



November 2025
Tachwedd 2025

St Francis R.C. Primary School



stfrancisprm.cardiff.sch.uk



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A message from our Headteacher,

Miss Langsdale



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Francis RC Primary,

As the autumn leaves fall and the days grow shorter, November invites us to pause and reflect. This month is rich with moments of remembrance, gratitude and preparation. We began with All Saints' and All Souls' Days, honouring those who have gone before us and celebrating the lives of those who inspire us in faith and kindness.

On Remembrance Day we reflected on the sacrifices made by those during times of war. It marks the end of World War I, which officially concluded on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

We observed a two-minute silence at 11am to honour those who gave their lives for peace and freedom. The poppy is worn as a symbol of remembrance, inspired by the poem In Flanders Fields, where poppies grew on the battlefields. In schools, we use this time to teach children about peace, courage, and gratitude. It's also a chance to reflect on how we can be peacemakers in our own lives and communities.

During November we have also been supporting the raising of awareness of Diabetes. Diabetes Awareness Month, observed every November, is a global campaign aimed at raising awareness about diabetes, supporting those living with the condition, and promoting prevention and early detection strategies.

In school, our children continue to shine brightly. From engaging learning in the classroom to acts of kindness in the playground, we are proud of the way they live out our school values each day. November also brings Anti-Bullying Week, a time to reinforce the importance of respect, inclusion and standing up for one another. We encourage all families to talk about these themes at home and support our shared commitment to a safe and loving environment for every child.

As we look ahead to Advent, we begin preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ. Our school community will be taking part in special assemblies, charity collections and festive activities that help us focus on giving, sharing and hope.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership.

Warm regards,
M Langsdale





Religious Education Directory

Prayer of the Month



Gweddi'r Mis

Remember the poppies,
For those who offered their lives,
Soldiers fighting,
Animals dying,
Sacrifices made,
Saving our country,
Legends created,
Better lives made.

Rest in peace,
May there now be peace,
May there now be hope,
May there now be faith and love.
Amen

Marnie
Year 4





Religious Education Directory



Learned: (Luke 2:39-52)

Mary and Joseph went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him. When he was twelve years old, they went up for the feast as usual. When they were on their way home after the feast, Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem without his parents knowing. They assumed he was with the caravan, and it was only after a day's journey that they went to look for him. When they couldn't find him they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. Three days later, they found him in the Temple, sitting among the doctors, listening to them, and asking them questions. They were overcome when they saw him, and his mother said to him, 'My child, why have you done this to us? See how worried your father and I have been, looking for you.' 'Why were you looking for me?' Jesus replied 'Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?' But they did not understand what he meant. He then went down with them and came to Nazareth. His mother stored up all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and all.

Wise: (Matthew 16:1-3)

The Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked him to show them a sign from heaven. He answered them, 'When it is evening, you say, "It will be fair weather, for the sky is red." And in the morning, "It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening." You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.



Religious Education Directory

Assemblies

Year 3 Act of Worship Assembly

On Tuesday 18th November Year 3 welcomed Parents and Guardians into school to watch our Collective Worship Assembly. The children read loudly and beautifully. I was very proud of them all. In our assembly we chose to focus on the prophet Isaiah. We are starting to learn about him now in Branch 2. The story he foretold was of Angel Gabriel visiting Mary to tell her she would give birth to a Son and name him Jesus. He would be the Son of the Most High. The children responded with lovely prayers and finished the assembly with a very fitting Mission linked to Isaiah's words... To carry Isaiah's words of hope and Gabriel's message of joy into our daily lives.



This month, Mr. McConkey and Year 3/4 lead a school assembly to commemorate Remembrance Day. We shared the significance of this important occasion, reflecting on the courage and sacrifice of those who served in past and present conflicts. Through readings, and a minute of silence, we encouraged everyone to think about the value of peace and gratitude.





Religious Education Directory

Thank you!



APÊL DIOLCHGARWCH
CEFNOGWCH BANC BWYD CAERDYDD

HARVEST APPEAL
HELP SUPPORT CARDIFF FOODBANK

Thank you

St. Francis Primary School

You have collected 107.6 kg as part of our harvest appeal.
This will provide 9 local people with a three day emergency food parcel.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

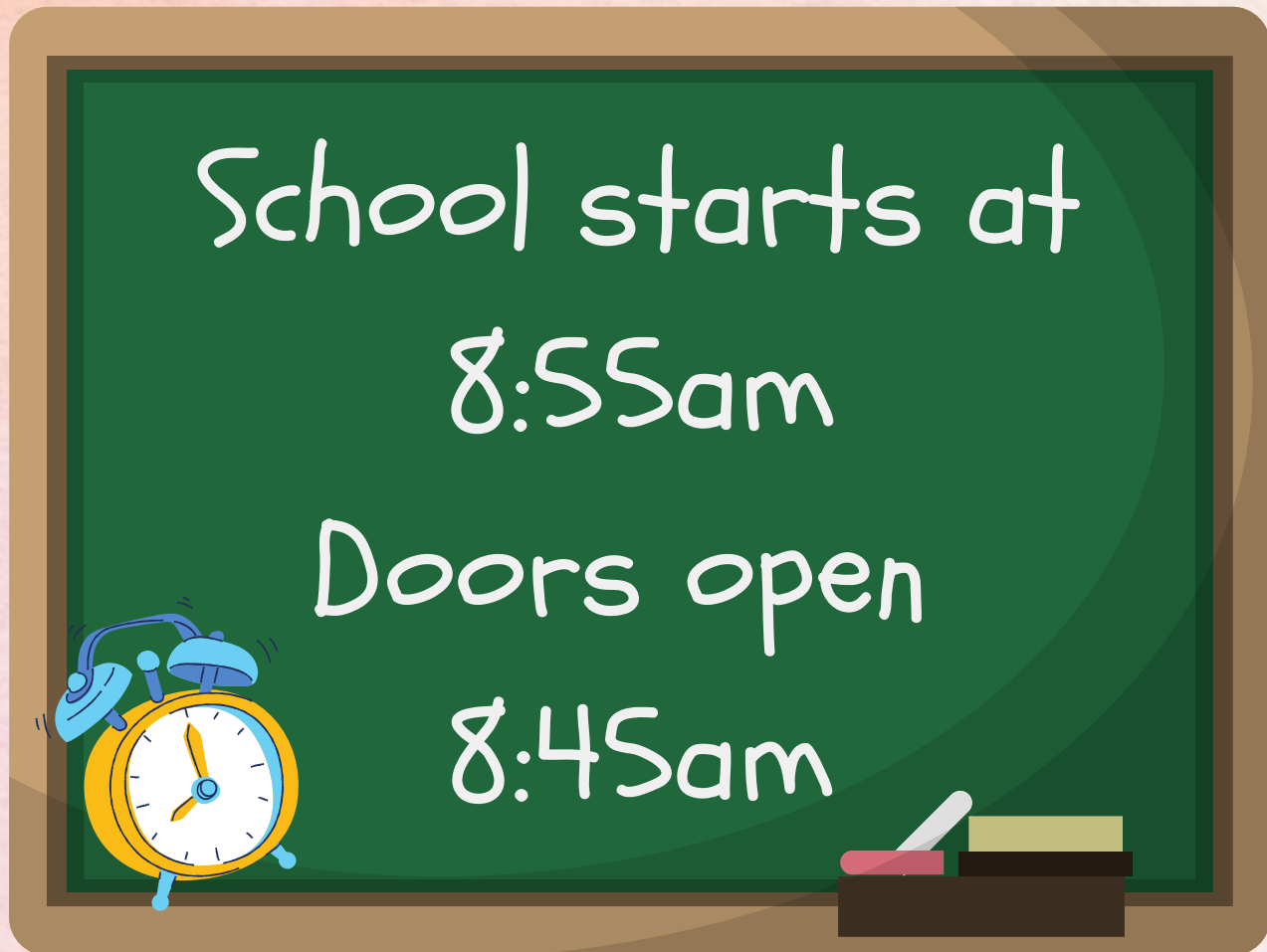


Thank you to all our children, parents and guardians for the wonderful and thoughtful food donations we kindly asked for to support Cardiff Foodbank. Doing this simple act of kindness for others shows us how generous the children of St Francis Primary School are! We are living out our mission statement 'Together with Jesus we love and learn' by being true disciples of Jesus and putting others before ourselves!





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.



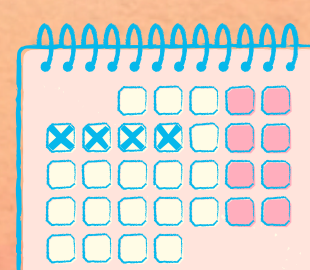
If your child is unwell please contact the office otherwise the absence cannot be authorized.

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

91.8%

Slightly up from last month!

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

Nursery AM

89.4%

Nursery PM

84.6%

Reception-D

93.9%

Reception-H

94.2%

Year 1

91.9%

Year 1/2

91.5%

Year 2

88.7%

Year 3

94.5%

Year 3/4

93.7%

Year 4

91.1%

Year 5M

87.4%

Year 5J

96.8%

Year 6C

92.0%

Year 6M

89.7%



Attendance Rewards

Our new Senedd group will meet and decide on the rewards for our good attendance winners!



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 25-26 Topics

Autumn Term



Tymor yr Hydref

Travelling Back in Time

Teithio yn ôl mewn Amser

Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways.

We encounter and make sense of the world through a variety of events and experiences. Humanities encourages learners to critically review the ways these events and experiences are perceived, interpreted and represented. As they form their own informed viewpoints and recognise those of others, learners can also develop self-awareness.

Learning how various worldviews and factors can influence their own and others' perceptions and interpretations will encourage learners to develop an appreciation of how contexts influence the constructions of narratives and representations. By exploring how and why interpretations may differ and by critical understanding of a range of interpretations and representations derived from a variety of evidence, they will be better placed to evaluate their validity.

Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future.

The learners' journey through this Area will encourage enquiry and discovery, as they are challenged to be curious and to question, to think critically and to reflect upon evidence. An enquiring mind stimulates new and creative thinking, through which learners can gain a deeper understanding of the concepts underpinning humanities, and their application in local, national and global contexts. Such thinking can help learners to understand human experiences and the natural world better.

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

An appreciation of identity, heritage and cynefin, including the history of Wales and the World, can influence learners emotionally and spiritually, and help build their sense of self and of belonging. Through an understanding of themselves, learners develop their own identity and an awareness of how they, as individuals, can shape the communities in which they live. Consequently, learners will come to realise that the choices we all make, individually and collectively, can have major impacts on society.



Our Learning Journey Nursery

We celebrated Children in Need by dressing up and doing lots of Pudsey activities including making our own Pudsey biscuits!

They were **delicious!**



We've been looking at how time changes things, with a focus on the seasons. We started with looking at Autumn and then we went on to winter.



In RED we have started looking at Advent and the Nativity story.

We role played Angel Gabriel coming to tell Mary she was having a baby.



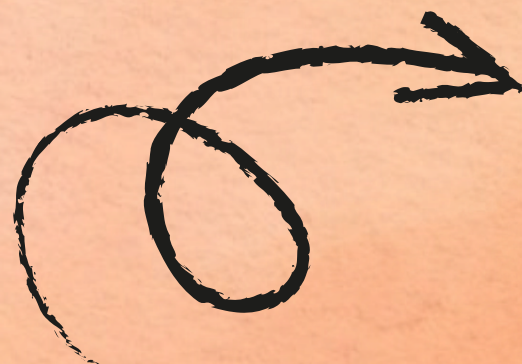
We know that it gets colder in winter and sometimes there's snow! We made our own snowmen which helped to develop our spatial awareness and our scissor skills!



We also ordered the Nativity Story.



We've been developing our fine motor skills by helping Santa to 'wrap' the presents and 'decorate' the tree by threading the ribbon through the holes.



As we start looking at winter and Christmas we have been developing lots of different skills!



We helped Santa to deliver the presents to the correct trees by using our understanding of 'big', 'medium' and 'small' to sort them out.

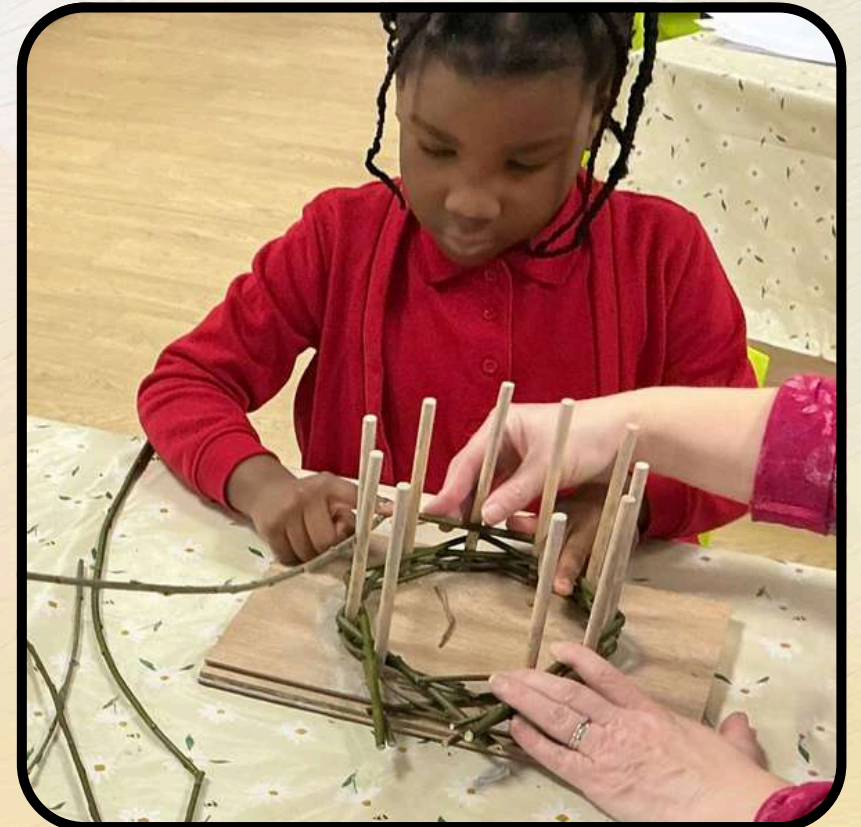
It has helped us to understand the prepositions of 'over' and 'under' as well!

Our Learning Journey

Year 1



Our model of a Celtic roundhouse using authentic wattle and daub building techniques

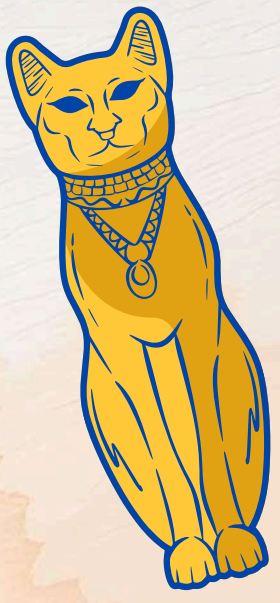


Ancient Egypt

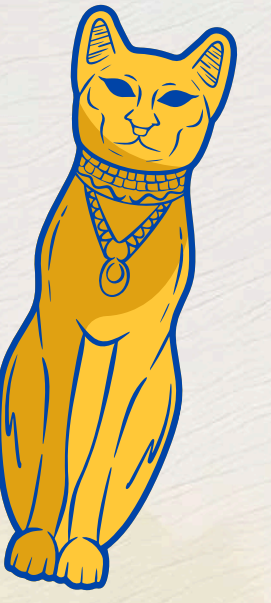


In Year 1 we have been finishing off our topic of The Celts and diving into learning all about the Ancient Egyptians. We were lucky enough to have a trio of workshops hosted by experts from Swansea museum. We explored how and why people were mummified, pyramid structures through a STEM building challenge and got to dress up as a variety of different professions and important people from ancient Egypt. We have started to learn about hieroglyphics and have made our own papyrus paper and written our names on our crafted 'paper'...pictures in the next newsletter





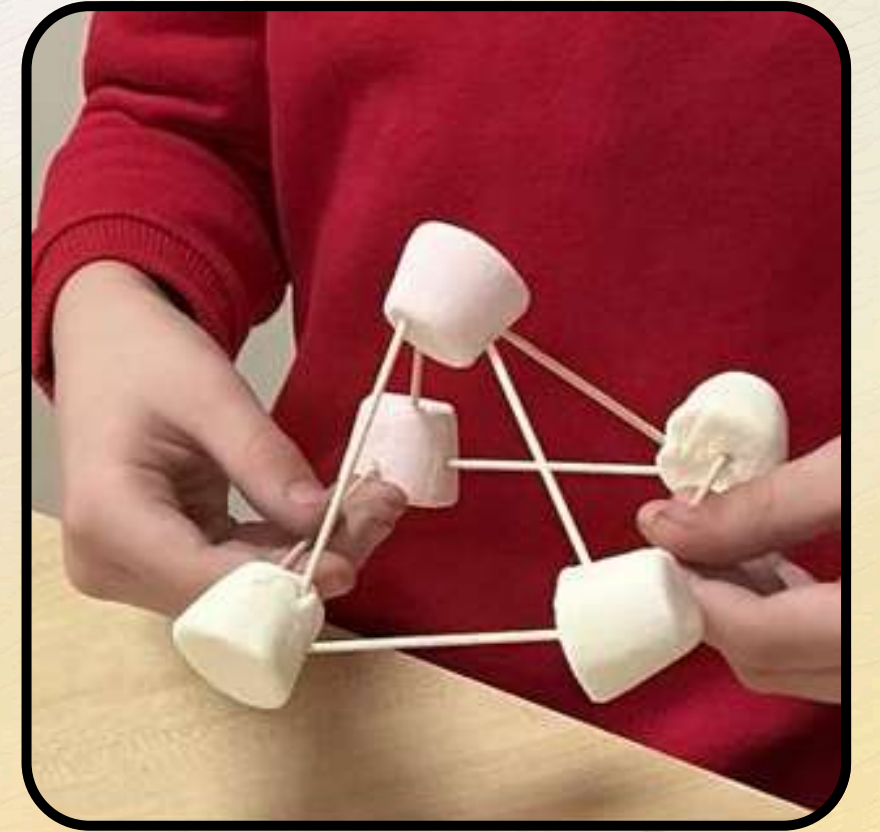
Our Learning Journey



Year 1/2 Mrs Boyd & Miss Kennett



Ancient Egypt



Year 1 / 2 children are now learning about Ancient Egypt. We had a very exciting workshop from 3 people from an Egyptian museum in Swansea. We had 3 different workshops, our first one was all about pyramids and we had to create the tallest pyramid but making sure we had a strong base to ensure it didn't get knocked down. Unfortunately one team's pyramid got knocked down but we still had lots of fun! The second workshop was all about mummification. We learnt all about how the whole process takes 70 days. We then learnt a fun Egyptian game. Lastly we got to dress up in Egyptian clothes. Did you know the Egyptian King had more than one wife?! Lastly we tried on lots of different Egyptian costumes to learn all about the important roles in Ancient Egypt.





Our Learning Journey Year 3

Mrs Humphreys' class



In one of our Weekly Wellbeing lessons we focused on 'Celebrating difference within our families!' We understand that everybody's family is different and important to them. And we appreciate our own family who care for us! The children passed around 'Jigsaw Jino' and finished the sentence 'Family is....' The responses to this sentence were beautiful! Da iawn Year 3!

The children chose to draw a picture of their own family using the picture frame template or write some words that explain what their family means to them.



Children in Need



Thank you for all your donations for CIN, take a look at us wearing our spots!



Our educational visit to Caerleon Roman Ruins.

What a fantastic and interesting day at Caerleon Roman ruins! Wow we saw, did and learnt a lot. We stepped back in time and imagined what life was like as a Roman soldier. Here are some photos of our educational visit!





Our Learning Journey Year 3/4

Mr. McConkey's class



This week, our class had the opportunity of leading the school assembly to commemorate Remembrance Day. We shared the significance of this important occasion, reflecting on the courage and sacrifice of those who served in past and present conflicts. Through readings, and a minute of silence, we encouraged everyone to think about the value of peace and gratitude.



Our class had an amazing trip to Caerleon Roman Ruins, where we stepped back in time to explore life in ancient Roman Wales. We began our day with an exciting workshop at the Roman Legion Museum, where we handled replica objects and even dressed up as Roman soldiers! Then we explored the National Roman Legion Museum, discovering fascinating artifacts and learning more about the soldiers who once lived there. After lunch, we set off to visit the Amphitheatre and Barracks, imagining the roar of the crowds and the daily routines of the legionaries. We finished our day at the Roman Baths, where we could picture what it was like to relax and unwind nearly two thousand years ago! It was a fantastic day full of learning, fun, and adventure!



Well done to Year 3/4 for winning 'Green Card Champion' of the week for W/C 03/11/25 and 10/11/25. Their great behaviour earned them an extra 10 minutes of extra play for the following week!



We loved wearing spots to celebrate children in need! Thank you for all of your generous donations!



Our Learning Journey Year 4



Mrs Sim's class



We used our recent poetry experience in our English lessons to write poetry for Remembrance Day. An example is published as the school prayer this month.



We had a great time on our school trip to Caerleon Roman Museum where we spent the day seeing how the Roman's came to settle in Wales. We were able to explore the Roman Baths - where we even saw a footprint of a dog cemented in the tiles! We had a chance to visit the Barracks and imagine what life would have been like for the soldiers that lived there but also the Celts who were settled in Caerleon first. We spent time trying on Roman soldier uniform, exploring a grave of a Roman soldier and had so much time in our role play workshop. We learnt all about how Roman doctors worked and how life was so much easier for the rich Romans.



We were incredibly lucky to welcome local poet Rhiannon Roberts into the class to work with us this month. We had an inspiring assembly where we heard about the possible careers in poetry, drama and performance. Spent time writing poems as a class and then got the chance to perform these to our grandparents! A huge thank you to those grandparents who supported us in this.



Here we are creating a human sun dial for our topic finale.

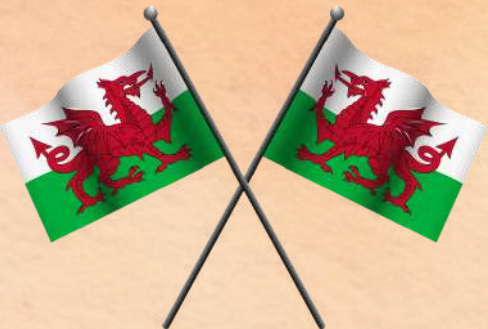


We loved wearing spots to celebrate children in need! Thank you for all of your generous donations!

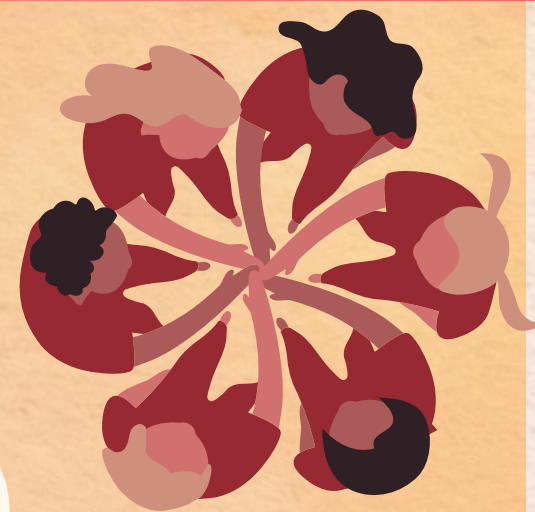


Our Learning Journey

Year 5



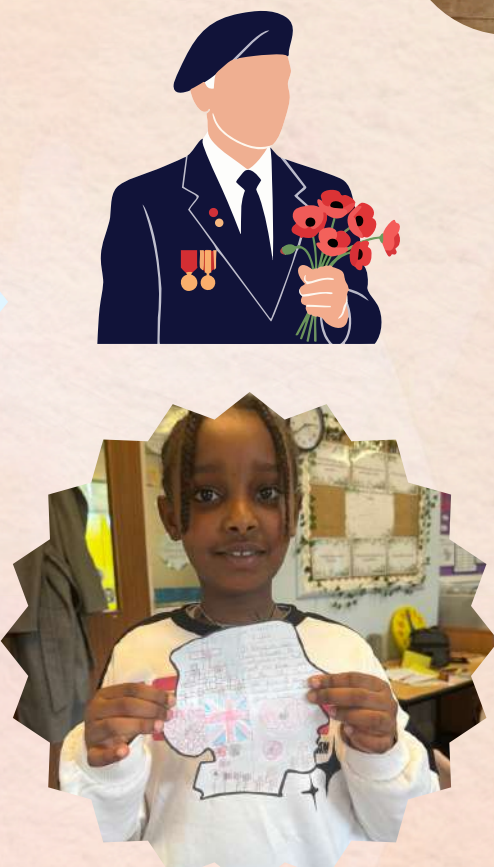
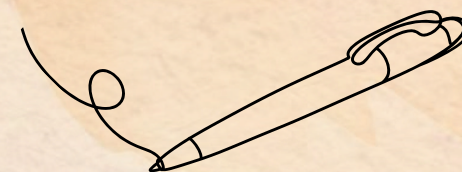
Miss Mathias' Class



In our topic lessons, we have been learning about the word 'Cynefin.' We have learnt that our Cynefin is unique and refers to places where we feel at home or feel we belong. We have learnt more about each other through our work where we expressed our Cynefin through pictures, words and symbols.

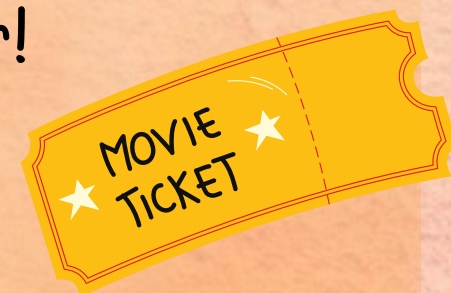


In English we have used our learning about Cynefin to inspire our descriptive poetry. I am so impressed with their beautiful poetry! We were also lucky enough to have a workshop with a poet called Rhiannon Oliver!



On 11/11 we learnt about Remembrance Day including why we mark this day and remember those affected by war and the significance of the Poppy. We completed some lovely artwork featuring poppies and soldiers.

Remember to bring in your consent forms and £3 if you want your child to come to our St Francis Cinema Night on Thursday 11th December!



We loved wearing spots to celebrate children in need! Thank you for all of your donations!

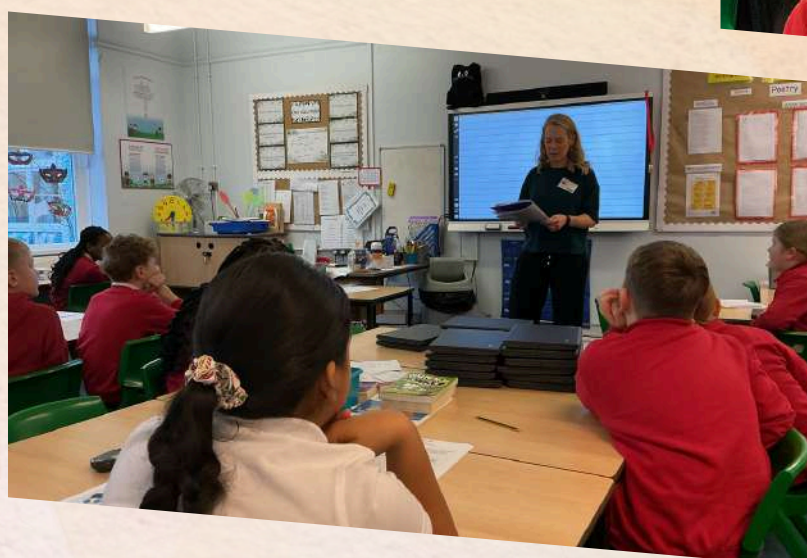




Our Learning Journey Year 5



On 11/11 we learnt about Remembrance Day. We researched all about it, and learnt the significance of a poppy. We completed presentations and presented them to the class. Here are some of the slides we made.



Why do we wear a poppy?

We wear a poppy because during World War One there were red poppies growing on the battlefields and once the war was ended Moina Michael from America and Anna Guerin from France were the first to promote the poppy to remember the people who died for us



We had a brilliant poetry workshop with Rhiannon Oliver, which we thoroughly enjoyed!



What different colour Poppies are there and why?

There is a purple poppy that resembles all the animals that died in the war
 There is a black poppy that resembles all the black servicemen and woman that died in war
 There is a red poppy that resembles all the people that died in war
 there is a white poppy that resembles peace and never to be a war like that ever again



We loved wearing spots to celebrate children in need! Thank you for all of your donations!





Outdoor Learning Year 5 Forest School



Our Year 5 Forest explorers have been noticing the changes in the forest since we first visited. Signs of autumn are more and more visible with fallen leaves and beautiful autumnal colours everywhere!



Lots of resilience was shown to start fires using strikers. The children were very proud of themselves for achieving this after lots of attempts.



We're looking forward to exploring more and learning new skills in our next forest school session!





Storey Arms

Year 6





Storey Arms Year 6



On Monday 10th of November Year 6 pupils travelled to Storey Arms for 3 days of outdoor activities and plenty of fresh air! There was lots of excitement and a little apprehension but they quickly settled into their rooms, unpacked ready for the adventure to begin.

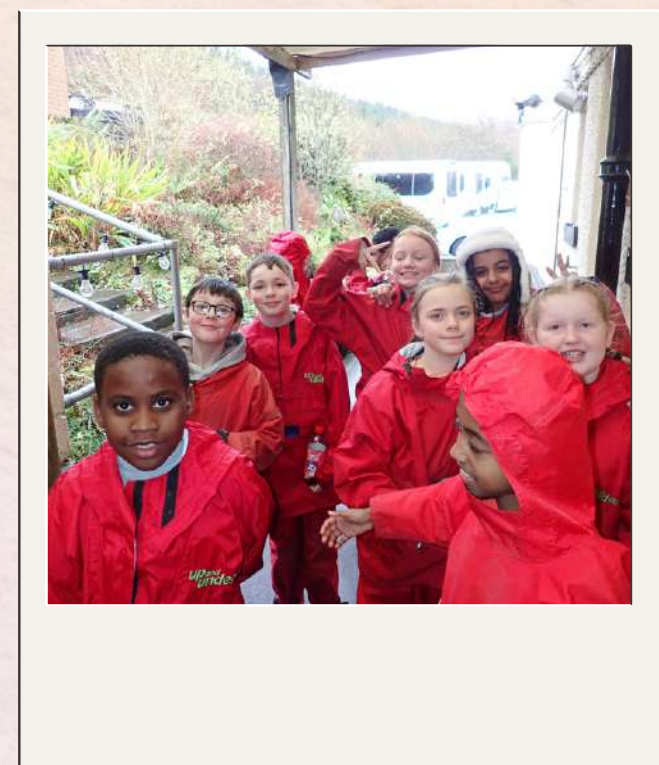
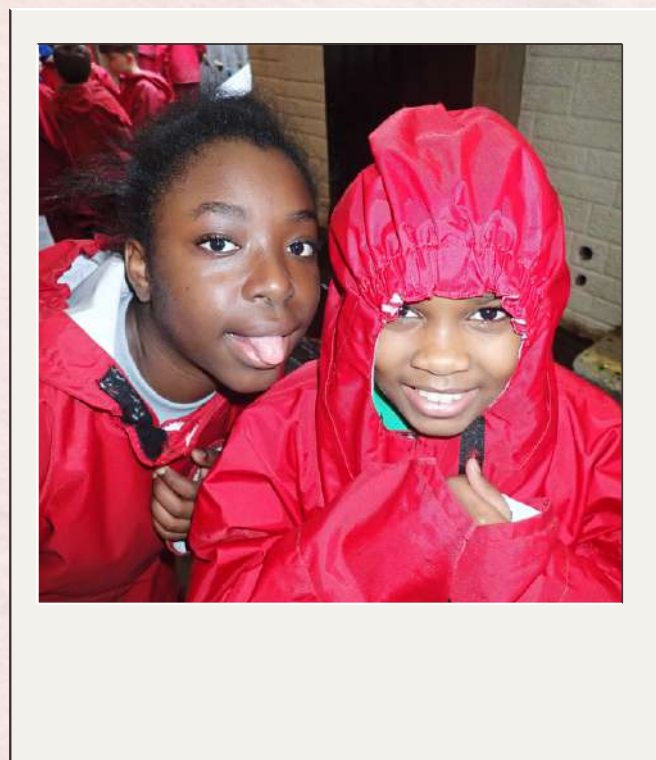
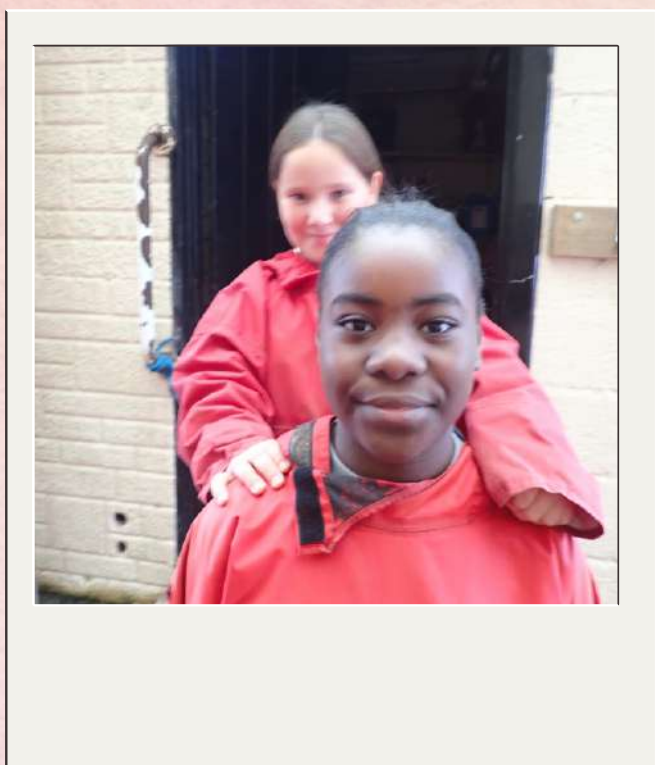
The instructors introduced themselves and the children had a tour of the centre and were kitted out with their waterproofs, wellies and safety gear.

Our afternoon activity took us on a very long walk, where due to the increased rainfall, we saw some beautiful waterfalls and made good use of our wellies! In the evening the children were involved in a "string" walk in a wooded area or navigating the twists and turns of The Drivers Walk. Both activities involved communicating clearly, supporting each other and experiencing new challenges. On returning to the centre, they refuelled with cake and hot chocolate



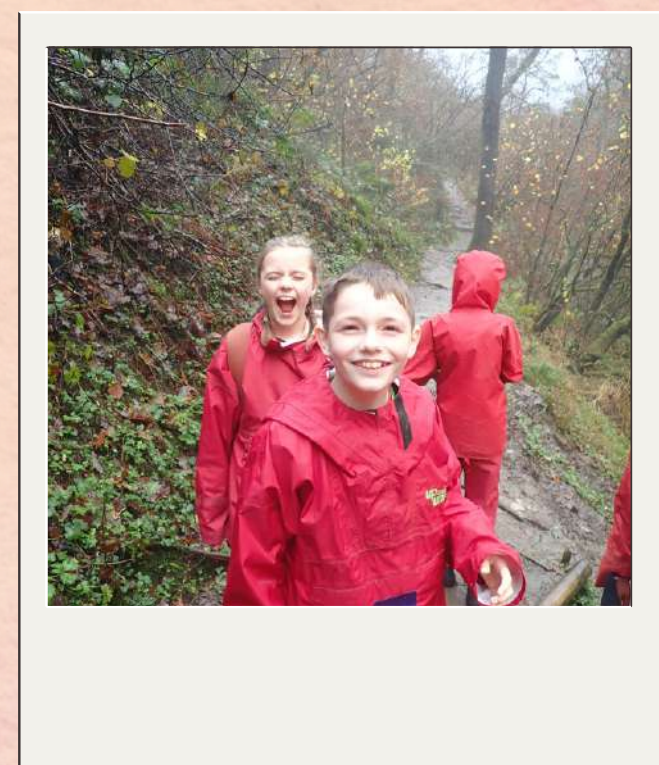
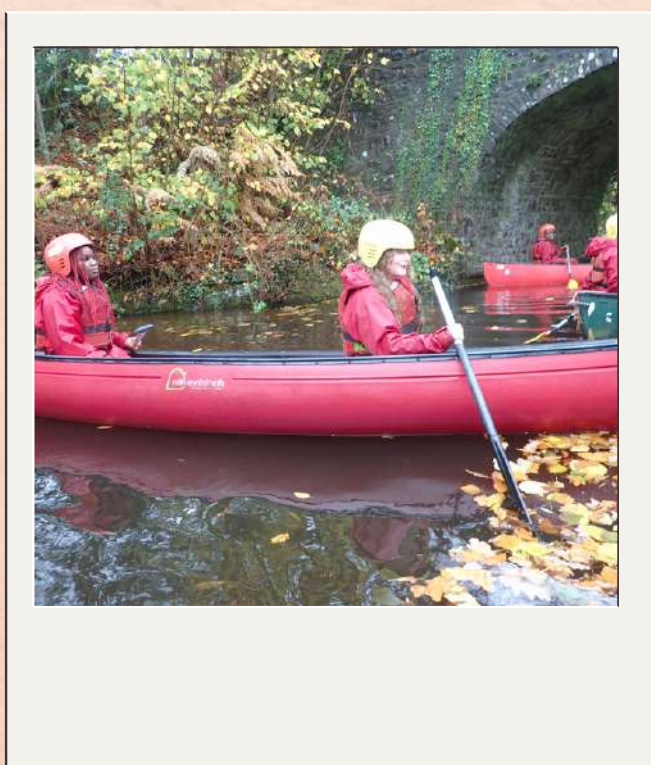
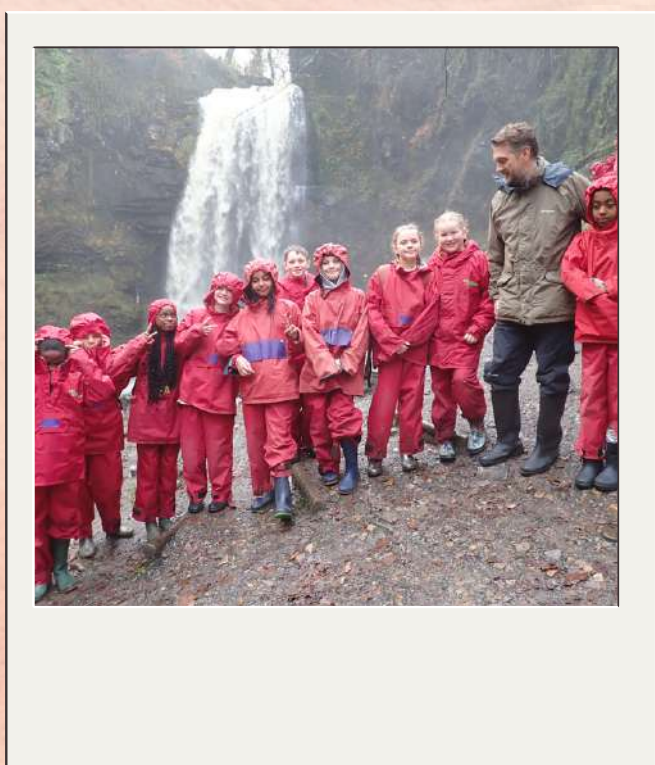
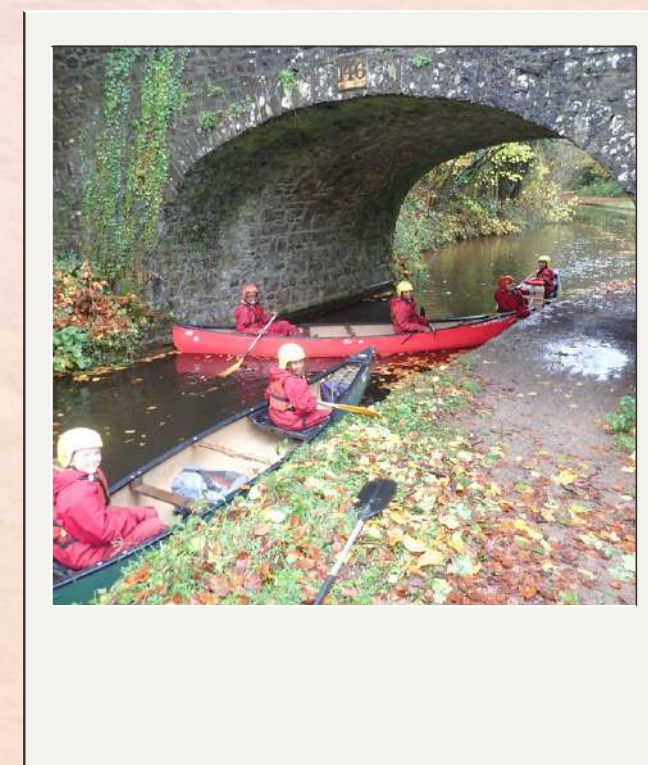
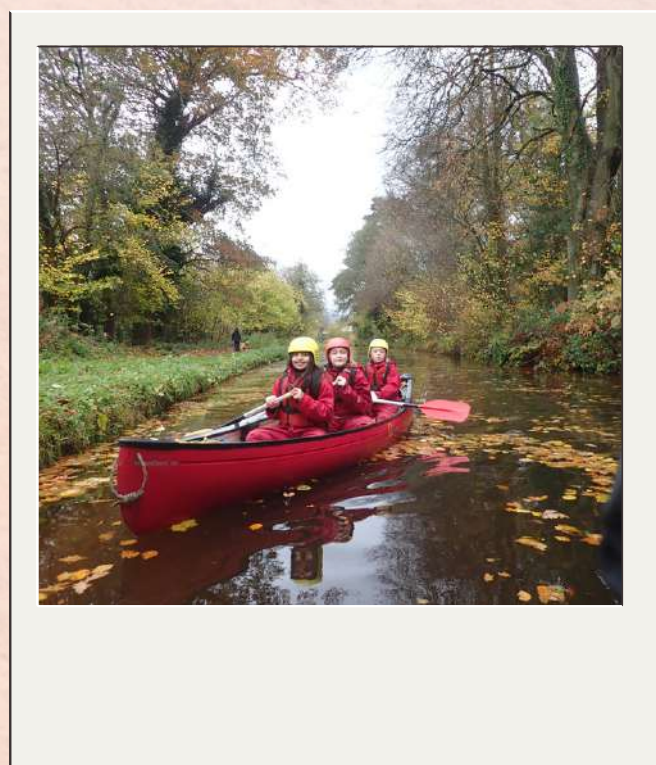
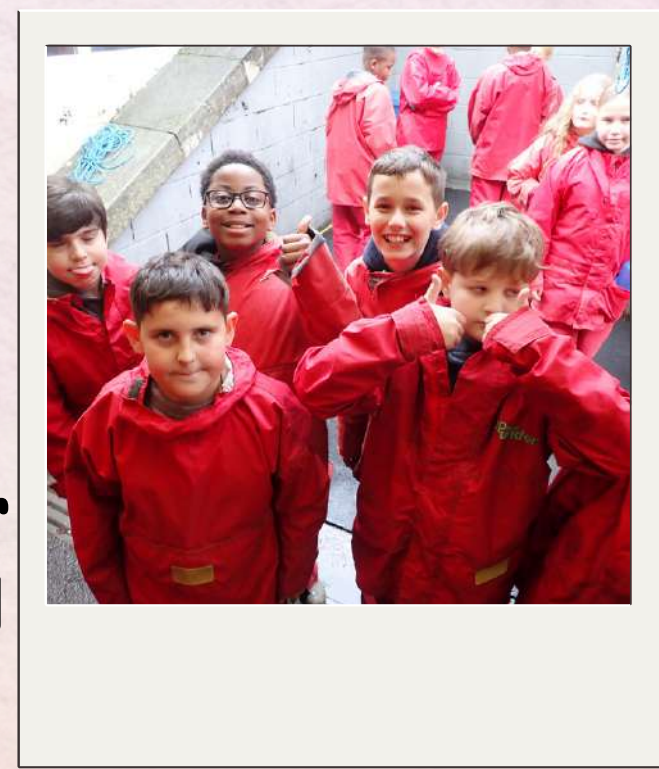


Storey Arms Year 6



During Day 2 and Day 3 the children rotated between canoeing and gorge walking and 4 team Building Games in the evening as outdoor activities were cancelled due to the torrential rain. And then it was chill time...

All children were well behaved, fully engaged and showed increased resilience. Memories were made and a lot of laughter shared...





Stars of the Month! Seren y Mis!

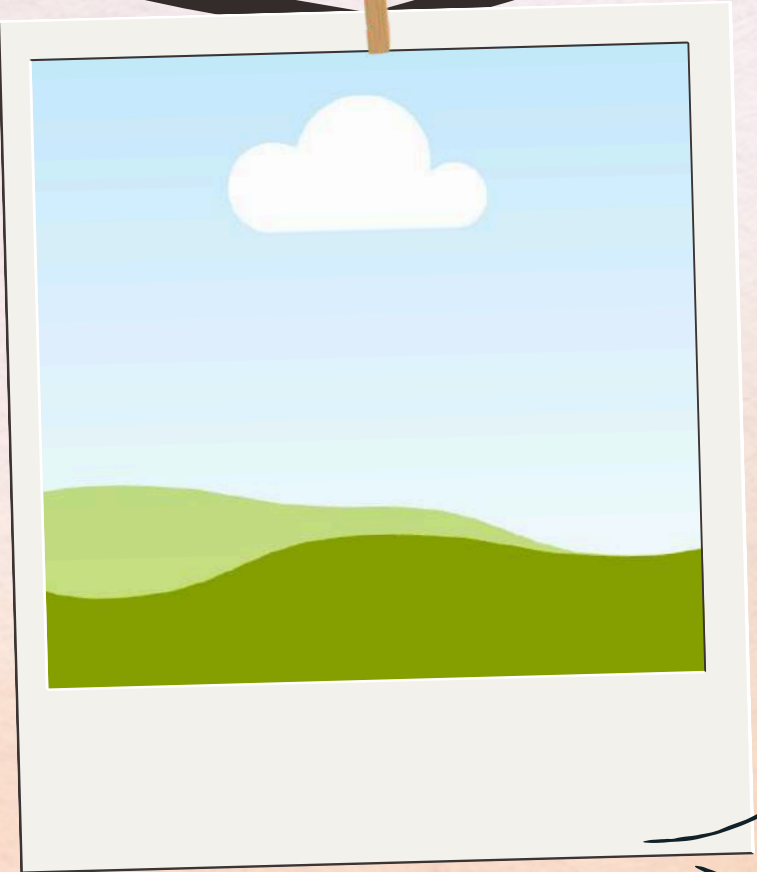
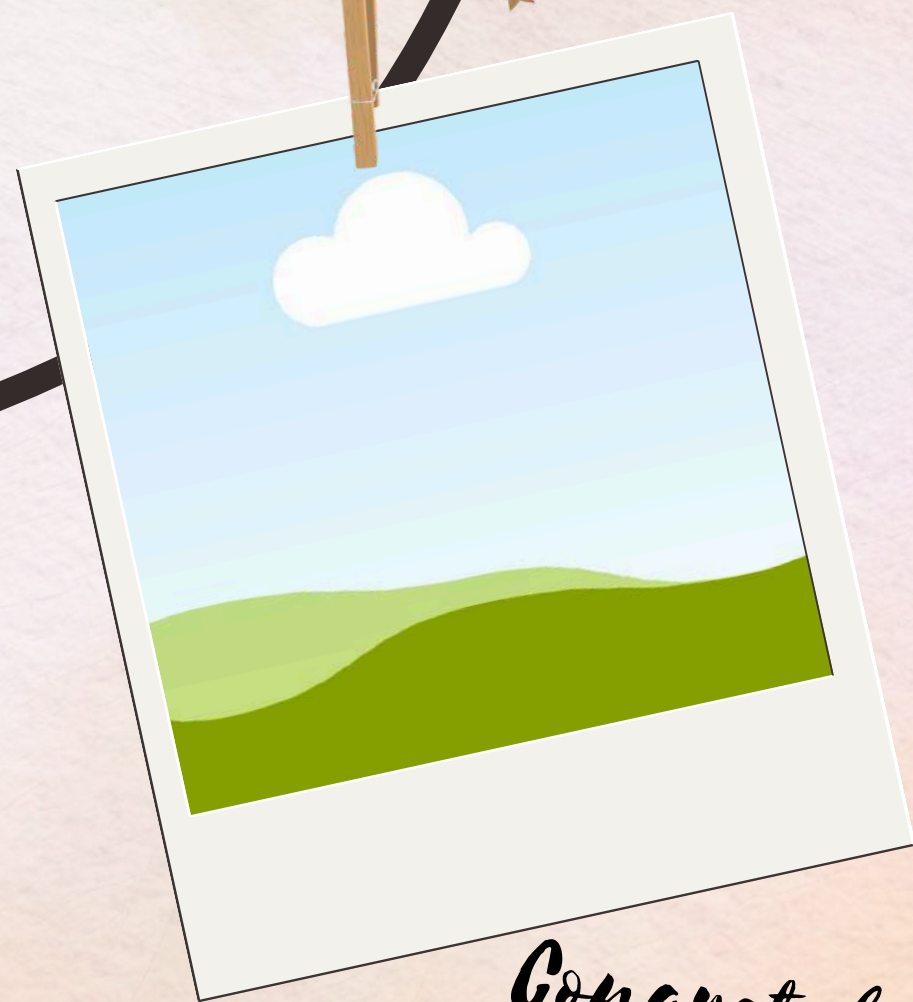
Seren Yr Wythnos
Star of the Week

Enw
Name _____

Am
For _____

Dasbarth
Class _____ Dyddiad
Date _____

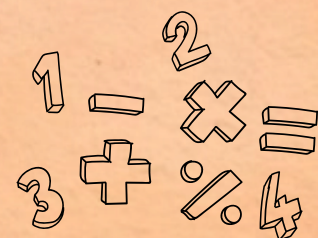
Pennwrth Gwestfrodol Miss Llanpatric



Some of our
Stars of the Week
from this month!

Congratulations
to all the
recipients!

Moving up in Big Maths!

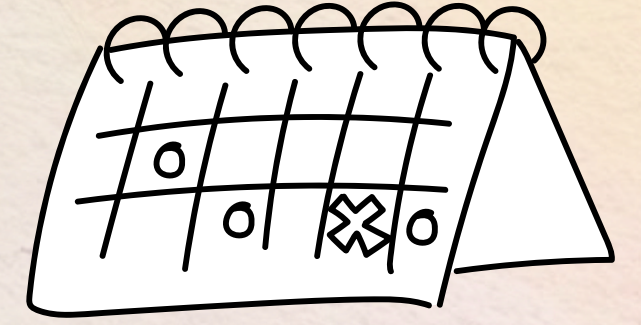


Let your child's teacher
know if they have
achieved something
outside of school and we
will celebrate them
here!

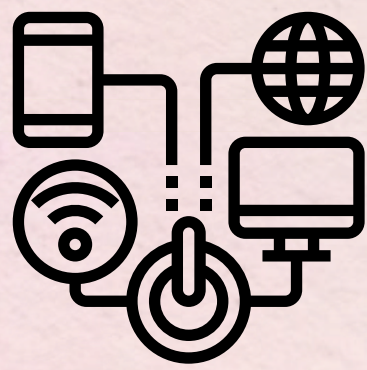


After School Clubs

Autumn Term Timetable



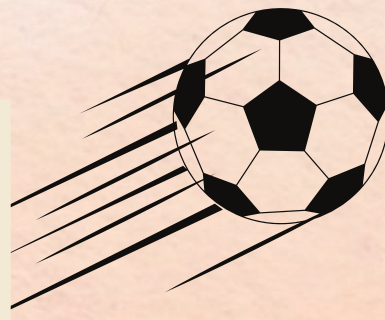
MONDAY



Digital Master Club
 Years 5 & 6
 3pm - 4pm
 Miss Jones

TUESDAY

Football
 Years 3, 3/4 and 4
 3pm - 4pm
 Mr. McConkey



TUESDAY

Dance
 Years 5 and 6
 3pm - 4pm
 Miss Mathias



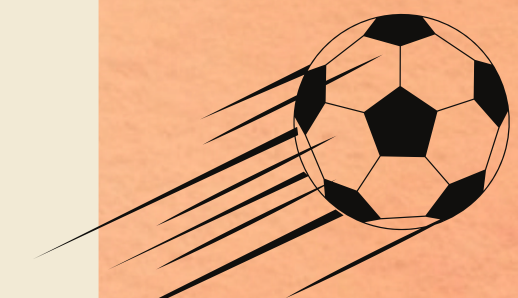
THURSDAY



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

THURSDAY

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





November is Diabetes Awareness Month

do you know the signs of type 1 diabetes?

toilet
thirsty
tired
thinner

We call them the 4Ts. If you or your child are weeing more often, constantly thirsty, more tired than usual, or losing weight for no reason, it could be a symptom of type 1 diabetes. If left undiagnosed, type 1 diabetes can be fatal. If you're experiencing any of the 4Ts, ask your doctor for a test immediately.



Scan the QR code or visit diabetes.org.uk/the4Ts



Parents of children with ALN

One Group Grŵp Un

Are you the parent or carer of a child, birth to five, with an additional need? If so, join us at one of our groups to meet new people and have a cuppa and a chat. No diagnosis or referral needed!

It's fun, friendly and free!

These groups provide an opportunity to meet other parents and children and get advice from Health, Education, Social Care and more. Groups are run **school term time only**

029 20 872717
<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ALN>

Find us on Facebook Grwp 1 Group

Find us on Instagram Grwp1Group

Cymraeg

Caerdydd sy'n Deall Niwrowahaniaeth

Neurodivergent Friendly Cardiff

click here!

Assisted Place Scheme (APS)

Who is it for?
Any child from reception to year 6 who has an identified ALN that requires an IDP, HCP or Statement who would not be able to safely attend an after school/holiday club without additional adult support

How to apply?

- Check the eligibility criteria - available from Lisa Jopson
- Support parents to complete an application form - this will include parents providing evidence of employment
- Submit a funding application

Term time - maximum of 15 hours per week

Holiday time - maximum of 30 hours per week for up to 9 weeks

Contacts:
Specialist Teacher - lisa.jopson@cardiff.gov.uk
Applications via email - Claire.Jones4@cardiff.gov.uk
Senior Childcare Business Support Officer - Andy.Senior2@cardiff.gov.uk

Cardiff Council Following

Introducing Sensory Pods in Cardiff Libraries & Hubs

Public spaces can be overwhelming — especially for those with additional sensory needs. That's why Cardiff Council is proud to introduce new sensory pods across libraries and hubs in the city.

These pods offer a safe, calming space to help individuals self-regulate, reduce anxiety, and feel more at ease in busy environments — supporting both children and adults to thrive without feeling isolated.

What's inside?

- Fibre optic twinkle carpets
- Colour-changing lights
- LED light tubes & fibre optic strands
- Comfortable seating in some pods

These features create a soothing atmosphere for relaxation, grounding, and sensory support. Part of the Neurodivergent Friendly Cardiff – Sensory Resources project, funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund (2024/25) Come explore, unwind, and feel at home in your local hub. Together, we're building a more inclusive Cardiff.

More information can be found on Cardiff Council social media.





Google Translate App



Google Translate

FREE APP

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

Click here for web

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.



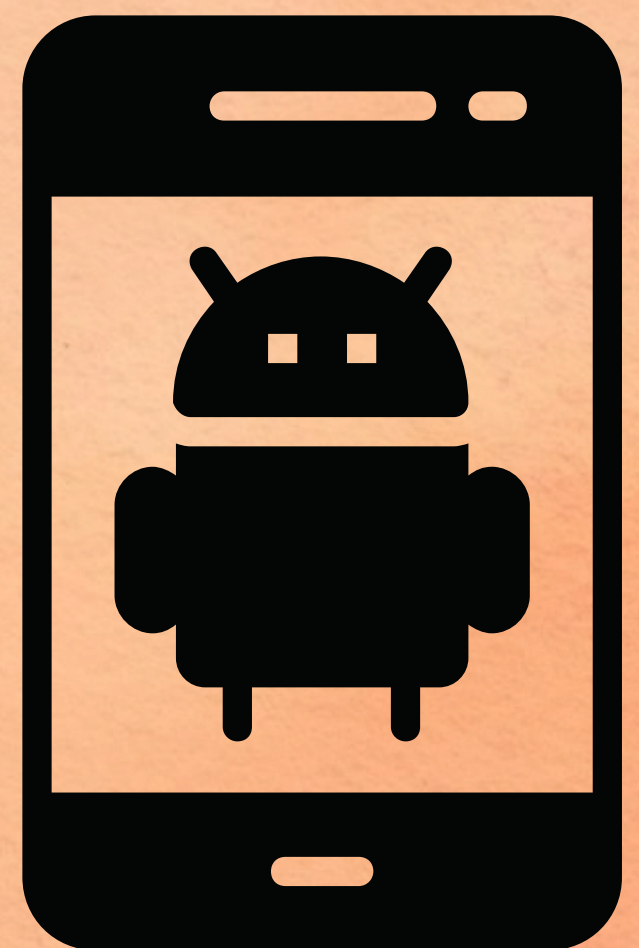
Click here

DOWNLOAD THE APP

for iPhone



Click here



Click here

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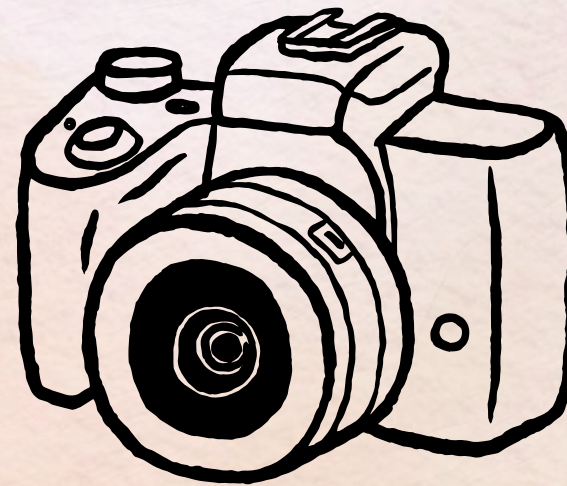


Year on a Page Blwyddyn ar Dudalen



	Term Starts	Half Term	Term Ends
Autumn Term	01.09.25	27.10.25 - 31.10.25	19.12.25
Spring Term	05.01.26	16.02.26 - 20.02.26	27.03.26
Summer Term	13.04.26	25.05.26 - 29.05.26	20.07.26

School Photos



Thursday 6th November
Individual Photographs

Thursday -- May (Date TBC)
Class Photographs

Inset Days

1. Monday 1st September
2. Tuesday 2nd September
3. Friday 24th October
4. Friday 19th December
5. TBC
6. TBC

Pupil Progress Meetings

Wednesday 17th November
March (Date TBC)
End of Year Report in July

Important Dates in the Catholic Calendar

- Friday 4th October - The Feast of St Francis
- Sunday 30th November - Advent Starts
- Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day
- Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday
- Sunday 29th March - Holy Week Starts
- Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday
- Thursday 14th May - Ascension
- Sunday 24th May - Pentacost

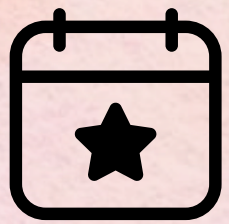




Dates for your Diary



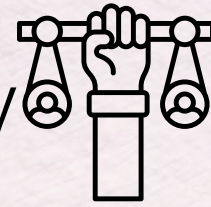
December



Wednesday 10th December - Foundation Learning Christmas Concert



Wednesday 10th December - Human Rights Day



Friday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day



Sunday 14th December - First day of Hanukkah



Tuesday 16th December - Carol Concert (Years 3 & 4)



Wednesday 17th December - Carol Concert (Years 5 & 6)



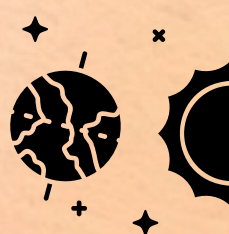
Thursday 18th December - Break up for Christmas Holidays



Friday 19th December - Inset Day



Sunday 21st December - Winter Solstice



Wednesday 24th December - Christmas Eve



Thursday 25th December - Christmas Day



Friday 26th December - Boxing Day



Wednesday 31st December - New Year's Eve





Dates for your Diary

January



Thursday 1st January - New Years Day



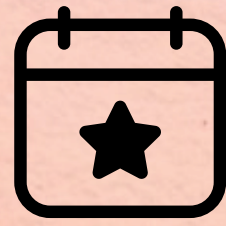
Monday 5th January - Spring term starts



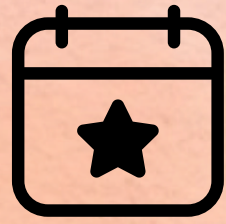
Tuesday 6th January - Epiphany



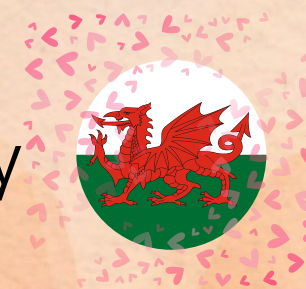
Saturday 17th January - World Religion Day



Saturday 24th January - International Day of Education



Sunday 25th January - St Dwynwen's Day / Welsh St. Valentines Day



Tuesday 27th January - International Holocaust Remembrance Day

