



# Johnstown Primary School Ysgol Gynradd Tre Ioan

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Head Teacher/Prifathro

Mr K McComas

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are almost at half term, and I am sure you are looking forward to time with your family. Following half term staff will have **two INSET days on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February, and** therefore school will open to pupils on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February.**

## School Visitors

We had a very busy week at school with lots of visitors from the Local Authority (LA). Our visit from the LA Admissions team was to look carefully at our school capacity in each year group. The reason for the visit was due to the large number of applications to the school and the increasing number of appeals when a school place is not available. Their feedback was very positive of the effective way in which we use the school buildings to support learners and other agencies who use the school.

We also had a visit from the LA Additional Learning Needs (ALN) team to check our school ALN practices since the changes to the law regarding ALN in schools. The new law has presented good practice opportunities, but it also has many challenges. I was very pleased with the feedback from the ALN team, and they recognised the effective and hard work of staff in supporting ALN pupils.

Next week, the LA are supporting the school monitoring systems of Maths and how the pupils are improving their reasoning skills. This monitoring occurs termly, and we are grateful for the opportunity to share good practices.

## Home learning tasks

Following much consultation with pupils, parents and staff we have a plan moving forward regarding home learning. We hope that you find the new system of home learning useful and manageable. The Home learning tasks will be sent out fortnightly and will include literacy, numeracy and creative skills covered in lessons taught. We will commence home learning after half term and the pupils will be provided specific books to complete their tasks. We will review the home learning at the end of the academic year - thank you in advance for your support.

## Universal Free School Meals

In line with the Welsh Government plan to provide Free School Meals to pupils, Year 5 will commence this after half term and Year 6 after the Easter break. This means that for these year groups, they will no longer be required to pay for school lunches after this date but will still need to select meals via Parent Pay. For those families who are entitled to apply for eFSM, this can still be done using the Carmarthenshire County Council website using the link below

[Free School Meals Entitlement](#)

## Nursery Bedtime stories

I missed a very special bedtime stories event in the Nursery this week. Staff informed me that the event was very well supported by both pupils and parents, and everyone had opportunities to celebrate literature. Thank you to everyone associated with the organising and attending the event.

## Cycling proficiency Year 6

Congratulations to everyone who has now completed their cycling skills award in 6C and 6D. Despite challenging weather, the trainers of the course were most complimentary of the cycling skills of the pupils, and I hope that these life skills are beneficial to our pupils.

## Senedd Council– School, Eco and Digital Council combination

Our combined school councils met today to discuss how we can prepare for the new changes to the

law regarding recycling refuse. It is not long before the changes to the law are enforced so the new Senedd will be busy with rules for us all to follow. Watch this space!

### **Breakfast Club**

This is just a reminder that the breakfast club has an 8.30am cut off time. This is to enable the pupils time to be served and eat their breakfast. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

### **Pick up times**

Please ensure that your child/ren are picked up on time at the end of the school day. There have been several instances this year where school staff have been placed in a difficult position. Thank you in advance for your support.

## **Learning this week:**

### **Reception**

The Reception children are continuing their explorations. The cold weather ignited the children's curiosity about ice. This led to us exploring the creation of ice and the melting process. We investigated how we could speed up melting and slow the process down. The children enjoyed learning the Welsh story of Santes Dwynwen and showing care and affection to others. We have embraced the RSPB Birdwatch and the children have been bird spotting, feeding the birds and looking for bird habitats around the school. They are looking forward to making a giant bird nest and making bird food in the coming weeks.

[RE](#)

[RB](#)

### **Year 2**

It has been another fantastic week of learning in Year 2 this week. The children have excitedly been learning all about the Chinese New Year which is fast approaching. They were excited to learn that this year is the year of the dragon. Emphasis has been placed on measuring using centimetres during maths lessons and then using these new skills in the outdoors. Every child has been all they can be this week. Da iawn blwyddyn 2.

[2D](#)

[2E](#)

### **Year 4**

In recent weeks Year 4 have had a focus on shape and space in Maths. This has culminated in a carousel of activities to consolidate their skills. These included making 3D shape frames with pipe-cleaners and straws, constructing 3D shapes from 2D nets, sorting and identifying 2D and 3D shapes through interactive digital activities, and also matching 3D shapes to their flat nets. Additionally, we have been learning about the Welsh traditional tale of Santes Dwynwen. Dydd Santes Dwynwen occurs on January 25th each year and is the Welsh equivalent of St Valentine's Day. We had fun sequencing the story and discovering the origins of this Welsh tradition. With Welsh traditions in mind, we have also been learning folk dancing, as part of our PE programme of study, and also designed new Urdd mascots. As part of our outdoor learning programme, 4C have practically applied their awareness of fire safety regulations whilst preparing a safe space around a fire-pit.

[4C](#)

[4M](#)

### **Year 6**

Year 6 have been enjoying developing their confidence and learning practical skills to help them

cycle on our roads. With the cycling instructors, learners have been going out in small groups building on their skills and developing road safety awareness. In addition to cycling, PC Craig delivered a lesson to year 6 to develop their personal and social education. As part of our language lessons, learners have produced their own comic strip based on 'The Lady of the Lake' story. In Maths lessons we have been focussing on angles and learners have used their maths skills to calculate missing angles. As part of our theme lessons, we have written a newspaper report regarding the campaign to save The Lyric Cinema. Well done Year 6!

[6C](#)

[6D](#)

### **Celebration Video**

Congratulations/llongyfarchiadau to all pupils who were awarded 'Gwasanaeth Gwych' and 'Seren yr Wythnos' certificates today. Please follow the link to see this week's video.

[Celebration Video](#)

I hope you have a good weekend with the family.

Yours sincerely



**Mr K McComas**  
**Headteacher**