

# SCHOOL MAGAZINE



AUTUMN 2  
EDITION



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# Welcome



As we come to the end of this term, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievements and experiences that have filled our school with joy, creativity, and community spirit. From the sparkle of Fireworks Night to the warmth of Thanksgiving and the magic of Christmas, this term has truly showcased the enthusiasm and resilience of our learners and staff.

Our classrooms have been alive with imagination—whether through stunning artwork for exhibitions, festive crafts, or innovative digital projects like designing Christmas jumpers on iPads. Pupils have embraced new challenges, from learning Boccia to exploring coding and ICT, and their determination has shone through in every activity. The Christmas concerts and Carols Under Candlelight were highlights, bringing together families, staff, and learners in a celebration of talent and teamwork.

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We are also thrilled with the progress on our building developments, including the welcoming new reception area and the community café, which will soon become a hub for connection and collaboration. These spaces reflect our commitment to creating an environment where everyone feels valued and supported.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff for their creativity and care, to our families for their unwavering support, and to our learners for reminding us every day why our work matters. As we look ahead to the new year, we remain focused on nurturing curiosity, independence, and kindness in all that we do.

Wishing you all a joyful festive season and a happy, healthy New Year.

*Simon Wilson*

kindest Regards  
Simon Wilson  
Headteacher

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# Building Update



We're thrilled to share that our new reception area is complete and looking fantastic! It's been designed to be welcoming, accessible, and a true reflection of our school's values.

Meanwhile, our community café has recently completed. It will be a space we hope will bring families, staff, and the wider community together. We can't wait to welcome you in soon!



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# Highlights from The Explorers

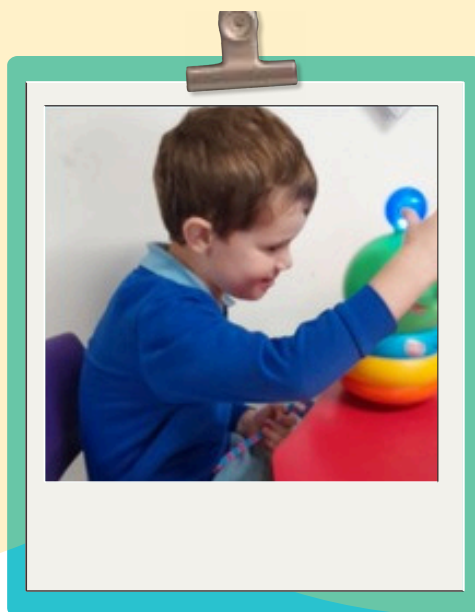
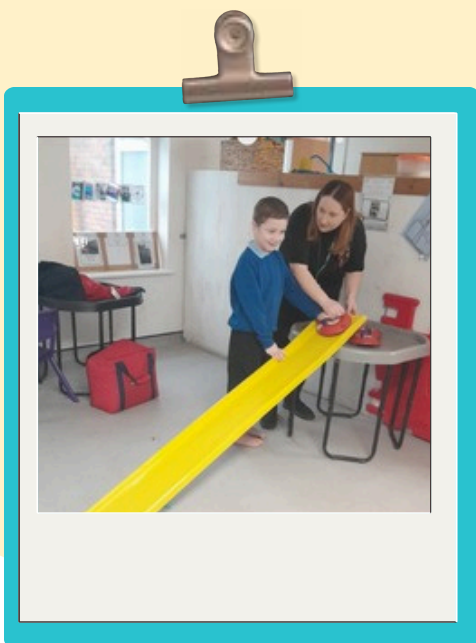
A Busy and Brilliant Term at Glan yr Afon.



This term at Glan yr Afon has been packed with excitement, creativity, and new experiences! We've loved diving into celebrations and traditions, from the sparkle of Fireworks Night to the warmth of Thanksgiving, and of course, the magic of Christmas. Our classroom was bursting with creativity as produced amazing artwork for the Art Exhibition. The talent on display made us all incredibly proud.

This term, we embraced fresh challenges by learning Boccia, a sport that everyone enjoyed. Alongside this, our weekly cooking sessions gave us the chance to taste and prepare a wide variety of delicious foods.

We couldn't be prouder of everything our pupils have achieved this term. Their enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork have made Glan yr Afon a truly special place to learn and grow.



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# Highlights from The Explorers

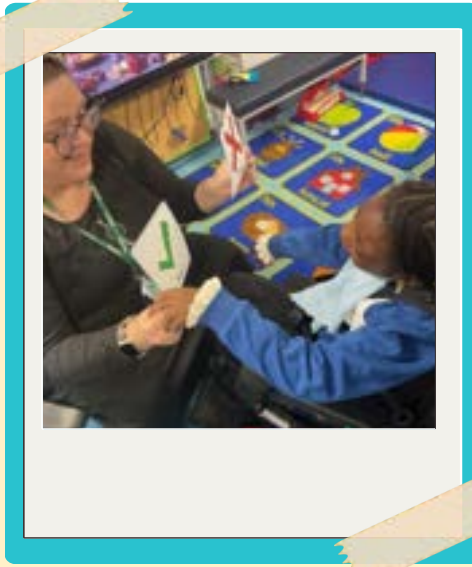


Seren Fach have had a very busy half term learning about autumn, Remembrance Day and celebrations such as Bonfire Night, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We enjoyed our Christmas crafts and using ICT to support our learning and wellbeing.



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# Highlights from The Explorers



This half term in Enfy's, we have been focusing on making lots of different choices and exploring various forms of communication. Alongside this, everyone has been working hard on their MOVE targets, showing great determination and progress.

A real highlight of the term has been taking part in our Christmas concert. Every pupil did a fantastic job, and it was lovely to see their confidence and enthusiasm shine through during the performance. It was a joyful celebration that brought everyone together and showcased the amazing efforts of the whole class.



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# Highlights from The Explorers

## Nadolig Lawen



This Christmas, our classes have been busy building digital skills in a fun and creative way! Carw, Pabi Coch, and Heulwen have teamed up to design their very own Christmas jumpers using iPads. From choosing vibrant colours and playful patterns to adding festive stickers, every jumper is completely unique—just like us!



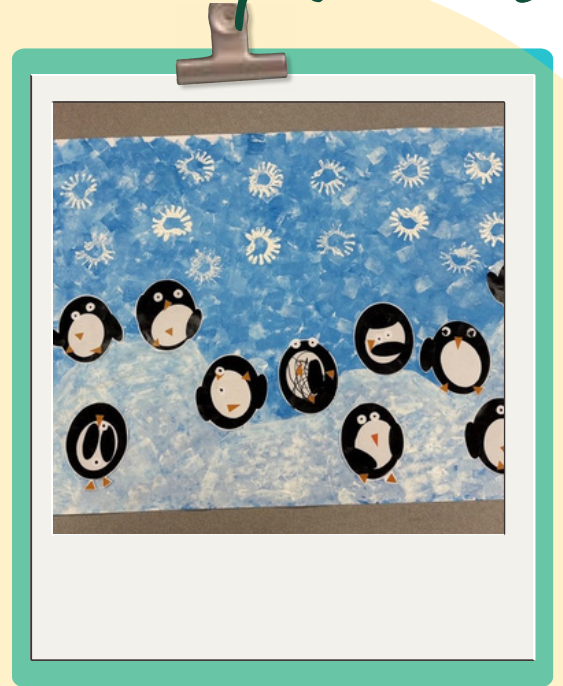
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# Highlights from The Explorers

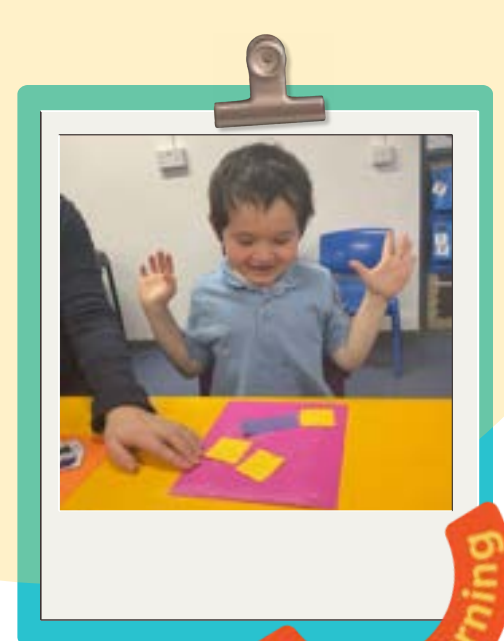
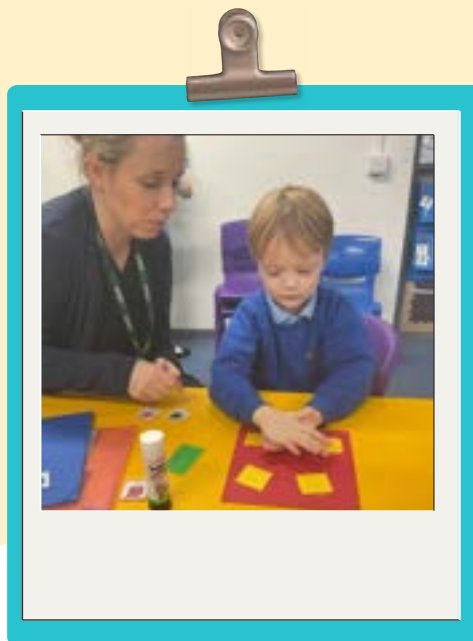
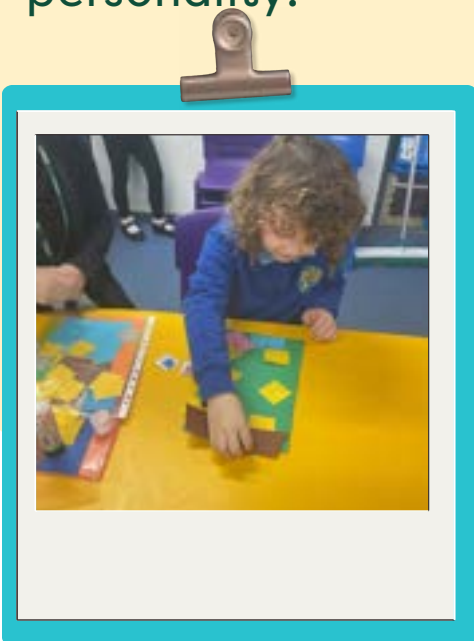


# Highlights from The Explorers

In Dosbarth Carw, we've been getting creative with our Christmas theme! Each of us designed our own penguin and placed it in a snowy landscape. It's been a fantastic way to practice teamwork and collaboration while having lots of festive fun!



In Dosbarth Pabi Coch, we've been adding our own creative twist to a beautiful photo of fireworks over Tenby! First, we worked together to create a dazzling fireworks scene on black card, adding plenty of glitter to make the bursts shine. Then, each of us designed a colourful house inspired by Tenby's seaside homes—bright, vibrant, and full of Pabi Coch personality!



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# Highlights from The Adventurers



Dosbarth Lindysyn have loved reading the story Whatever Next! and were inspired to have their very own picnic on the moon just like Baby Bear. In preparation for the picnic, we created a pictogram to find out our favourite sandwich fillings.



We then wrote a shopping list to buy the ingredients we needed to make our sandwiches for the picnic. After that, we followed a recipe to make our chosen sandwiches. To finish the day, we all enjoyed our delicious creations and even invited our teddies to join us for the fun.



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# Highlights from The Adventurers

Afon

This half term, our class has been exploring the exciting topic Glitter Galaxy, diving into the wonders of space and letting our imaginations shine. We have used our creative skills to produce a range of artwork inspired by planets, stars, and galaxies, experimenting with colour, texture, and different artistic techniques.



Through this topic, we have not only learned more about the mysteries of the universe but also expressed our ideas in vibrant, imaginative ways. Our classroom is now filled with sparkling creations that reflect the enthusiasm and hard work everyone has put into their learning.



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# Highlights from The Adventurers

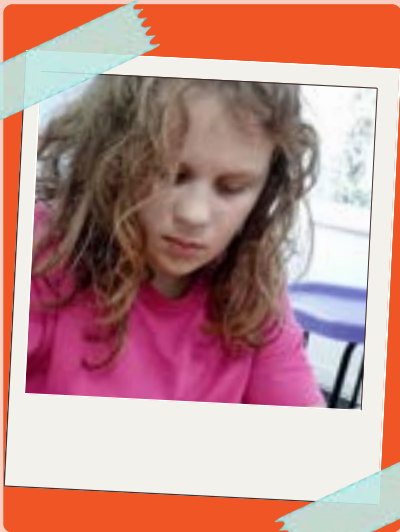


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# Highlights from The Adventurers



We are incredibly proud of the learners in Pili Pala, who have been very busy and working hard throughout this half term. They have loved exploring different forms of ICT, including the active floor, Osmo devices, and orbital mazes, which have provided exciting opportunities for learning and creativity.



Over the past couple of weeks, they have also shown fantastic effort and enthusiasm while creating beautiful Christmas crafts. Well done to everyone in Pili Pala for their amazing work!



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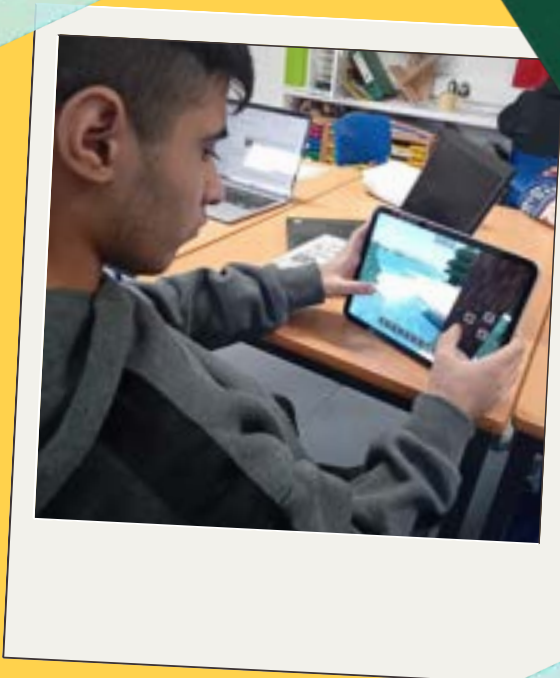
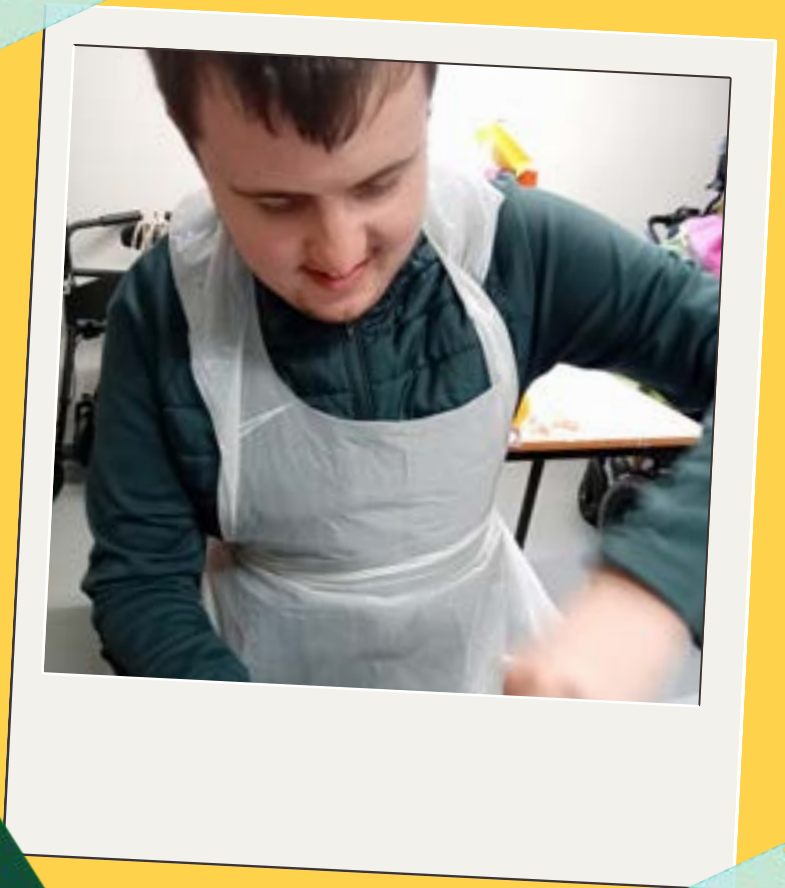


# Highlights from The Navigators



Dosbarth Tyrfan.

We have had an extremely busy half Term. Our Enterprise has been in full production again ready for the school Christmas fete. We have been making DIY plaster of Paris figures that you can paint at home, lots of resin jewellery and keyring as well as tree decorations and pens.



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# Highlights from The Navigators



The class have also worked extremely hard practicing for our Christmas Concert. As usual the students were amazing and everyone had a wonderful time.

Students have been learning basic First Aid. We have started with learning how to treat cuts and will be moving through burns, recovery position and CPR and using a Defib.

Students are becoming confident using their Hwb login's to access Minecraft Education where they are making Seasonal scenes.

May everyone have a wonderful break and be back ready for more in January.



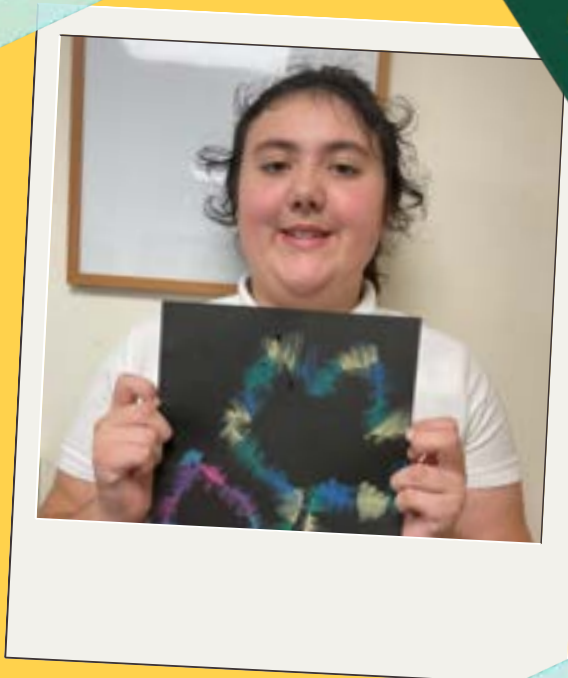
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# Highlights from The Navigators



This term, Dosbarth Cwningen has been on an exciting journey exploring our topic *Woodland Wonders*. We've discovered the secrets of the woodland habitat and learned all about the amazing animals that live there. From investigating animal diets—carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores—to finding out which creatures are nocturnal or diurnal and how some prepare for hibernation, it's been fascinating!



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# Highlights from The Navigators



Working together with Dosbarth Glyderau and Dosbarth Blodau, we designed and built a hedgehog house, a bug hotel, and a bird box to help wildlife thrive. We really enjoyed participating in an experiment involving different materials and Malted Milk biscuits to find out which materials were the most waterproof.

In our Innovation sessions with Leigh, we have been learning to physically code a pathway using the Orbital Maze coding game. We have also practised debugging if we encounter any issues.



In RVE, we enjoyed listening to the stories of Rama and Sita for Diwali, Joseph and the Christmas Story, while in Expressive Arts we got creative using natural resources to paint hedgehogs. We have also used leaves as stencils to create a piece of artwork with pastels.

We have loved practising for our Christmas Concert, where we chose the song Rocking Around the Christmas Tree to sing, dance and sign to. We have also enjoyed making Christmas Crafts for the Christmas Fayre and to take home.



One of the highlights was our woodland walk to Barry Sidings, where we explored nature and even practised our money skills in the café by buying a tasty treat. What a wonderful term full of learning and fun!

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# Highlights from The Navigators



Dosbarth Blodau - What a Busy and Brilliant Term!

Dosbarth Blodau have been on an adventure! We wrapped up our topic with an exciting trip to Barry Sidings Country Park. The learners were absolutely fantastic - making their own food and drink choices, ordering independently, and even using their developing money skills to pay for their treats. We loved sitting together, sipping warm drinks, and enjoying sweet treats with friends. What a perfect way to celebrate all their hard work!



And speaking of hard work... Christmas has been magical in Dosbarth Blodau! From the Christmas Concert (did you know we had three solo performances?!) to Carols by Candlelight and the Christmas Fete, our learners have truly shone. They created beautiful gift tags and wrapping paper and even manned the stall to sell their creations to our wider school community. Talk about teamwork and entrepreneurial spirit!



But that's not all - we've been exploring our artistic side too! Dosbarth Blodau have enjoyed designing their very own Christmas animal characters using AI. The creativity in this class is off the charts! We're so proud of everything Dosbarth Blodau have achieved this term. Here's to more adventures, creativity, and fun in the new year!



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# Highlights from The Navigators

This term, Draenog has been on an exciting journey through the wonders of the natural world. From investigating animal habitats to experimenting with light and shadow, the children have thrown themselves into every activity with curiosity and enthusiasm.

Inspired by nature, we also explored shadow art, using blending techniques to create beautiful pieces that showed how light can transform shapes and silhouettes. The class experimented with shading, layering, and contrast, producing artwork they were incredibly proud of.

One of the most memorable activities this term was our hygiene experiment. The children touched slices of bread with unwashed hands and then again after washing them properly. Over time, they observed the differences, learning first-hand why good hygiene matters. It was a simple but powerful way to see science in action.

We also studied animal adaptations, looking closely at how creatures have evolved special features to help them survive in their habitats. From camouflage to sharp claws, the children enjoyed discovering the clever ways animals meet the challenges of their environments.

To finish the term, we put our creativity and teamwork to the test by preparing for the Christmas Fayre as part of our enterprise project. The class worked together to plan, design, and make items to sell, learning valuable skills about responsibility, money, and collaboration.

It has been a busy and inspiring term, filled with hands-on learning and plenty of excitement. We can't wait to see what adventures next term will bring.



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# Highlights from The Navigators



In Dosbarth Glyderau we have been taking part in a design process for making a bird feeding tray. Pupils tested a range of different materials through a science experiment before designing their own bird feed tray. Pupils then worked together as a team to make a bird feed tray.



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# Highlights from The Navigators



We also enjoyed a trip out to Barry Sidings where we enjoyed a woodland walk followed by a visit to the cafe. Pupils could use their money skills to buy a festive treat. We had such a good time out in the community and we enjoyed each other's company.

We have also been working on making instructions for a recipe and then following the instructions. This term we have made instructions to make a hot chocolate and also a mango lassi smoothie.



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# Highlights from The Pathfinders

For the Christmas Fayre Llanwynno class have worked very hard to make Baubles to sell for the Christmas Fayre.



Llanwynno pupils used a total communication approach to choose colours they wanted to pour into baubles to make design combinations for each Handmade Bauble. Some pupils used PECS, coreboards and AAC's.

Pupils then followed staff instructions and demonstrated fine motor skills to grasp, pour, tap, place crayon shavings into the bauble shell.



Pupils then used a hairdryer to melt the crayons into amazing designs and patterns.

The finished products were excellent! Great job Llanwynno.

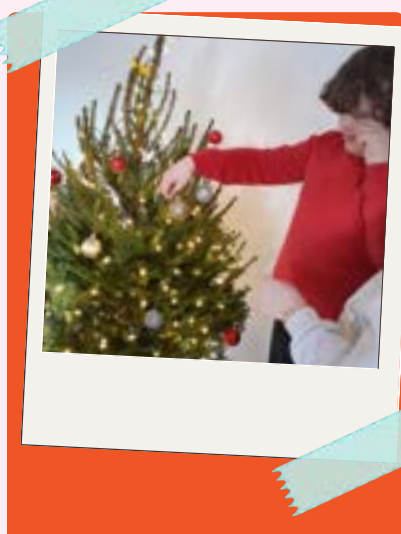


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# Highlights from The Pathfinders

This December, Barcud Coch has been filled with festive cheer as pupils took part in a variety of Christmas activities. The classroom was transformed with colourful paper chains and sparkling bauble sun catchers that brightened up the windows. Our Christmas tree was a highlight, with pupils joyfully hanging lights and baubles before proudly placing a shining star on top. The finished tree now stands in the reception area, spreading joy to pupils, staff, and visitors. In addition, pupils worked together in the kitchen to bake delicious mince pies, which were enjoyed by everyone. Creative fun continued with foam snowmen, decorated with craft items to give them unique features and accessories—an activity that brought smiles all around. It has been wonderful to see the festive spirit come alive through teamwork, creativity, and celebration. From all of us at Barcud Coch, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



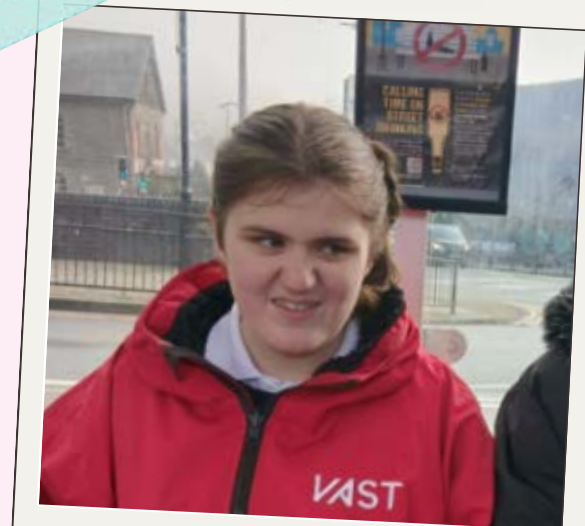
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# Highlights from The Pathfinders



Dosbarth Graig Ddu pupils have thoroughly enjoyed engaging with their wider community throughout the Autumn Term. One of the most impressive achievements has been their successful use of the local bus service from Buarth Y Capel to Pontypridd every Wednesday morning. Pupils have applied their understanding of time within daily schedules and routines to identify the correct bus for their journey, ensuring they can travel to Pontypridd and return to school. This experience has supported the development of essential independent living skills, such as time management and accessing local services.



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# Highlights from The Pathfinders



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During their visits to Pontypridd, pupils have explored local green spaces, visited shops to purchase ingredients for weekly cooking lessons, and enjoyed buying treats from local coffee shops applying their developing money skills further. In addition to these experiences, pupils have also focused on their personal well-being by attending the local gym in Llantwit Fardre. These sessions have helped them build confidence in using different equipment and encouraged physical activity to boost both physical and mental health. We are incredibly proud of these achievements and the progress made by our young adults in Graig Ddu. We look forward to continuing their involvement in the local community as we move into the Spring Term!

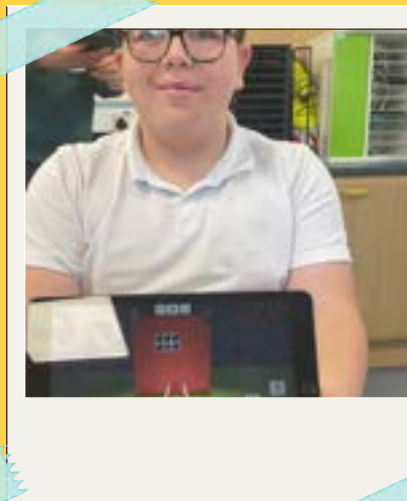
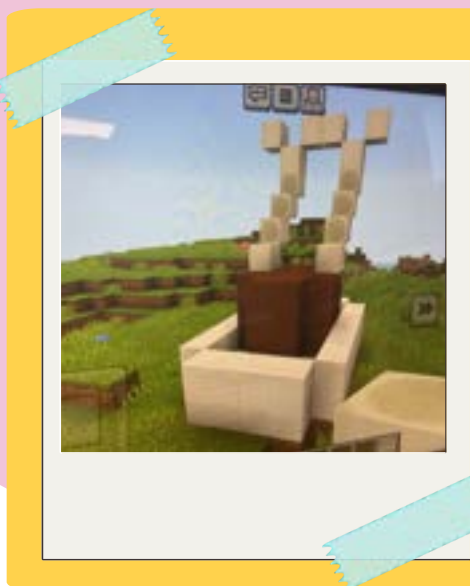
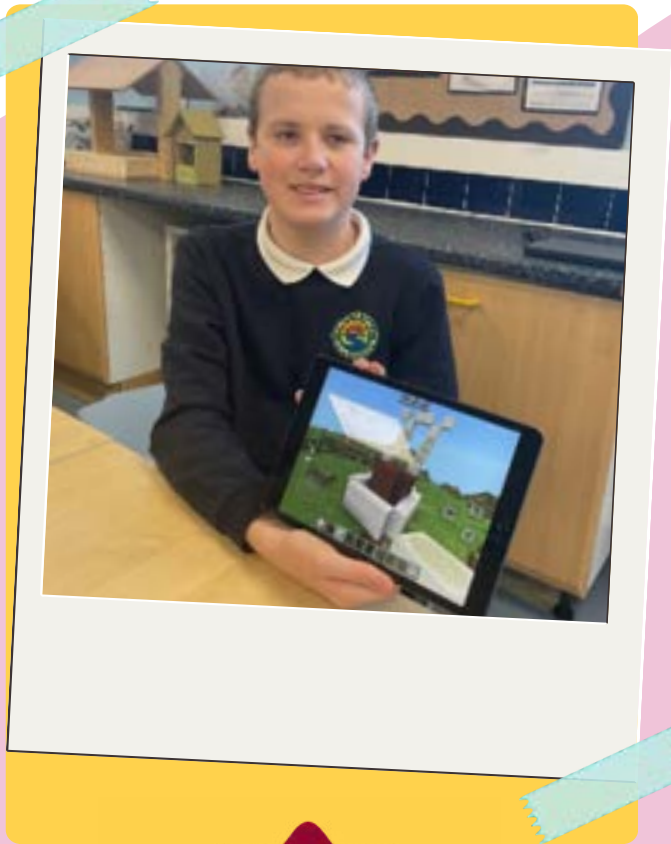


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# Minecraft Crew

The Minecraft Crew have worked exceptionally hard this half term, showing fantastic creativity and teamwork. Our focus has been on the theme of Woodland Wonders, where learners explored nature-inspired builds and developed their problem-solving skills through exciting challenges. Their enthusiasm and dedication have been evident in every session, and it has been wonderful to see their ideas come to life in the Minecraft world.

In addition to this, the crew have embraced special theme days such as Thanksgiving and Christmas, creating imaginative builds that reflect these celebrations. They have all demonstrated perseverance and collaboration, producing some truly impressive work. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the effort they have put in throughout the term - well done, Minecraft Crew!



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# Tech Team



We want to express our gratitude to the incredible pupil led tech team who supported the Explorers and Adventurers during their Christmas concerts. Your hard work behind the scenes ensured everything ran smoothly, from sound and lighting to all the technical details that made the performances truly magical.



**Thank you!**

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# Remembrance Day

Our learners have taken part in Remembrance Day activities. They have created some truly fantastic items to commemorate this important occasion. Take a look at their wonderful work and join us in remembering those who have served and sacrificed



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# Remembrance Sunday

What a beautiful and touching moment for one of our learners and his grandfather! It's heartwarming to see different generations coming together to honour and remember. Our fantastic pupil represented the younger generation of our community with pride and also represented our school at the wreath-laying ceremony. Well done both, for representing both the younger and older generations with such dignity.



## Remembrance Sunday

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# Children in Need



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# Earlybird Course



We're thrilled with the attendance and participation of our Early Bird course and want to give a massive thank you to all the fantastic parents who are taking part. Your commitment and enthusiasm make all the difference!

We truly appreciate your support and dedication.



## EarlyBird Course

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# Andrea's Advent



Our amazing school clerk at BYC site, Andrea, has set herself a very festive challenge this December... she's dressing up in a different Christmas theme every single day during Advent!



## Andrea's Advent

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# Christmas Concerts

We are so proud of all our fantastic learners for their brilliant participation in the Christmas concerts – you truly shone on stage! Your hard work and enthusiasm made the performances magical.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff for their support and creativity, and to all the parents and carers for your encouragement and involvement – we couldn't do it without you!

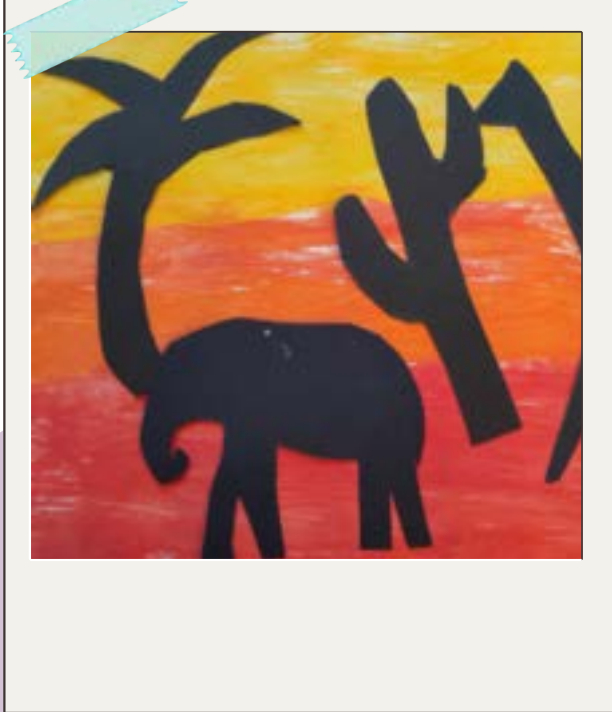


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# Christmas Market



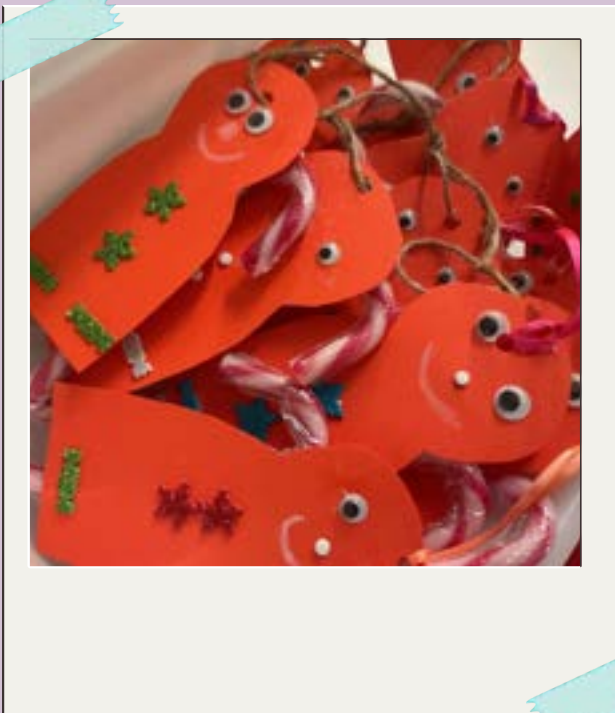
# The Gallery



Shadow Art by Draenog



Christmas Baubles by Llanwynno



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## School Diary Dates 2025 – 2026

### Inset Days

Monday 1st September 2025	Monday 23rd February 2026
Tuesday 2nd September 2025	Monday 5th January 2026
Friday 24th October 2025	Monday 20th July 2026

### Autumn Term Diary Dates

Calendar Event	Date	Where?
Collection for Harvest	15/9/25	Tonteg Site Buarth y Capel Site
Llangranog Residential Trip	22,23 & 24/9/25	N/A
14-19 Learning Pathways Qualifications Parents Meeting	18/09/25 3.30pm	Tonteg Site
Parents Evening	26/11/2025 3.30-5.30pm	Buarth y Capel Site Tonteg Site
Children in Need (Own Clothes Day)	14/11/25	Tonteg Site Buarth y Capel Site
Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Market	12/12/25	Buarth y Capel Site Tonteg Site
Sensory Garden Christmas Carol Service	16/12/25	TBC Tonteg Site
Christmas Concerts Explorers and Adventures Navigators Buarth y Capel Carol Service	8 & 9/12/25 10 & 11/12/25 10 & 11/12/25	Tonteg Site Tonteg Site Buarth y Capel Site

### Spring Term Diary Dates

Calendar Event	Date	Where?
St Davids Day	2/3/26	Tonteg Site Buarth y Capel Site
World Book Day (Fancy Dress / Own Clothes Linked to a Favourite Book)	6/3/26	Buarth y Capel Site Tonteg Site
Red Nose Day	TBA	Buarth y Capel Site Tonteg Site

## Summer Term Diary Dates

Calendar Event	Date	Where?
Move Week (please send children to school in suitable clothing)	w/o 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Tonteg Site Buarth y Capel Site
Buarth y Capel Sports Day	TBA	TBA
Tonteg Sports Day	TBA	TBA
Summer Fete	27/6/26	Tonteg Site
Year 6 Leavers Assembly	6/7/26	Tonteg Site
Parents Evening	8/7/26	Tonteg Site Buarth y Capel Site
Buarth y Capel Leavers Assembly	9/7/26	Buarth y Capel Site
Tonteg Leavers Assembly	10/7/26	Tonteg Site

Internal Transition Days (Pupils meet new teacher, spend time in new class if moving).	17th June 2026 24th June 2026 1st July 2026
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### Key

w/o = Week of

TBA = To Be Announced

TBC = To Be Confirmed

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