

March Newsletter



March is always a lovely time to be at Ysgol Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant. Thanks to the hard work of our past and present gardening club team, beautiful, yellow daffodils always fill the grounds and they always brighten up my days leading up to Easter. March also means 'Eisteddfodau' too and once again both staff and pupils have been busy in preparation.

I am very grateful to both Mrs Turner and Miss Watkins, who worked hard to prepare the pupils for the **Urdd Eisteddfod** in which many of our pupils took part in at Llanfyllin. It was a pleasure to watch so many pupils perform on the day. Thank you to those parents who supported the pupils on the day also. Special congratulations to Seren Williams 1st (Individual singing); Unison Party 2nd; Choir 2nd; Parti Berwyn 3ydd (First Language Ymgom) and Parti Llanrhaeadr 3rd (2nd Language Ymgom). Good luck to all involved in the County Eisteddfod this weekend.

The **School Eisteddfod** also took place this month and it is one of my favourite days in the school calendar. Every child takes part and it is great to see them all trying their best to win both personal pride and points for their team. This year's Eisteddfod was another special one. The staff were really pleased with the effort demonstrated by the pupils, a huge number of entrants meant for a very enjoyable day. It was lovely to welcome back past colleagues in Mrs Carol Williams who judged the reciting and Mrs Eleri Roberts who judged the artwork. A huge thank you to them both for coming in and to Mrs Iona Jones also, who once again did a great job judging the singing and instrumentals. Well done to Rhaeadr, who won the house cup for an impressive 7th time in a row. Congratulations also to Morgan Williams for winning the merit award. Pictures and results can be seen on the school website under 'Eisteddfodau'.

On Wednesday 26th March, 21 pupils took part in the **County Urdd Dance Eisteddfod**. The pupils performed their creative dance brilliantly. No placing this year but we are very proud of all the children who took part. A huge thank you again to Natalie Fleming for plaiting the girls' hair and to the staff for giving up their time to practise with the children.

At the beginning of the month, we held an information evening about internet safety and the new **ParentMail** app. Thank you to the nine families who came on the night. Parentmail has proven to be a great success already. It can be used by you as parents to receive messages, report absences, keep track of events, reply to consent forms and book parent's evening appointments. Please ignore the payments section as we currently use Parent Pay as our form of payment due to Powys County Council having a contract with them. Only the primary contact for each family has been added to the system. If you would like any other contacts added such as the 2nd parent or grandparent, please contact the school and let us know. **After Easter, all outward communications will be through ParentMail only** so make sure you are registered. ParentMail works best via the downloadable app which you can download onto both Apple and Android devices. Please also be aware that a week before parents' evening on 8th April, the online booking function will go live on a first come first served basis. If you have any issues with ParentMail, please contact me.

Unfortunately, due to the poor weather we have had at times, many of the **cross-country** races planned were cancelled. However, the Llanfair Caereinion event went ahead and 13 children ran brilliantly in their first race of the calendar year. Well done to Evan Roberts who finished 2nd. Also, at the WASPS cross country event in Welshpool Evan finished 1st in the year 6 boys race. Well done to him and to every child that took place on the day.

As a school, we were also successful at this year's **WASPS swimming gala**. Congratulations to the following pupils who finished in the top 3; Evan Roberts 1st and Jack Klages 2nd (Medley); Lowri Suckley-Jones 2nd, Evan Roberts 2nd and Osian Rigden 3rd (Backstroke); Jack Klages 1st, William Walters 2nd and Henry Walters 3rd (Breaststroke); Evan Roberts 1st (Butterfly); Jack Klages 1st, Osian Rigden 3rd, Lowri Suckley-Jones 1st, Seren Davies 2nd and Evan Roberts 1st (Freestyle); Years 5 and 6

Boys Relay team 1st (Evan, Jack, Osian and Ifan). Good luck to all those who have qualified for the next round on May 1st.

Well done to the children and thank you to you at home for helping them arrive at school on **World Book Day** looking so brilliant. Both staff and children made a great effort to get into the spirit of the day. The children did work based on their favourite book and took part in the ever-popular catwalk. Reading with your child, at home, really does make a huge difference. It is proven that *“reading extensively and for pleasure can foster the development of stronger reading habits and increase literacy skills at a greater rate than through formal literacy lessons. Children with reading difficulties are also at greater risk of developing mental health problems later in life.”* (Reading Agency 2018). An interesting quote, I'm sure you'll agree.

We also took part in **Comic Relief** or Red Nose Day. Due to the day being sandwiched in between the school Eisteddfod and the Urdd Eisteddfod, we opted for just dressing up in red this year which proved very successful, raising a brilliant £77. Thank you for your donations.

On Wednesday the 20th March, pupils from years 4, 5 and 6 and some lucky pupils from year 3 travelled to Wrexham's Racecourse stadium to watch an international football match between **Wales and Trinidad and Tobago**. We had a very enjoyable evening, watching some of Wales' best players. The children behaved brilliantly and were a pleasure to take on the trip (as always!)

This week, all pupils were taught several important lessons about fire safety by a representative of the **Mid and West Wales Fire Service**. Try asking your pupils about what they have learnt, in order to keep your household safe.

As you can see, it's been an incredibly busy month without even mentioning what the children have been up to in the **classroom**. Dosbarth Miss Watkins and Dosbarth Mrs Roberts-Law are currently learning about Space and have been writing to Tim Peake, as well as carrying out a number of exciting projects to do with space. In Keys Stage 2, the pupils have done some brilliant work about the Titanic in maths and Aberfan in language. They have also started exciting STEM projects. More detailed information about the work they have been doing will be in April's newsletter. You will also have a chance to see your child's work on parents' evening on April 8th.

Regards



Mr Jonathan Richards

Mon 8th Apr	Parent's Evening	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! 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
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 6.30pm	
15th – 26th Apr	Easter Holiday	
Wed 1st May	WASPS 4 Area Gala	
Sat 11th May	PTA Football Funday Urdd Cross Country @ Aberystwyth	
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	