



# YSGOL DERWENFA

**"WE MAY BE SMALL...BUT WE ARE MIGHTY" BAILEY - YEAR 6**

## NEWS



**MAY 2023**

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# Ysgol Derwenfa

## Whole School News



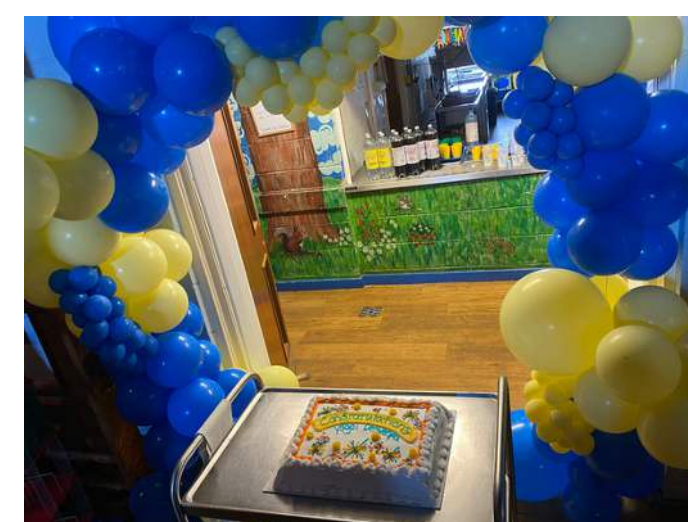
**Wow what a busy term it's been. I am so incredibly proud of all children and staff at Ysgol Derwenfa, I hope you enjoy reading what we have been up to over the past few months!**

As you may already know, Mrs. Jean Davies has decided to take early retirement and her last day at Ysgol Derwenfa will be on Friday, May 26th. Mrs. Davies has worked at Ysgol Derwenfa for 38 years as an NNEB and HLTA. We would like to thank her for the massive contribution she has made to the school and also for her all her hard work and commitment. I know she will be sorely missed by everyone associated with Ysgol Derwenfa, but it is now time for her to 'put her feet up' and give time to herself and her family. Thank you Jean.

Also, Miss. Hayley Greenan will be leaving us at the end of this half term. Again, I would like to thank her for all her hard work and wish her all the very best for the future. with her new baby!



Following our successful **Estyn** report, we held a fantastic Open Morning, inviting families and members of the community into the school to see the good practice at **Derwenfa**. The children took ownership of the event and loved showing everyone around their school. It was so lovely to see some old faces too! During the afternoon we treated the staff and children to 'Derwenfa Rocks' with entertainment by **DJ Pritch & Tom Collins**, to celebrate our achievements! A big thank you to 'Balloons by Rebecca' for kindly providing the balloon arch!



WORLD  
**BOOK  
DAY**  
2 MARCH 2023



# Teulu Time

On March 1st we held our first 'Teulu Time' where we welcomed parents and carers into school to do St David's Day crafts with their children. This was a great success and we were overwhelmed to see so many of you attend. The children loved spending quality time with you in school and we look forward to hosting many more in the future.



We were also successful in being chosen to receive an outdoor learning grant from '**Learning through Landscapes**'. We received £500 worth of equipment and resources to support outdoor learning and also received a staff training session.

# Eisteddfod 2023

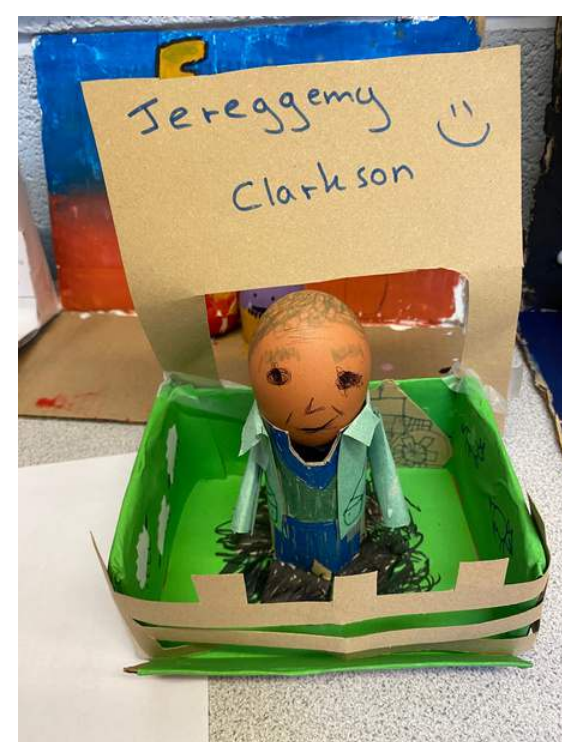


Each year at Ysgol Derwenfa, **Mrs Cartwright** organises a whole school Eisteddfod to celebrate our Welsh culture, language and heritage. The children are given the opportunity to take part in Art, handwriting and creative writing competitions. For our Year 6 pupils, they compete for the Eisteddfod chair, which is awarded to the person who has written the best / most creative story. This years winner was **Elliott Graham**! We have included his story for you to read. All the children produced wonderful pieces of both writing and art. We also welcomed back two familiar faces to judge our recitation competitions...**Mrs Drake & Mrs Dilkes** joined us for the morning and thoroughly enjoyed watching the children perform! Da iawn pawb a diolch!



As we prepared for Easter, we held our annual Egg decorating and rolling competition! We were eggs-tremely impressed by all your efforts and we had lots of fun rolling them to see which ones survived the course! Thank you all for taking part and being so creative...egg-cellent work!

## Egg decorating & rolling!







# FUNDRAISING NEWS

YAY!

Just before the Easter holidays we were thrilled to learn we were successful in securing over £10,000 in funding from Thomas Howell Education fund. Miss Sieminski has worked extremely hard to put together our application and together with the children, we have decided to spend the money on a wooden playframe, designed by the children. We are developing our sensory garden and Nurture provision further too. The children are very excited about this new project, which is due to commence early June.



On World Book Day, we were fortunate to welcome Lorna Gibson (Toots Design) in to meet the children. Lorna is famous for writing the children's picture book 'Mr Bear's Christmas' which was recently narrated by Stephen Fry and shown on BBC. Lorna kindly provided an opportunity for all the children of Ysgol Derwenfa to ask questions about her writing process and even brought Mr Bear and his little friend Mouse for us to meet! Thank you for your kind gifts and best wishes for the future.



We would also like to thank New Directions for their support with prizes for our World Book Day craft competition! Children were asked to decorate an empty toilet roll tube as their favourite book character. We had some fabulous entries and each winner were awarded with a £15 WHSmith voucher! Bella in Year 3 scooped the prize for best dressed!

Thank you to Rhys and Shannon for presenting the children with their prizes.



Once again we have been successful in receiving funding from Urenco. We will use the £1300 to fund a Sphero mini class pack to develop STEM opportunities and Digital Skills.

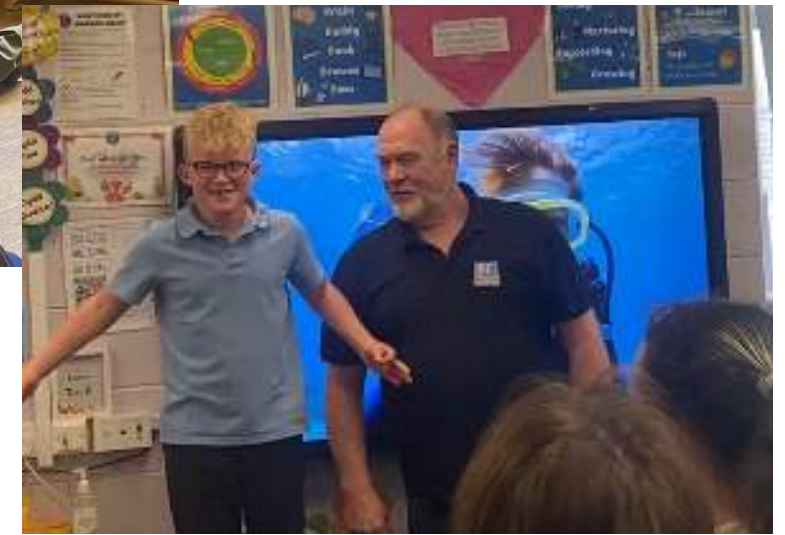




# ACHIEVEMENTS



Another thank you to **New Directions** for offering Year 5 & 6 some exciting workshops; an introduction to sign language and life saving skills. The children had a fantastic time with **Del Tune**, learning the basics of BSL and signing their name - he was a real character and has even worked with CBeebies' Mr Tumble! In their life saving workshop, they learnt how to treat burns, bleeding, choking and CPR. Another fantastic opportunity for the children of **Ysgol Derwenfa**! Diolch.



**Ysgol Derwenfa** have taken part in lots of sporting events this past term. We are so proud of our children and their achievements. We look forward to our upcoming sporting events...bring it on! We would like to thank **Will Broster** from **Aura / Dragon Sports** for organising and giving us these opportunities and for also speaking to the children along with his colleague **Tilly**, about their roles at **Aura Wales** during our Careers week..

Year 5&6 are really enjoying their Youth Club, provided by Flintshire Youth Service. Diolch **Tom, Huw, Romi & Mike**. This is a fantastic opportunity to aid their transition to High School. They loved their recent 'Silent Disco' and free will painting session to raise awareness of Racism.



**Mr Jones is currently listening to:**  
Motorhead - *'Iron Fist' (40th anniversary edition)*  
Metallica - *'72 seasons'*  
Crown Lands - *'Fearless'*  
Tygers of Pan Tang - *'Bloodlines'*



# Ysgol Derwenfa

## Little Teds (Nursery) - Mrs Davies' class



**This term Nursery have been learning about space. The children have really enjoyed playing in the space station.**

**We have been reading the story Aliens Love Underpants.**



**We have been colour mixing and learning the mathematical language of add and equals.**



**Celebrations** – we looked at **Chinese New Year** and we tasted Chinese food. We made decorations and performed a dragon dance



**St. David's Day** – we painted daffodils, wrote Welsh Dragon stories and learnt Welsh songs and poems. We enjoyed the competition for Homework. Our winning entries were Owain who decorated a Welsh flag and Eliza who made a vase of daffodils.







Mothers' Day – we performed in an assembly to tell our families about Celebrations. We then had a Mindfulness Mothers' Day morning where we did colouring with our mums and presented them with cards and decorated cakes. We had a lovely morning.

Easter- we loved the Egg rolling afternoon and had great fun rolling our eggs down the ramps. We made Easter cards, Easter baskets and ate chocolate.



*Easter Activities*



Wellies in the Woods- this term parents have been able to join us in Outdoor Learning. They have used natural resources to make brooms, wreaths, crowns and other items from stories such as The Gruffalo, Room on a Broom and Superworm.





# Ysgol Derwenfa

## Year 3 & 4 - Mr Jones' class



On behalf of the children in Year 3 and 4, I am pleased to share our class news page. During the spring term, the children have taken great pleasure in learning about our whole school topic: “celebrating our local history”. As a celebration of our learning, we performed a class assembly for our parents and carers. I was extremely proud of all of the children, and I was delighted by their confidence, clarity, and use of expression when speaking in front of the whole school! It was also fantastic to see some of the class performing Victorian dinner dances and signing solos or duets as part of the performance. Gwaith anhygoel, I am incredibly proud of you all!

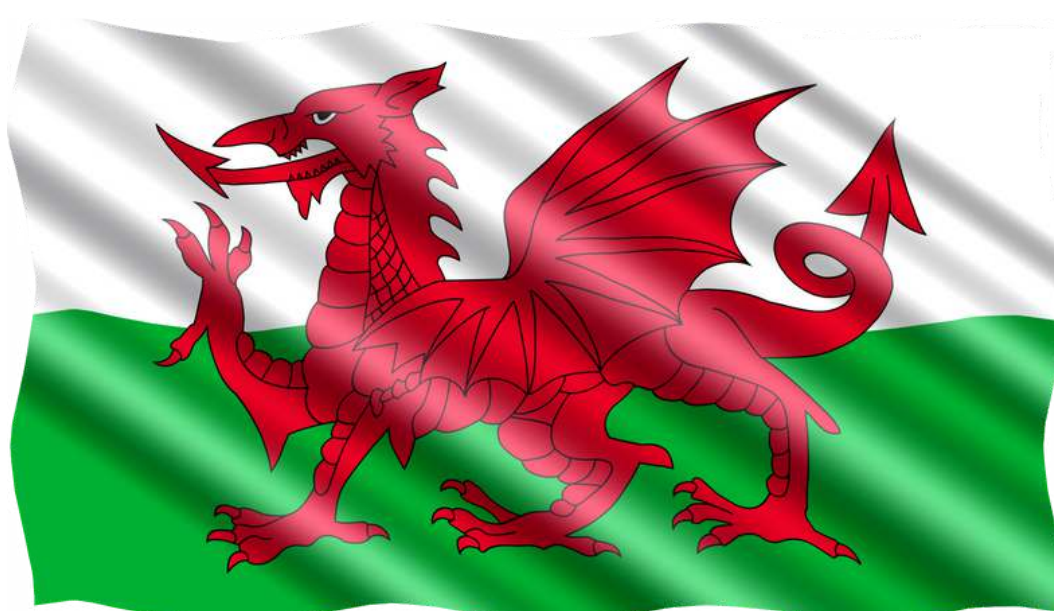


As part of our Victorian focus, the children were eager to visit a Victorian museum, and on 18th April we were fortunate enough to visit Blists Hill, a Victorian Town in Telford. We had to wait a little longer than first anticipated as the original date for our trip was postponed due to heavy snow! As you can see from the photographs, we had a great time exploring the Victorian Town.

We learned how to create a candle using the ‘dipping’ technique, as well as traveling underground on a Victorian mine train. We also treated the children to a tasty treat where they got to try chips from the ‘Fried Fish Dealers’ cooked in the Victorian style.



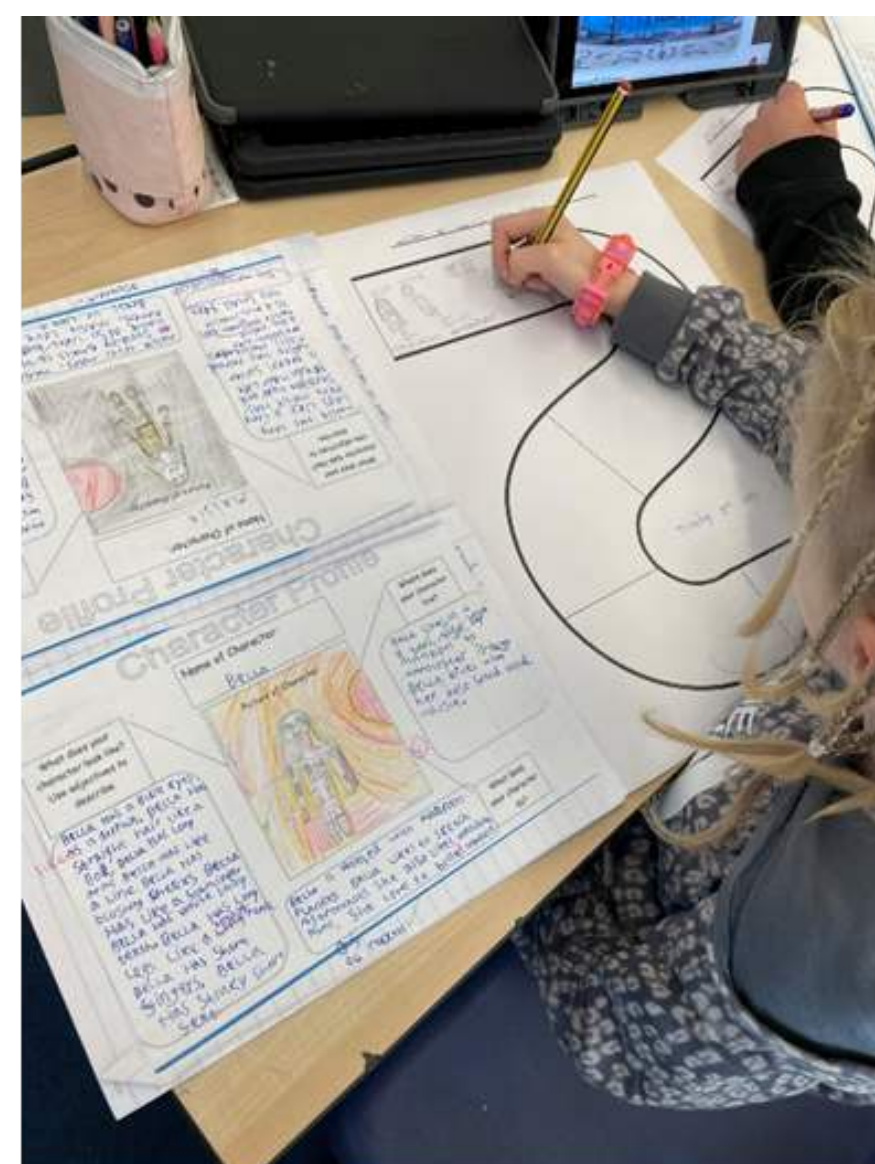
For our Eisteddfod, in Expressive Arts, the children created daffodil art with Miss Sieminski, using water colours as part of their piece. Mr Jones (Headteacher) was also delighted with the standard of handwriting as part of the handwriting competition. Gwaith ardderchog pawb!





As part of our School Eisteddfod celebrations, our writing focus has been poetry. The children were introduced to a famous senses poem titled 'A taste of France'. We explored what it means to be Welsh, including listening to Welsh pop music, and traditional songs and researching our country online. Once the children had collated their ideas, they planned individual sense poems titled 'A Taste of Wales'.

After two weeks off during Easter, the children returned to School eager to explore their new whole school topic 'from the sea, to the sky and beyond'. After a lengthy class discussion, the children decided to learn about space in more detail, with our hook being 'mission to planet Mars'. We used Google Jamboard to collaborate during the planning process, which has provided an exciting opportunity for the children to lead their class learning journey. Over the past few weeks, we have made a promising start to the new topic, writing our own stories titled 'Mission to Mars', researching the planets, creating astronaut artwork using natural materials, and creating a dance piece in small groups using the song 'Spaceman' by Sam Ryder as a stimulus. I can't wait to see what else the children achieve during the rest of the Summer term!



On May 4th, we celebrated the Coronation of King Charles III. The children were eager to create their own crowns, which resulted in pupil voices prevailing as the children explored our forest for materials to add to their crowns. I'm sure you would all agree that their crowns look very impressive indeed!



**Thank you for reading about our busy Spring and Summer term and we hope to share more exciting news soon!**



# Ysgol Derwenfa

## Year 5 & 6 - Mrs Cartwright's class



*Year 5 & 6 have been very busy over the last term. We have made lots of memories and have worked extremely hard in all areas.*

Wow, where do we start?? In March, Miss Sieminski and I took our lovely Year 6 children to Glan Llyn! We had the best time making lots of memories and trying new activities. Since is the first time we have been able to go since Covid so it was a very special trip! From raft building, canoeing to bowling and swimming the children (and staff) were well and truly ready for their beds!



**The children were much braver than Miss Sieminski & Mrs Cartwright during the bird of prey show!**



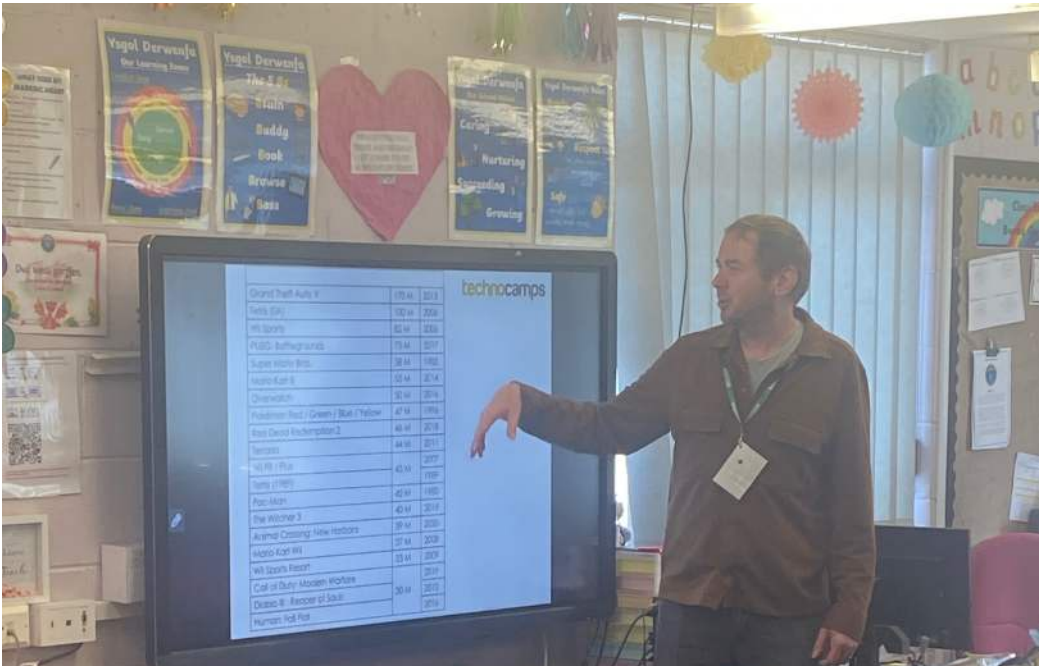
On World Book Day we welcomed Lorna Gibson of Toots Design to talk to us about her book 'Mr Bear's Christmas' which she recently turned into an animation. She talked to us about how she made the film using a £4.99 Stop Motion app in her parents spare bedroom! Lorna was very inspirational and has written other books to support Children's Mental Health. We can't wait to watch her new animation for 'Mr Bear's big day out!'.

Our topic last term was 'Celebrating Black History in Wales & beyond'. The children created wonderful work about Betty Campbell - the first Black Headteacher in Wales. In our literacy work, we explored poetry by Benjamin Zephaniah who wrote 'Dis Poetry' using his Jamaican dialect, which we performed over some reggae and rap music. The video of us performing in class even went viral on Twitter, after Zephaniah retweeted it!

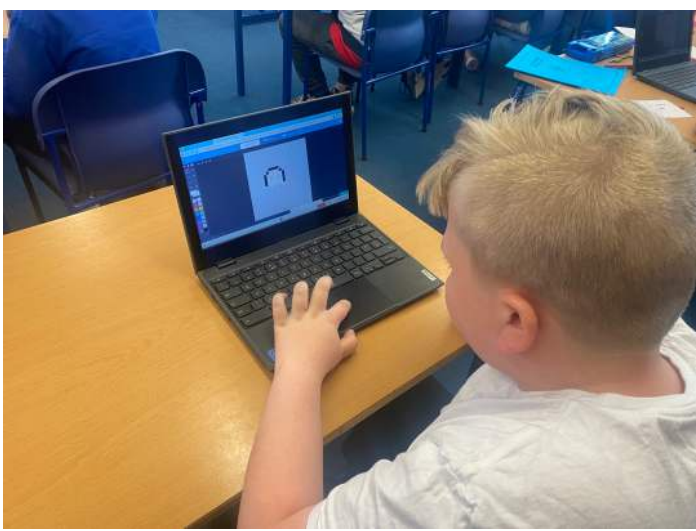
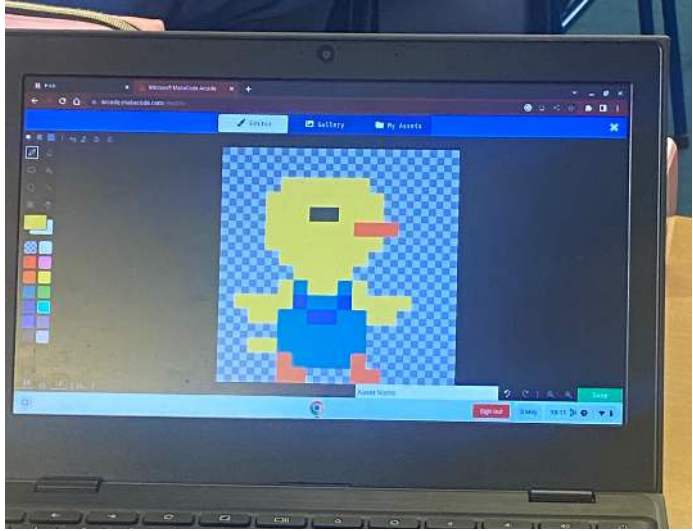




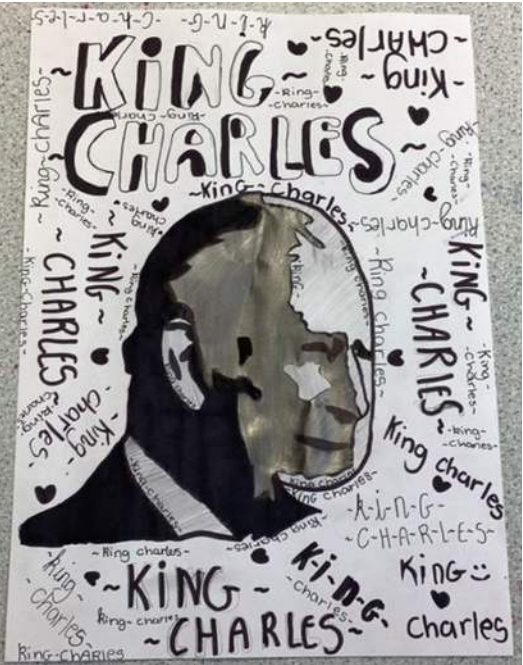
Will Clarke from **Technocamps** delivered another fantastic coding workshop, where we all created our own platform game! We used 'Make Game Arcade' to create our own character using Pixel Art, then transferred this into our own computer game using coding on the Chrome books.



**Congratulations to Elliott who was announced as the winner of the Eisteddfod Chair for his fantastic story. We hope you enjoy reading it!**



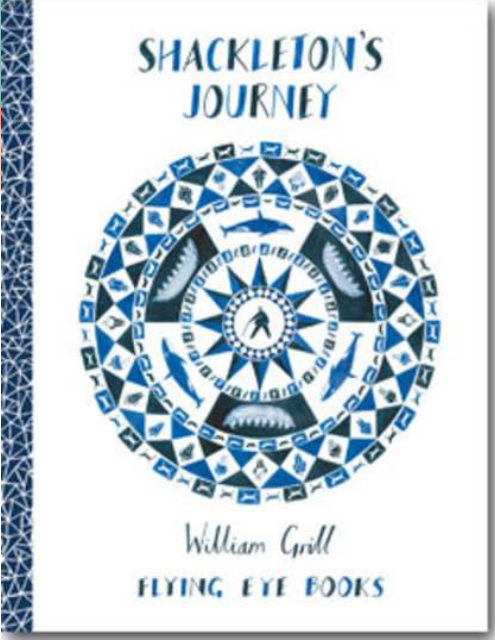
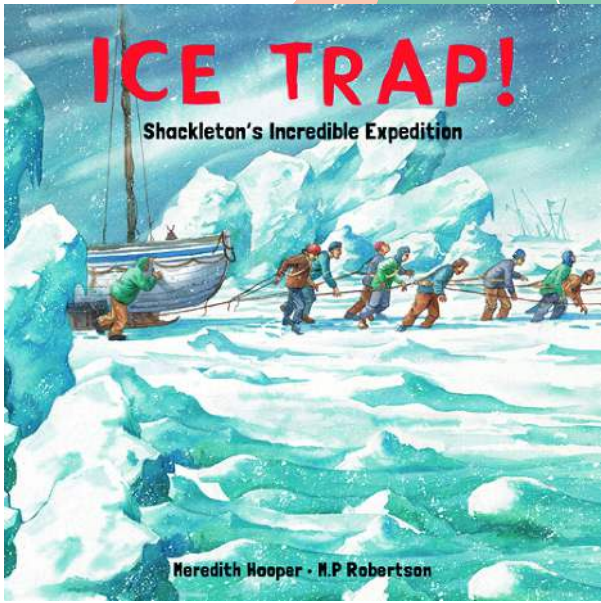
We celebrated the Coronation of **King Charles III** by having a themed picnic and dressing in red, white and blue. We also created our own abstract portraits of the King.



Our current whole school topic is 'From the sea, to the sky & beyond'. Year 5 & 6 decided they wanted to learn about Antarctica, therefore we are learning about Ernest Shackleton and his incredible expedition to Antarctica! So far we have created fact files about him and mapped out his journey in Outdoor learning. Some children have even had a go at retelling his remarkable story using Minecraft!



**This term we are reading...**





# Ysgol Derwenfa

## Nurture - Miss Sieminski's Class



We have had a very busy term preparing for our National Nurturing Schools Award.



We had lots of children involved in creating a video and speaking to our assessor. The children were asked to introduce the school in the video and talk about their experiences in Nurture.

Children were questioned about how the whole school looks after them and what they are proud of!

**We are pleased to announce that we are officially a National Nurturing School!!**

We have also been asked to be an ambassador school for Nurture UK for researchers and other professionals to visit to see good practice! The video is going to be used for training purposes across the UK.

We are so pleased to receive this award after nearly 3 years of hard work - special thank you to everyone involved including the children, parents, governors and staff.



The stick insects are back! We have a new group of stick insects in our Nurture class and the children are enjoying learning about how to take care of them, changing their leaves and holding them!

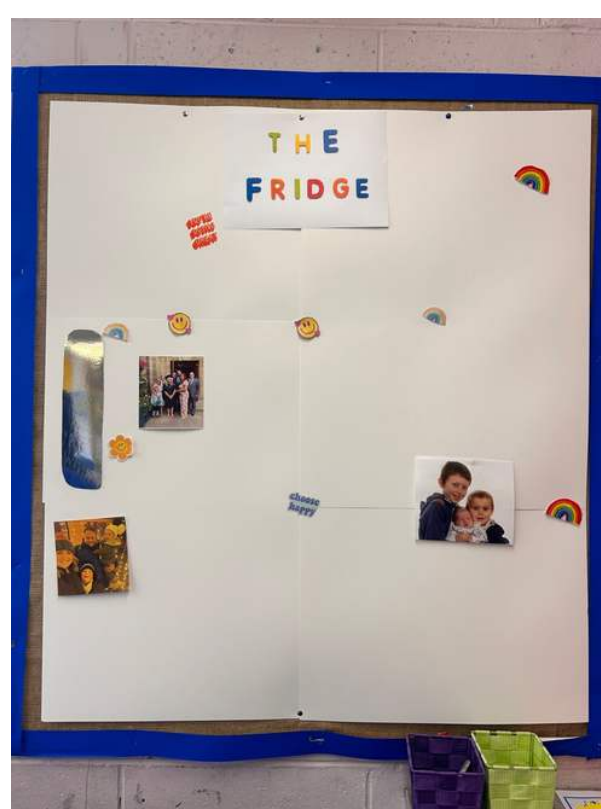
We are currently voting on new names for them - the current winners are 'Mr and Mrs Stick'



We are currently developing this new display in Nurture. It's called 'The Fridge' and is a place for children and staff to pin pictures that bring

**'A little piece of home into school'**

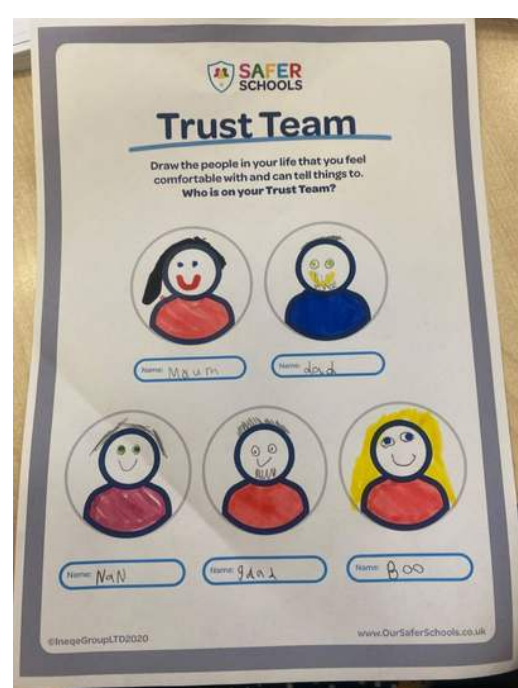
The children have been busy choosing pictures that are important to them to add and talking to their friends about why they have chosen it.



The younger children have been working on their communication skills. We have been making playdough models and presenting these to their friends.

They needed to remember to use descriptive words to describe what they had made and the other children needed to show their good listening skills.

We had some brilliant models including snails, whales and pancakes!!

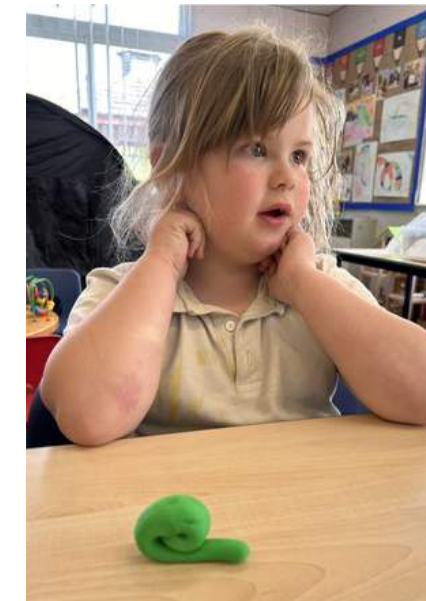


The older children have been learning about the physical affects of anxiety and the flight, fight or freeze response.

They then did some work thinking about their 'Trust Team' and who is there for them.



Scan to see watch the video we used to learn about flight, fight or freeze responses.







# Y CRIW CYMRAEG



THE CRIW CYMRAEG ARE HELPING THE WELSH GOVERNMENT  
TO RAISE 1MILLION WELSH SPEAKERS BY 2050.



We have been working hard ticking off our  
targets, ready to go for our Bronze  
Award this term. Fingers crossed!

In March we celebrated our Annual  
Eisteddfod, organised by Mrs  
Cartwright. Llongyfarchiadau i  
Elliott Graham am ennill y gadair 2023!  
(Congratulations to Elliott for  
winning the Chair 2023)



Year 5 & 6 visited Castell Alun to  
watch 'Taith yr iaith' show to learn  
about the journey of the Welsh  
language. This was organised by our  
Welsh Cluster group. We have more  
enrichment activities planned for this  
term too!

**Have a go at learning our Welsh  
phrases...**

**Ga i diod?** (gaa ee dee-odd?)

May I have a drink?

**Sut wyt ti?** (sit oy-t tea?)

How are you?

**Mae hi'n braf** (maa h-ee-n brarv)

It's nice today (weather)

**Apps you can download to  
help learn Cymraeg at home...**



Llyfrau Bach Magi Ann

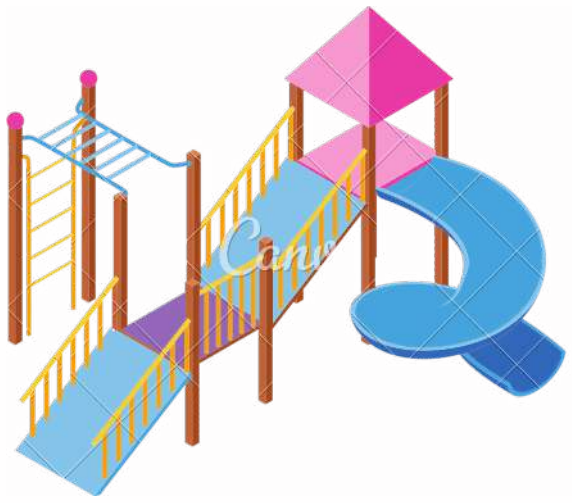


duolingo





# SCHOOL COUNCIL



The school council have been very busy helping and doing many things to help the school. Miss Sieminski even secured us a whopping £10,000! We are going to spend it on an outdoor play area that the children have designed.

The first thing we did this term was, going around the school with a survey to choose a movie for our movie night. This movie night was held on Thursday 18th May and raised £105!



**We also met with  
Becky Gittins MP!**

She's a Labour MP who helps Clwyd East [which is where we live] and she gave our school a little visit. While she was here, she answered some questions we had about her and her work. It was very fascinating and educational.







# SPORTS COUNCIL



This term, the Sports Council have been asked to think about what they can do to improve the sport and play opportunities at Ysgol Derwenfa. They have:

- **Provided ideas for which activities and sports they would like to see covered in PE.**
- **Provided ideas for extra-curricular clubs, both at lunchtime and after school**
- **Spoken with children across the school to identify ways to improve lunch and play times**
- **Provided ideas of sports and play equipment they would like to see purchased.**

At the end of the Spring Term, the Sports Council met with William Broster who is the School Sport Development Officer with Aura. William joined a School council meeting and provided ideas as to how they can be more active around the school. The Sports Council also had the opportunity to ask questions about his role, before William delivered a whole school assembly on his 'pathway into sport'.





# EXTRA CURRICULAR SPORTS

Over the past three terms, the children have had a wide range of opportunities to take part in physical activity and school sports. Ysgol Derwenfa have been extremely active as part of the Dragon Sports Initiative which is delivered by Aura Sports Development. The children have participated in a number of festivals and competitions including:



**Handball  
Dodgeball  
Gymnastics  
Football  
Multi-Sports**



One of the biggest success stories this term has been the introduction of our new Girls lunchtime football club. During one of the sessions, we had a fantastic 25 girls participating. Mr J Jones (Deputy Headteacher) and Mr A Jones (Headteacher) have been delighted by the attendance and the girls' attitude during the sessions. For the first time in the history of Ysgol Derwenfa, we have a girls football team entering the Fox Parry Shield on the 18th May.

There are a number of extra-curricular festivals upcoming where Ysgol Derwenfa will be represented:

**Fox Parry Shield – Girls' football  
Rural basketball  
Rural schools Cricket festival  
Rounders**







# DERWENFA'S J-OAKS



WHY COULDN'T THE PONY SING A  
LULLABY?

SHE WAS A LITTLE HORSE!

WHY CAN'T ELSA FROM FROZEN  
HAVE A BALLOON?

BECAUSE SHE WILL "LET IT GO,  
LET IT GO."

WHAT DO YOU CALL A DOG  
MAGICIAN?

A LABRACADABRADOR.

HOW ARE FALSE TEETH LIKE  
STARS?

THEY COME OUT AT NIGHT.



These jokes were  
brought to you by  
Mrs Cartwright

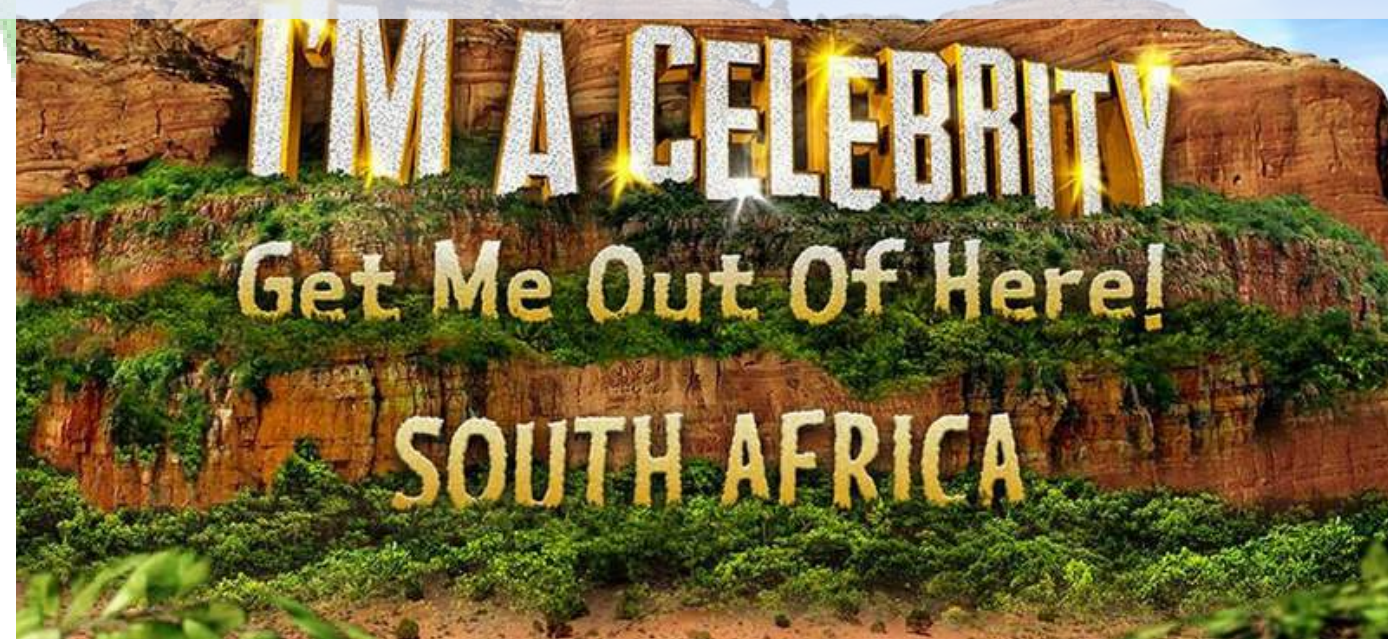
RIDDLE TIME

WHAT IS YOURS BUT IS MOSTLY  
USED BY OTHERS?

ANSWER: YOUR NAME



# PUPIL VOICE



By Kyla Year 6

**On 'I'm a celebrity South Africa', 15 celebrities join Ant and Dec but... they have all been on there before.**

## **Spicy knickers**

Gillian Mckeith returns but not just with herself! She came prepared with her spicy knickers ! She smuggled in spices inside her underwear!

## **Kids trouble**

We've seen multiple people crying about their children Helen Flanagan, Jordan Banjo, Joe Swash. It must be so hard being separated from their families.

## **The big fall**

Janice Dickison had a horrible fall making her leave at 4th place

## **The order people went out was:**

- 1: Shawn Ryder and Gillian Mckeith
- 2: Amir Khan
- 3: Toff/ Georgia Toffolo and Andy Whymant
- 4: Janice Dickinson (Because she fell over)
- 5: Dean Gaffney and Helen Flannagan
- 6: Carol Vorderman and Paul Burrell
- 7: Fatima Whitbread
- 8: Phil Tuffnel



Then there were two Jordan and Myleene, so they battled through the eating trial, but the winner was..... **Myleene !**



# PUPIL VOICE



By Yeva Year 6

On the 13th May 26 countries moved to the finals to see who would win Eurovision 2023

So, here is the top 10 songs from Eurovision

10: Armenia

9: Belgium

8: Spain

7: France

6: Ukraine

5: Italy

4: Norway

3: Israel

2: Finland

1: Sweden

My personal favourite was Sweden's entry!

**Did you know?**

This is the 2nd time Loreen has won the Eurovision song contest for Sweden!



**What did we think in Year 5/6?**

*For song of the day, we listened to the top 5 Eurovision songs and this is what we thought*

Norway: 6/10

Italy: 5/10

Israel: 6/10

Finland: 4/10

Sweden: 5/10

**Mr Jones' favourite entry was Australia!**





# Puzzle page

## Our village wordsearch

A	M	H	H	S	E	I	U	H	A	Y	R	O	U
D	A	U	Y	N	E	A	F	N	E	W	R	E	D
S	C	H	U	R	C	H	E	S	L	K	O	L	E
I	I	D	O	I	L	L	N	E	M	U	L	C	F
I	L	A	V	I	N	R	A	C	I	L	E	U	S
N	C	O	L	A	E	S	N	Y	N	T	E	D	S
I	P	C	K	O	T	O	U	H	E	N	S	L	R
S	C	P	P	R	N	I	I	H	S	E	W	E	X
I	I	L	Y	O	N	C	D	O	N	C	O	L	A
H	W	C	I	A	L	L	D	E	O	C	O	M	A
Y	E	L	H	S	A	A	R	U	A	L	D	S	E
P	H	O	E	N	I	X	P	A	R	K	S	E	I
C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	H	D	E	S	V
A	C	E	N	O	T	A	P	H	E	A	C	L	C

LEESWOOD  
DERWENFA  
PHOENIX PARK  
COMMUNITY  
LAURA ASHLEY  
CENOTAPH  
CHURCHES  
COEDLLAI  
MINES  
CARNIVAL

	7			2			4	6
	6						8	9
2				8			7	1
	8	4		9	7			
7	1						5	9
				1	3		4	8
6	9	7			2			8
	5	8					6	
4	3			8			7	







# AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

at Ysgol Derwenfa

with Megan, Claire & Jane

Children  
receive  
snacks &  
drinks

**3pm-5:15pm**

All children  
from  
Nursery to  
Year 6  
welcome

Activities include  
jewellery making,  
outdoor learning,  
& crafts

First hour:  
Foundation  
Phase £5  
KS2 £4  
£4 an hour  
after that

To book your child a place please text  
Megan on:  
**07842 103294**

Located in the school hall







**YSGOL DERWENFA'S**

# *Community Lunch*

**WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE**

**1pm-2:30pm**

**Please arrive at 12:45pm**

**2 Course Lunch with Tea/Coffee**



**£4.50 per person.**

**Booking is essential, please contact  
Ysgol Derwenfa to book your place on  
01352 770477**

**Raffle prizes welcome!**





**FRIDAY 30TH JUNE**  
**3-5:30PM**

**JOIN US FOR OUR 2023**

# **SUMMER FAYRE**



**YSGOL DERWENFA  
PLAYGROUND AND FIELD**

**FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY  
SOAK THE TEACHER • RAFFLE • STALLS  
PLUS MANY MORE!**



**HELP OUR FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL RAISE MUCH NEEDED FUNDS**





Do you fancy being turned  
into a running rainbow, whilst  
raising money for our school?

Sponsored

# Rainbow Run



**FUN FOR ALL THE  
FAMILY!**

Derwenfa children to collect  
sponsorship. Any additional family  
members who wish to join in the fun  
will pay an entry fee of £3 each  
(Adults) £2 each (children)

**FRIDAY  
14TH JULY  
FROM 3PM**

More details to follow....