YSGOL PENYFFORDD

A love of learning.

February 2026

MESSAGE FROM MRS MULVEY

Dear Parents

As we rapidly approach February half term we have already passed the half way point of the current academic year. This newsletter shares some of the highlights from last term and details of upcoming events across our school. I hope you enjoy reading about the children's experiences and activities

The children are enjoying their current topic and are producing some amazing work. We have been lucky to welcome in some parents who have kindly shared their knowledge and experience from their work roles which have been fascinating for the children and staff alike. Thank you, we appreciate your support.

On a personal level, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for the many kind words and messages I have received following my announcement to retire at the end of the Summer term. I will remain in post until this date and it will be very much business as usual.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Mulvey

Attendance

Please call school by 8.55am to report and provide a reason for your child's absence.
Our attendance for the this half term is 96.2%
We are required to monitor each pupil's attendance and have regular meetings with the school's Inclusion Officer. We will contact you if we are concerned about your child's attendance.

Lateness

*The **gates are locked at 8.55am**. Any child arriving after this is requested to sign in via the Office before going to class.*
Please make every effort to ensure your child arrives on time.

Please can we remind you to write your child's name on all items of clothing, water bottles etc that are brought into school. We have lots of items currently in lost property that we are unable to reunite with the correct owners.

At the end of each term any unclaimed items are donated to FOPS to recycle. If you believe you have any items missing please check in the lost property located in the garage area. Thank you for your cooperation.
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School's Councils

We currently have the following councils in our school: School's Council, Eco Council, Digi Leaders and Criw Cymraeg. Each September new council members are elected by their peers from across the school.

Eco School

Our Year 5-6 Eco Champions have been working with Jo & Wil from Flintshire CC on a Thursday afternoon. The children have taken part in discussions about:

- Bio-diversity
- Habitats
- Energy
- Waste
- Sustainability

And the positive and negative impacts this has within Wales. Our children's knowledge on all of the above topics has been amazing. Jo and Will were so impressed. They could not believe how lucky the children are to have the surroundings we have at Ysgol Penyffordd.
The children have learnt so much more on top of what they already knew.

School Council

During the autumn term, the School Council met to discuss ways to raise money for new playground equipment and decided to hold an own clothes day. Thank you very much for your generous contributions towards this. Following this, the Infant School Council and Junior School Council enthusiastically researched the different playground equipment available and, after lots of thoughtful discussion, agreed on how the money should be spent.
We are delighted to share that the new playground equipment has now arrived! Members of the School Council proudly helped to sort the equipment onto the trolley, and the children are already having great fun playing with and enjoying it. We have lots of exciting plans for the rest of the school year and are especially looking forward to continuing our work on The Community Spirit Award.

Digi Leaders

Digi Leaders KS2
This term the KS2 Digi leaders have been looking at the results from the children and parent ICT questionnaire that was sent out in the autumn term.
The children noticed a few areas that everyone needed to have more information on including who to use your device with, screen time, rules and age inappropriate games.
The children decided they wanted to create a slideshow to share in the classes about each of these areas to raise awareness to the children about the effects these may have on our physical and mental well-being.
The presentations are nearly complete and ready to share with the classes before half term.

Criw Cymraeg

The Criw Cymraeg have been very busy recently. The Blwyddyn 6 Criw delivered an assembly all about Santes Dwynwen day and gave out some activities for the children to do in their classes. We have started thinking of ideas of how to encourage Welsh in the local community and have decided to create posters to put around the local area. We will be emailing the local councillor and local businesses to ask permission for this and then get to work on our posters!
Dylan, Rosie, Sophia and Flori recently visited the Caffi Cymraeg at St. John the Baptist School with Mrs Littler where we had drinks and cake and ordered everything in Cymraeg! We really enjoyed this and are going to host our own Caffi Cymraeg soon. Please keep a look out for the date!
Our current Patrwm y Pyfethnos is 'Hwyl Fawr! Gweld ti yfory' - Goodbye! See you tomorrow.' Diolch, Criw Cymraeg

What is happening this term.....

Connahs Quay Power Station

A trip has been arranged for pupils in Year 1 & 2 to visit the Power Station in Connahs Quay as part of our topic on the world of work. Whilst there the children will have the opportunity to learn all about their plans to be carbon neutral and have a tour of the site.

We are currently planning for our school Eisteddfod and will let you know what the themes are shortly.
You are welcome to come and see all of the exhibits which will be displayed in the hall at the end of the day; Foundation Phase - Wednesday 25th February & Juniors - Thursday 26th February.
It is a wonderful opportunity for the children to embrace the Welsh culture and they thoroughly enjoy the day.

Test Dates Y2 - Y6

The tests for children from Y2 to Y6 have been scheduled for w/c Monday 2nd March. Please be aware that we place no pressure on the children at all. As always we encourage them to do their best and that is good enough. The staff know each child very well and know what their capabilities are, the results help to confirm what stage each pupil is up to and whether there are any learning gaps that need to be resolved.

World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

https://www.worldbookday.com/about-us/
"We champion reading for fun. That's because it seriously improves lives.
In fact, it's the biggest indicator that a child will grow up to enjoy a happier and more successful future. Today, only one in three children likes reading. By changing this, we'll transform lives.
Young people are more likely to read if they see it as a fun, entertaining and social thing to do. That's what our work is all about; inspiring them to see reading differently."
Together, let's help every child enjoy the life-changing benefits of reading for fun."
Please have a look at the information we have sent out regarding how the children can be involved in World Book Day

Parents Evenings

We will be holding Parents Evenings on Tuesday 24th & Wednesday 25th March. This is a lovely opportunity to have a look at your child's work & meet their teacher.

Hoola Nation

Sasha Keeney, the founder of Hoola Nation visited the Juniors to share her experience of setting up her own successful business and the skills required to be an entrepreneur. Her enthusiastic approach was definitely motivational for the children and they also enjoyed trying to hoola hoop.

Minecraft Club

Minecraft club has continued after Christmas for children from Year 2. The fun weekly sessions run by Mrs Griffiths allow the children to play socialise and explore in a fun safe enviroment

Staff News!

After 19 years of being a Headteacher at Ysgol Penyffordd I have made the difficult decision to retire at the end of the academic year. I am looking forward to taking holidays in term time! The process of selecting a new Headteacher has already begun. We are hopeful selection and interviews will take place before the Easter holidays when we will be able to share with you details of who has been successfully appointed.

Mrs Claire Griffiths, Miss Charlotte Hughes, Mrs Karla Parker, Mrs Joanne Walshe and Mrs Alex Trevor have all completed pediatric first aid training, whilst Mr Fraser Holland has completed an Adult First Aid training course.

Miss O'Regan from 2G has reduced her hours and is now working with Mrs Griffiths on a Monday & Friday. Miss Lowri Edwards has joined the class as a teaching assistant every Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday.

HOUSE KEEPING

mobile phone & smart watches

Some clarification about smart watches.
As with mobile phones, smart watches (with camera, film and/or wifi) are not permitted in school, for the safety of all children.
If your child is an older pupil (Year 5 or 6) who walks to and from school, and you would like them to have their watch, you must complete a permission form. The watch will then be handed in to the office first thing and kept there all day, being collected before home time.

Penyffordd Way

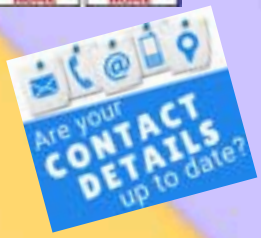
This month our focus is on 'We are Respectful.'
Being respectful in school means that we accept people for who they are, even if they are different to ourselves and being courteous to the thoughts and opinions of others even if you disagree. It is about being nice to each other and caring about their feelings and achievements. Showing respect in school creates a positive, safe and productive learning environment.

Coats & hats

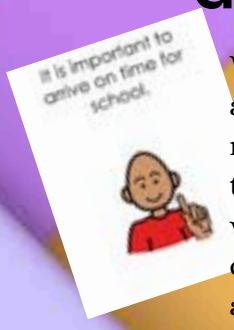
As the weather has become much colder over the past few weeks we kindly remind parents of the importance of ensuring children come to school at the appropriate time (not too early) and be dressed appropriately. This includes wearing warm coats, suitable footwear and other cold wear clothing if necessary
Children will continue to spend time outside during morning and lunchtime breaks, in addition to other learning activities, so being dressed warmly helps keep them comfortable and warm throughout the school day.
Thank you for your support.

Reasons for Absence

As you are aware we constantly monitor absence and lateness in school, knowing the impact this can have on your child's education.
We request that any absence is reported to the school by 8.55am by leaving a message on the answer machine providing a reason for the absence. This helps us to identify & monitor if there is anything contagious within a classroom.



Gates Open



We fully appreciate the importance of arriving at school on time. The gates are open each morning at 8.45am allowing sufficient time for them to prepare to come in to class. Over recent weeks there has been an increase in some children arriving just after 8.30am often in wet and/or cold conditions. Although on school premises there are no staff available to supervise them. Please note these children are not supervised

LAST CHRISTMAS .....

Celebrating 150 years of Ysgol Penyffordd

Pirates of the Curry Bean

Cinderella - Rock n Roll Panto

There's a Monstor in your Christmas Show

Nativity

Christmas Concerts

Reindeer Fun Run

Cineworld -

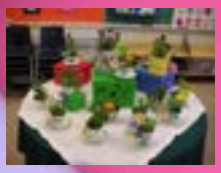
WHEN I GROW UP I'D LIKE TO BE.....

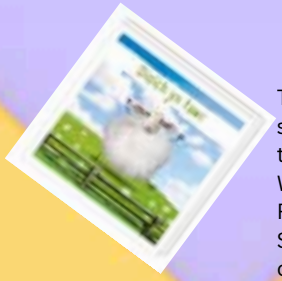
We would like to thank the parents that have kindly volunteered to come in to school this term to support our topic and talk about their jobs. A special thanks to Mrs Henry's who came in twice, initially to talk about her paid role and then secondly to talk about her volunteering role with Scouts. It has given the children a wonderful and fascinating insight into the very many different opportunities there are in the world of work.

A MESSAGE FROM FRIENDS OF PENYFFORDD SCHOOL (FOPS)

Mother's Day Gift Table

We will be running a Mother's Day gift table on Thursday,12th March. Children will be able to visit a pop-up gift shop in School to choose a present for someone special. We will have a selection of marked Mothers, Grandmothers, and also unnamed gifts to sell. Each gift costs £3 and will be sent home gift wrapped. All profits will go to FOPS fundraising.





Fundraising Totals and Funds Spent

Thank you to everyone who supported FOPS so far this school year. So far, we have raised the following: November Discos £549, PWMI Winter Fair Stall £166, Sponsored Festive Fun Run £1,339 and Christmas Raffle: £788. So far this school year we have funded the creation of two outdoor shelters at Ysgol Penyffordd.

Preloved School Uniform Rail

Our free school uniform rail is still available and located either in front of the school or near the school office, please help yourselves. We welcome donations of good condition, clean school uniform, coats, wet weather clothes and wellies. Summer uniform will be added soon.

Year Six Leavers Hoodies

FOPS will again be offering the opportunity for families with children in year six to purchase a 'Class of 2026' Leavers Hoodie to commemorate their time at Ysgol Penyffordd. The hoodies will be provided by Monkhouse Schoolwear Specialists, who supply Ysgol Penyffordd schoolwear. Please email FOPS if you are happy for your year six child's name to feature on the hoodie design. Hoodies will be available to order online 5th-19th May.

Please also join our Facebook group for the most up to date information about our activities: https://m.facebook.com/groups/1103593539748129/

If you use Instagram please follow friendsofpenyffordd school

Future Events

We are busy making plans for the school year, please look out for announcements on our social media channels and through school communications. We also welcome any suggestions.

Can You Help?

We are currently planning more fun events for 2026 and are always looking for volunteers. If you can help with any of our activities, please contact: fopscommittee@gmail.com

Please also join our Facebook group and follow us on Instagram for the most up to date information about our activities.

We will need volunteers for all our events

Thank you for your continued support

The FOPS Team

The FOPS Team
Gill, Sarah, Jenn, Becky, Louise, Kelly, Sarah, Emma and Tom