

January Newsletter



It's been a great start to the calendar year at Ysgol Gynradd Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant.

It began with a **non-pupil day** whereby the teaching staff attended a Llanfyllin cluster training day on making maths more accessible to all pupils. The idea behind the new approach and the new curriculum (to be launched in 2021) is to create more enriching tasks for pupils, real-life situations from which the pupils can gain an understanding of the processes needed to solve problems. The staff are excited to use this new approach and already we've seen positive results in standards and enjoyment by the pupils.

In the classroom, the pupils have started to learn about '**Dragons**' in the Foundation Phase and '**Disasters**' in Key Stage 2.

In the **Foundation Phase**, years 1 and 2 have enjoyed creating maps of Wales' castles using their ICT skills. When writing, the pupils have been describing each other's pictures, writing letters to find out more information about castles and collaborating online to create questions about dragons. In maths, pupils have been using their knowledge of 2D shapes to create castles and dragons and they have used compass directions when looking at maps of Wales.

In **Key Stage 2**, pupils have been busy writing letters from the perspective of a character in their class novels for the term, 'Cwmwl Dros y Cwm' and 'Kapsar, the Prince of Cats' respectively. In maths the pupils have been using their knowledge of probability to solve problems about disasters and to solve coding challenges using a Microbit. They have also been busy experimenting in science, using the new equipment bought by the PTA to investigate why penguins huddle?

Miss Watkins has continued to enhance the excellent **ICT** opportunities that the pupils get at our school. We have been lucky enough to loan a set of Edison robots for the term which the pupils are excited to get their hands on! It is also an exciting time of year for Miss Watkins, as she has been able to visit the BETT (British Educational Training and Technology) show in London. It is a valuable visit in terms of implementing the DCF (Digital Competency Framework). As a result of the visit, pupils will be able to develop their ICT skills in several new ways such as coding new and exciting projects on Minecraft, using online classrooms in Microsoft teams, developing coding skills across the curriculum and experimenting with different types of robot. May I please also draw your attention to a very informative digital newsletter, which the digital leaders produced just before Christmas. You can access it by visiting our website under 'councils' and then 'digital leaders'. Please note the important messages around internet safety which we will be highlighting more in the near future.

There aren't too many **sporting events** to report on at this time of year. However, the pupils who represented the school at the Dragon Sports netball tournament at Llanfyllin high school did us proud, winning 4 games and qualifying for the north Powys round in February. For obvious reasons I am always personally proud to see our past pupils continue to do so well at sports in the high school. Congratulations to Ffion Suckley-Jones for winning the county year 7 cross country race at Newtown and therefore qualifying for the national final at Brecon.

It's been a slightly turbulent month in terms of **illness and bad weather**. A nasty virus and the classic 'sicky' bug hit both pupils and staff hard last week, but the resilience and flexibility of the pupils and staff in school was commendable and hopefully we are over the worst of it. We had a quiet day on the 23rd too because of the snow and ice. We will always make a decision with the safety of pupils, parents and staff in mind. If we must close, we will endeavour to make an early decision and notify you via email, Facebook, Twitter, website and the Powys closure system. If there is no closure message, assume we are open and make a sensible decision on whether your journey is worth it in dangerous conditions.

As mentioned earlier, we have been lucky to have new science equipment, purchased by our wonderful **PTA** group. They work hard to organise events and raise much needed funds so that the pupils at Llanrhaeadr can access a better learning experience. Your input and support would be appreciated at the next meeting on **Tuesday 5th February at 7pm** in the school.

Since setting up a new **school council** in September, the committee and sub committees have been busy thinking and implementing ideas to help improve school life such as;

- Daily mile—KS2 pupils have been running a mile at least twice a week (Food and Fitness Council)
- Developing the Wendy shed into a place to go if pupils are feeling sad (KiVA council)
- Create a Skype wall to track all the countries we have contacted (Digital leaders)
- Diwrnod Shwmae, Pawen Lawen for Children in Need and Tocyn Iaith (Cryw Cymraeg)
- New ideas to develop outside area have been applied for through a grant (Eco Council)

Well done to our years 3 and 4 and years 5 and 6 groups who took part in round 1 of the **Welsh book quiz**. Unfortunately, we didn't get through to round 2 this year but the pupils were commended on their efforts.

After such a great start to the year, we are all looking forward to what February has to offer! Highlights will include the visit of the Welsh 'Bwmbocs', Dragon netball final and the Urdd Dance competition. Please keep an eye out for important dates listed below.

Regards



Mr Jonathan Richards

Tue 5th Feb	Safer Internet Day 'Welsh Bwmbocs' visit PTA Meeting 7pm	Notices
Fri 15th Feb	Dragon Netball Final	Urdd Club Wednesdays until 4.15pm
Thu 21st Feb	Urdd Dance Competition	Creative Dance Club Thursdays until 4.15pm
Fri 22nd Feb	Indoor Athletics @ Llanfyllin (Yrs 5/6)	
25th-29th Feb	Half Term Holiday	Batteries We are still collecting used batteries to help potentially raise money for school. Keep them coming!
Wed 6th Mar	School Eisteddfod	
Thu 7th Mar	World Book Day Cross Country @ Forden	Urdd Arts and Craft Please find details attached.
Wed 13th Mar	WASPS Swimming Gala @ Welshpool	
Thu 14th Mar	Cross Country @ Llanfyllin	
Sat 16th Mar	Llanfyllin Urdd Eisteddfod	Please let us know what you think of the new newsletter . Please contact us with any queries on 01691 780352 or at office@llanrhaeadr.powys.sch.uk
Thu 21st Mar	Cross Country @ Llanfair Caereinion	
Fri 29th Mar	WASPS Cross Country @ Welshpool	
Sat 30th Mar	County Urdd Eisteddfod	