



December 2025
Rhagfyr 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 School,

As we approach the end of another busy and exciting term, we want to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful achievements and experiences our children have enjoyed. December is always a special time in school, filled with joy, creativity, and community spirit. From festive crafts and carols to nativity performances and acts of kindness, it has been heartwarming to see our pupils embracing the true meaning of this season. I would like to thank all of the children and staff for their hard work in putting on the Christmas performances.

We are so proud of the effort and enthusiasm shown by every child, and we thank you for your continued support in making our school such a vibrant and caring place. As we look forward to the Christmas break, we hope you find time to relax, celebrate, and enjoy precious moments with loved ones.

On behalf of all the staff at St Francis, we wish you a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in January for another exciting term of learning and growth.

Warm regards,
M. Langsdale





Religious Education Directory

Prayer of the Month



Gweddi'r Mis

Hope Prayer

We stay awake, watch and wait,
for we do not know the hour or
the day of your arrival.

Come, Lord, bringer of hope

Peace Prayer

We listen to your word as it
whispers in our hearts: "Do not
be afraid."

Come, Lord, prince of peace.

Joy Prayer

Move us to be good news in
our world and to stand
alongside our sisters and
brothers in need.

Come, Lord, source of joy

Love Prayer

Guide us as we seek to
straighten the paths of
injustice and prepare a way for
you.

Come, Lord, bearer of love





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

Advent

The children have embraced the season of Advent beautifully. Our Class Chaplains have led the three Monday assemblies with grace and confidence, guiding us thoughtfully through this special Advent period.

Week 1 - Hope

As we lit the first Advent candle of Hope in Week 1, we were reminded that the growing light reflects our growing hope as we await the birth of our Saviour, Jesus. We listened to the message that God gave to Isaiah "He will teach us what he wants us to do; we will walk in the paths he has chosen. For the Lord's teaching comes from Jerusalem; from Zion he speaks to his people."



Week 3 - Joy

As we lit the third candle, the pink candle that represents Gaudete, or Joyful Sunday, we were reminded that as Christmas draws near, we celebrate the deep joy that Jesus brings into the world. Joy is something we carry in our hearts; it grows from knowing we are loved and cared for. Because of this, we can experience joy even in difficult times. Through the words of Isaiah, we heard: "The blind will be able to see, and the deaf will hear. The lame will leap and dance, and those who cannot speak will shout for joy. They will reach Jerusalem with gladness, singing and shouting for joy." (Isaiah 35:5-6) The source of the people's healing and joy was God's great love for them—a love that continues to bring hope and joy to us today.

Week 2 - Peace

During the second week of Advent, we lit the candle of Peace. This gentle light reminds us that Jesus comes to bring peace into our hearts, our homes, and our world. As we prepare for His birth, we are invited to slow down, to listen, and to share that peace with others through kindness, patience, and understanding. Through the scripture from Isaiah, we heard: "The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants." David had been a much-loved king—wise, fair, knowledgeable, and deeply connected to God. But 300 years after his death, Judah had fallen under the rule of selfish and arrogant leaders, and the people longed for a king like David once more. Through the prophet Isaiah, God promised that a new king would come from David's line, a leader who would guide the people with wisdom, justice, and compassion.





Religious Education Directory

Year 5M - Collective Worship Assembly



Miss Mathias and her Year 5 class were thrilled to welcome our families to school to share with them an act of worship assembly for the season of advent. We shared our learning from RE lessons this half term through Gather, Word, Response and Mission and shared a peaceful prayer space for reflection.



To Gather, we listened to the hymn 'O Come O Come Emmanuel,' which we learnt in class is an example of an O Antiphon.



We heard scripture from the book of Kings, of David's advice to his son Solomon. David is an excellent example of a courageous and faithful leader.



We responded to the Word of the Lord with a prayer reminding us of Jesus as our bringer of Hope during advent. Our mission was shared and we are all trying to ensure we are more patient this season while waiting for Jesus to come to us.





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.



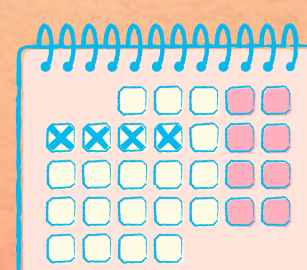
If your child is unwell please contact the office otherwise the absence cannot be authorized.

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
88%
Down from last month!

Your child's attendance needs to be above 95%

Nursery AM
66.1%

Nursery PM
74.8%

Reception-D
84.3%

Reception-H
86.6%

Year 1
88.9%

Year 1/2
90.9%

Year 2
87.4%

Year 3
91.1%

Year 3/4
84.8%

Year 4
90.6%

Year 5M
87.6%

Year 5J
94.9%

Year 6C
89.9%

Year 6M
91.6%



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



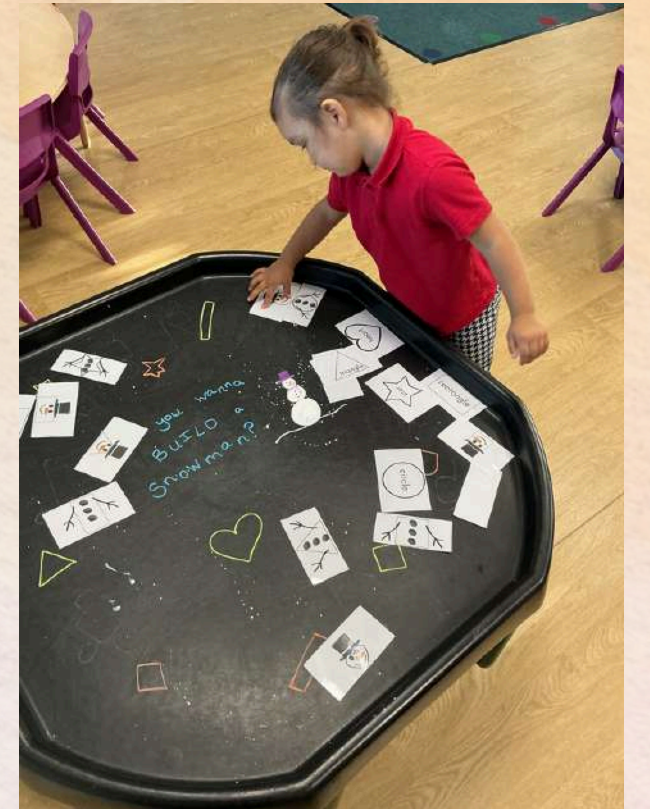
We've been getting in the Christmas Spirit...



Decorating our Christmas tree



Making Christmas Craft



Building shape snowmen



We've been learning about The Nativity Story in different ways!
We've used puppets to retell the story as well as role playing it ourselves!



We sorted different Christmas items.

It was our Christmas Party Day!



We played lots of games and had yummy food!

We even had a visit from the Big Guy himself!!





Our Learning Journey Reception

This month in RED, we began by learning all about the Advent wreath and what each candle represents. The children were fascinated to discover how the wreath helps us prepare for Christmas and reminds us of hope, peace, joy, and love. We explored its beautiful symbolism and had a go at creating our own wreaths in our creative area.



We have been diving into one of the most special stories of all, the Nativity and the birth of Jesus. The children have loved learning about the Annunciation, the journey to Bethlehem, and the humble stable. We even had fun retelling the Annunciation story by dressing up as Gabriel and Mary, bringing the moment to life in a way that was exciting and memorable!



One of the highlights this month was our Nativity Christmas Concert! What an incredible experience it was to see our Reception children shine on stage. They sang their hearts out, performed with confidence, and looked fantastic in their costumes. From shepherds to innkeepers, every child played their part brilliantly.



We've also had lots of fun getting creative in the classroom! The children made Christmas cards to share with their families, using glitter to create snowy backgrounds and crafting adorable cotton wool snowmen. Everyone worked hard to make something special to take home.



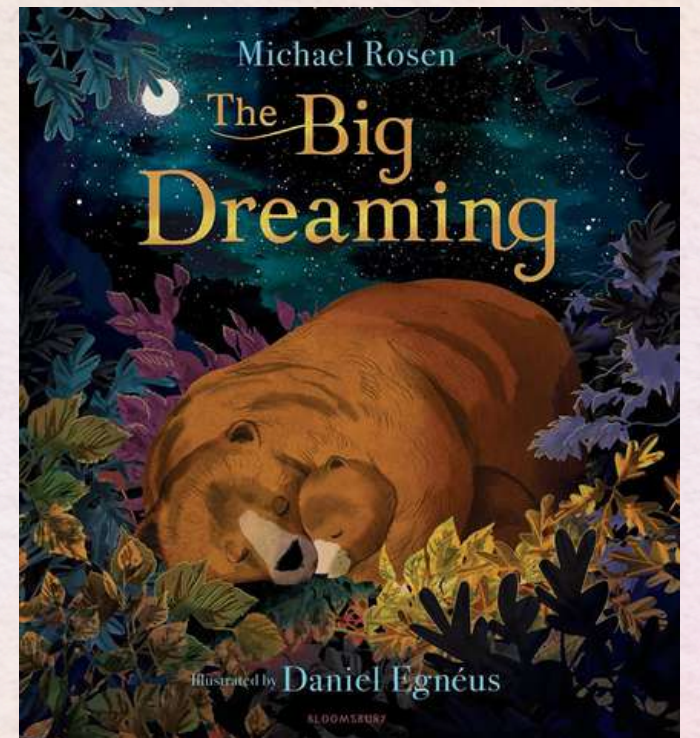
Our Learning Journey Year 3

Mrs Humphreys' class

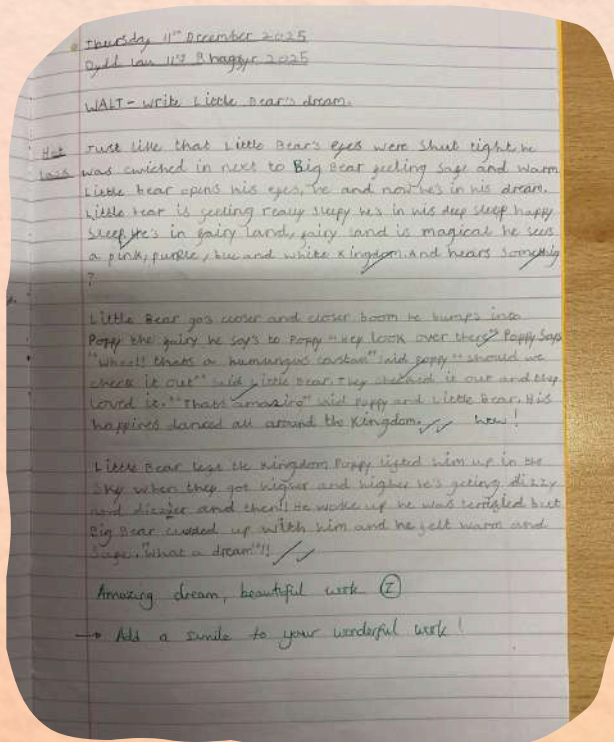
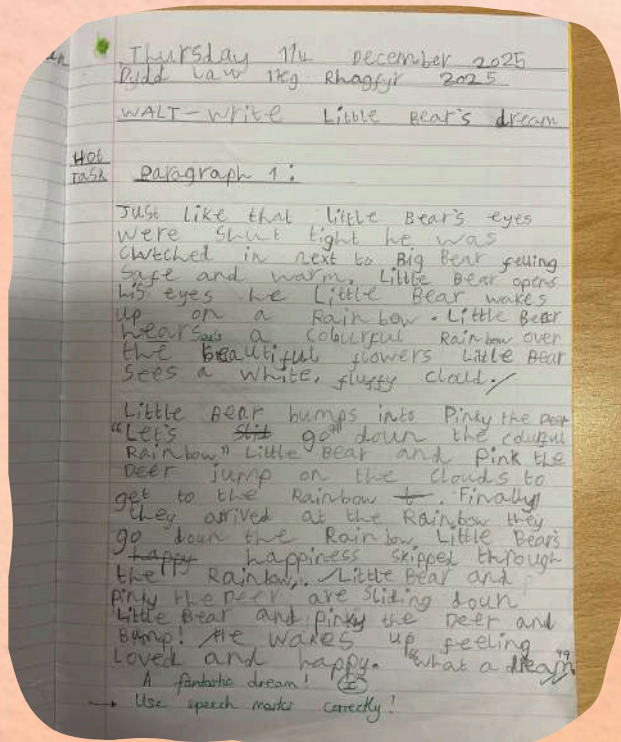


LLC- Creative Writing

In our LLC lessons we have been focusing on a book called 'The Big Dreaming'. It has such a gentle, imaginative spirit to it. The story feels like a warm invitation for children to explore their dreams, and the illustrations bring that sense of wonder to life in the sweetest way. It's the kind of book that leaves you with a soft smile and a little spark of inspiration, making it perfect for our learning over the last 3 weeks. In their writing journey the children were introduced to Expanded noun phrases to help them add rich detail to their sentences and Personification, which allowed them to bring objects to life in an imaginative way.

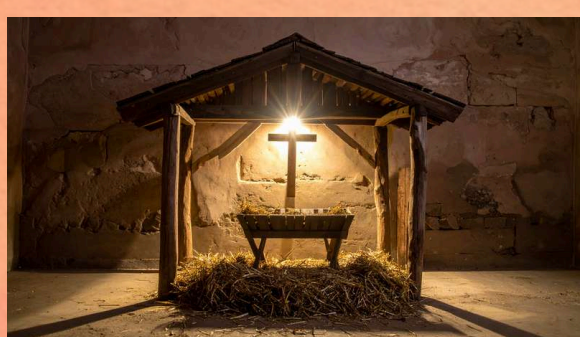
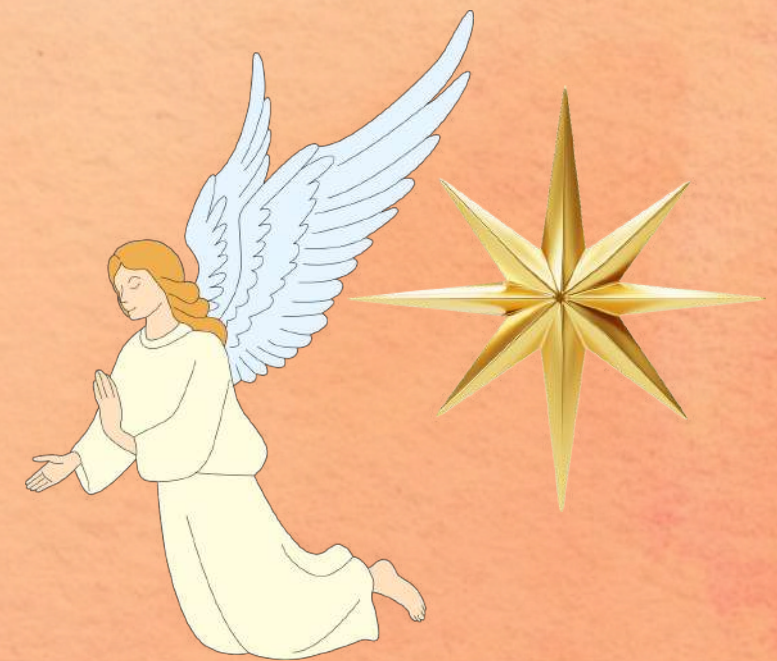


Their Hot task was to create their own dream for Little Bear! They loved it! Here is some of their work....



The Christmas Nativity.

We are incredibly proud of Year 3 and Year 4 for creating such a beautiful and heartfelt story. Its simplicity reflects an important truth at the centre of our Catholic Faith, and the children shared it with such confidence, joy and genuine delight. The singing, the acting and the readers were excellent. We loved showing you all and we hope you're proud of your shining stars! The costumes were also fantastic - a big thank you to the team at St Francis RC primary school. Individual photos are up on SeeSaw!





Our Learning Journey Year 4

Mrs Sim's class



Class Nativity.

Year 3 and 4 Nativity Play – A Wonderful Celebration!

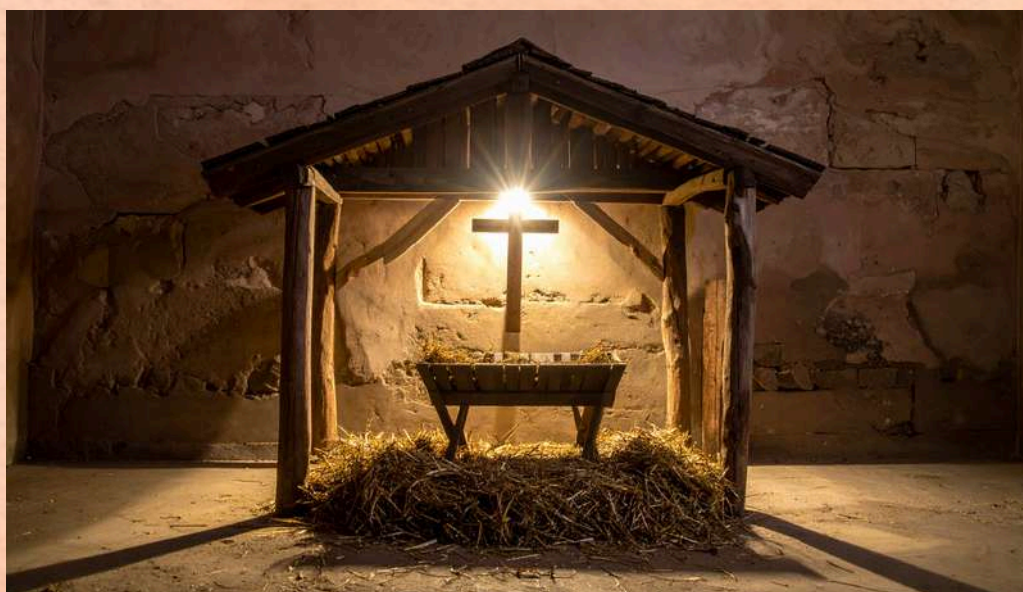
We are so proud of our Year 3 and 4 children for their outstanding Nativity performance. Each child took their role seriously and worked hard to share the important message of the birth of Jesus with joy and reverence. Their dedication truly shone through on stage.

The costumes were absolutely fantastic and added so much colour and authenticity to the performance. A huge thank you to Mrs Hillberg, Mrs Phillp, and Mrs Edwards for their creativity and hard work in making them so special.

The singing was beautiful and filled the hall with festive cheer, while our narrators delivered their lines with clarity and confidence, guiding us through the story perfectly.

We would also like to thank all parents for supporting the children by helping them learn their lines, practise their songs, and for joining us to celebrate this special occasion. Your encouragement makes all the difference.

As we approach the holidays, we wish all our families a happy, safe, and Holy Christmas. May this season bring peace and joy to your homes.





Our Learning Journey Year 5

Miss Mathias' Class

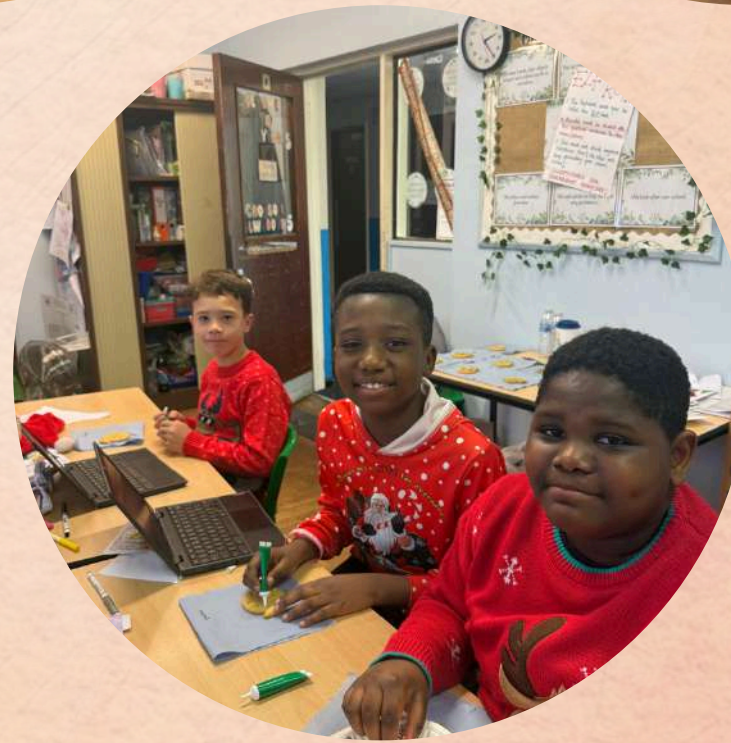
It's been a very busy month in Year 5! We've been getting ready for Christmas doing lots of lovely activities and concert preparation.



Hosanna Rock 2025



I was very proud of the children for their hard work in the weeks before our performances of "Hosanna Rock!" They had lots of songs to learn and performed excellently!



We hope you have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to welcoming the children back to school in 2026!

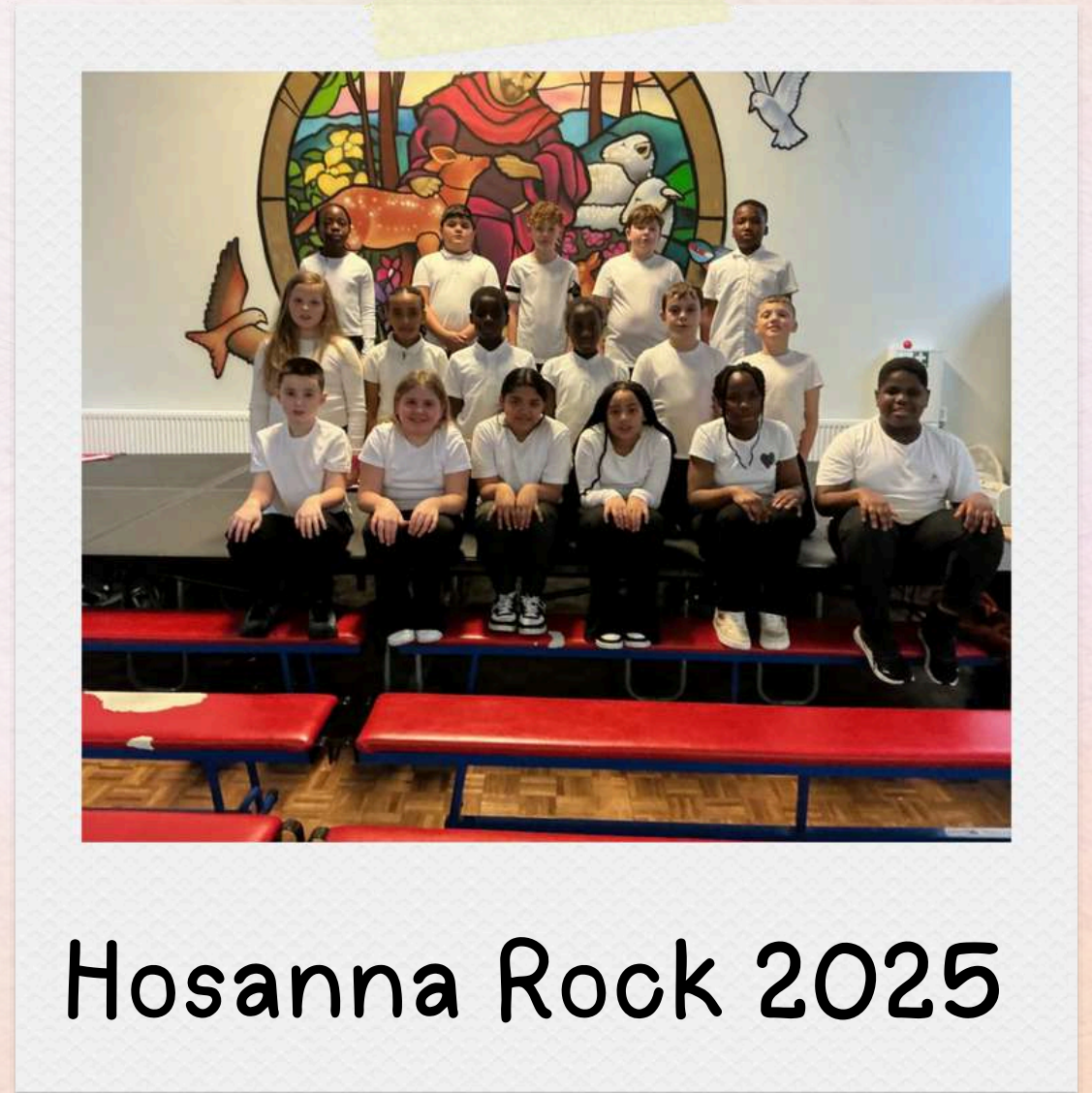


Our Learning Journey

Year 5J



In Year 5, we have had an amazing time preparing for our Christmas Concert, and it was such a joy to share it with you. The children worked incredibly hard to learn their songs and actions, and their enthusiasm really shone through on stage. From the festive music to the heartfelt performances, every moment reflected their dedication and teamwork. We are sure you will agree that their confidence and creativity made the concert truly special, and we are all extremely proud of what they achieved.

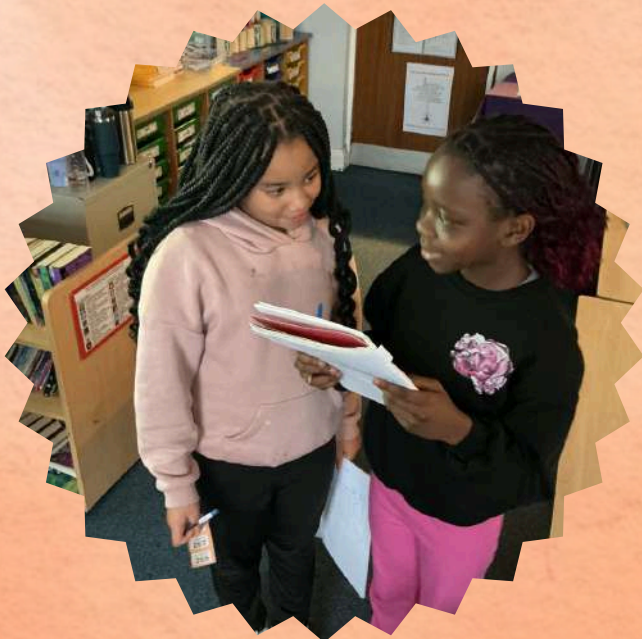


Hosanna Rock 2025

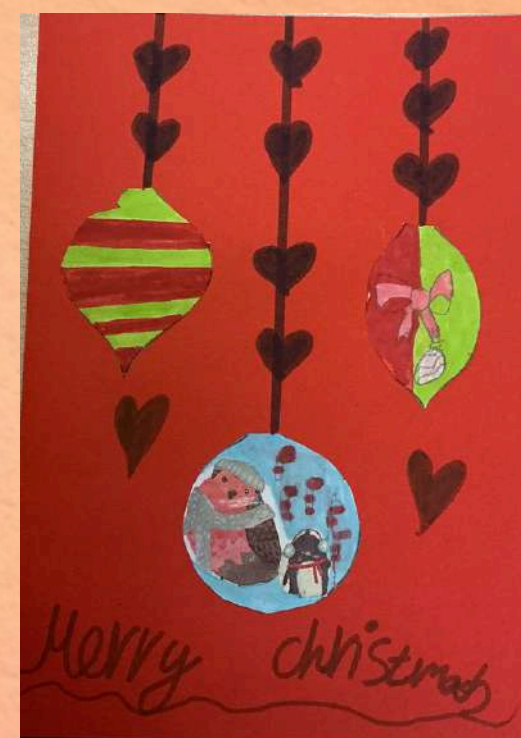


At the beginning of December, Year 5J presented a wonderful class assembly to the whole school, focusing on the theme of Advent. The children explained the significance of Advent and why it is such an important time in the Christian calendar. They shared the message of preparation and hope as we await the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas. Each pupil took turns to speak, offering thoughtful ideas on how we can live out the true meaning of Advent in our daily lives. They encouraged everyone to spread love, joy, peace, and hope within our school community and beyond. The assembly included prayers, reflections, and creative presentations that helped everyone understand how Advent calls us to be kind, generous, and ready to welcome Christ into our hearts.

In Welsh the pupils enjoyed completing questionnaires about what TV they liked to watch.



We really enjoyed making our Christmas cards, we hope you like them as much as we do. We used patterned wrapping paper to make our own baubles.





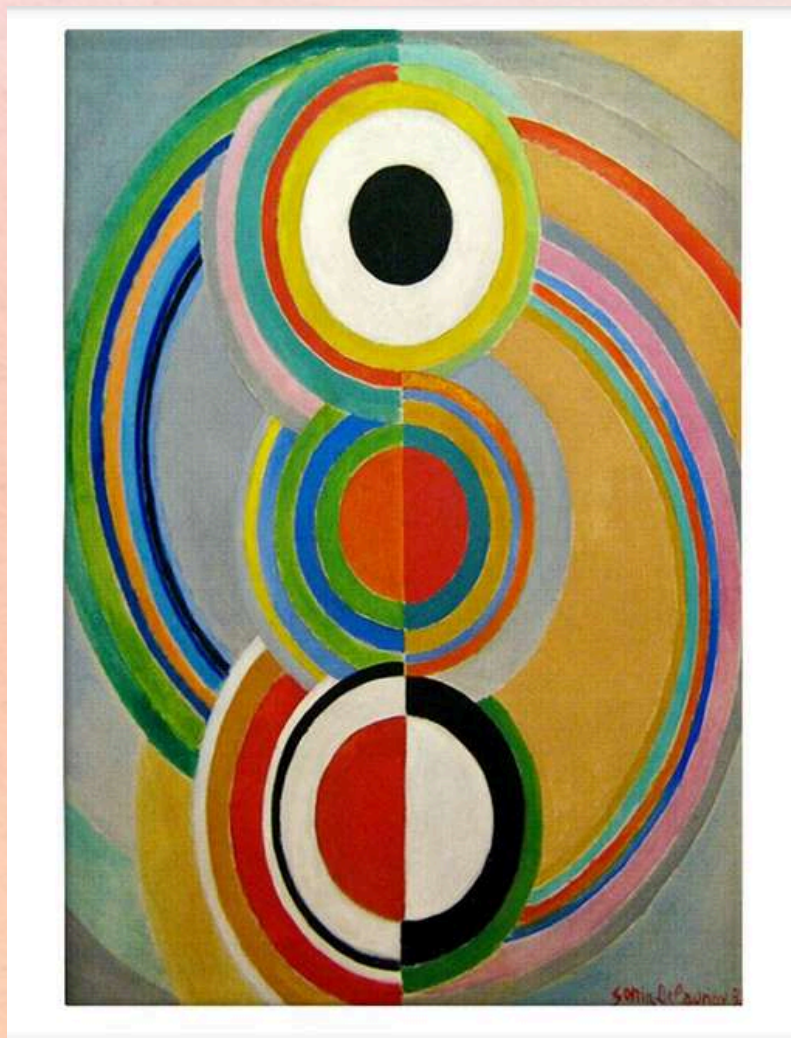
Our Learning Journey Year 6

Mrs Coray and Mrs McHugh's classes

Christmas Calendars

Yr6 Delaunay-Inspired Calendar Painting

Sonia Delaunay (1885-1979) was a Russian artist known for her colourful work and contribution to abstract art. Yr6 were inspired by Delaunay to create a calendar using: Spring, summer, autumn and winter colours.



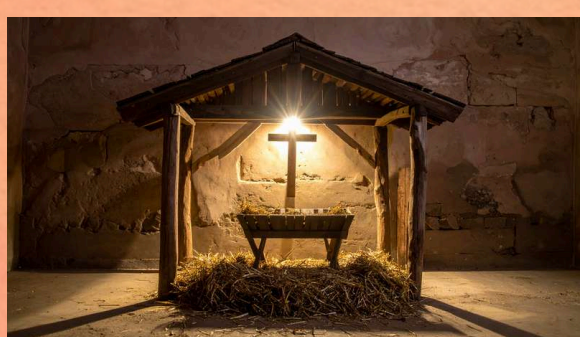
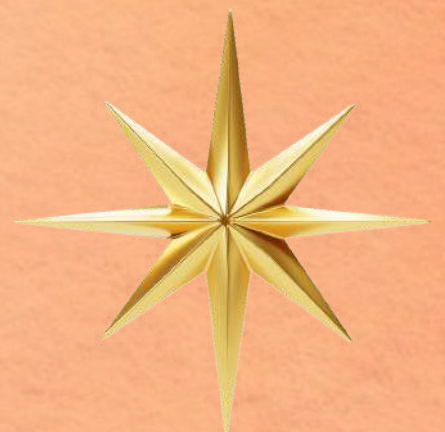
'Rythme' by Sonia Delaunay

Yr5 & 6 Christmas Concert

This year the Y6 children led the production of "Hosanna Rock". Together with the Year 5 children, they learnt and performed a number of songs and readings to retell the Christmas story and reflect on its true meaning.

The message in our concert clear - to encourage respect, tolerance and inclusiveness.

A Huge Well Done to All involved. We are very proud of You!



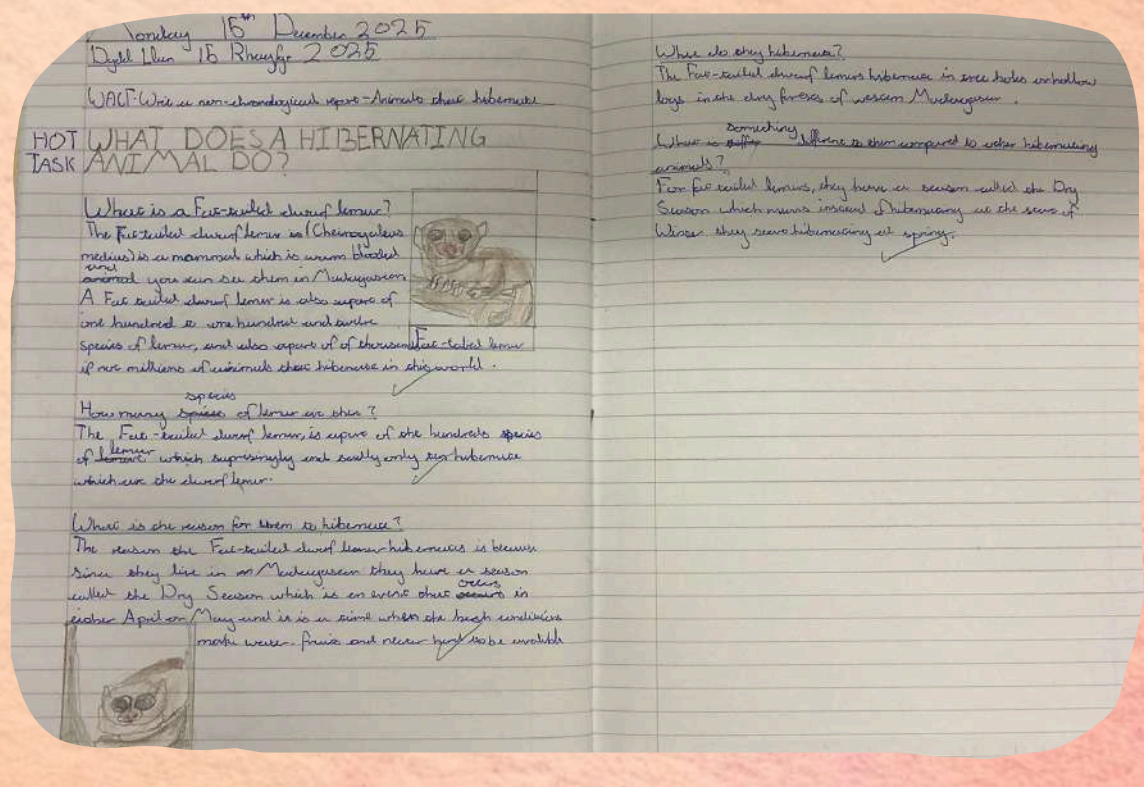
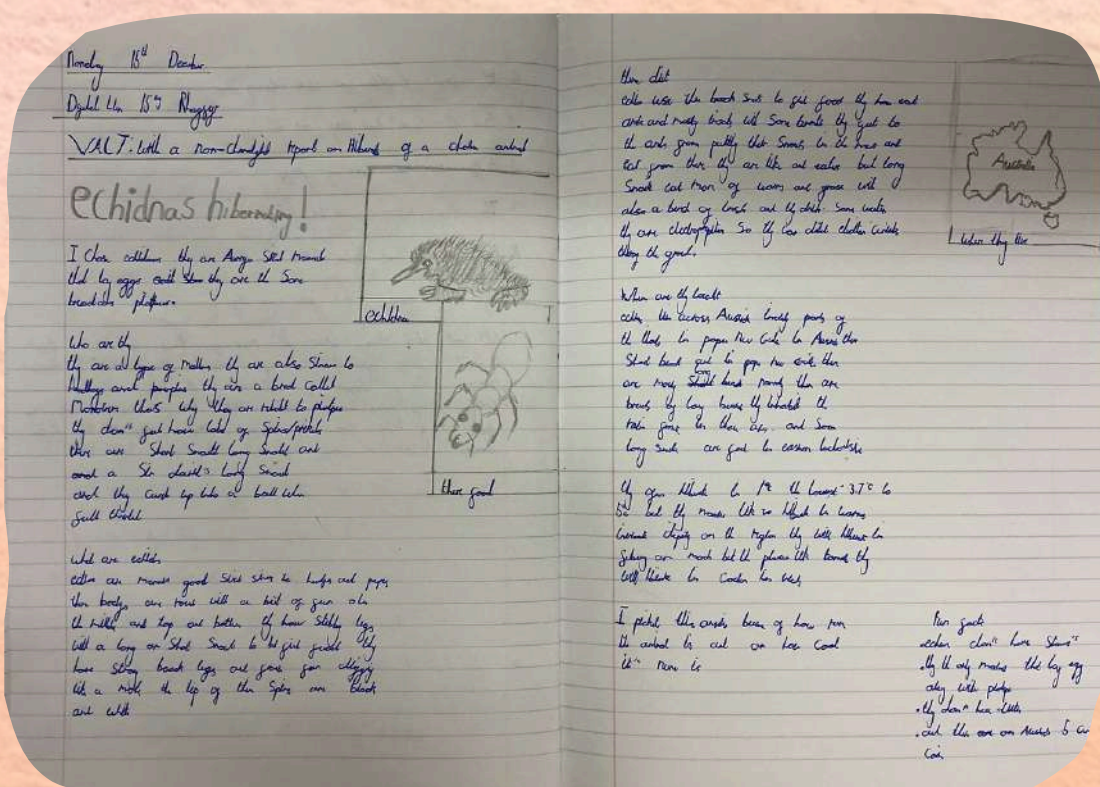
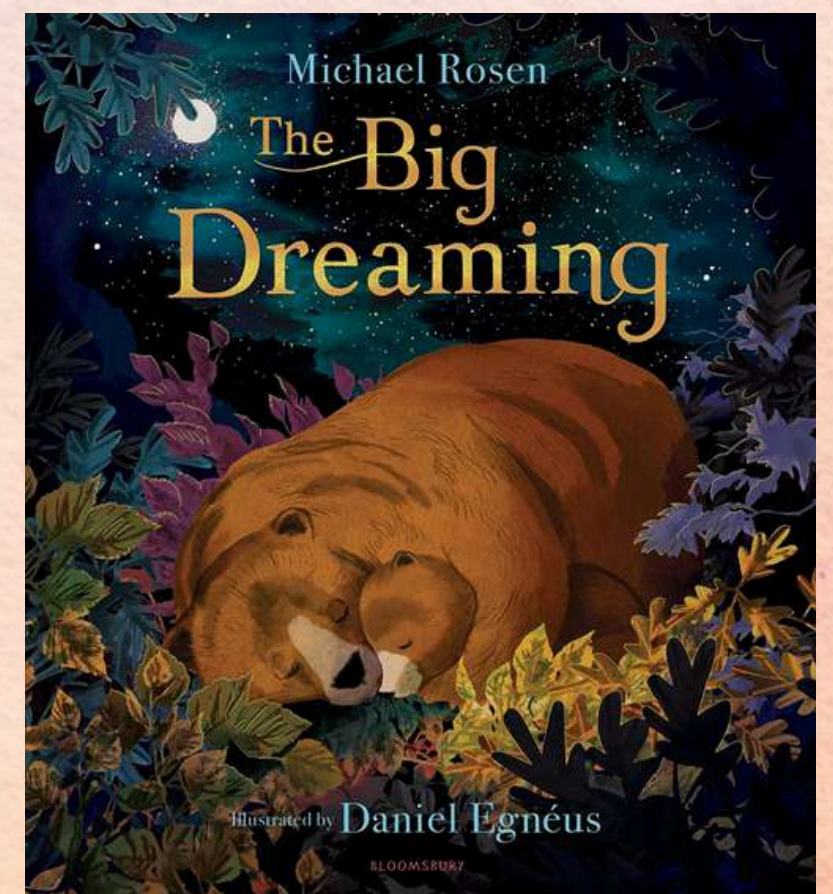
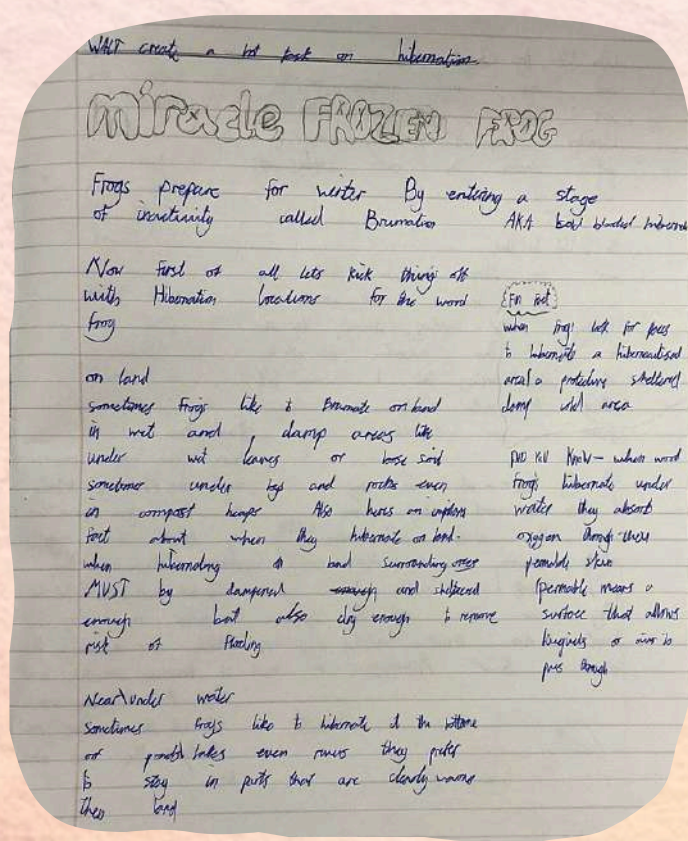
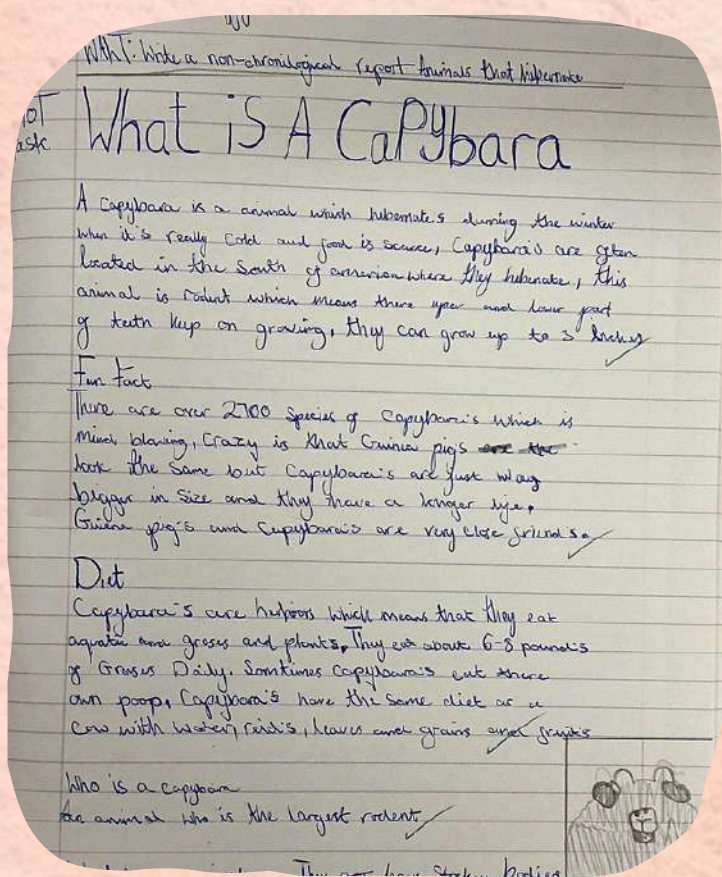


Our Learning Journey Year 6

Mrs Coray and Mrs McHugh's classes

Whole School literacy Project

As part of the whole school project in literacy, the children read "Bear". We focussed on the Hibernation of the bear and developed this further. Year 6 researched and wrote non chronological reports on an animal of their choice that hibernates. The children were very engaged in their research, and it was a learning for both teachers and pupils alike. They followed a success criteria but were encouraged to be creative in their presentation. Here are a few samples of our work:-





Stars of the Month! Seren y Mis!

As we are at the end of the Autumn term,
we have many winners who have received some
special certificates for:



We are incredibly
proud of all our
pupils this half term.

Congratulations
to all the
recipients!

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



We have a Silver
and Gold Medallist
from the GTI British
Championships in
Tae Kwon-do and
also gained his
green belt!



**WELL
DONE!**



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.





Social Media Awareness



As Artificial Intelligence (AI) rapidly develops, it is becoming harder than ever to protect our children from the dangers being online can pose. One part of this is what parents post on their own social media. But there are things you can do to help keep them safe...



Approximately 67% of children appear online before turning one. By age five, the average child has 1,500+ photos uploaded by parents.

The Parenthood Insider @TheParenthoodInsider

You post one cute photo... and think nothing of it.

But in 2024 alone, parents uploaded an estimated 2.5 billion photos of kids online.

And every one of them can be traced including yours.

The Parenthood Insider @TheParenthoodInsider

It seems harmless at first.

A like. A comment.

But behind the scenes, AI tools built to "collect childhood data" scrape over 95% of public posts within minutes.

The Parenthood Insider @TheParenthoodInsider

That photo doesn't stay on Instagram.

It's copied, indexed, and cross-matched with millions of faces.

AI can now identify a child from just 2 images with over 90% accuracy.

The Parenthood Insider @TheParenthoodInsider

And then it happens:

Your child's digital identity is created a file tied to their face, age, and behavior... even if you delete the original upload.

The Parenthood Insider @TheParenthoodInsider

Why?

Because AI-scraping bots now harvest up to 100,000 kid photos per hour for training datasets used around the world.

The Parenthood Insider @TheParenthoodInsider

Companies then build "digital childhoods":

- age progression
- behavior prediction
- future-risk profiling
- school & district mapping

All from a few innocent posts.

The Parenthood Insider @TheParenthoodInsider

A stranger can know:

your child's age, school district, favorite park, routines even who picks them up.

No tagging needed.

AI reads backgrounds, logos, and patterns.



So what can parents do? You don't have to vanish from the internet. But you do need to outsmart it.



The Parenthood Insider @TheParenthoodInsider

And the scariest part?

Your child could appear in facial recognition datasets used by:

- police departments
- foreign agencies
- private security firms without you ever giving consent.



The Parenthood Insider @TheParenthoodInsider

This isn't hypothetical.

Meta, Clearview AI, PimEyes, and others have already scraped billions of images kids included.

Laws haven't caught up.

The Parenthood Insider @TheParenthoodInsider

Protect your child's digital life:

- Crop backgrounds
- Hide school logos
- Don't post schedules
- Turn off location tags
- Blur faces in public posts
- Keep private accounts truly private

The internet doesn't forget but you can limit what it learns.



Digital Awareness


As a school we are doing everything we can to stay ahead of the changes in technology to ensure the safety of our pupils.

Please ensure you have completed a **Digital Use and Pupil Media Parental Consent Form** for each of your children who attend St Francis Primary.

New Digital Rules for St Francis Primary School

 As technology continues to develop at an incredible pace, we are increasingly aware of the challenges it brings—especially for our children. Social media platforms and emerging artificial intelligence tools are becoming more accessible, often before children are ready to use them safely and responsibly. 

 **At school, we are working hard to protect children from the risks associated with these technologies. This includes teaching digital safety, monitoring online activity, and encouraging healthy, age-appropriate use of devices.** 

 **Due to this, we have revised and created new Digital policies which can be found on our school website** 

 Each academic year you will be asked to complete a consent form for your children regarding their digital use and personal media. 

You can scan the QR code or click the link. A paper copy can also be obtained from the school office or class teachers. 

We kindly ask for your continued partnership in helping children navigate the digital world. Please talk to your child about what they do online, set boundaries around screen time, and stay informed about the apps and platforms they may be using. Together, we can help ensure that children grow up with the skills and awareness they need to use technology safely and positively. 



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

DOWNLOAD THE APP

for Android

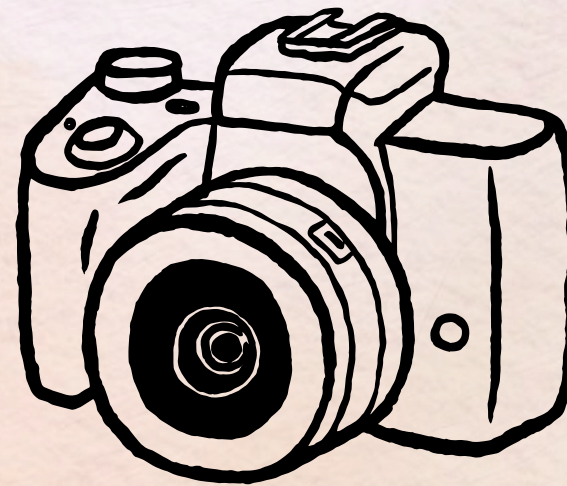


Year on a Page Blwyddyn ar Dudalen



	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

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



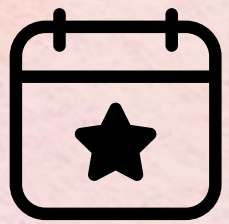
Tuesday 27th January - International Holocaust Remembrance Day





Dates for your Diary

February



Sunday 1st February - LGBTQ+ History Month



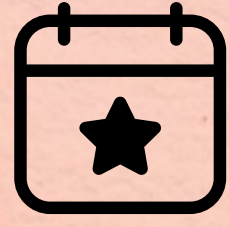
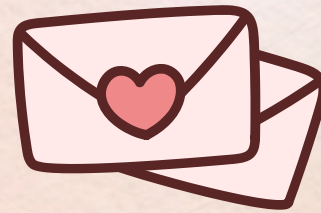
Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day



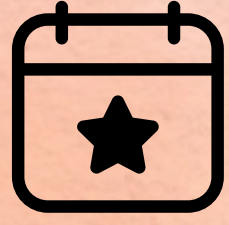
Wednesday 11th February - International Day of Women and Girls in Science



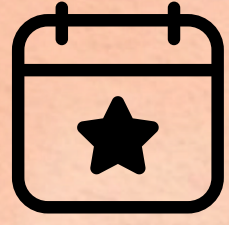
Saturday 14th February - St Valentine's Day



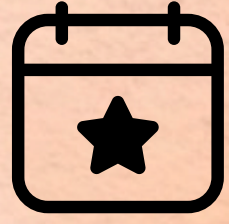
Tuesday 17th February - Shrove Tuesday / Pancake Day (Carnival)



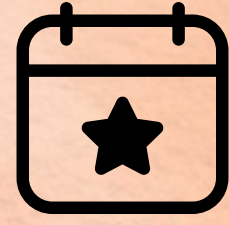
Tuesday 17th February - Chinese New Year (Year of the Horse)



Tuesday 17th February - Random Acts of Kindness Day



Wednesday 18th February - Ash Wednesday (Start of Lent)



Friday 20th February - World Day of Social Justice.

