

February Newsletter



February began with a 'boogie' when we were lucky to have the **Welsh Music 'Bŵmbocs'** in the school car park to help celebrate **#DyddMiwsigCymru**. Children were able to have a dance in the great outdoors to popular Welsh songs. On Welsh music Day, the Criw Cymraeg did an assembly for each class and asked their fellow school pupils to vote for their favourite Welsh song. In the afternoon, they organised a Welsh disco for the whole school. Well done and 'diolch' to the Criw Cymraeg and Mrs Turner for organising an enjoyable week.

I was lucky to have the opportunity to drop in on the junior's **ICT** lessons to see how they have been using their coding skills on Minecraft. I was impressed to see all the children working collaboratively to build a virtual Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant, where each child was building their own area of the village or from the surrounding area. They were using coding skills to create disasters such as flooding to see the effect they have. Years 5 and 6 have also been using their coding skills to create a pedometer using Microbits. This was part of a collaborative project between schools in the area, sharing data created using the pedometers to create a database. The Foundation Phase children have been creating graphs to show heights in the classroom and worked collaboratively to plan their topic using JiT on HWB.

On 5th February it was **#SaferInternetDay** but at Llanrhaeadr we made it last a week as it is such an important topic. I was able to get a strong message across to the pupils about the word 'consent' in an assembly at the start of the week before the Digital leaders did a great job of informing their fellow pupils about other dangers that can be encountered when using the internet, via mini assemblies. In another assembly later in the week, we played a game as a school where children had to guess the age rating of certain video games. They were surprised at how many games were not for children their age! It's important that children don't play games rated above their actual age, but it is also important that they don't watch others playing them too, as it has the same psychological impact. We will be discussing Internet Safety and what you can do as parents to help protect your child(ren) during our information evening on **Tuesday 5th March 6pm**.

The **Foundation Phase** classes celebrated Chinese New Year on February 5th to welcome in the year of the pig! They had a great day celebrating by making Chinese crafts, writing Chinese words, playing games and eating Chinese food, cooked by our resident Chinese chef, Miss Huws. They then went on to plan a Knight training school by creating posters to advertise the event on the final day which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

In **Key Stage Two** the pupils have been studying the tragic Brazilian dam disaster at Brumadinho. Years 5 and 6 wrote emails to the Brazilian government, explaining what they think should happen in response to the disaster. Years 3 and 4 created posters on how to help the homeless people who lost their homes after the dam collapsed. In Science pupils have been learning about solids, liquids and gases leading to them writing a story based on the water cycle.

We are pleased to announce that after half term, we will be launching our new **parent communication app** via ParentMail. As of Monday 4th March, you will be able to register as a parent for an account which you can access via an app on your smart phone or tablet. If you don't have either of these then you will be able to access your account via a computer. As part of the service you will be able to book parents evening times, give consent for trips and sporting events, message school about absences and concerns and you will be able to keep up to date with events via a calendar. The service will also give us the opportunity to send out a text message if there is an important message that you need to hear such as school closures. As mentioned above, we will be holding an information evening on Tuesday 5th March where we will be showing parents how to use the app and staff will be on hand to help parents set up the app if anyone needs assistance.

The decision on purchasing the new app was made after considering data collected through our parent communication survey. Thank you to everyone who filled in the survey. The results and my response to each of the comments made was sent out earlier in the month by email. A huge thank you to the **PTA** who have helped pay for the app. They have also helped to buy new samba drums for music lessons, more ICT equipment and they will also be funding Welsh language visitors, who will be working with all pupils to give them richer Welsh cultural experiences. The next PTA meeting is on **Tuesday 9th April at 7pm.**

On **Thursday 14th March**, we will be holding our annual school **Eisteddfod** to celebrate St David's Day which is on the 1st March, but in the school holidays this year. On the day of the Eisteddfod, all children will take part in at least one event from the following list; reciting, singing, artwork (both key stages), instrumental, disco dancing and writing (KS2 only). The children will be competing for points for their house team. Your child has been placed in either **Berwyn**, **Rhaeadr** or **Tanat** and we encourage your child to wear their team colour on the day. The winning house receives the house cup. Please check with your class teacher about houses.

At the **Urdd Dance Eisteddfod**, the creative dance team performed brilliantly and are through to the next round at Newtown on Tuesday 26th March.

Again, not many **sporting events** this month. Years 5 and 6 attended the indoor athletics at Llanfyllin high school on the final day and had a lot of fun competing in a decathlon of events.

There will be a special St David's Day dinner on **Tuesday 5th March**. Menu starts back on week 2.

I hope you and your children have a lovely half term holiday. We look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday 4th March** for what will be a very busy and exciting half term.

Regards



Mr Jonathan Richards

25th-29th Feb	Half Term Holiday	Notices
Tue 5th Mar	Information Evening (New App) 6pm	Urdd Club Wednesdays until 4.15pm
Thu 7th Mar	Cross Country @ Forden 4pm	Creative Dance Club Thursdays until 4.15pm
Fri 8th Mar	World Book Day (Dress as favourite character)	Batteries We are still collecting used batteries to help potentially raise money for school. Keep them coming!
Mon 11th Mar	Urdd Art closing date	Please note the menu will start back on week 2 after the half term break.
Wed 13th Mar	WASPS Swimming Gala @ Welshpool	Please let us know what you think of the new newsletter.
Thu 14th Mar	School Eisteddfod	Please contact us with any queries on 01691 780352 or at office@llanrhaeadr.powys.sch.uk
Thu 14th Mar	Cross Country @ Llanfyllin	
Sat 16th Mar	Llanfyllin Urdd Eisteddfod	
Wed 20th Mar	Wales v Trinidad @ Wrexham Trip	
Thu 21st Mar	Cross Country @ Llanfair Caereinion	
Tue 26th Mar	County Urdd Dance @ Newtown	
Fri 29th Mar	WASPS Cross Country @ Welshpool	
Sat 30th Mar	County Urdd Eisteddfod	
Tue 9th Apr	Urdd TAG Rugby (Girls) PTA Meeting 7pm	
Thu 11th Apr	Powys Cross Country @ Builth Wells	
Fri 12th Apr	Non-pupil Day PTA Easter Bingo 7pm	
15th – 26th Apr	Easter Holiday	