



YSGOL GYNRADD A MEITHRIN STRYD SIORS GEORGE STREET PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 9th February 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

We have reached the halfway point of this school year and after reflecting on the experiences and achievements shared in our weekly letter over the past term and a half I am sure that you will agree that we have a school to be proud of. One where our children are valued and where their opportunity and experience is at the heart of everything. I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time in classes, looking at work being produced, giving out pen licences and spending time with children. Yesterday I had the privilege of spending an hour with our school's Pupil Parliament group, discussing work towards action plans, the strengths of their work and areas they feel could be improved. A huge thank you to Mrs Kitson, our parent governor, for attending the meeting too.

A DAY AT THE PARK



Finally! A dry forest school day for year 6! A stark difference to the wash out they experienced last time. To add to their topic of 'What on Earth?!' they took another visit to Pontypool Park. This week they have been looking at flooding and the dangers that can arise as a result. Given the weather we have had lately, the park presented a brilliant opportunity to look at how heavy rainfall can impact streams and rivers. Mrs Forest Jones set numerous challenges; one of which included prioritising what children would pack in an emergency evacuation flood bag - some quickly discovered that unfortunately, an Xbox doesn't count as an 'emergency supply'. They also considered how flooding could affect the lives of those in our community; carers, businesses, schools and homes. And finally, they ended their day by practicing raft building skills (think miniature, not life size!) a twist on the classic 'Poohsticks'. A race to the bottom of the brook; proving a lot harder than initially thought! A huge thank you to Jones the Forest for another enjoyable day out.

DID SOMEONE SAY GYMNASTICS?

We were delighted to be invited to this year's East Wales Under 11s Tumble & Vault Competition at Kestrel Gymnastics in Chepstow. As always, all our children were given the opportunity to 'try out' during PE lessons and this year 10 gymnasts were able to complete the required elements. They have been training hard and were so excited to take part. The competition was very tough with so many quality gymnasts in action. We were so very proud of the way our team members performed, especially with so many never entering a



gym before! Everyone was so brave and performed brilliantly. A huge well done to them all. Special mention goes to Colby Carter who qualified for the Welsh Finals in Cardiff later this month. Fantastic!

CHINESE NEW YEAR



Year 5's growing curiosity has inspired investigation and exploration about Chinese New Year! They have been creating a project all about Chinese New Year customs including designing posters with facts and symbols and Chinese writing. They have learned about the zodiac calendar and what animal year they were born in. As this year is the year of the dragon, they designed their very own dragon masks for a parade.

WOW – WALK TO SCHOOL INITIATIVE



Children have started to record the way they are travelling to school for the month of February. So far this month, Castell Harlech is at the top of the leader board with 79% of active travel.

#NOT IN MISS OUT - STRIVE FOR 95% - #striveto95% #notinmissout

Our attendance data for this week is as follows:

Friday 2 nd February	Monday 5 th February	Tuesday 6 th February	Wednesday 7 th February	Thursday 8 th February
91.19%	92.86%	93.01%	94.38%	92.71%

195 children out of a possible 424 children achieve 100% this half term.

COMMUNITY LINKS



HEADTEACHER CERTIFICATE

The headteacher certificate goes to Frankee Bendon in Year 6. She spoke very well but also so passionately about the Welsh language during our Pupil Parliament meeting. She also shared some good suggestions about ways forward.

A GIFT FROM US TO YOU

We thought it would be nice to share another video with you, sharing what life is like in school. We hope you enjoy it.



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/15LMRZZ7tAIDcv10IZkgUo0kvz2Pm4uAC/view?usp=sharing>

Have a wonderful half term break.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Manley'.

K.Manley