

April Newsletter



With Easter being so late this year, April's newsletter only covers two weeks in school. However, the staff and pupils have been working hard during those two weeks in the lead up to what will be a well-deserved Easter holiday.

March ended with the **County Urdd Eisteddfod** at Newtown High School. A huge congratulations to Seren Williams who made stage and finished 2nd in the years 3 and 4 individual singing. The choir and the unison party sang brilliantly in the prelims but unfortunately, they didn't get onto the stage in the afternoon. Again, a huge thank you to Mrs Turner and Miss Watkins for their dedication.

The **Foundation Phase** have had a fun filled half term learning about Outer Space. They have been writing letters to Tim Peake, learning about what it takes to be an astronaut, investigating which material is best to make a spacesuit out of and writing stories based in space.

In **Key Stage 2**, the pupils have been continuing their work on disasters, writing reports about the Titanic, writing a soliloquy about Aberfan and creating PowerPoint presentations about Pompeii.

Our **recycled battery box** has been filled again. Thank you for bringing in your used batteries. We have now collected over 22kg in total. As well as protecting the environment by recycling the batteries, the school may be rewarded for collecting so many, so keep them coming!

During the past six weeks, years 5 and 6 have been lucky enough to receive **hockey coaching** every Monday afternoon by Kirsty Benbow from Hockey Wales. All of the other pupils in both the Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 classes have also been developing their hockey skills myself and Mrs Roberts-Law. The pupils have also enjoyed doing problem solving and team building exercises. Key Stage 2 pupils have also had fun orienteering around the school course.

Well done to Eva Jones and Elen Jones who won prizes for their Easter pictures entered into the **Ysgub colouring competition**. Each child received an Easter egg for their winning entries.

As part of **Autism Awareness Week**, Key Stage 2 pupils created badges and feelings pictures whilst learning more about the condition. An updated wall display in the school hall will display the artwork completed by the pupils.

On Tuesday, I had the pleasure of taking nine brilliantly behaved girls to Newtown to play in the **Urdd TAG rugby competition**. The weather was awful on the day but the girls didn't complain once and played some really good TAG rugby in the driving rain and mud. The girls won one game and lost the other three but played with determination and smiles on their faces. Whilst mentioning girls' sporting achievements, I was really pleased to hear that 6 of the 9 girls chosen for the year 7 netball team at Llanfyllin high school were from Llanrhaeadr. Well done to Freya, Ffion, Alice, Sophie, Nia and Zoe. It's great to see our past pupils continuing their passion for sport.

Congratulations to Evan Roberts for finishing 1st at the **County Cross Country** event in Builth Wells yesterday. An excellent achievement.

Congratulations to our Eco Committee and to Mrs Roberts-Law for their hard work in attaining the **Eco Green Flag: 1st Platinum Renewal**. The committee have been busy completing projects such as 'Wheelie Wednesdays' and litter picks around the school as well as carrying out recycling duties every week and helping to organise the outdoor classroom day last year. Another similar day is planned for the Summer term.

Well done to Dewi Griffiths in Mrs Turner's class who spoke live on **BBC Radio Cymru** about "The best thing that has happened to me is..." on their breakfast show with Dafydd and Carol. Dewi spoke brilliantly and impressed the hosts with his lovely story about lambing.

A huge well done to Manny Best in Reception who took part in a vaulting display on horse back at Much Wenlock on Wednesday. Princess Anne was in attendance, officially opening the Cavalier Centre for disabled riders. Manny received a rosette from the Princess herself for his brilliant display.

We have been lucky to have borrowed a set of 'Edison robots' for a term. The children have been using them in their **STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths)** projects with Miss Watkins. The digital leaders have been busy also, hosting pupils from Pennant school in order to demonstrate how they have been using Minecraft for Education. For more information about **ICT** at Llanrhaeadr school, please see the digital newsletter which includes details about Minecraft.

In terms of developing children's digital competence, an exciting announcement was made this month regarding HWB. Very soon, after Easter, all children in Wales will have **FREE** access to the desktop **Microsoft Office** tools. This means that all HWB users can download tools such as Word, Excel and Powerpoint onto a maximum of 5 devices. More details to follow in the Summer term.

So far, **ParentMail** has been hugely successful and thank you for your patience during the registration process. We have had a few teething problems, but we are now getting used to it and it has already been used successfully for permission forms, letters/emails, events, parents evening and reporting absences. After Easter, all communication will be through the app. If you have any questions or if you would like to add another parent then please contact us. So far, by using the app, you have already helped the school save £75.53 on photocopying.

At the beginning of the Summer term, we will be closing our **Facebook** page and we will be creating a closed Facebook group. This is for a number of reasons, primarily safeguarding. Parents will be accepted into the group. If you want another relative such as a grandparent to have access, you will have to contact the school.

The pupils and staff have worked incredibly hard this term, and everyone deserves a well-earned rest. I hope you all have a lovely Easter holiday filled with plenty of family time and fun!

Regards



Mr Jonathan Richards

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| Fri 12th Apr | Non-pupil Day PTA Easter Bingo 6.30pm | Notices Dragon Clothes Bags Charity bag collection on July 10 th . Sports Club (after Easter) Wednesdays until 4.30pm Batteries We are still collecting used batteries to help potentially raise money for school. Keep them coming! On Wednesday 22nd May, we will be having a garden/grounds clearing evening. Any help from children and parents will be much appreciated. Please let us know what you think of the newsletter. Please contact us with any queries on 01691 780352 or at office@llanrhaeadr.powys.sch.uk See you back in school on Monday 29th April! |
| 15th – 26th Apr | Easter Holiday | |
| Wed 1st May | WASPS 4 Area Gala | |
| Thu 2nd May | Marches Cross Country No.3 | |
| Mon 6th May | Bank Holiday | |
| Sat 11th May | PTA Football Funday Urdd Cross Country @ Aberystwyth | |
| Wed 15th May | Reception Measurements (School Nurse) | |
| Thu 16th May | Family/Individual Photos & Class Photos Marches Cross Country No. 4 | |
| Fri 17th May | Tennis @ Llanfyllin (All of KS2) | |
| Thu 23rd May | North Powys Gala | |
| Fri 24th May | WASPS Hockey Tournament @ Welshpool | |
| 27th – 31st May | Half Term Holiday | |
| Wed 5th June | Sports Day | |
| Thu 13th June | Area Sports @ Llanfyllin | |