



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

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

The first week of the new half term has come to an end, and what an exciting week it has been! The children have had plenty of experiences to enjoy and remember. It all kicked off with an unexpected fire drill at 8:55am on Monday, which everyone handled with great patience and responsibility—many thanks to both parents and children for their cooperation. But the excitement didn't stop there. The week was packed with fun events, including a thrilling tag rugby festival, World Book Day celebrations, and our lively school Eisteddfods. With so much already packed into the first week, we are sure the rest of the half term will be just as action-packed and enjoyable!

TAG RUGBY FOR YEARS 5 AND 6

A huge thank you to The Dragons for inviting us to their annual Tag Rugby Tournament at Rodney Parade. It was an incredible experience for our team to go head-to-head with schools from across Gwent. The boys and girls played some brilliant running rugby, scoring plenty of tries, and impressively, the only loss came at the hands of the team that eventually became the overall tournament winners. We couldn't be prouder of how they played—showing respect to both the other schools and the officials and demonstrating excellent sportsmanship throughout. The team wore their jerseys with pride, representing our school as fantastic ambassadors. We wish Ystrad Mynach all the very best in the final, which will be played during half-time at a future Dragons match!



WORLD BOOK DAY GALLERY





A MESSAGE FROM OUR PTA

Yesterday's book stall was a fantastic success! We raised £152.35, which means approximately 760 books found new homes! This event is always such a pleasure to organise, as it's wonderful to see the children leave with a good book for such a small cost. Ultimately, that's what we aim for—making books accessible and encouraging a love for reading. A big thank you to everyone who took part and helped make it such a success! A huge thank you to Mr Taylor for supporting with the organisation.

EISTEDFFOD 2025



What an action-packed Friday we've had this week, celebrating our '2025 School Eisteddfod'! The tremendous efforts put into the competitions, both in school and at home during half term, made this year's Eisteddfod a huge success once again! The classwork competition categories included handwriting, creative writing, art, furthest rugby kick, group singing, and group recitation. For homework, we had categories such as craft, photography, and the challenge of collectively

walking the 870-mile Welsh coastal path. This year, we exceeded expectations and walked over 1000 miles—amazing! We also received over 230 homework entries, which contributed an extra 197 points—an outstanding effort from everyone involved!

Staff were blown away by the number of entries submitted this year. The 450+ certificates handed out made for a nail-biting day, with each house, at some point, taking the lead. Foundation Phase Eisteddfod: Coch = 145, Glas = 153 and Gwyrdd = 150.



However, by the end of the day, after our Key Stage 2 Eisteddfod, there were 85 points separating 3rd and 1st place. Tensions were incredibly high! In the end, it was Tŷ Coch (Red House) who managed to maintain the title of 'winners' for a second year in a row. Will they do the same again next year?

Final scores on the doors:

1st – Tŷ Coch (Red) - 498

2nd – Tŷ Gwyrdd (Green) – 414

3rd – Tŷ Glas (Blue) – 413

In addition, an enormous llongyfarchiadau to this year's 'Winner of the Bard' – Finette in Year 6. Her Welsh legend was outstanding.

Wednesday 5th March 2025
WAL T: Write a legend about our local town, using my idea.

The Legend of Pant-y-Hawell

Centuries ago, in a misty and breathtaking canyon was an idyllic village surrounded by a meandering river, which glistened in the bright morning sun. In this dazzling village, a heroic figure rose up to face a terribly dark existence from the bottomless pit of hell. The hero in this mythical tale goes by the name Dafydd-y-Hawell. He was a fearless and determined figure with a calm and serene presence that mesmerized everyone around him. His eyes were as sharp as an eagle, and he was as strong as that of forty men combined. These qualities gave him an imposing presence that everyone respected.

One day in the exuberant village, the sky turned as dark as thousands of storms ready to release their thunder and lightning as the darkest force known to mankind had arrived. The beggling and stumbling sheep and animals were dying rapidly, and pandemonium existed everywhere. Whilst everyone else was in a frenzy, Dafydd remained undisturbed and immaculate, at least until the devil burnt down houses and fields, announcing his plan to construct a bridge, and that anyone who wished to cross must bow and worship him. This enraged Dafydd and made him determined to try and release his village from the terrible torment.

Dafydd gathered all his confidence and challenged Satan to a game of tug of war. "Satan do you really think you can come into our village and destroy our hard work?" Dafydd spoke loudly but calmly. Satan smirked, clearly full of pride that he would win. "You silly mortal! Do you really think you can win against the essence of darkness?" Satan boomed with malicious arrogance. And the contest began. Dafydd's eyes locked on the rope, the air full of tension. The hope in the villagers' eyes made Dafydd more connected than ever to gain their freedom. In an instant, Satan tugged on the rope fiercely jolting Dafydd in the air, but not far enough to cross the river. This rattled Satan making his wisecracks and poisonous words to Dafydd. This only gave Dafydd a more determined man, but Dafydd kept pulling with all his strength.

After many hours, when all hope seemed lost, Dafydd looked at the sky and saw an eagle flying high, soaring above the mountains, majestically gliding towards the horizon. Instantly, Dafydd felt reinvigorated by the mighty bird of prey's freedom and found a refreshed sense of strength and power. Dafydd dropped the rope, with the force of his impact, and Satan was plunged forward. Dafydd was the victor, and the respect of many.

Satan screamed with shame, seeking refuge across the water's surface before disappearing into a dark, aquatic hole in the river. The smooth pebbles clashed together as the force of the river created a percession of melody.

sounds as if it was celebrating. The wind blew lightly, swaying the precious flowers like reeds in the night sky, the hills turned back to a lush emerald green with beautiful wildflowers, gently punctuating the vivid scene. "Darkness has been defeated. I shall name this bridge Pant-y-Hawell," Dafydd announced. In the evening the villagers looked out at the sky returning to its normal polychromatic, mesmerizing sky it had always been. Peace had been restored. Years later it was known as Pant-y-pall (which means Bridge over the pool) in Welsh, or the legend of the heroic Dafydd-y-Hawell faded into a historic oblige. Today the town is known as Portypool, but it is the responsibility of the people who live there to share the legendary tale of day good triumphed over evil.

The End.



Finally, llongyfarchiadau to all our competition winners and da iawn to all our children who took part in this year's Eisteddfod! Likewise, a huge diolch to all staff and parents for getting on board with our St David's Day celebrations and helping to make it a huge success once again!

Every Child Matters, Every Day Counts

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Parent Governor Vacancy

Our Governing Body has a vacancy for a Parent Governor. If you would like to be a Parent Governor, please contact the office on 01495 756436 and request a form which needs to be completed and returned to the office by Friday 14th March 2025. Please note that to avoid any potential conflicts of interest, we can only have one application per family.

Thank you.

COMMUNITY LINKS



DIARY

March 2025	
Monday 10 th March	Year 2 trip to Aerospace in Bristol (more info to follow from class teachers)
Friday 28 th March	Non-uniform day in exchange for a chocolate bar (in readiness for chocolate raffle)

Kind regards

