



Spring Term Newsletter

March 2024



Once again, it is an absolute pleasure to reflect on our children's learning journey this term and celebrate the vast array of learning experiences which enable each and everyone of our children to....

Grow, Persevere, Succeed!

As a school we strive to share as many of our rich learning experiences with you; please check our *social media pages on X* regularly:

@GlyncoedP

Through our *REACH experiences* (Realising Ethical informed citizens, Ambitious capable learners, Creative enterprising contributors, Healthy confident individuals) our learners are growing each day in their capacities of the 4 purposes.



Whole School Topic: Our World, Our Future

This term our school topic has been Our World, Our Future. Each class has planned and explored a range of learning experiences which have stemmed from the pupils' interests and fascinations – our pupils are really growing to be 'Ethical, Informed, citizens!'



Class 1/2
Glyncoed Primary
Badminton Grove
Ebbw Vale
NP23 5UL



Learning about birds in the UK

Archie - "The bird watcher came to school and showed us bones and eggs."

Leo - "She (Becky) found eggs in the woods. We put spiky bits in the apple. I had binoculars. I didn't see anything, only birds but not much birds. That tree is bare."

Making bird feeders

Reeva - "We fed the birds with apples and seeds. We poked the seeds in the apple and hanged them up in the tree."

Oakley - "for the birds"

George - "We were bird feeding- we put seeds in them- we pushed them in so the birds could eat them. We looked for birds with binoculars and we saw loads on the way back. The tree is bare because its Winter so we made nests for the birds with sticks and leaves."

Macie - "We do bird watching and made a nest for the birds to lay their eggs."

Making nests for our birds

Isabella - "We hanged them apples on the tree for the birds to eat. We played with the binoculars to look for birds. The leaves fell off the tree because it's cold."

Searching for birds



Making bird feeders

Reeva - "We fed the birds with apples and seeds. We poked the seeds in the apple and hanged them up in the tree."

Reception loved exploring the great outdoors and taking part in the Big Garden Bird Watch.



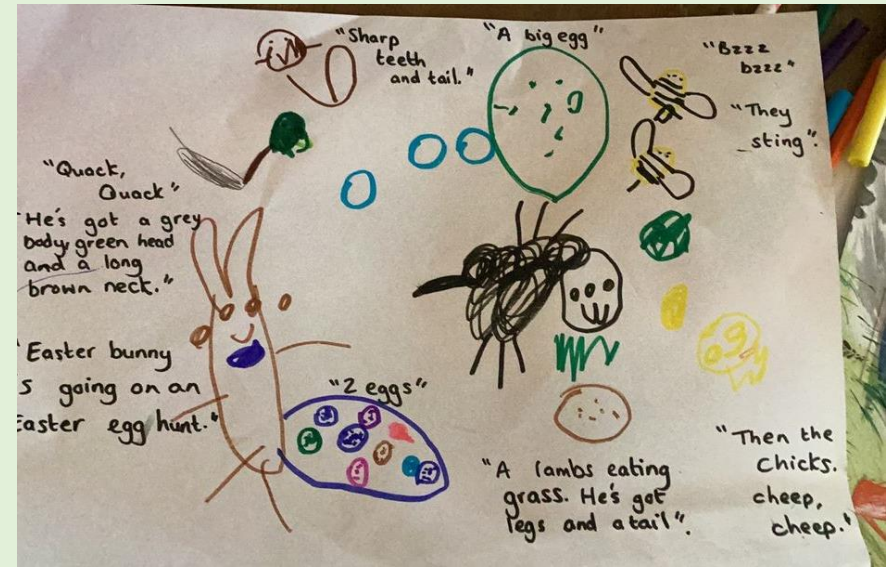
Big Garden Birdwatch



26-28 Jan 2024

Meithrin (Nursery)

We've enjoyed many Easter themed activities the last few weeks. We had a visit from a 3 day old lamb which we were able to name. We read the story we're going on an egg hunt, we were able to mark make events from the story and retell the story. We made Easter cards, made chocolate nests, had a visit from Easter Bunny, took part in an Easter Bonnet parade and enjoyed an Easter egg hunt.



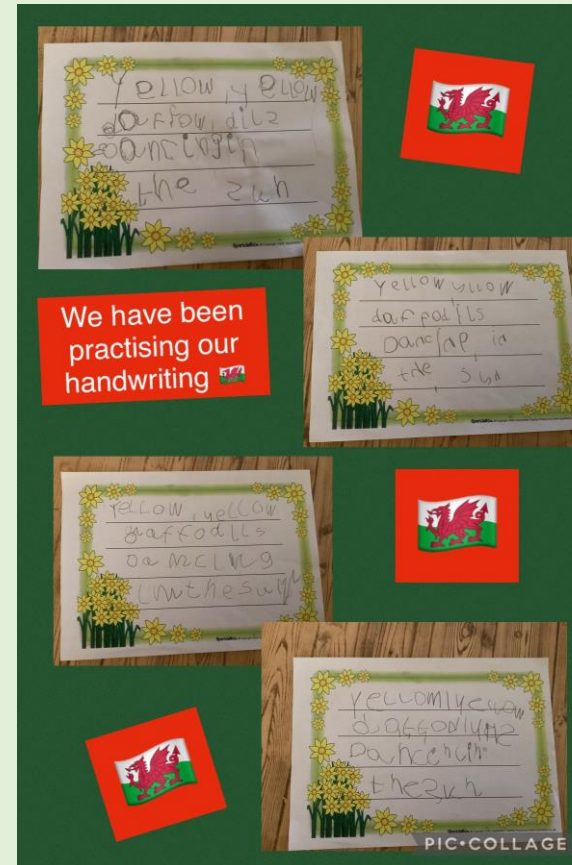
What do you know about Wales?



In Dosbarth Taff and Tawe we have been learning about Wales. We can tell you lots of facts about Wales. Ask us!!



Dosbarth Taff and Tawe (Reception)



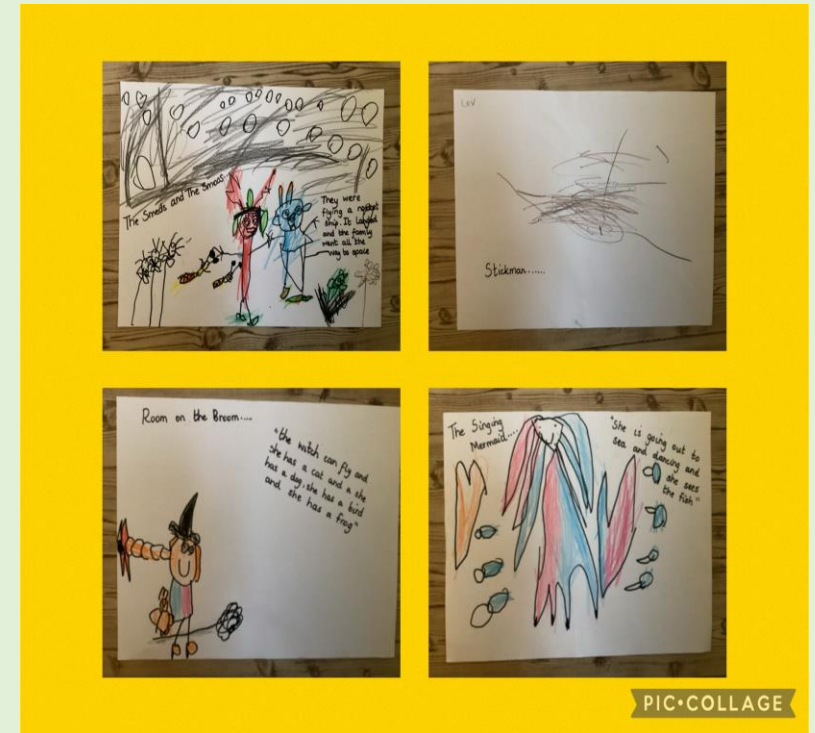
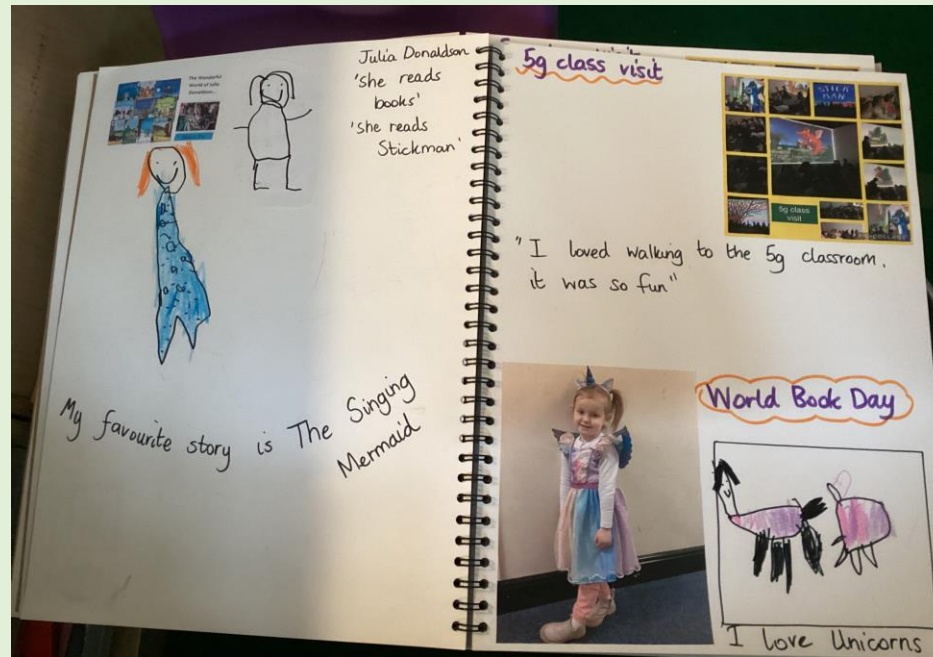
We held our very own Eisteddfod, where we sang Welsh songs, painted daffodils, produced beautiful handwriting and made craft at home.

What's your favourite Julia Donaldson book?



Dosbarth Taff and Tawe (Reception)

This term we have learned all about Julia Donaldson and discussed lots of her books.



PIC-COLLAGES



Our REACT books look beautiful. We chose our favourite characters, went to the 5g classroom and even dressed up as a book character for World Book Day!

"Julia Donaldson is an author"
"She wrote The Gruffalo and Stickman"



Dosbarth Ogwen (Year 1)

Our focus for the Spring term has been on the topic 'Our World, Our Future'.

We started by reading the story 'Lost and Found', the story of a penguin who turns up at the door of a boy and they go out in search of his home. This led us to discuss the Antarctic and learn about penguins. We have been researching hot and cold countries, and understanding where Wales fits in within the wider world. We looked at Google maps and asked questions about our world.

We were engaged in a STEM activity, being ambitious, capable learners by designing and building a boat for the penguin and the boy.



We have had some very special days, including our Welsh week, our Eisteddfod, the class PACT session as well as World Book Day. We have been so busy with crafts and activities around these exciting events.

We were very lucky to have class visits from our local librarian in honour of World Book Day and to meet with our school wellbeing dog, Luna.

This term has culminated in our Easter activities, an Easter Bonnet parade as well as an Easter Egg Hunt. What an exciting term it has been!



Dosbarth Ebbw (Year 1 & 2)

This term in 1/2CP we have been enjoying our topic *Our World, Our future*. The children were keen to find out about our world and asked "Are all countries the same?" "Why is it white at the top of the earth?" "Where do penguins live?" and "How can we care for our planet?" We also celebrated Wonderful Wales with a carousel of activities to mark Saint David's Day and a fabulous PACT session enjoyed by all. World Book Day was a success and we shared our love of books and stories along with live author events and a visit from the local Librarian.

Simon James
Dear Greenpeace
This is a world in two books

Clas collaboration in the creative area

Collaboration and teamwork

RED NOSE DAY
WORLD OF BOOKS

Dydd Gwyl Dewi Hapus

PIC-COLLAGES

Developing our research skills

Which is the tallest penguin?

Applying our research skills. Are all penguins the same? How can we find out?

Penguin webcam
See what our penguins are doing right now.

We loved watching the live penguin cam and observing penguins in real time.

Do we all live in Antarctica??

Topic

We learned to use the dictation tool to help us find out facts. We used a grid organizer to show our findings.

PIC-COLLAGES

We love books.

Happy World Book Day 2024

Save the date! World Book Day 7 March 2024

Week 4 4.3.24 World Book Week Celebrations

Celebrating reading and books

PIC-COLLAGES

As part of our World Book Day Celebrations we had a visit from our local librarian

Our new library cards ready to take home today.

Thank you for visiting us today. We loved learning all about the library and sharing stories

PIC-COLLAGES

Dosbarth Teifi (Year 2)



We have enjoyed our topic 'Our World Our Future' this term. The story 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers inspired us to learn all about penguins. We have been ambitious and capable learners researching penguins and comparing cold countries to hot countries. We have also created wonderful penguin artwork for our class display.

Week 2 - LLC

Look at our wonderful 'lost' posters for Penguin!



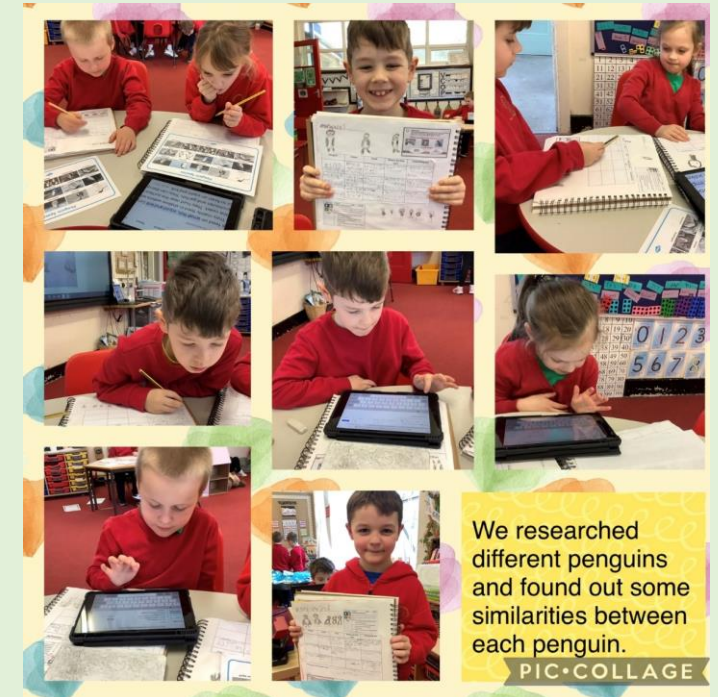
Topic - Using our research skills to answer some of our questions about cold countries.

Cold Countries

What animals live in cold countries? Kobi

What is the weather like in different countries? - Lily

Where are the coldest countries in our world?

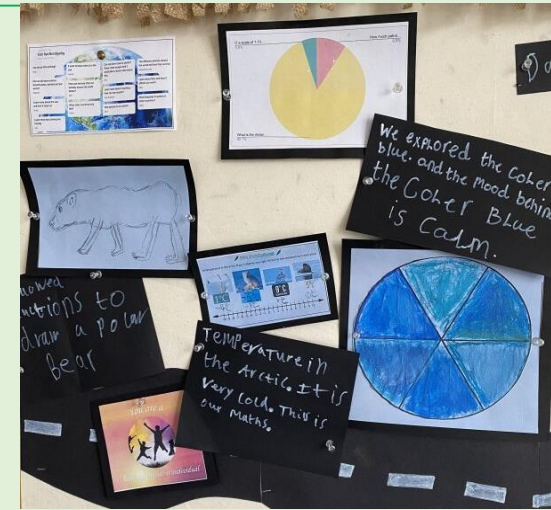
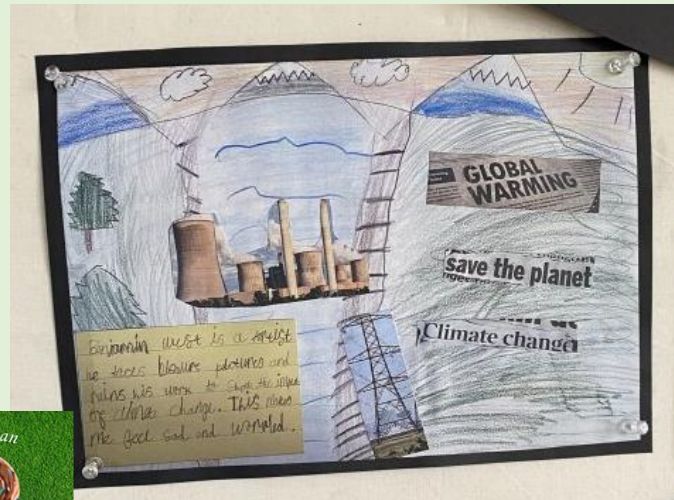


Dosbarth Wye (Year 3)

Dosbarth Wye have thoroughly enjoyed their topic 'Our World, Our Future', learning about our human actions and the impact it is having on our world. The children asked lots of questions at the beginning of our topic, which we have explored together to find the answers.

"Let's learn about litter and how it affects our world", "What different animals are in the world and how do they survive?", and "How special is our world?". Together we have explored a lot about climate change. Through experiments the children have been able to learn what has caused climate change and the impacts on our world, like the melting Arctic. The children have measured temperature and investigated the different temperatures in the Arctic. The pupils have carried out surveys around the school to find out the teachers impact on climate change "Which teachers are worried about climate change?".

We also investigated the impact of human actions on the rainforest. Children researched and found out that the rainforests around the world were becoming smaller and smaller. They found out that this was due to human cutting down trees to make wood and to make room for palm oil plants. This started a discussion about palm oil and how we can be more sustainable.



We also celebrated World Book Day and International Women's day. It was lovely to see the children in all their costumes and celebrating reading and books. The children were also very ethical when learning about women's rights and how far we have come.



The first two weeks back to school were extremely busy and exciting, with our Welsh fortnight. Pupils were extremely creative practicing Welsh songs, poems and working hard to paint in the style of Dorian Spencer Davies.



We have completed more Commando-Joe sessions which the children have really enjoyed, working together to problem solve.

Dosbarth Sirhowy (Year 3 & 4)



How can we do things differently to help our planet?

We have also enjoyed many special days and events this term including, World Book Day, Big Birdwatch 2024, Eisteddfod, Easter, Comic Relief, Cricket, Dydd Miwsig Cymraeg and International Women's Day.



I loved showing my parents all of my work.

Our PACT session was a resounding success. We loved singing, dancing and reciting poetry for our parents and enjoyed sharing our books and learning journals with them too.

We looked at deforestation data and used the story, 'The Journey Home' to understand how wildlife are affected.

We conducted science experiments to understand Climate Change and how we can make small adjustments to reduce this.

We took time to learn about the importance of protecting our rainforests and the impact that human actions are having on both the tropical and polar regions on our planet.

Dosbarth Hafren have had a very busy Spring term exploring the topic "Our World...Our Future..."

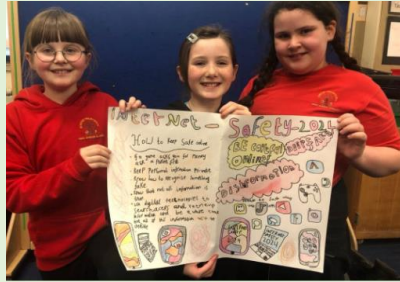
Questioning and solving problems.



PACT

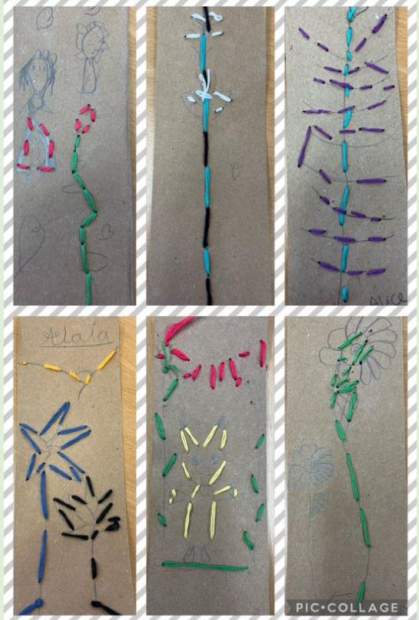


Dosbarth Hafren (Year 4)

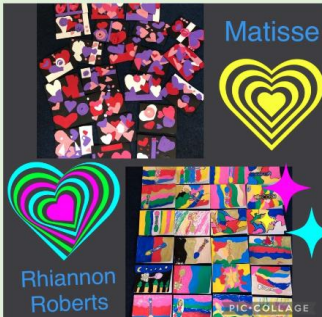


Exploring art is essential to developing artistic skills and knowledge and enables us to become curious and creative.

Look at us sew. Building our skills as ambitious and capable learners.



Commando Jo – We travelled like Kira Salek through the Congo to get a Gorilla we rescued to safety in Kenya.



Dosbarth Solva (Year 5)



This term in Dosbarth Solva we have been enjoying taking part in weekly Outdoor Learning Sessions with Rick.

These sessions allowed us to build our confidence, develop life skills and improve our ability to work as a team. It has been fun toasting marshmallows, making dens, playing games and working together outside.



Celebrating St David's Day with a PACT session. Sharing all our fantastic work with our parents.

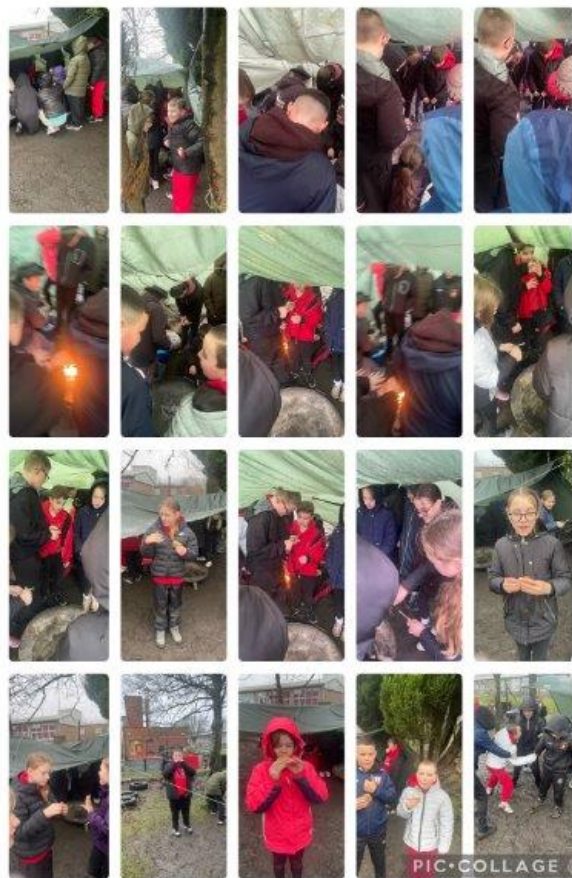


We have really enjoyed taking part in Adobe Live Lessons.



Dosbarth Usk (Year 5/6)

This term we have enjoyed our Outdoor Learning Programme. It gave us the opportunity to develop essential life skills and enhance our teamwork abilities. We learnt how to build and control a fire in a safe and controlled environment.



We thought about being sustainable citizens and researched if life could be sustained on other planets.



We have really enjoyed taking part in Adobe Live Lessons and using the Microbits to write computer code.



Through mastering the beauty of the Welsh language, we gained not only linguistic skills but also a deeper appreciation for Wales' unique cultural identity this term.

Dosbarth Conwy (Year 6)

Dosbarth Conwy has had an extremely busy term. We have had the opportunity to take part in weekly Outdoor Learning Sessions.

These sessions allowed us to build confidence and our abilities to work as a team.

We learned how to build fires, make dens, make dreamcatchers, solve problems, play archery, take part in scavenger hunts and make clay models. We all had great fun.



We took part in Crucial Crew workshops. We learnt about the dangers of Vaping, Road safety, Water safety, Rail safety, Fire safety. We all enjoyed this workshop and feel that we have developed very important skills from attending.



We participated in an Adobe live session, being creative for Science Week.



Celebrating St David's Day with a PACT assembly. Sharing all our fantastic work with our parents.



We were thrilled to invite parents to see us sing, dance and recite poetry as part of our Eisteddfod celebrations.



Excitedly, all Criw Cymraeg members planned and helped run the Caffi Cymraeg for parents as part of our PACT sessions
Bendigedig, Pawb!





Pupil Leadership Groups



At Glyncoed we are fortunate to have a great variety of Pupil Leadership Groups; these groups are very proactive; they work closely with leaders for learning and the Headteacher to ensure that their 'voice' is heard. Our leadership groups have written action plans this term, ensuring that they have a clear focus on their chosen priorities for the year ahead.



Sports Ambassadors



Wellbeing Warriors



Digital Leaders



Criw Cymraeg



Heddlu Bach



Ec o Council



School Council Spring 2024



One of our targets was to attend Grand School Council meetings and feed back to our peers the topics discussed through assemblies and school projects.



We are really enjoying our new roles and responsibilities!



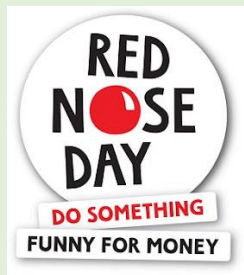
We met the child Commissioner for Wales – Rocio Cifuentes. We discussed different issues affecting children in Wales.



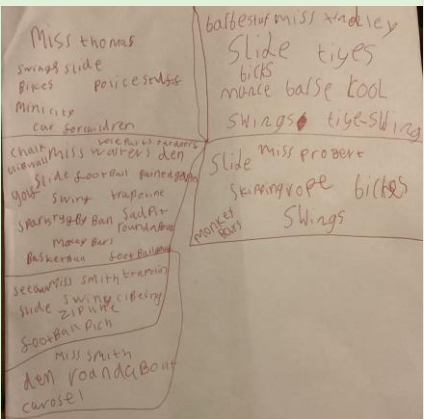
With the help of Miss Hadley we have achieved our bronze award in the programme Rights Respecting Schools and are looking forward to working towards the silver award.



We have finished our survey and formulated a list of equipment/activities we would like in our new playground in our brand-new school. We are having a meeting with our play leaders after Easter to see if they like our ideas and have they got ideas they would like to add.



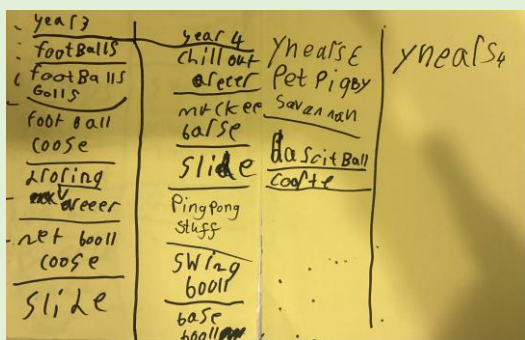
We led an assembly this term. We talked about Red Nose Day and how the charity and the money raised has helped millions of children in our country and around the world. We discussed and decided what we as Glyncoed Primary was going to do to help support this charity. This year's theme was do something funny for money.



We decided to follow 'Red Peter' and dress from head to toe in red. Create a crazy hair style and tell some funny jokes to make everyone laugh.



Here are some of the examples that our peers wanted.



Criw Cymraeg Spring 2023 – 2024



In our meetings we collaborate together to decide how we can continue to promote Welsh in our school.

Our aim is to hear Welsh being spoken by everyone in and around our school; in classrooms, on the playground, in the dining hall, and in the corridors.

We continue to work towards our *Gwobr Arian - Silver award*, which has 10 targets.

We have refreshed our display board with a *Newydd Ddraig (New dragon)* and displayed the targets that we are working towards.

Pob wythnos (Every week) we plan and lead ***Gwasanaeth (Assembly)*** to remind teachers and children to ***siaradwch yn Cymraeg (Speak Welsh)***.

Ein camau nesaf (Our next steps) are to introduce more Welsh games for children to play during playtimes and lunchtimes.

We took part in the judging a fantastic range of artwork for the cluster art project.



We '*siarad yn cymraeg gyda ffrindiau*'.



We attended the award ceremony for the winners of the cluster art project.



Lily came first in year 6 for her artwork '*yma o hyd*' - Llongyfarchiadau!

Wellbeing Warriors Spring 2024



Our Values assemblies this term have focussed upon positivity, kindness and self-control. Above, are some of the stories we have shared and discussed together.



Our Warriors have worked very hard to get everyone active on their way to or from school! They track every pupil's daily journey and badges are given to those who try to travel actively!

FEBRUARY
2024



MARCH
2024



APRIL
2024



MAY
2024



JUNE
2024



JULY
2024



We enjoyed attending the coffee morning this term to share our actions plans and focus with our parents and carers. Take a look here: [Wellbeing Warriors Action Plan .docx](#)



Heddlu Bach 2023 – 2024



In Heddlu Bach during the Spring term We have met and begun actions towards our focus on speed awareness and parking around our locality. Heddlu Bach have created posters and discussed ways in which we can be safe when our adults park and drive around the school.

We have made links with PC Salter and are looking forward to welcoming him into our school in the Summer term. We really hope that we can continue to make a difference!

We're here to help!

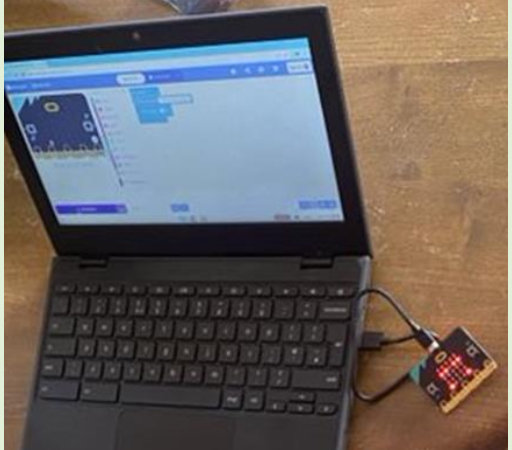




Digital Leaders

The digital leader team were involved in promoting and delivering messages for Internet safety day in February. Promoting the message about staying safe online and helping others understand the dangers.

We have also been fortunate to invest in BBC Micro:bits this term. The BBC Micro:bit is an award-winning programmable device that allows students to get hands-on with coding and digital making. Use it to inspire your students to recognise the power of technology in the real world. Digital leaders have been involved in supporting and training other pupils to use the micro:bits. Digital club have also been trained in how to use micro:bits to support others in their class.




SAVE the DATE
Safer Internet Day
 2024 | Tuesday
 6 February
www.saferinternetday.org

European Commission | INHOPE | insafe

S SAFE Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M MEET Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information - or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

A ACCEPTING Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R RELIABLE You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

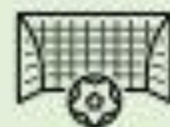
T TELL Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline - 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

Sports Ambassadors 2023 - 2024

Spring term. Our Sports Ambassadors have been working hard with our younger learners during lunch break introducing games to play.

We have audited the equipment and created bags to use during lunch break to supplement the introduction of games.

We have prepared and delivered a sponsored event throughout the school. Our youngest learners went on an egg hunt and our upper school learners had a word scramble challenge.



Playing hide and seek.



We played duck, duck, goose



Easter sponsor fun



Hiding the eggs



Young Carers

We have talked a lot about our feelings this spring term, and what better way to express how we are feeling than by making an emoji cookie? Great fun and very yummy!



Cooking is always a favourite! We have been busy bees, melting, mixing and stirring to make delicious Krispie cakes.



Stress balls were such good fun to make and a very good way to help us regulate any big feelings.



Our young carers policy was reviewed and accepted by our young carers, who then made a video that was presented to our school governors explaining the policy and their roles.

We are ethical, informed citizens!





Working with our Community

Growing our community links is very important to us at GPS and providing learning experiences for our parents and carers is just the first step!



Multiply is a programme with courses available to any adults (16+) living in Blaenau Gwent. These courses are aimed at increasing confidence; helping you to understand maths in your daily life; and even help you to understand how to support your child's mathematical journey!

This term we have been cake decorating with our parents and carers. Developing lots of new skills with our Multiply project workers. Some very yummy designs for mother's day!



Eco Council - Working with our Community



So proud of our Eco Council braving the rain to litter pick in the community. Thank you to John Mewett LEQ Officer from Blaenau Gwent who came to support us. 6 heavy bags filled! Bengidedig, Pawb!

Llongyfarchidau Mawr to Miss Woods on being the first recipient of The Blaenau Gwent CBC award! Miss Woods dedicates her personal time to keeping the local community free of litter. Well done, Miss Woods!

Special Days

We celebrated *Dydd Miwsig Cymru* with a unique and very special performance from our very own Mr Williams and one of his band members from The Now!

They have inspired the next generation of musical talent...



Dydd Miwsig
Cymru



PIC•COLLAGE

It was a pleasure to welcome parents and grandparents to our Drop in Coffee Morning in February.

Coffee and a catch up with friends...We appreciate the feedback given by those who were able to join the event...

"It was so lovely to see the children getting involved in everything."

"I couldn't suggest anything better, coffee, cake and seeing what the children are working on in school is just fantastic."

"Seeing the difference the children are making through the important clubs and topics."

"Meeting the children and hearing about their hard work and how the groups come together to share ideas and represent their fellow pupils."

"Having the opportunity to come into school and interact with the children and teachers."



"Finding out about the wellbeing officers."

"The confidence and pride of the children discussing their groups."

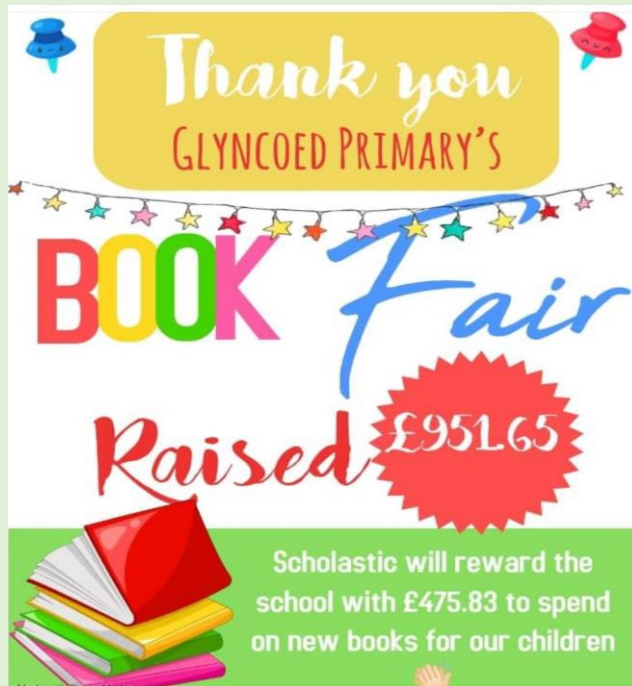


PTFA News

In March the Book Fair arrived...it coincided with our World Book day and Eisteddfod celebrations.

Huge thanks to everyone who visited and bought some lovely new books. The total amount raised at the book fair was a staggering £951.65. This means that school will receive £475.83 to spend on new books.

Thank you to the PTFA for giving your time to support this event.



Thank you
GLYNCOED PRIMARY'S

BOOK Fair

Raised **£951.65**

Scholastic will reward the school with £475.83 to spend on new books for our children

The card features a yellow banner with the text 'Thank you GLYNCOED PRIMARY'S', a string of colorful stars, the words 'BOOK Fair' in large, colorful letters, and a red starburst containing the amount '£951.65'. At the bottom, there is an illustration of a stack of books and a hand holding a book.



In my Easter bonnet with all the frills upon it...

We held our first easter bonnet competition for some years. The creativity and range of entries was awesome – well done to everyone!

Diolch yn fawr iawn to the PTFA for providing 1st, 2nd, 3rd prizes as well as a prize for every entry.



The Easter Bunny made a surprise visit to Lower school...he brought some delicious chocolate treats with him!

Huge thanks to *Dizzy Kidz* for letting the Easter Bunny come along and join our special event.



We had a special visitor today delivering Easter treats for making such beautiful Easter bonnets.



New School Update...

In February Mrs Weightman & Mrs Blackmore were lucky enough to visit the new site. It is amazing to see how the site is developing...



The main hall is going to be a wonderfully, versatile space.

This is the view from one the first-floor classrooms which looks out onto Badminton Grove.



It was a pleasure to work alongside our governors during our Inset Day this term.

Staff and governors evaluated action plans and ensured a shared understanding of the next steps...working in partnership and developing the strategic role of governors.

Working with our Governors

Croeso, Welcome to our new members of the Governing body...



Ricky Robinson
Parent Governor



Vikki Curtis
Local Authority
Governor



Matthew
Stent Community Govern
or



Term Dates 2024

Date	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Summer	08/04/2024	27/05/2024	31/05/2024	19/07/2024

INSET DAYS
Friday 24th May
Friday 19th July

Diolch yn fawr iawn, Thank you very much for continuing to support and work in partnership with the school.
I wish you and your families a very Happy Easter – *Pasg Hapus*.
I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 8th April 2024
Mrs J Weightman

