Newsletter

Cylchlythyr

Spring A

Gwanwyn A

Work Together - Play Together - Succeed Together

Gweithio, chwarae a llwyddo gyda'n gilydd

Message from our Head Teacher

As we reach the end of a wonderfully busy and enriching first half of the spring term, I want to express how proud we are of all our children and the remarkable progress they continue to make. This half-term has been filled with exciting learning opportunities, particularly through our Expressive Arts work, where pupils have explored key concepts and themes such as; diversity, global festivals, cultural traditions and sustainability. It has been a joy to see creativity thrive across the school, with children thinking deeply about the world around them and expressing themselves with growing confidence.

The spring term is always a milestone in our school year, as it is the point when the children are fully settled into their classes and ready to build on the strong foundations established in the autumn. This term, we have really seen them flourish, developing their independence, strengthening their skills and showing real enthusiasm for their learning. Our pupil voice groups have also played an important role in shaping school improvement work this term. They have been actively involved in reviewing and improving our reading books across the school, raising awareness of children's rights, and helping us strengthen our diversity and anti-racism curriculum. It is extremely important to us that our children have a meaningful voice in their school and know that their ideas are not only heard but genuinely help us move forward. Their contributions this term have been thoughtful, mature and inspiring.

We were delighted with the incredible turnout at parents' evening. It was a real pleasure to meet and speak with so many of our families, and we are very grateful for the time you gave to celebrate your children's achievements. As a school, we deeply value the partnership we have with our parents and carers. Your support, encouragement and commitment play a vital role in helping us provide the very best opportunities for every pupil.

Attendance continues to be a key priority for us, and while we remain at 94.5% as a whole school; we are hopeful that now we have moved past the worst of the winter illnesses, attendance will improve across the coming weeks. Thank you for your continued efforts in helping your children attend school regularly, research shows that it makes a significant difference to their learning and wellbeing.

Looking ahead, we have an exciting half-term to come, with much-loved events such as our Eisteddfod and World Book Day on the horizon. We look forward to celebrating these special occasions together and sharing the children's fantastic work with you next term. Thank you for your ongoing support, kindness and partnership.

We wish you all a restful, enjoyable and well-deserved half-term break.

With warmest wishes,

Kelly Watkins



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Staffing Updates



Headteacher
Mrs Kelly Watkins



Acting Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Sophie Rowlands



Acting Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Rachel Karamouzis



Leader for Learning PS1
Mrs Trudi Matthews



Leader for Learning PS2
Mrs Clare Zirker



Leader for Learning PS3
Mrs Maura Matheson



Acting ALNCO
Mrs Alice Wilson



Senior Student Mentor
Miss Sophie Hawkins

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Attendance League

RND	97.1%
RAW	93.8%
REB	95.9%
1CZ	95.5%
1DB	95.7%
1NR	92.9%
2BM	95.6%
2KS	91%
2JF	92.9%
3KC	96.1%
3TL	95.4%
3RP	95.7%
4RT	96.8%
4TP	95.7%
4MW	94.1%
5EL	95.2%
5LD	93.5%
5SJ	92.1%
6MR	94.3%
6PM	93.2%
6MM	94.8%

Attendance in school is extremely important to ensure that children achieve their full potential. Our school target for this year is to have attendance of at least 96% across the school.

For the first half of the Spring Term, the figures for each class are below. Congratulations to RND who are currently top of the table!

Your Child's Attendance	National Guidelines
100% - 95%	Optimum chance to achieve well. Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity.
94.99% - 90%	Satisfactory, although your child may have to spend time catching up with work they have missed.
Below 90%	Cause for concern: - 1. Your child may be at risk of underachieving. 2. Your child may need extra support from you to help catch up with missed work. Your child may be missing out on a broad and balanced education.

Please help us to achieve our overall target of 96% this year!

Key Dates for your Diary

Friday 27th February	Wear Red for Velindre
Tuesday 3rd March	Eisteddfod
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day
Monday 9th March	INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 12th March	Year 6 Rugby Festival - WHS Transition
Friday 20th March	Parent and Child Reading Workshops 2:45pm
Thursday 26h March	Year 3 Oscar Ceremony
W/C 30th March	Easter Holidays
W/C 11th May	Call of the Wild Residential Week
Wednesday 20th May	Morning - Nursery (am) & Reception Sports Day Afternoon - Nursery (pm) & Year 1 and Year 2 Sports Day
Thursday 21st May	Morning - Year 3 and Year 4 Sports Day Afternoon - Year 5 and Year 6 Sports Day
Friday 22nd May	INSET Day (school closed to pupils)
W/C 25th May	May Half Term
W/C 1st June	STEM Week
W/C 8h June	Llangrannog Residential Week
Tuesday 9th June	Year 5 Rugby Festival
Thursday 9th July	Year 6 Transition Day to Whitchurch High School
Monday 20th July	INSET Day (school closed to pupils)

Parent PACE Workshops

Following on from our previous email, we are pleased to share that we will be offering workshops in PACE and emotion coaching. These sessions aim to build confidence in using relational approaches during everyday interactions and to strengthen the supportive environment we are creating together.

We invite you to join our parental workshops, led by our school's educational psychologists, where you can learn more about supporting your child's emotional development and wellbeing at home.

The sessions will take place on:

- **Wednesday 4th March, 3.30–5.00pm**
- **Thursday 19th March, 9.30–11.00am**
- **Thursday 19th March, 1.30–3.00pm**

Please see the attached Google Form and complete it to let us know which session you would like to attend.

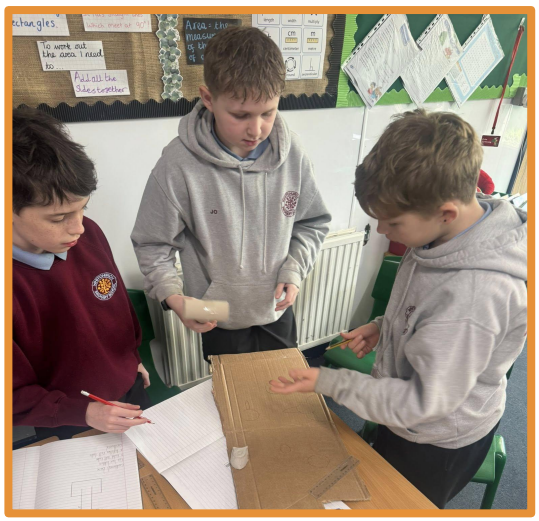
AIM High Maths Day



A few of our Year 5 and 6 pupils joined children from other local schools for an AIM High Maths Workshop with Hazel Large. The day was full of algebra magic, card and shape challenges, mental maths games, and problem-solving investigations. Working in teams, pupils collected crystals for completed tasks, Crystal Maze-style, combining collaboration, reasoning, and fun.



Year 6 Workshop





Year 6 became 'Net Zero Heroes' this week thanks to an inspiring workshop delivered by the engineering experts at **AtkinsRéalis** ! Pupils explored what Net Zero really means, discovered how net zero principles can be applied within our own school, and learned about the vital role engineers play in achieving a sustainable future across multiple industries. Through engaging discussions and interactive activities, pupils were challenged to think like real engineers; even using recyclable materials to design and build their own wind turbines! A huge thank you to AtkinsRéalis for empowering our pupils to become the next generation of climate-conscious innovators and problem-solvers!





Year 6 Workshop















ND Community Coffee Morning

We were really pleased with how our ND Community Connectors coffee morning turned out. It was lovely to see everyone who came along, and we're grateful you took the time to join us. We hope you found the session useful and enjoyed the chance to connect with others.

If you were not able to attend the coffee morning, the ND Community Connectors team have more dates coming up.

Information Event

Hosted by ND Community Connectors CIC
Sponsored by All Wales Forum

For parents/carers of children & young people on the Neurodevelopmental Service waiting list or with an Autism/ADHD diagnosis in Cardiff

Information stalls from locally based services and support that can be accessed whilst waiting for an assessment or post diagnosis.

Supported by organisations across Local authority, Education and Third Sector/Charity.

Location: V21 Sbectrwm Centre@Fairwater, Bwlch Road, Cardiff, CF5 3EF

Date: Monday, 23rd February 2026

Time: 13:30 - 15:00

The event is free of charge but please book a place via Eventbrite using the QR code or this link:

https://ndsupportservicesinformationeventcardiff.eventbrite.co.uk

Wedi ei ariannu gan Llywodraeth y DU
Funded by UK Government

ND Support Coffee Mornings

For parents/carers of children on the Neurodevelopmental Service waiting list or with a diagnosis.

Topics include:

Introduction to ND, Services and support available whilst waiting or post diagnosis, Education, Finance, Wellbeing.

Location: Victoria Park Community Centre, 24 Church Road, Barry, CF63 1JX

Time: 9:15am till 10:45am

Dates: Friday, 9th January 2026
Friday, 23rd January
Friday, 6th February
Friday 6th March
Friday, 20th March
Friday, 17th April
Friday, 1st May
Friday, 15th May
Friday, 12th June
Friday, 26th June

Pupil Voice Conference

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the pupils who joined Mrs Rowlands and Miss Lewis to represent our school at the Pupil Voice Conference for Newly Qualified Teachers. They delivered an excellent and thoughtful explanation of how they take ownership of their learning, demonstrating the many ways they develop autonomy and independence both in the classroom and across the wider school community. They spoke with confidence and eloquence, and led our visitors on an informative and engaging tour of the school. We are incredibly proud of the way they supported and inspired the next generation of teachers.



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RESPECT FOR CHILDREN'S VIEWS



WHITCHURCH PRIMARY SCHOOL



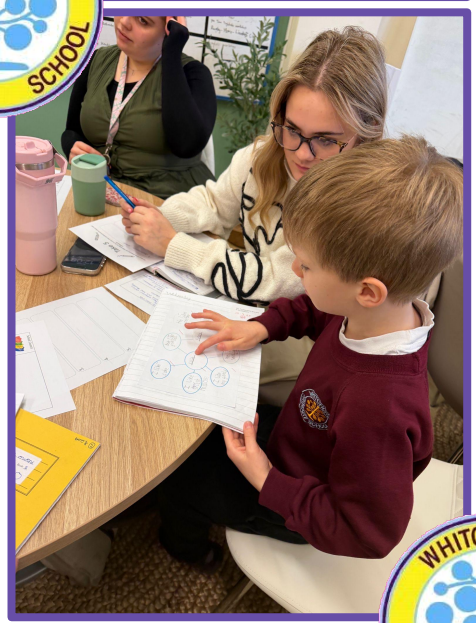
Pupil Voice Conference





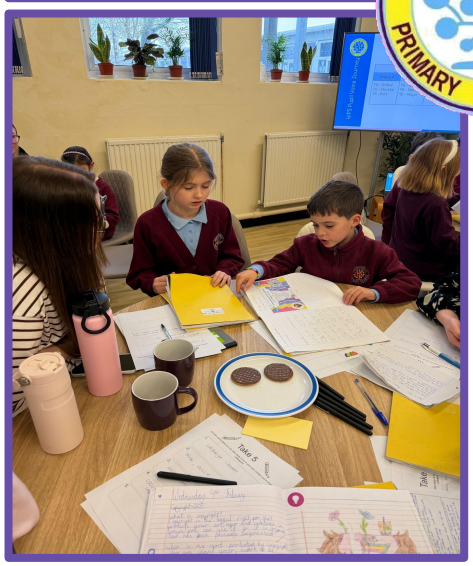














School Council



Our School Council enjoyed an inspiring visit to the Senedd in Cardiff Bay, where they learned about leadership, decision-making and the responsibilities that come with representing others. A valuable experience that helped develop the skills needed for their role on the School Council.



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Active Travel Crew

What have we been doing?

We have enjoyed a variety of activities including a quiz and a fun photo shoot which we used as part of our active travel display.





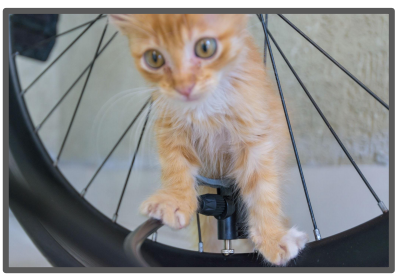




Big Walk and Wheel 16th -27th March 2026

We have been busy planning how we are going to make the ***BIG WALK AND WHEEL 2026*** the best one ever!! We are going to talk to our friends and encourage everyone in our school to come to school in an active way.

Be fit, Stay strong!



Get on your bike!

