a part of - **Diolch!**

### CAFOD - Pilgrims of Hope Assembly and Workshops

We were fortunate to have a lovely visitor to our school - David Brinn. He came to help launch the 'Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope' on behalf of CAFOD and he gave a lovely assembly about a girl called Khera who lives in Kenya and is part of the Glitter Chickens group! We want to fundraise and help buy some Glitter chickens for families who need our support across the globe.

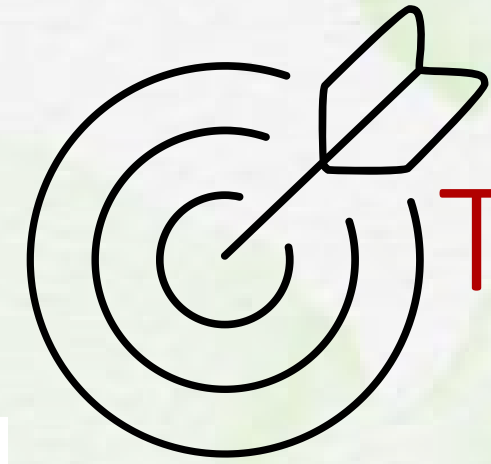
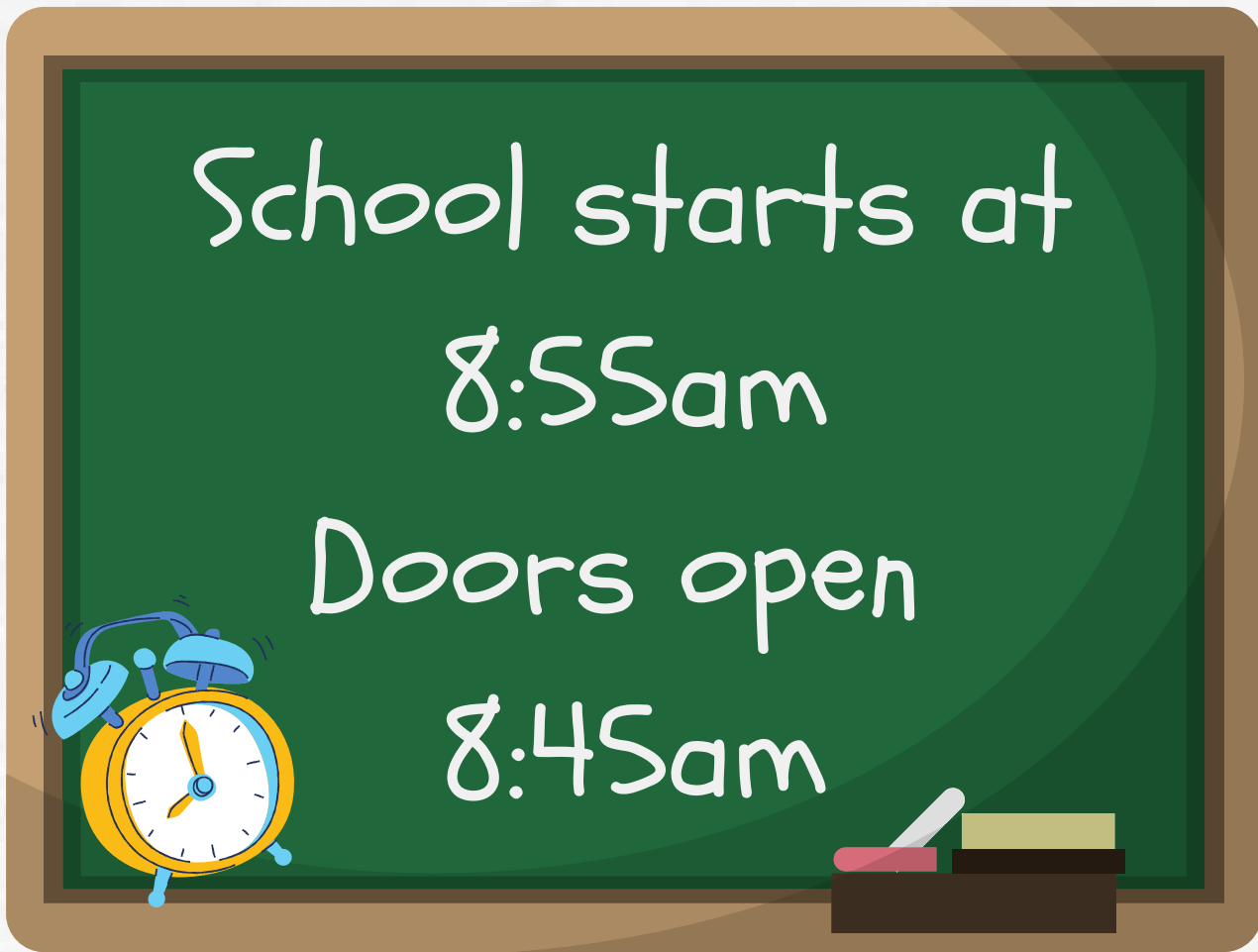
Year 3 and 4 classes were lucky enough to have workshops with David and created their own passports of HOPE to help families in need!

During Lent we are continuing to dig deep and puts others before ourselves- just as Jesus did.





# Attendance & Punctuality



Target:  
100%



**Your child's  
attendance needs  
to be above  
95%**



At St Francis we monitor attendance **regularly.**

Our attendance is also monitored by school governors and the Local Authority.

Attendance at school is extremely important for all pupils so that they can achieve as well as possible, and is now part of safeguarding procedures.



If your child is unwell please contact the office otherwise the absence cannot be authorized.

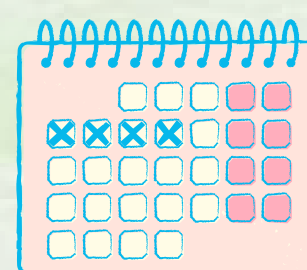


Please ensure your children are in to avoid potential fines.



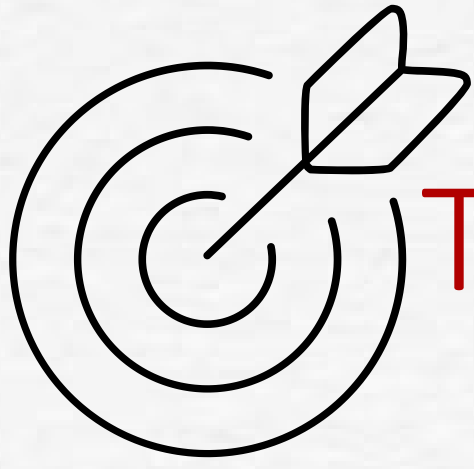
Every moment in school counts.

Days soon add up and the more children are in school the more they are likely to learn. Please do all you can to bring you child to school.





# Attendance & Punctuality



Target:  
100%

Overall Attendance

90.6%

Slightly up from last month!

Your child's attendance needs to be above **95%**

Nursery AM

81%

Nursery PM

83.9%

Reception

84%

Reception/Year 1

87.1%

Year 1

88.7%

Year 2

93.1%

Year 2/3

87.7%

Year 3

92.1%

Year 4P

95.6%



Year 4M

92.8%

Year 5M

88.9%

Year 5P

92.1%

Year 6B

85%

Year 6M

91.3%

## Attendance Rewards

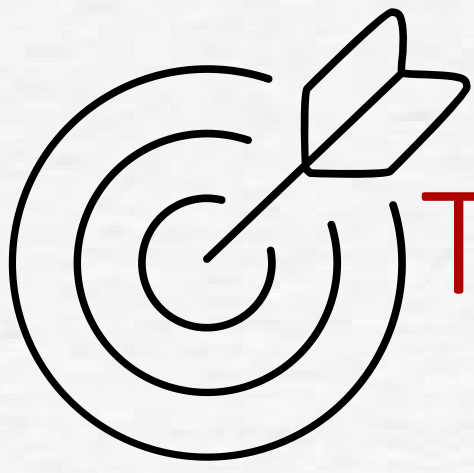
Our School Senedd have decided on a **No Work Day**; which would include things like a movie, board games P.E, chrome books and arts, for the class with the best attendance.

You can help your child's class win this by **bringing them in everyday!!**





# Attendance & Punctuality



Target:  
100%

## EVERY School Day COUNTS

Your child's attendance needs to be above **95%**

0 days off school

100%

Perfection!

Equal to 2 days off school each year

99%

Excellent

Equal to 5 days off school each year

97%

Good

Equal to 10 days off school each

95%

Slight Concern

Equal to 20 days off school each

90%

Concerned

Equal to 30 days off school each year

85%

Very Concerned



## EVERY Minute COUNTS

- 5 Minutes late each day
- 10 Minutes late each day
- 15 Minutes late each day
- 20 Minutes late each day
- 30 Minutes late each day

IS APPROXIMATELY

- 3 days lost!
- 6.5 days lost!
- 10 days lost!
- 13 days lost!
- 19 days lost!

Lateness = Lost Learning





# Our 24-25 Topics

## Autumn Term



*Tymor yr Hydref*

### What's it Made of?

*Beth mae e wedi'i wneud o?*

During the Autumn topic our focus is::

**Being curious and searching for answers is essential to understanding and predicting phenomena.**

and

**Matter and the way it behaves defines our universe and shapes our lives.**

## Spring Term

### Fantastic Physics!

*Ffiseg Ffantastig*

During the Spring topic our focus is::

**Forces and energy provide a foundation for understanding our universe.**

During this pupils will be exploring everything from 'push and pull', sources of light and sound, friction and gravity, all the way into Space and flight!



*Tymor yr Gwanwyn*

## Summer Term



*Tymor yr Haf*

### Nurturing Planet Earth

*Meithrin Planed Ddaear*

During the Summer topic our focus is::

**Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action.**

**Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.**

and

**Our natural world is diverse and dynamic, influenced by processes and human actions.**





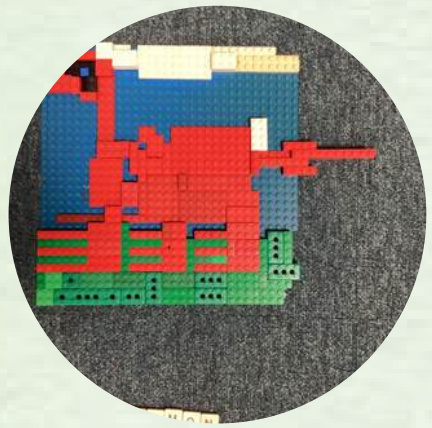
# Our Learning Journey

## St David's Day 2025

### Dydd Dewi Sant



Year 2/3 sang their class song '5 crocodeil' beautifully on St David's Day. They also sang 'yma o hyd' and led PSI's singing of 'sefa da fi'. All their performances are on Seesaw for you to watch. We hope you enjoy them!



The children created dragons for their art competition and it was lovely seeing them use a variety of resources to display their artwork.  
**Bendigedig Blwyddyn 2/3!**



Here are the Year 2/3 winners on St David's Day!





# St David's Day 2025 Dydd Dewi Sant

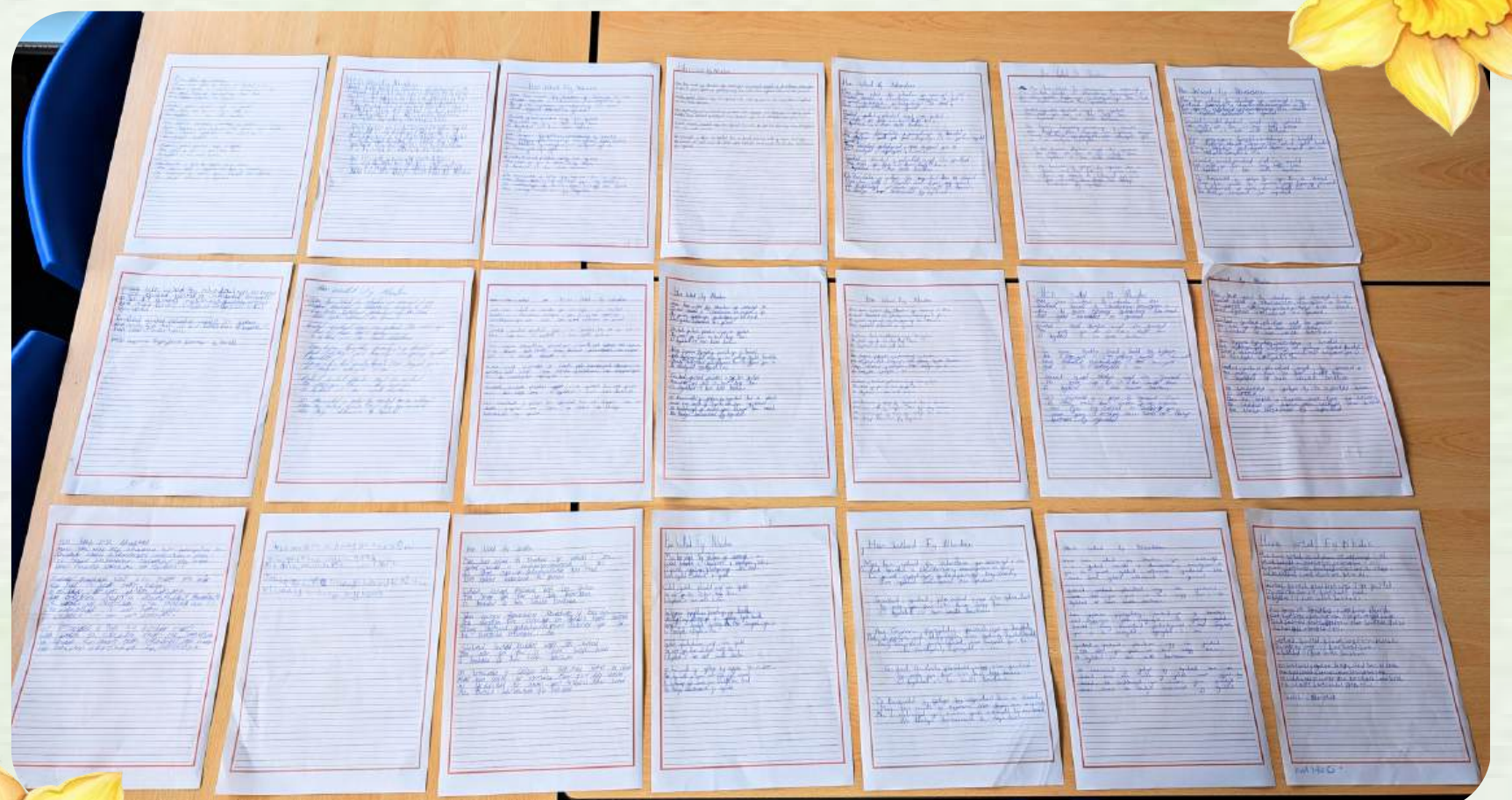


So proud of Year 3H - We had 19 very different, clever, unique home-school competition entries! From a Google Slides presentation to caking baking we had it all. The staff found it an impossible task to choose 3 winners! **Ardderchog pawb!**

They all sang 'Y Gwcn' beautifully for the Eistedfodd performance.

## Year 6 Competitions

For our handwriting competition we wrote the Welsh National Anthem 'Hen Wlad fy Nhadau'. For our art competition we made pencil shaded Celtic crosses. We made some beautiful home-school competition entries which included cakes, a handmade book and information pages on Wales.





# St David's Day 2025 Dydd Dewi Sant



Year 5 created some fantastic home-school projects! I am so impressed with their creativity and effort! **Bendigedig!**

I was very proud of them for learning and performing the song 'Sosban Fach,' to the rest of the school. They showed their Welsh pride!

For our art competition, the children designed a new Welsh costume or outfit. Lots of the children designed fantastic new sports kits for the national rugby and football teams. Congratulations to our 2025 competition winners!



## HANDWRITING



## HOME-SCHOOL



## ART



## Eisteddfod Dydd Gŵyl Dewi - Blwyddyn 4 Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig St Francis 2025



Ei'n taith Dysgu





# Our Learning Journey

## World Book Day 2025

Year 2/3 had a wonderful World Book Day.

We wrote and decorated invitations and invited Year 5 to our 'Starbooks'. We were very excited when they came down to read with us, have a milkshake and a chocolate cupcake. We used our knowledge of money to pay Year 5 for our cupcakes and it was really fun having them come into our classroom.



Year 5 loved their 'Starbooks,' cafe experience! We were so pleased to receive our invitations to read with our friends in Year 2 and Year 2/3! Thank you for inviting us!



There were lots of fabulous costumes in both Year 5 classes! I loved hearing about all of their favourite books and recommendations!



*Ei'n taith Dysgu*





# World Book Day 2025



WBD 2025 was a great success in Year 3H. They loved 'Our Blind Date with a Book' game. They all became investigators and read the clues and tried to work out what book it could be....! A great way to encourage 'Pleasure for reading'



Nursery had great fun telling all our friends who were had come as! We all took turns to share our characters.



We had a very special visit from The Clever Rabbit who read us a story and we all did the actions to it as she read along.

We had lots of fun role playing through stories and using our imaginations to make up our own!



*Ei'n taith Dysgu*





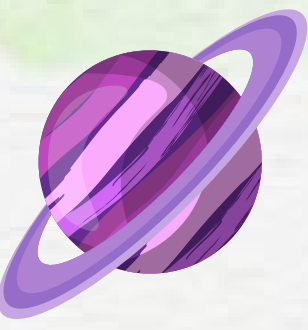
# World Book Day 2025

Year 4 had so much fun showing off their fantastic costumes for World Book Day! What a great effort, da dawn pawb! Have a look at their fantastic costumes!





# Year 6 - Astro Cymru Visit



Year 6 were incredibly lucky this month to be visited by Astro Cymru - Wales. We took part in two workshops run by them 'Stardust Hunting' and 'Space art T-shirts'. Underneath are some of our finished t-shirts that we got to take home.



## Space Dust Hunting

Astro Cymru invited us to be a part of their action research. First, we learnt that each year 3000 tons of space dust falls to Earth (micro meteors). These micro meteors burn up into tiny spheres that can be found all over the world. They are made up of metals, so we got a magnet and used it to pick up tiny metals from our playground. We then used microscopes to look at these pieces of metal and could see the tiny, shiny perfect spheres. We have sent them off to a laboratory to check if they are real space dust. Astro Cymru will donate any micro meteors back to the school that we have collected. We were fascinated to find out that each tiny meteor is worth roughly £200!



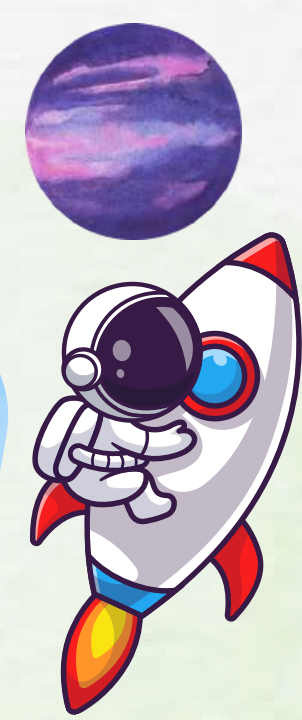
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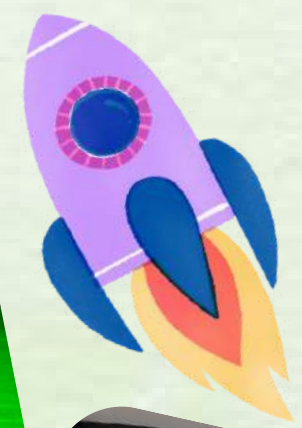
TECHNIQUEST

# Year 5 Techniquiest Trip

Year 5 had an amazing time at Techniquiest science museum!



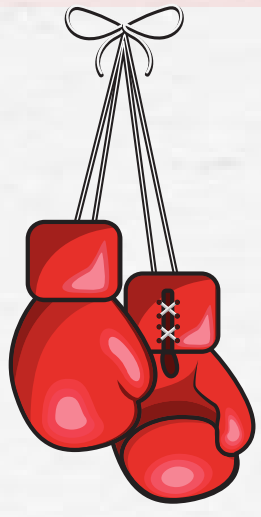
Our topic is called "Journey to Space" so we were excited to be able to go to the Planetarium to learn even more about it! We learnt about our solar system and what is in it and we also saw how many planets have been discovered outside our solar system!



We've also learn about lots of different forces and watched a science show where forces were demonstrated in action! The blasting bottle rocket at the end was our favourite.



Having time in the museum exhibition area also allowed us to experiment with forces and learn more about all thing science! Biology, chemistry and physics!



# Year 5 & 6 - Mini Dragons Boxing



Year 5 and 6 have had the amazing opportunity to take part in twelve weeks of boxing training from Calzaghe's Mini Dragons. This is a non-contact boxing programme that focuses on health and wellbeing. The children have heard all about Joe Calzaghe's story to become a world champion in boxing.



Click the logo to visit the website:



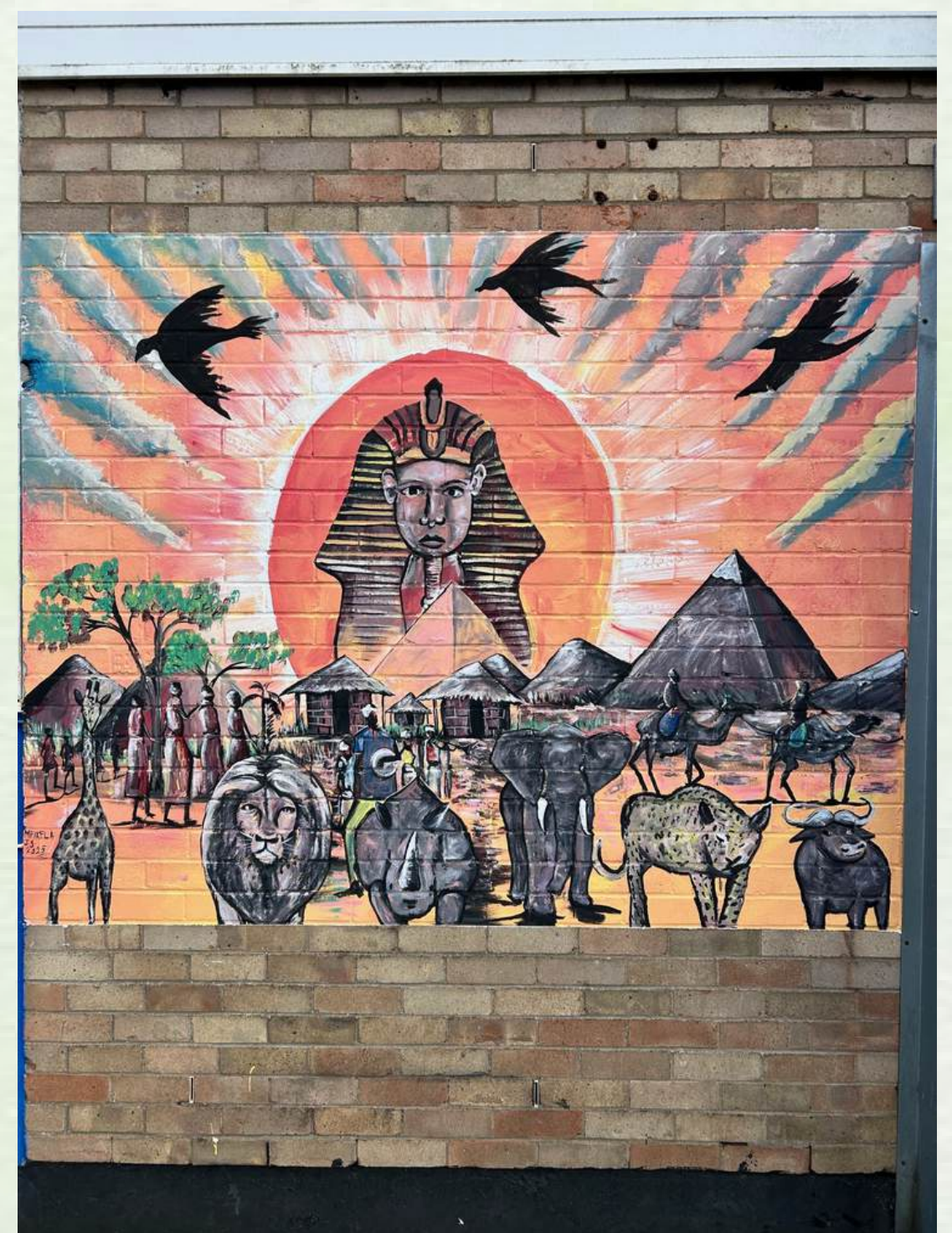
- The benefits of this programme includes:
- increased levels of happiness in children
  - increasing the focus, concentration and classroom performance of children
  - promotes a positive anti-bullying message
  - promotes the health benefits of physical activity
  - develops children's teamwork, respect and empathy for others.
  - develops discipline and personal management skills
  - develops a growth mindset.



# Year 6 Work with Artist Mfikela Jean Samuel

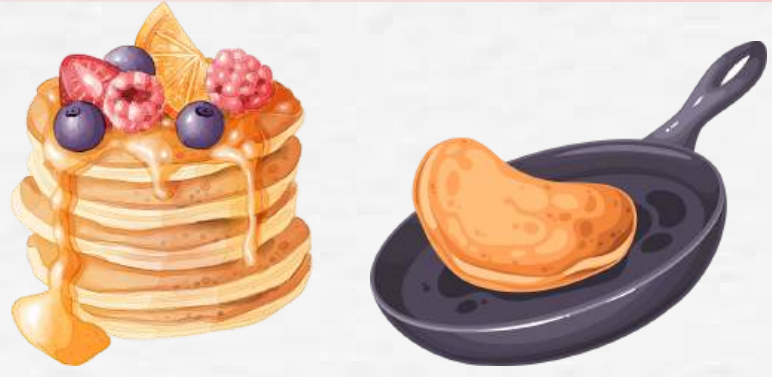
Year 6 children were all able to do an art workshop with professional artist Mfikela Jean Samuel. Mr Samuel is originally from Cameroon and now lives in North Wales. The children worked on some ideas to celebrate Africa for a mural. Mr Samuel incorporated the children's ideas and worked with a group of children to complete the mural that is now on the wall outside the Cwtch Room. We are proud to have many children with African heritage from Ghana to Eritrea, Nigeria to Namibia and many more countries. We are lucky to be able to share in their rich culture.

Mr Samuel also talked to the juniors about his journey to becoming an artist who now travels the world. He talked about how to make your dreams for your future a reality through working hard and focusing on what you love to do.



**Home**  
 I Inspire Through My Arts  
 Mfikela Jean Samuel /





# Year 2/3



We celebrated Shrove Tuesday and ate lots of yummy panckaes. We all had a try at flipping pancakes! It was very fun.



## St. Patrick's Day

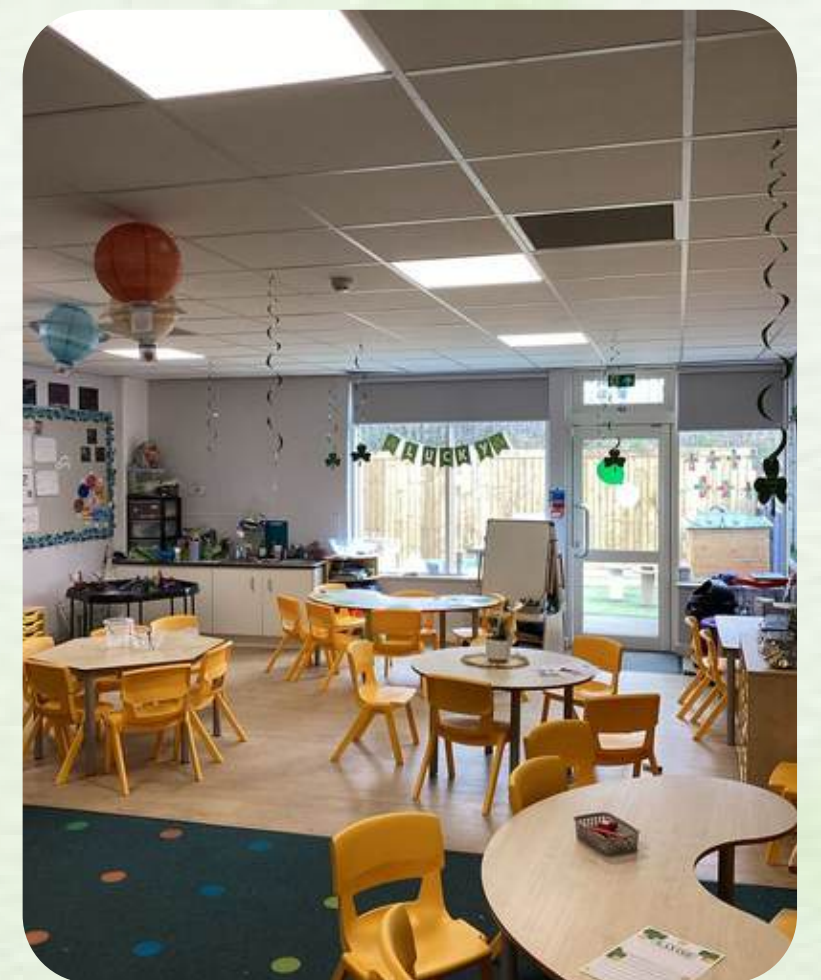


Before we cooked our soda bread

After



We want to celebrate all cultures in our class and therefore on the 17th of March we celebrated St Patrick's Day. We had a very green classroom. The children made traps to catch the Leprechauns, made wanted posters to make sure everyone knew what the Leprechauns looked like and we even made yummy soda bread!



We also discovered with our light meter that the best colour to use for Teddy's sunglasses would be blue because it lets less light in than red, green and yellow. It's important to protect our eyes in the sun. We also discovered that black wouldn't be a good choice because it lets in no light so we'd bump into things!



In our last newsletter we mentioned that we'd been very busy writing our persuasive letters to try and persuade Miss Langsdale to buy us a water trail for our outdoor area. Well, we were very excited to learn that we'd managed to persuade her and that she'd bought us one! We've really been enjoying exploring water and having so much fun in our outdoor area!



Our water trail

**Diolch Miss Langsdale!**



# Nursery's Parents Day

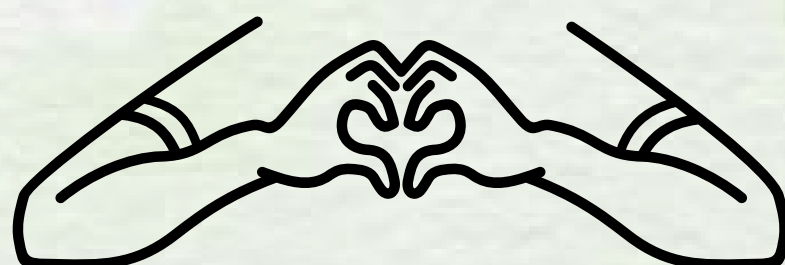


We would like to say a massive

*thank you*

to all the parents who were able to come join us for our Parent's Day - we had a fantastic turn out!

The children loved having you in and showing you their classroom!

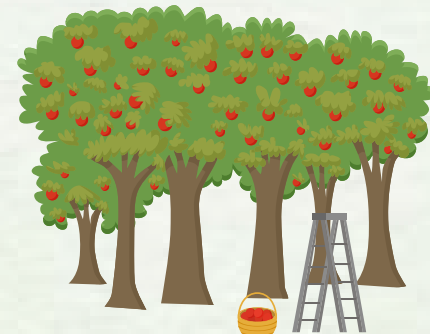




# Outdoor Learning



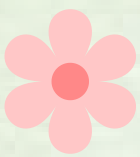
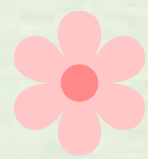
You may have noticed something new in our school... we now have an orchard at St Francis! Miss Mathias' Year 5 class have planted 14 fruit trees with our visitor, Aimee, from 'Keep Wales Tidy.'



ETHICAL INFORMED CITIZENS



Our gardening skills were put to the test once again as we had to use a shovel to dig deep holes for our trees to go into. We then had to secure them by tying them to a stick of bamboo. These trees will continue to grow and we hope they will soon start producing fruit which we can use for a healthy snack in school!



We have also been back to forest school! It was such a lovely day and we could see signs of Spring. There was lots of wild garlic we could see and smell and are planning some delicious cooking in our upcoming forest school sessions! Some fantastic independent den building was happening, where the children used the knots they have used to secure their dens effectively.





# Eco Schools

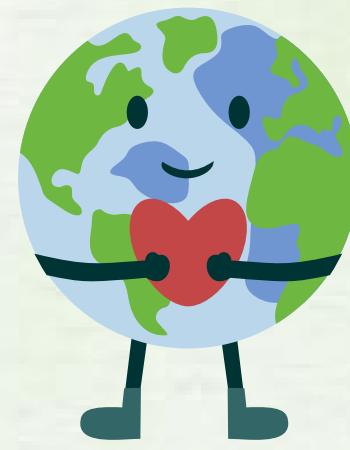


Introducing our...

## Eco Committee



We are the new St Francis Eco Committee! Our job is to make sure our school is doing everything we can to be Eco-Friendly and help to make our world a healthier and tidier place.



We are working towards our Eco Schools Green Flag Award. To gain this award we need to show positive changes in our school, to show how we can care for our beautiful world. So far we have formed our new Eco Committee. The children sent applications to Miss Mathias, who chose the committee based on their awareness and passion for impactful environmental change.

We have also conducted our school Environmental Review, to see where we need to improve and from that have created our action plan.

### Findings from our Environmental Review:



Our environmental review showed us that we are already doing lots of amazing things in school to help our planet, but also highlighted things we could improve on:

- We need to make sure we are using less energy to reduce our carbon footprint. Everyone needs to be aware how to do this.
- We need to use the correct bins for our different types of rubbish and get some more bins on the playgrounds so that we have less pollution in our school environment.
- We should encourage people to travel to school by walking, cycling's or scooting, instead of by car.
- We need to make the most of our outdoor spaces in school, to increase biodiversity and make sure we all get to learn outside!



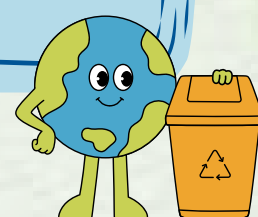
### Our Action Plan:

1. Reduce our energy usage in our school.



2. Increase biodiversity on school grounds.

3. Reduce the amount of litter seen on the playground.



### How you can help too:

#### Tips to Save Energy at Home

 Turn off lights when leaving a room	 Switch to energy efficient appliances	 Use LED lights
 Unplug devices when not in use	 Keep thermostat at low temperature	 Reduce water consumption
 Use smart automated devices	 Switch to double glazing	 Cook with the lid on
 Use a smart meter to track usage	 Wash at a cold temperature	 Use solar powered devices
 Sealing air leaks with caulk and weatherstripping	 Insulating your home to improve energy efficiency	 Conducting an energy audit to identify areas of energy waste





# Stars of the Month! Seren y Mis!



Some of our  
Stars of the Week  
from this month!

Congratulations  
to all the  
recipients!



## Good to be Green Champions this Month

Reception  
Mrs Davies

Reception / Y1  
Mrs Williams

Year 2/3  
Miss Kennett

Year 5  
Miss Mathias

Year 6  
Mrs McHugh

Great behaviour this month has earned  
these classes 10 minutes of extra play!





# Stars of the Month! Seren y Mis!



Well done for receiving a lunchtime award and always setting a good example at lunchtimes!



Congratulations for moving up a level in rainbow reading!

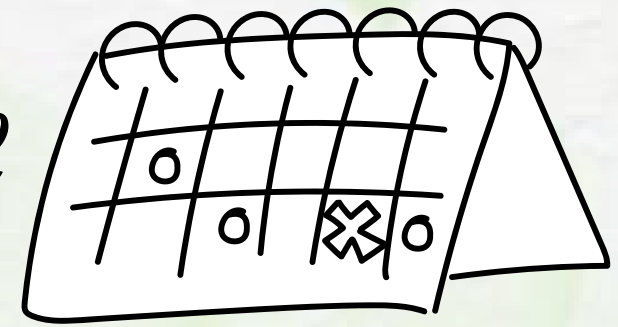
Let your child's teacher know if they have achieved something outside of school and we will celebrate them here!





# After School Clubs

## Spring Term Timetable



### MONDAY

### TUESDAY



Gymnastics/  
Cheer Leading  
Year 3  
3pm - 4pm  
Mrs Coray

Choir  
Years 4, 5, & 6  
3pm - 4pm  
Mr Philp

Football  
Year 3 & 4  
3pm - 4pm  
Mr McConkey

Dance  
Year 4&5  
3pm - 4pm  
Miss Mathias

Football  
Years 5 & 6  
3pm - 4pm  
Mr Windross



Take a look at what we've been doing...

Miss Mathias' Dance Club!





## Mini Senedd Senedd Bach



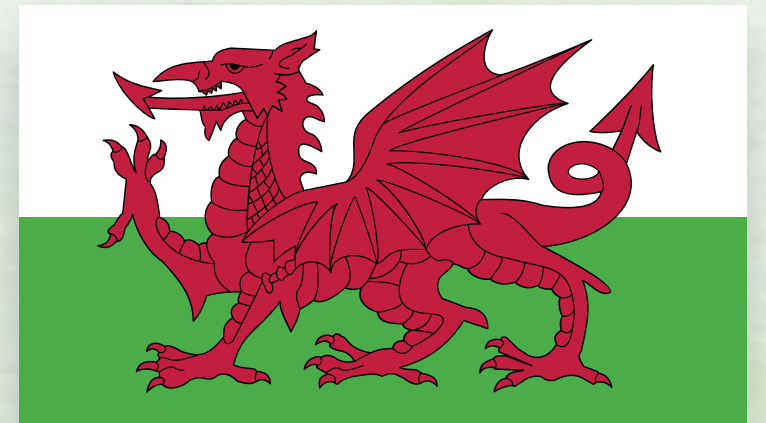
This month the spotlight is on:

Y Tim Cymraeg



Our role:

Our group are working on promoting the use of the Welsh language throughout the school.



Our agenda:

- To design appropriate logo for our Tîm Cymraeg and choose winner.
- Give year 5 and 6 Criw Cymraeg to explain the tocyn iaith in the Friday praise assembly.
- To give out tokens to children who are heard to be using the Welsh language.
- To hand out the Welsh award in Friday's praise assembly.





# Staff Training Day

## Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence

All St Francis Primary School Staff took part in vital training on our Inset Day: **Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.**

1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men will have experienced domestic violence

1 in 7 children will have lived with domestic violence at some point in their lives

### What is it?

Domestic Abuse

Harassment

Coercive Control

Female Genital Mutilation

Stalking

Sexual Violence

Forced Marriage

Modern Slavery

Honour Based Violence

This is the International Hand Signal for Help. All staff are aware of this signal and will subtly act upon seeing it.

### SIGNAL FOR HELP



1). PALM TO CAMERA AND TUCK THUMB



2). TRAP THUMB



**If you or anyone you know is suffering from any of the above or more, there are people out there who can help.**



Click the links below for more information, for help, support or just someone to talk to.





# Google Translate App



# Google

# Translate

*Click here*  for web

FREE APP

Google Translate is a free app available on the web, iOS for iPhone and Android.

## EASY TO USE

It is easy to use and can translate between up to **133** languages.

You can copy and paste text into the translator if the text is digital, or use the camera to convert in real time if the text is printed.



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DOWNLOAD THE APP

for iPhone



*Click here* 



*Click here* 

DOWNLOAD THE APP

for Android



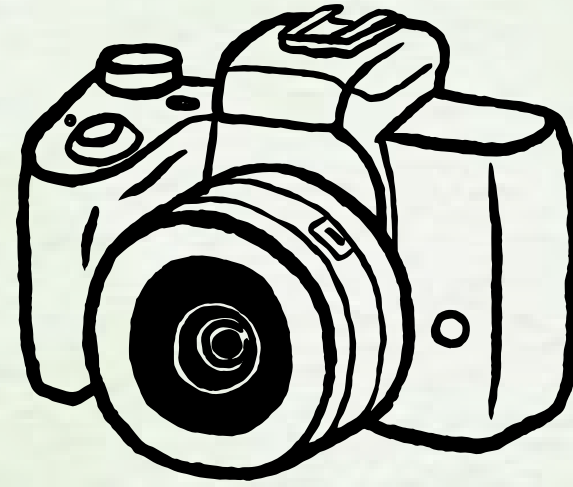


# Year on a Page Blwyddyn ar Dudalen



	Term Starts	Half Term	Term Ends
Autumn Term	02.09.24	28.10.24 - 01.11.24	20.12.24
Spring Term	06.01.25	24.02.25 - 28.02.25	11.04.25
Summer Term	28.04.25	26.10.25 - 30.05.25	21.07.25

## School Photos



Thursday 7th November  
Individual Photographs

Thursday -- May (Date TBC)  
Class Photographs

## Inset Days

1. Monday 2nd September
2. Tuesday 3rd September
3. Monday 18th November
4. Monday 3rd March
5. Friday 11th April
6. Monday 21st July

## Pupil Progress Meetings

Wednesday 23rd October  
Wednesday 2nd April  
End of Year Report in July

## Important Dates in the Catholic Calendar

Friday 4th October - The Feast of St Francis

Thursday 26th October - Harvest Festival

Monday 3rd February - Celebration of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

Wednesday 5th March - Ash Wednesday

Monday 7th April - Holy Week Assemblies





# Dates for your Diary



## April



Tuesday 1st April - April Fool's Day



Friday 10th April - Break up for Easter



Friday 11th April - Inset Day



Friday 18th April - Good Friday



Sunday 20th April - Easter Sunday

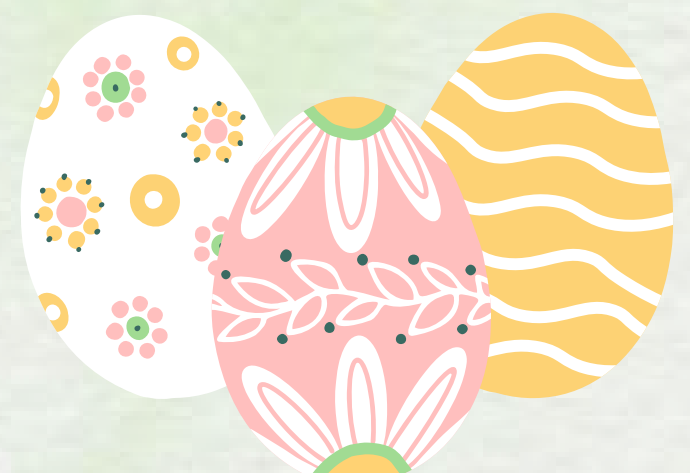


Monday 21st April - Easter Monday



Tuesday 22nd April - Earth Day

Click the Earth for ideas of how to celebrate with your child!





# Dates for your Diary



## May



Thursday 1st May - May Day



Sunday 4th May - Hedgehog Awareness Week



Monday 5th May - African World Heritage Day



Thursday 15th May - International Day of Families



Friday 16th May - Endangered Species Day



Tuesday 20th May - World Bee Day



Monday 26th May - Spring bank holiday



Thursday 29th May - Ascension Day

