Newsletter 6

Ysgol Heol Y Mynydd
Mountain Lane Primary School

Cylchlythyr – Newsletter – 09.10.26



'Inspiring and inclusive learning experiences are at the heart of our safe, happy, caring school'

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was wonderful to see the hall looking so vibrant this morning with pupils and staff dressed in yellow clothing to celebrate Hello Yellow Day which coincides with World Mental Health Day. Today has encouraged us to wear yellow to say 'Hello' to mental health and raise awareness about mental health issues affecting young people. Diolch for supporting this event in school today.

During Monday's Whole School Assembly, Laura and Kelly from NEWCIS (North East Wales Young Carers) came to school to speak with the pupils about their role in supporting young carers in the community and also about what young carers typically do to support their family. They also spoke about the impact that being a young carer can have on the lives of children, often between the ages of 5 and 18, and how the organisation can provide vital support for these young people.

For more information about the work of NEWCIS and what they can offer families, please view their website using the following link:

https://www.newcis.org.uk/

Progression Step 1 (Nursery and Reception) news and events:

Ollie Owl's Woodland Friends 🦉

This week, we have been meeting more of Ollie Owl's woodland friends – the squirrel, fox, badger and rabbit! We have been finding out where these animals live and learning about how some woodland animals prepare for the cold winter months, including hibernation. The children have been thinking carefully about what makes a cosy, safe hibernating home and have enjoyed helping our woodland friends by building their own animal homes using a range of natural materials.
We have also been exploring the wonderful world of sound. We listened carefully to different sounds around us and experimented with making our own sound makers. It has been a lovely week of exploring, creating and learning all about Ollie's woodland friends! 🍂🐿️🦊🐰







Here are some of the exciting activities the children in Reception have enjoyed this week as they explored the theme of similarities and differences between themselves and their friends. The children loved discussing and sorting their friends according to different attributes, such as hair colour, height and eye colour. They then used iPads to create pictograms showing the different eye colours represented in our class. Later, the children began to interpret the data they had collected by carefully counting the number of children with each eye colour and comparing the amounts using the mathematical vocabulary such as more, less and the same.

During our weekly Drawing Club session, the children enjoyed listening to the story Elmer by David McKee. They were inspired to create their own colourful, patterned elephants and had lots of fun devising their own passwords and codes to help turn their elephants colourful in preparation for the parade on 'Elmer's Day'.
The children were also very creative when sharing lots of wonderful ideas for activities they could explore during our 'Sparkle Time' continuous provision. They had great fun bringing their suggestions to life! At the Creation Station, they designed and made their very own patchwork elephants. In the playdough area, they modelled and decorated a friend for Elmer, while in the Finger Gym area, they threaded beads to make colourful trunks for Elmer's elephant friends. They also enjoyed playing an Elmer number recognition game and relaxing in the Book Nook while reading other exciting stories about Elmer.

It has been a wonderful week of creativity, collaboration, mathematical thinking and celebrating what makes each of us unique!



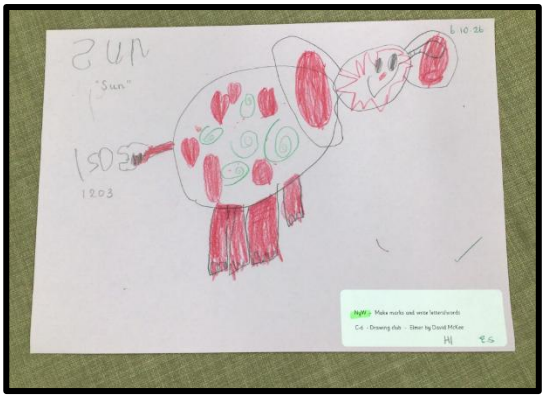












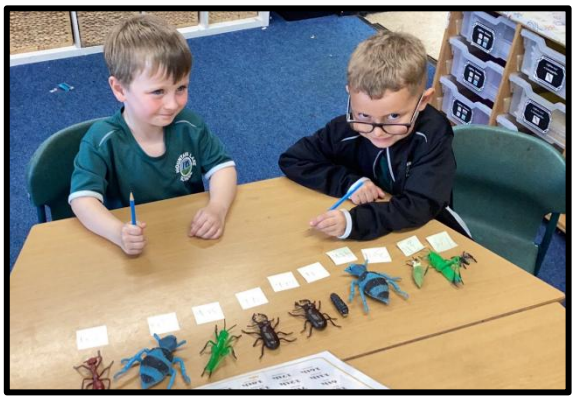


Progression Step 2 (Year 1, 2 & 3) news and events:

This week in Blwyddyn 1 we have been up levelling sentences with the correct punctuation and also adding adjectives to make our writing more interesting. In maths we have continued our work on ordinal numbers and we also looked at representing numbers in different ways using a variety of apparatus, i.e. tens frames, cubes and Numicon.

We really enjoyed making our woodland wands following our labelled designs - we had star wands, pom pom wands, flower wands, butterfly wands, Harry Potter style wands and even light up wands! #Creativity. We took a photo of our finished wand alongside our drawn design, and we evaluated our wands using the method of two stars and a wish. We have started learning a lovely song to perform at our Whole School Harvest Service called 'Down, down to the allotment'.















In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of addition through column addition and bar modelling, using these strategies to solve problems and represent our thinking.

In Literacy and Topic, we have been learning all about The Great Fire of London! We have sequenced key events and developed our writing skills by exploring the past tense and first person, ready to write our own diary entries as if we had experienced the fire ourselves. We also enjoyed a special visit from Mali's mum, who spoke to us

about her role in the fire service and the importance of fire safety. The children impressed us with their fantastic knowledge and understanding!

We have thoroughly enjoyed exploring London over the past few weeks. We compared Buckley and London using a Venn diagram and discovered lots of fascinating facts about London's famous landmarks. We have also developed our artistic skills by creating some beautiful observational sketches of these landmarks, experimenting with shading to add depth and detail to our drawings. What a fantastic few weeks of learning!







This week, Blwyddyn 3 have been busy learning about important explorers from the past. We have found facts about Christopher Columbus, as well as producing a timeline of events from Grace Darling's life. Not only this, but we had our third recorder lesson, where we were introduced to the music notes A and B #Creativity.

Dosbarth 7 have also spent an afternoon in the library where they had the opportunity to choose a book that they could bring back to school, complete a character hunt, build pirate ships with the Lego® and complete some colouring. The children enjoyed the opportunity to visit their community #Community!









Progression Step 3 (Year 4, 5 & 6) news and events:

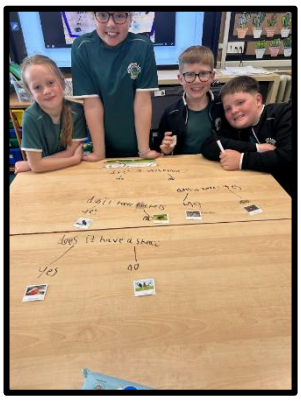
Recently in Blwyddyn 4, the children have been focusing on addition and subtraction during their Maths sessions. They've been developing their confidence with different calculation methods and applying their skills to solve a range of problems. They particularly enjoyed completing practical activities, such as Maths treasure hunts, which provided a fun and engaging way to consolidate their learning and work collaboratively with their friends.

In our topic work we have been exploring different ways of classifying animals. We enjoyed working together to create our own sorting branch diagrams and also explored using databases using the J2e website to sort and classify different animals.

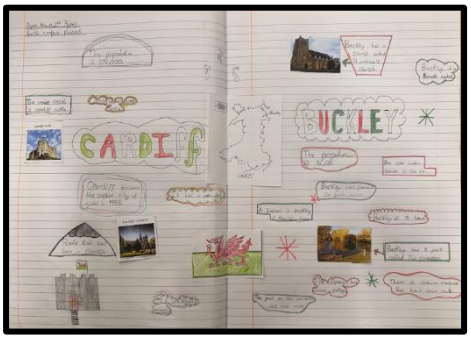
We have also been learning about Cardiff as the capital city of Wales and comparing Cardiff to Buckley. Next week we will try to answer the Big question: Could Buckley be the new Capital city of Wales? On Thursday, the children visited the Redrow Nature Reserve where they enjoyed pond dipping and exploring the wildlife found in this special local habitat. A big diolch to Geraint from Wild Ground who led our visit and taught us all about pond habitats, the fascinating creatures that live in them and how they've adapted to their environment #Community. On Friday, we enjoyed participating in our termly 'Dydd Gwener Gwych' afternoon, where we took part in activities to develop our understanding of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing.



















Blwyddyn 5 have had fun today completing activities linked to improving our mental health for our Hello Yellow celebrations. We have been active by completing a treasure hunt using our rounding maths skills. We have also spent time outdoors tidying the school garden ready to plant bulbs as part of the National Museum of Wales Spring Bulbs project.

Dosbarth 12 also took part in a mindful food tasting session, trying Spanish and Italian food kindly supplied by Mrs Hughes.

We are making good progress with our writing cycle on Persuasive Adverts. This week we have learnt about: the rule of 3, alliteration, proper nouns and points of view ready to begin co-crafting our Wonders of the World Travel Advert next week.








On Tuesday, Blwyddyn 6 were invited to Elfed High School as part of their ‘Smooth Moves’ transition programme. Learners in Blwyddyn 6 spent the afternoon learning songs and choreography from their upcoming production of ‘Grease’. It was lovely to see so many ex-Mountain Lane pupils helping out at the workshop, and pupils and staff in Year 6 are thrilled to have been asked to return in February to watch a full run through of the show. #Community #Creativity.

In our Creative and Expressive Arts lessons, the children have thought carefully about what the cold and our topic's name of 'Frozen Kingdoms' means to them. They have each worked hard to create a collage to represent this - something that tested a few of the children's patience.

We have been busy consolidating our skills for writing poetry, looking at a range of different poetic devices including onomatopoeia, alliteration, repetition, metaphor and even pathetic fallacy. #Creativity

https://www.cheekywipes.com/flintshire.html#welcome-to-the-period-proud-flintshire-home-packs-english

The above link will take you to the ordering page for free home bundle period products provided by this year's sponsor, 'Cheeky Wipes'.

Products can continue to be accessed for any learner in school at any time.













Whole School News and Events:

Attendance

Please see the information below which are reminders about procedures for reporting medical appointments and punctuality.

Medical appointments:

• School should be given prior notice of any medical appointments (doctor/dental/hospital). Evidence of medical appointments should be uploaded to: https://forms.gle/SyEyS7PMYuxthUNt9

• If this is not possible, evidence should be shown to the office staff

• If no evidence is provided, this will be recorded as an unauthorised absence or unauthorised lateness. This would affect the child's overall attendance, which could impact any future holiday requests and may lead to graduated response procedures being initiated

• Where possible, children should return to school following morning appointments or be collected at an appropriate time for afternoon appointments

Punctuality

Punctuality is a legal requirement, and all pupils are expected to arrive at school on time. Persistent lateness can have a negative impact on a child's learning and may also disrupt the learning of other pupils across the school. Any pupil arriving late must report to the school office and sign in upon arrival. Parents or carers of pupils who are consistently late will be contacted by the school to discuss their child's punctuality.

October Half Term Playscheme at Mountain Lane School

We are pleased to announce that a Playscheme session will be taking place on school grounds during half term on Wednesday 28th October from 10.30 a.m. to 12.00 p.m. Places are available for pupils from the ages of 5 to 12.

If you wish to book your place, please use the link below:

https://digital.flintshire.gov.uk/EFTEST/Eform/Create?service=Playscheme&lang=E



Spooky Dress Up Day – 21st October 2026

Pupils are invited to take part in our Spooky Dress Up day on Wednesday 21st October, more details can be found on the FFML Facebook page and a £1.00 payment request has been set up on Gateway. We look forward to seeing the children dressed in their Spooky Outfits!

Nursery Drop in Session

Our Nursery Department will be holding drop-in sessions for parents who wish to come along to visit Mountain Lane and view our lovely Nursery. The dates are as follows:-

Wednesday 18th November: 3.30pm – 4.00pm

Please use the link to book your place: https://forms.gle/a7ZxJy6EvSVs1rh78

Community

Family Information Service Flintshire have been busy collating a list of activities that are going on in and around Flintshire during the school holidays.

Their Padlet can be found here:

www.padlet.com/ParentingFlintshire/school-holiday-activities-for-children-in-flintshire-gweithg-i2wmmp3zy8a22usf

Or as a pinned post on their Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100068897902704

Additional Contact Details:

Family Information Service Flintshire
Early Years and Family Centre Buckley
Tabernacle Street
Buckley
Flintshire
CH7 2JT

Telephone: (01352) 703500
E-mail: fisf@flintshire.gov.uk

Achievements:

Harry, Class 13 has been made Captain of the U11s Flintshire Schoolboys Squad. Da iawn ti Harri, this is a fantastic achievement, and we look forward to hearing all about your continued success! #Community, #Grit.

Key Dates for next the Term:

15th October	FFML AGM at 3.15 p.m.
21st October	Spooky Dress Up Day
22nd October	School Closes for Half Term
23rd October	Staff Training Day
2nd November	School re-opens after half term
4th November	Flu Immunisations **(for Pupils from Reception to Year 5)**
4th - 6th November	Year 6 Pupils visit to Glan Llyn
18th November	Nursery Drop-in
30th November	Flu Immunisations **(for Pupils in Year 6)**
8th December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert 1.30pm - 2.30pm
9th December	Year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert 9.30am - 10.30am
10th December	Reception Christmas Concert 9.30am - 10.30am
14th December	Nursery Christmas Concert 11.00am (Blue) and 2.30pm (Red)
14th December	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Service at St. Matthew's Church 6.00 pm
15th December	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Service at St. Matthew's Church 6.00 pm
16th December	Christmas Craft Day and Christmas Lunch
18th December	School closes for Christmas break
4th January	Staff Training Day
5th January	School re-opens for pupils

Friday Core Value of the Week Award Assembly:

This morning we held our first Core Value of the Week Award Assembly during which one pupil per class was awarded a Core Value of the Week Certificate. The names of those pupils who received a certificate this week can be seen below:

Nursery Red Group - Devran
Nursery Blue Group - Jonah
Class 1 - Nellie
Class 2 - Olivia
Class 3 - Freya
Class 4 - Rupert
Class 5 - Amiyah
Class 6 - Charlotte
Class 7 - Rex
Class 8 - Florence
Class 9 - Mabel
Class 10 - Ivy-Rose
Class 11 - Leo F
Class 12 - Joseph
Class 13 - Harri
Class 14 - Esme

Attendance and Punctuality.

At the end of this week our whole school attendance is 96.75%

Week commencing 28.09.26 was 94.31%

Year to date is: 95.13%

‘Believe, Achieve, Succeed’



