



Ysgol Hendrefelin

Newsletter (Spring 2023)

Dear All,

I would like to thank you all again for your continued support of the school. With the winter weather behind us, we are all looking forward to some nice weather over the Summer.

Please take some time to read the small reports from each of our Units highlighting aspects of the curriculum, trips, activities, fundraising and links to community activities that have taken place across our school since January.

Bryncoch Site update:

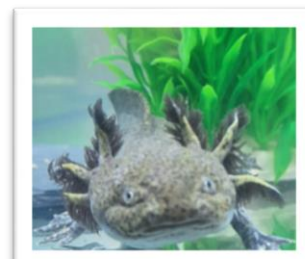
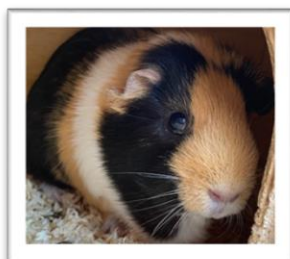
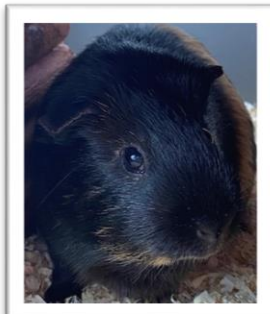
Key Stage 3 MLD: Curriculum Update

This term, our 'Big Question' is '**How Should We Treat Animals?**' This question has provided us with a rich stimulus for enquiry and learning.

The pupils in our unit have thoroughly enjoyed the activities on offer and have fully engaged with their learning. Caring for animals is such an important part of our lives and we are proud of the responses from our learners on this subject.

Our planning has included a wide range of learning opportunities which include; studying the picture book, 'The Seal Children' (set in Wales), learning about scared animals in different religions, discussing the ethics of zoos, conducting an investigation into how animals keep warm in cold conditions, studying the different habitats of animals in the wild and so much more. Please see below for a few updates from each class.

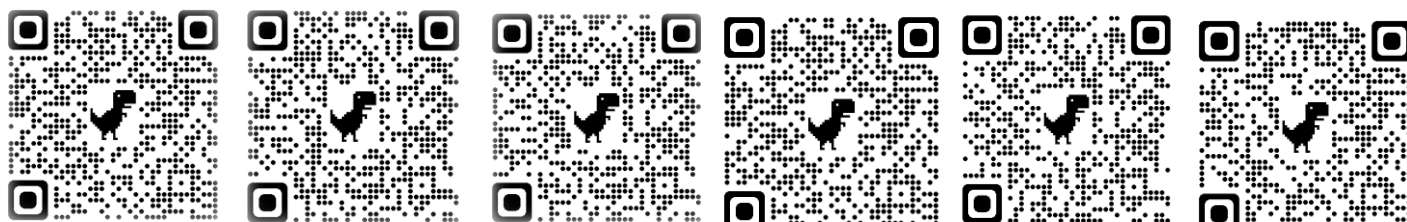
We are so proud to introduce you to the menagerie of pets we now care for in our unit.



You are always welcome to visit them and we will be happy to tell you all about them.

Staff have also worked really hard to create class pages on our brand new school website.

You can visit the website at www.ysgolhendrefelin.co.uk or, you can visit the class pages by scanning the QR Codes below.



Class 1

Class 2

Class 3

Class 4

Class 5

Class 6

Class 1 have been working hard on developing their Higher Order Thinking Skills, with a particular focus on Evaluation.

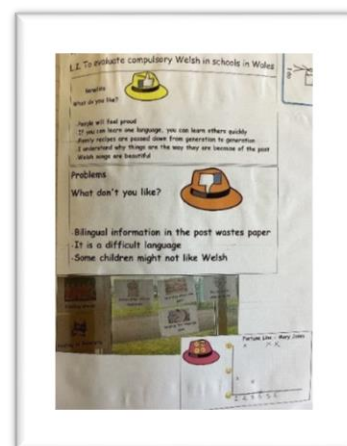
One of the strategies they have been using is Thinking Hats. Class 1 have been using four different Thinking Hats. The yellow thinking hat encourages ideas about the benefits/advantages; the orange thinking hats encourages ideas about the problems/disadvantages; the pink thinking hat encourages discussion about feelings and the blue thinking hat encourages metacognition (thinking about thinking).

The thinking hats can be used in a wide range of topic areas. We have been following the teaching approach where there is a step down in scaffolding support to encourage confidence when the children eventually are able to use the strategy independently.

We have evaluated a number of topics of discussion including:

Compulsory Welsh in schools; Prince Llewellyn's reaction in the story of 'Gellert the Brave'; Nakima's Life (Nakima is a chimpanzee that we met when we visited The Wales Ape and Monkey Sanctuary) and Zoos as places for animal welfare.

Our next step is to use our skills of creativity to design a zoo that caters for the best possible animal welfare.



Scan the QR Code to find out more!

Password:

Class12223



As part of **Class 2's** learning this term, the pupils have had the opportunity to visit Margam Park and explore habitats. The pupils really embrace outdoor experiences. They particularly enjoyed seeing and learning about the different animals.



Class 3 have been learning how to write a procedure text (instructions). Firstly, we looked at instructions and highlighted all the key features of instruction text. That meant we knew what a good one looks like. Next, we followed instructions to make a bird feeder kebab. That was great fun. Then, we recorded our instructions using the Seesaw app. Our parents have access to this app so they could see and hear all of our hard work at school. This week we are writing our instructions. If anyone would like to make a bird feeder kebab, let us know and we will send you a copy of our procedure text!

Class 3 also enjoyed taking part in the RSPB 'Big Schools Bird Watch 2023'. On the 27th of January, we got out our clipboards and set off outdoors to count the different species of birds that visited our school grounds. It was a great opportunity to use the maths skill of tallying that we had already learned in maths in a 'real' situation. It also took everything we had to keep quiet so the birds would come and take the food from our bird tables.



Following this, we created a pictogram from the data we gathered using the 'Jit' programme on our laptops. A super clever pupil then calculated the average number of each bird seen and we sent the results off to the RSPB.



Class 4 had a wonderful experience visiting Wales Ape and Monkey Sanctuary. Before we went we found out what food the animals enjoyed most and then donated some of their favourites to the monkeys.

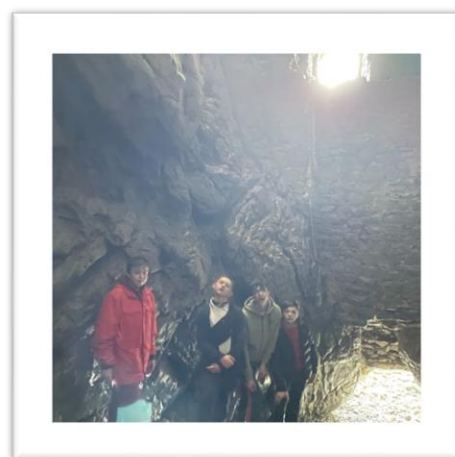
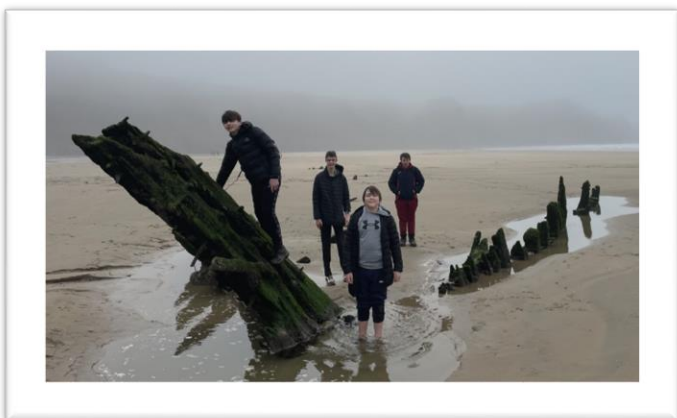
We enjoyed seeing lots of chimpanzees and monkeys, but we also had the opportunity to see other animals such as foxes, wolf dogs, hares, meerkats and many more. We learnt lots of new facts about chimpanzees and monkeys. Ronnie made us laugh asking us to take off our glasses and zipping down our coats. We also loved the singing macaques - they were entertaining.

It was a lovely day meeting so many different animals and hearing many rescue stories. It was also a wonderful talking point for our topic 'How should we treat animals?' Some of us even decided to do some research about chimpanzees in our English lessons and wrote a report text.

We were very grateful to see all the hard work that goes into looking after all the animals in need. We can't wait to go back and visit again!

During this term **Class 5**, out exploring the Gower Peninsula, every Friday. We are aiming to seek out and visit a number of famous landmarks each week and have already ticked a few off the wish list. The idea is to walk a little piece of the coastline every week from Three Cliffs Bay, all the way around to Llanmadoc. Places we have visited already include; Three Cliffs Bay, Pennard Castle, Nicholaston Woods, Oxwich Bay, Port Eynon Bay, Salt House, Smugglers Cover, Rhossilli Bay, Worms Head, Helvetia Shipwreck and Blue Pool, Broughton

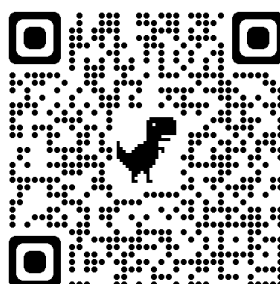
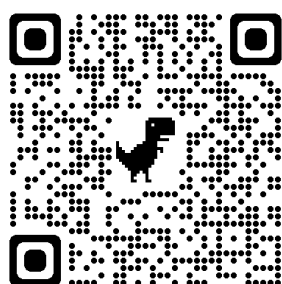
Bay. The pupils are really enjoying the adventurous nature of these trips, while learning lots of new skills and finding out about the history of the Gower.



This term, **Class 6** have been learning to create and edit videos using our very own green screen equipment. Using software called Do Ink on our brand new class iPads we have recorded, edited and animated a collection of class movies. This includes weekly Class 6 O'clock News bulletins as well as tutorial videos, funny sketches, fact files and picture news reports. This has been a great opportunity for us to challenge ourselves and try new skills such as script writing, researching, public speaking and presenting.

If you want to check out some of our fantastic Class videos, why not head over to our school website where you will find updated content; created, produced and presented by the marvellous pupils of Class 6.

You can see our excellent work by scanning the barcodes below.

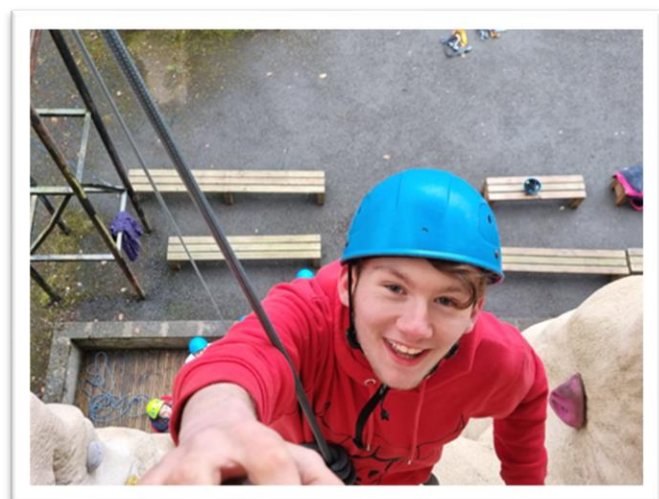
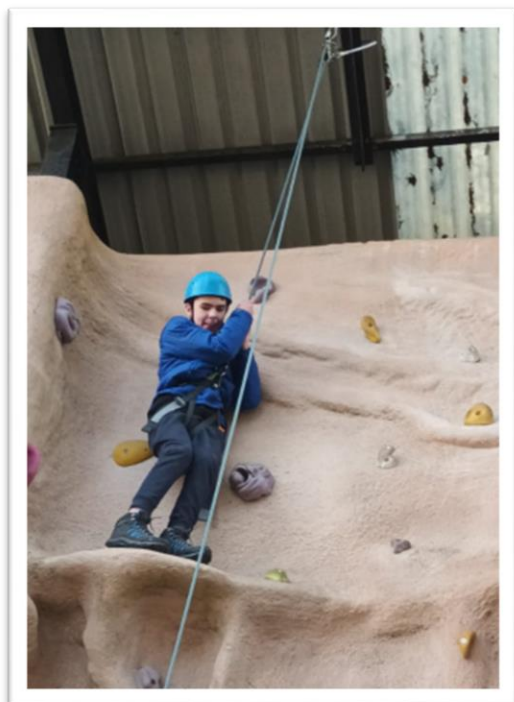


KS4 MLD – Update

This term KS4 MLD pupils were given the opportunity to attend a three day residential in Abernant Lake Hotel activity centre. This has been the first time a KS4 residential, aside from Duke of Edinburgh, has been run for over a decade and was a huge success. Pupils enjoyed the opportunity to experience abseiling, climbing and paddle boarding amongst other exciting opportunities and develop their integral skills in line with the new curriculum. Huge thanks to Mr Draper who organised and ran the trip, as well as Gemma Evans, Charlotte

Hopkins and Amanda Willis who all ensured it ran smoothly and the pupils had a great time.





Other notable successes include pleasing reading test results for this academic year so far across KS4 MLD, with pupils who are not yet functional readers on average increasing their ability by 6 months. Normal business continues as normal with travel training, college visits and final preparations towards qualifications in full swing. We also look forward to our first Cross curricular KS4 trip to Cardiff at the end of this term. The aim of this trip is to enable the pupils to explore the Capital city, whilst linking in with different areas of the KS4 curriculum. During the day we will have the opportunity to visit Cardiff Castle and learn some Welsh history, work on some photography and also visit the National Sports Centre of Wales, linking in with our work in PE, Leisure and Recreation and First Aid and Health.

Secondary ASD Update

Pupil Progress.

The pupils continue to work on building their “What a Good One Looks Like” (WAGOLL) folders and this is an exciting incentive that motivates the students to re-draft and make improvements to their work. WAGOLL work is posted on the Blog section of the school website to celebrate pupils’ successes.



have successfully merged and the ASD Units now functions as
now move around the ASD Unit from class to class to attend
specialise in specific areas of learning.

Learning Experiences.

It has been really good to see that the ASD Unit students continue to be successful engaging in Mechanics, Hairdressing, First Aid and DofE lessons. Pupils have benefited from the learning experiences and independence skills needed when working with other staff and pupils outside of the Unit.



Special Mention.

One pupil in the ASD Unit has been attending a Year 10 Art class in Llangatwg School. This has been hugely successful as you can see from the work below.



Primary LSC Update

The pupils within the LSC at Ysgol Hendrefelin have had a productive Spring Term. The children have followed the topic of 'People who help us'.

This term the pupils have also focussed on the following:

- The pupils studied the art of finger printing used by detectives to catch criminals. Following this, the pupils made their own finger prints using paper, pencil and clear tape. The pupils also enjoyed a visit from PC Jones.
- The pupils researched the role of a Vicar in Weddings and Christenings and collaboratively constructed a class display and PowerPoint which they presented to the class.
- The pupils produced some lovely creative writing work by writing newspaper reports about an act of bravery/heroism. This work was put in display in class.
- The pupils worked together to construct a persuasive letter to the local Council about the increasing problem of dog fouling in the local area.
- The pupils undertook a lesson on how to use a defibrillator from a trained First Aider.
- In Humanities this term the pupils were involved in an in-depth study of the history of the St. John's Ambulance.
- The pupils enjoyed mountain biking at the Afan Forest Park in the Afan Valley. The pupils completed some of the rookie trails and completed a ride around the 9.4 mile Afan Loop. Pupils have also learnt basic bike maintenance.
- The pupils have enjoyed the PE sessions on the 'Cruyff Court' this term. The pupils took part in rugby, football and endurance sessions. The pupils have experienced rotating around various Sensory Circuit stations.
- The pupils have been learning about the Zones of Regulation and trying to understand and describe how their minds and body feel.
- The pupils created a fantastic 'Topic Alphabet' display on 'People who help us'.

Theodore Road and Velindre update

Curriculum update:

Theodore Road Site: KS3 SEBD

- Staff have now moved onto delivering their spring planning.
- Pupils continue to respond really well to KS3 outdoor learning. This term as well as continuing to develop their woodcraft, environmental and survival skills in Forest school. Nearly all pupils continue to engage, enjoying and having beneficial learning experiences developing their resilience, confidence, self-esteem and relationship building.
- Swimming lessons continue for all pupils this term where pupils are now working towards their badges.
- Sensory Circuits and Zones of Regulation continue to be implemented to support pupils to regulate their emotions.
- Staff continue to encourage and work towards pupils completing their Spelling, Target Practice and Precision monitoring work at the start of each day.
- Pupils have been taken on education trips to Cardiff Airport, Mearthyr Glen – linked to cash for clothes grant, Go outdoors for pupils to use their Rewards vouchers and the climbing wall in Cwmavon – a 6 week course.
- A group from KS 3 have completed the Phoenix project with the Fire Brigade.
- Gary Chambers from the Well-Being team has completed the delivery of the RE-Think program with two year 9 pupils. This focuses on drug related issues.
- Cynnydd staff continued working with year 7 pupils on anti-bullying and anti-social behaviour.

Velindre Site: KS4 SEBD

Staff have now moved onto delivering their autumn planning this includes Year 10 and 11 pupils continuing to work towards a variety of qualifications and learning experiences:

- WJEC GCSE English Language, Maths, Numeracy, Science, GCSE PE (SC), Child Care, Art, History
- Entry Level English, Numeracy and Science
- Entry Pathways Humanities, ICT, Creative Media
- D of E
- Motor Mechanics Level 1
- BTEC Sweet (life skills, travel training, independent living skill)
- Construction - Agored Cymru
- Sensory Circuits and Zones of Regulation are continuing to be implemented to support pupils to regulate their emotions. James Marshman – Occupational Therapist has been into support and give advice to staff.
- Vocational activities – following on from the success of last year, up to 8 year 11 pupils have taken and passed a number of skills and training qualifications linking in with the NPTC skills and training projects. Pupils have passed the following courses:

- Site safety
- Brush Cutter / Trimming
- Handheld Leaf Blower / Vacuum
- Handheld Hedge Trimmer
- Pedestrian Mower
- Pupils are still studying for the CSCS card – allowing pupils to work on a building site once they reach 16 years of age.
- Swimming in Cymer Pool and Surfing lessons in Caswell Bay with Surfability
- Fitness and well-being sessions with Cynnydd staff over in Bulldogs.
- The year 11 PE group have played another Basketball match against Dylan Thomas Community School – Swansea.
- Cameron Rees came 12th (for all age groups 11-18) in the NPT Cross Country Championships. This gained him selection for the Welsh National Championships in Brecon which he successfully took part in and completed.
- Pupils have been taken on trips to watch the Ice hockey in Cardiff, trampolining and the golf range.

Careers

The careers advisor meets with the pupils most Wednesday's to support them in their next phase of education, employment or training.

Year 11 pupils are in the process of undertaking the Careers Employability Programme. The pupils have been on visits to the DVLA and Neath College - Llandarcy site. The Grief Preacher – Motivational speaker, is returning before the end of term after a hugely successful and worthwhile visit in the Autumn term.

Important dates for your diary

INSET days:

Friday June 30th

Monday July 1st

Monday July 24th

Awards Evening (Whole school at Bryncoch): 27th June

Year 11 last day (Bryncoch): 29th June

Last day of school for all pupils: Friday 21st July

