

Newsletter

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8th November 2024

Please remember
to order your dinners—you can order 3
weeks in advance!



www.santdunawd.co.uk

Ysgol Sant Dunawd

@YSD_BOD

Neges gan y Prifathro

I'm delighted to share how well the children have settled back into school after the half-term break! They've returned full of enthusiasm, ready to build on the wonderful learning and enrichment activities from last term. It was a busy time, with so many opportunities for learning, creativity, and exploration across all year groups.

Our Talk for Writing journey is progressing exceptionally well, and we're thrilled to be welcoming Emma Caulfield, our Talk for Writing consultant, to school next Thursday. Emma will celebrate with us the fantastic progress the children have made in storytelling and writing and will also provide us with feedback and guidance for the next steps in our journey. Please encourage your child to share what they've been learning in English—whether it's a story they're working on or a new skill they've developed.

It's also very important that reading books are returned weekly, especially for those who access Read Write Inc. This allows us to ensure they have a book at the right level to support their reading development effectively.

This newsletter highlights the wonderful activities of the past few weeks and offers a glimpse of the excitement ahead as we move closer to Christmas.

Diolch o galon,

Dion Griffiths (Headteacher)

Exploring Bilingual Education in Canada:

Last term, I had the privilege of visiting Canada on a trip to explore bilingual education and bring valuable insights back to Wrexham. Our journey took us to Montreal and New Brunswick, where we met with representatives from local education ministries and visited schools that use bilingual teaching practices. It was an incredible experience to witness the practical application of bilingual education in diverse settings and see firsthand the positive impacts on students' cultural and linguistic identity.

We also visited the research departments at McGill University and the University of New Brunswick. Engaging with leading researchers, allowed us to deepen our understanding of the cognitive, social, and cultural benefits of bilingual schooling, which resonates closely with our aspirations for bilingualism here in Wales. We returned motivated and inspired, ready to contribute to the Welsh Government's ambitious goal of reaching one million Welsh speakers by 2050.



Since our return, we've been actively collaborating with Welsh Government and WCBC to share our findings and help shape the future of bilingual education in our region.

I'm thrilled to announce that our school has been chosen to pilot a new approach to teaching Welsh through a bilingual model. This initiative is an exciting opportunity to introduce innovative methods for language learning that will students, families, and the wider community.

Through close collaboration with Addysg Gymraeg Wrexham, we aim to embed the Welsh language even deeper into our school culture here at Ysgol Sant Dunawd. We have ambitious and exciting plans ahead that will enrich our pupils' learning experiences and connect our community with the rich heritage of Wales.

Rydyn ni'n gyffrous iawn am y cyfle unigryw hwn i ddatblygu dwyieithrwydd yn ein hysgol ac i sicrhau dyfodol disglair i'n hiaith!

Celebrating Our Locality: "Ein Cynefin"

This term, our theme has been "Ein Cynefin" - exploring and understanding our unique locality. Through this, our children have been learning about the environment, community, and heritage that shape their everyday lives. Central to this has been a focus on farming and agriculture, industries that are not only vital to our region but also deeply rooted in our cultural landscape.

Our older pupils had an enriching experience at AgriCation, where they gained insight into modern farming techniques, sustainable agriculture, and the role of farming in supporting our communities. They returned with a greater appreciation for where their food comes from and how farms contribute to the local economy and environment.



The younger children enjoyed an equally exciting day at Park Hall Farm, where they experienced farm life first hand, from feeding animals to learning about seasonal crops. These visits brought classroom learning to life and sparked a sense of curiosity and respect for the natural world around them.



By learning about the land, the economy, and the cultural significance of agriculture, children are building a strong sense of identity rooted in their community.

Celebrating Black Welsh History

October was Black History Month, we celebrated the remarkable contributions of Black individuals to our shared Welsh heritage. At Ysgol Sant Dunawd we learned about figures like Betty Campbell, Wales' first Black headteacher, who championed multicultural education and inspired future generations. We also learned about John Ystumlyn, one of the first recorded Black residents in Wales, known for his skilled gardening and unique place in Welsh history. Finally, we remembered Clive Sullivan, a pioneering Black athlete and Welsh rugby hero. Their stories of resilience and achievement remind us of the strength and diversity that enrich Welsh identity.

Family Learning and Parent Lunch

Before half term, we were thrilled to welcome parents into our school for family learning sessions. It was wonderful to see families learning side by side, with children and parents engaging in activities together, strengthening their understanding and enthusiasm for learning. Dosbarth Ceiriog parents enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by our wonderful school cook, who never fails to impress! Feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive, and we're excited to arrange more sessions for next term.

Spooky Disco



Our recent Spooky Disco was a fantastic success, bringing lots of excitement to our school! The children had a wonderful time dressing up, dancing, and celebrating the Halloween spirit with friends.

A huge thank you goes out to our amazing PTA for their hard work in planning and organizing the event. We also extend our gratitude to the parents who volunteered their time to set up and tidy up afterward; your help made all the difference. Events like these create special memories for our pupils and wouldn't be possible without your support—thank you for helping make it a night to remember!

Antibullying and Children in Need



Next week is Anti-Bullying Week, and we're excited to focus on the theme of kindness and respect. To raise awareness, we'll kick off with Odd Socks Day on Wednesday, encouraging children to come to school in odd socks to celebrate individuality and show that everyone is unique.

Then, on Friday, we'll celebrate Children in Need—pupils can come dressed in spotty clothes or anything Pudsey-themed to help support this important cause.

A separate email with further details will be sent by Miss Morris, so please keep an eye out.



Save the Date

Show and Share 21/11/24
Pupil Progress Meetings w.c. 25/11/24
BOD Christmas Light Switch on 22/11/24
BOD Christmas Fair 30/11/24



At a glance

Whole School Attendance TARGET

96.1% 😞

Target 96.8%

Dinners, Trips & Clubs

