

May Newsletter



May has consisted of a very brief half term which has flown by! We've had some, lovely weather in that time meaning lots of outside activities have taken place.

It's been another busy month of **cross country** races. A massive congratulations to Evan Roberts who won the national Urdd event at Aberystwyth on May 11th. At the final race of the year at the Marches, Oswestry, Evan also won the overall event after winning all 4 races through the year. Once again, at the final two races at the Marches, we had lots of children enjoying their running which is always great to see. Well done to all children have ran a cross country race this year.

We made the decision to take all key stage 2 pupils to the **tennis tournament** at Llanfyllin again this year. It is always a great afternoon where every child had the chance to show off their tennis skills. Congratulations to Evan, Ifan, Aled and Jack who have qualified as a team for the county round.

On May 17th, Dosbarth Miss Watkins and Dosbarth Mrs Roberts-Law enjoyed their trip to **Chester Zoo**. They had been busy planning their trip in class in the build up to it as part of their 'Our Planet' theme and all the pupils and staff had a great day seeing all the animals. It was no surprise to me that the staff commented on the excellent behaviour of the children. Da iawn i bawb.

Also, as part of their theme, the **foundation phase** pupils have been learning about the importance of using less plastic. They went on a litter pick around the village and found an incredible amount of plastic. Afterwards, they held a Skype session with a teacher that is leading the 'Skype Plastic Cleanup Brigade' where they learnt all about the different plastics that are a danger to the environment.

In **KS2**, Dosbarth Mrs Turner and Dosbarth Mr Richards/Miss Lowri Roberts have begun their topic 'Chwilotwyr Di-Ofn' (Intrepid Explorers). So far, they have planned and created a factual and fictional piece of writing about either a real country or an imaginary one. The pupils have also begun to learn about the Romans and have created lovely mosaic patterns with Miss Roberts. We now look forward to our trip to Chester to learn more after half term.

Thank you to the staff and 3 families that helped on Wednesday's **gardening evening**. We did what we could to clear the weeds and nettles. There is still plenty to do though and we will hopefully have another night later next term where hopefully more support will be in attendance, even if it is just for an hour or so. A big thank you to Heather and Becca for working so hard throughout the year and for continuing gardening club this term.

We held **Diwrnod Fy Myd** (My World Day) on the final Thursday of half term as part of outdoor classroom day. Pupils worked together outside in their houses on tasks planned by Mrs Turner (anti-bullying), Miss Watkins (citizenship) and Mrs Roberts-Law (outdoor challenge). The main driver for the morning were the Children's Rights Wales statements which are relayed to the pupils on a regular basis. Please see the school website for more information and photos from the day.

Our super PTA have done it again! They organised a fabulous **football fun day** that was enjoyed by a bumper attendance. 34 teams from around the area took part in the tournament and the stalls and activities around the field were bustling with happy children. Thank you once again to everyone who helped on the day. Far too many to mention individually, we are extremely grateful.

Early in the term, 5 pupils represented the school in the WASPS 4 area **swimming gala**. No one went through to the next round this year but a great effort by Lowri, Evan, Jack, Osian and Ifan.

As part of the **Siarter Iaith**, we were lucky to have famous Welsh singer and actor, Sian James in school who came in to sing with the children. We had a lovely afternoon learning about famous Welsh nursery rhymes and folk songs to which the children sang along with whilst Sian played the harp. Thank you to Mrs Turner for organising the afternoon.

I would like to officially welcome our two **new pupils**, Amy and Tiggy who have joined us during the term. A warm welcome into our school family here at Llanrhaeadr and their families.

All **national tests** are now complete. It was important to us that the children were calm in the lead up and on the day of the tests this year, so we took a much more relaxed approach, which the children have responded brilliantly to. We use the test scores as indicators in school but use a whole host of other measures also, therefore the results are not conclusive. Remember that a test result doesn't show how amazing your child is and consider this quote – *“Test scores and measures of achievement tell you where a student is, but they don't tell you where a student could end up.”*

We've been delighted with our weekly **yoga sessions**, kindly provided by Kirsty Martuccio. The pupils (and some staff) have enjoyed learning how to control breathing to control anxiety and stress. Learning skills to improve mindfulness is becoming hugely important for children who face increasing pressures in today's world. These sessions are providing regular opportunities for children to relax and forget about anything that troubles them.

Today, 4 pupils from years 5 and 6 went to the high school to take part in a **science challenge**. Also, a year 5 and a year 6 **hockey** team played in the WASPS tournament at the Flash, Welshpool along with another 21 teams. The year 5 team did well, winning 1 game, drawing 2 and losing only one. The year 6 team won 3, drew 2 and then won the play-off to qualify for the County final on June 19th, all without conceding a goal all day. They also won the cup on goal difference! An excellent achievement, well done.

I cannot believe that we only have one half term to go! The staff and I are looking forward to a fun filled half term, full of exciting activities and events including sports day on the first Wednesday back. More details about the day will be sent out soon and we look forward to seeing you all on the day! Enjoy your half term holiday! See you all back in school on **Monday 3rd June**.

Regards



Mr Jonathan Richards

27th – 31st May	Half Term Holiday	Notices Dragon Clothes Bags Charity bag collection on July 10 th . Sports Club Wednesdays until 4.30pm Please contact us with any queries on 01691 780352 or at office@llanrhaeadr.powys.sch.uk See you back in school on Monday 3rd June! Please check your ParentPay for any debts owing. Powys County Council have been onto the school about reminding parents of debt owed. Thank you.
Wed 5th June	Sports Day	
Thu 6th June	Meeting for new/existing foundation phase parents (Next year's Reception, 1 & 2) 3.30pm	
Mon 10th June	Growing up talk with school nurse (year 6)	
Tue 11th June	KS2 Trip to Chester	
Wed 12th June	Montgomeryshire Tennis Finals @ Newtown	
Thu 13th June	Area Sports @ Llanfyllin	
24th – 26th June	Glanllyn (Years 5 and 6)	
Wed 26th June	New starters morning taster	
Fri 28th June	Cricket/Rounders (Yrs 5 and 6) @ Llangedwyn	
Tue 2nd July	Sports Day reserve date (please note this has changed from the original)	
3rd-5th July	Year 6 Transition to High School	
Wed 3rd July	New starters afternoon/Year 2 transition day	
Wed 10th July	New starters all day Dragon Bags Clothing Collection ALN Parents' meeting	
Thu 18th July	Leaver's assembly	