

SCHOOL MAGAZINE



SPRING 1
EDITION



Respect. Communicate. Enjoy.



Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful half term it has been at Ysgol Ty Coch. Reading through this newsletter, I am reminded once again of the enthusiasm, resilience and joy our pupils bring to school every day. Across all departments – from our Explorers taking their first steps into the community, to our Adventurers discovering nature and creativity, to our Navigators building skills through real-life learning – it has been a term full of curiosity and meaningful progress.

Our pupils have enjoyed a wide variety of experiences: off-site visits to local parks, sensory exploration, developing communication skills through PECS and assistive technology, experimenting with art and photography, and engaging in hands-on science and outdoor learning. Older learners have been working towards their accreditations, running enterprise projects, and developing important life skills that will support them on their journey to adulthood.

It has also been lovely to see our wider school community thriving. Criw Cymraeg have led the way in our “Two Ways Are Better Than One” communication initiative during assemblies, our Healthy Schools Committee have launched Blasau Bach and our School Council have represented us brilliantly during their cluster meeting. Sporting achievements, creative projects, and digital exploration – from table cricket to Minecraft to the BETT conference – all highlight the rich and varied opportunities our pupils enjoy.

I am incredibly proud of the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of our pupils, and the support of our families. Thank you for everything you do to help our school continue to grow on our improvement journey and for helping us to make our school a happy, nurturing, and ambitious place for all learners.

Wishing you all a safe and restful half term.

Cofion cynnes,

Gimon Wilson

Headteacher

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Highlights from The Explorers

This term, Pabi Coch embarked on their very first off-site adventure of the academic year and what a fantastic experience it was! The class confidently transitioned from school to the nearby park, showing growing independence and enthusiasm as they explored their local community.

Once at the park, the pupils wasted no time diving into the fun. They enjoyed trying out the different pieces of equipment, with the swings and the slide proving to be firm favourites. Laughter and excitement filled the air as the children played, took turns, and supported one another.

Beyond the fun and activity, the visit offered an invaluable opportunity for the pupils to explore a new environment safely and confidently. By accessing this local area, Pabi Coch continued to build meaningful links within their community, an important step in developing awareness, communication, and social skills.

It was a wonderful outing for everyone involved, and a brilliant start to Pabi Coch's adventures this year. We can't wait to see where their learning takes them next!



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Highlights from The Explorers

Creativity Without Words: Dosbarth Heulwen Build Teamwork Through Art

This term, Dosbarth Heulwen have been shining brightly as they explore new ways to work together. Working in small groups, pupils engaged in hands-on creative tasks that encouraged cooperation and social connection.

Whether exploring paint, textures, or large-scale sensory materials, the children learned to notice one another, wait patiently, and take part in a shared activity with growing confidence.



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Highlights from The Explorers

Seren Fach have had a truly wonderful half term filled with exploration, celebration, and plenty of fun learning opportunities. Learners enjoyed discovering more about seasonal events such as New Year, Valentine's Day, Dydd Santes Dwynwen and Chinese New Year, using these celebrations to build their understanding of different cultures and traditions. Throughout these activities, learners used a variety of communication methods to express their choices, preferences, and interests, helping them to grow in confidence and independence.

They also loved taking part in a wide range of winter sports inspired by the Winter Olympics, enthusiastically joining in with activities that supported their physical development, coordination, and teamwork. Whether exploring festivals or engaging in sporty challenges, Seren Fach approached everything this half term with joy, curiosity, and lots of enthusiasm.

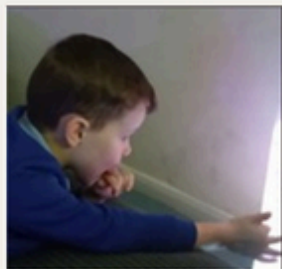


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Highlights from The Explorers

This term at Glan yr Afon has been filled with exploration, play and wonderful learning experiences. Our pupils have been busy discovering how things work through a range of cause-and-effect toys, as well as taking part in exciting sensory activities such as creating their very own “snowstorms in a cup.”

We have also spent time in the sensory and calm room, giving pupils opportunities to feel safe, relaxed and ready to learn. Through turn-taking and sharing activities including cooperative play with balloons and pumps, pupils have been developing their communication skills and learning how to play alongside their friends. It has truly been a joyful term, full of curiosity, smiles and new experiences. We are incredibly proud of everything our pupils have achieved.



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Highlights from The Explorers

This half term in Dosbarth Enfys has been excellent. We've focused on enhancing our communication skills and strengthening our core abilities in this area. For instance, during group sessions, we used PECS symbol cards, cardboards, and other visual aids such as 'Yes/No' cards to practice communicating. We also tried out new assistive technology tools like Talk 4's, Eye Gaze, and Switches to support expressive language development. A memorable moment occurred in our 'sensory story' session, where pupils used the 'Yes/No' cards to answer questions about the story. Impressively, students who previously communicated only through gestures or sounds have started using 'Yes/No' cards to respond during group activities.



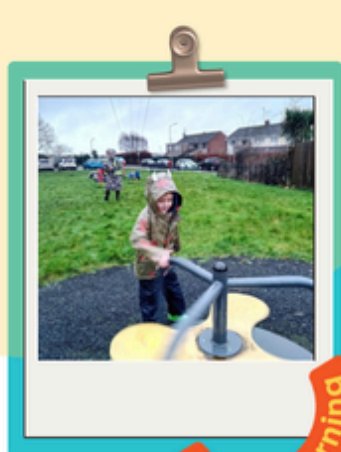
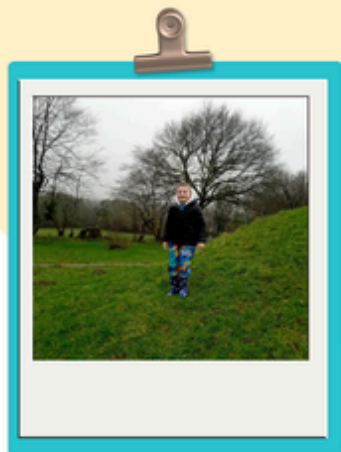
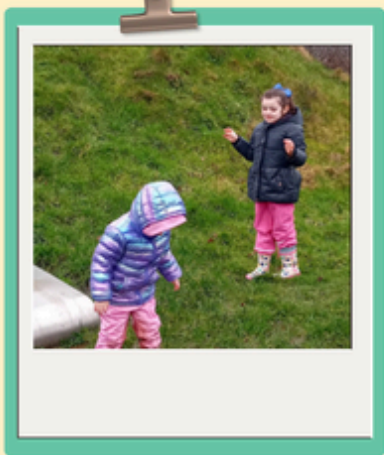
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Highlights from The Explorers

Dosbarth Carw reached an exciting milestone this week as they embarked on their very first off-site trip. With plenty of smiles, reassurance, and structured support, the pupils successfully transitioned from school to the local park – and back again – showing fantastic determination and confidence throughout the whole experience. Once there, the pupils explored the space together, enjoying fresh air, movement, and sensory opportunities. Some children chose to

walk around the pathways, others discovered new equipment, and many simply enjoyed the freedom of being outdoors. The park offered a wonderful chance for pupils to practise regulation, joint attention, and shared enjoyment in a new setting. This first off-site experience marks a huge achievement for the whole class. Dosbarth Carw demonstrated courage, adaptability, and trust – all crucial skills for future learning beyond the classroom.



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Highlights from The Adventurers

Dosbarth Lindysyn have been busy exploring the natural world this half term, using their senses, curiosity and a range of tools to help them look more closely at the environment around them.

The learners took part in a bird-watching session, using binoculars and a simple checklist to spot and identify different birds in our Forest School area. They showed fantastic focus and excitement as they scanned the trees and sky, ticking off each bird they discovered.

We have also been using PECS in activities to help develop early observation skills, confidence in using equipment, and the ability to communicate what they had found using their preferred method.

We also used viewfinders to look carefully at the natural environment and search for signs of winter. The children noticed bare branches, snowdrops, winter colours, and changes in the weather. Using the viewfinders encouraged them to slow down, look closely, and talk about the seasonal changes they could see all around them.



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Highlights from The Adventurers

learners at
the centre



This term, Dosbarth Cadno have been busy exploring and learning across a wide range of Areas of Learning and Experience.

In Science and Technology, the learners have enjoyed exploring the world of plants. The children learned about the different stages of a plant's life cycle, from seed to fully grown plant, and developed an understanding of what plants need to grow and stay healthy. They planted their own seeds in the classroom and have taken responsibility for caring for them.



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Highlights from The Adventurers



In Expressive Arts, the learners explored creativity through colour, photography, and art. They created photographs that reflected day and night, carefully selecting colours to show the contrast between light and dark. Learners also studied the work of Welsh artist Helen Elliot and practised copying her distinctive style, developing their observation skills and confidence while experimenting with different artistic techniques.



As part of Health and Well-Being, Dosbarth Cadno explored the outdoor garden area to search for insects hidden in their natural habitats. The pupils enjoyed investigating the environment, working together to find and identify insects, while developing curiosity, teamwork, and an appreciation for the natural world around them.



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Highlights from The Adventurers



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Highlights from The Adventurers



Dosbarth Afon have had a fantastic time exploring our topic Green, Green Grass of Home by designing and building their very own houses! The pupils threw themselves into the project with brilliant enthusiasm, choosing materials, shaping their ideas, and proudly creating unique homes that reflect their personalities. It has been lovely to see their creativity, confidence, and imagination shine throughout—well done, everyone!



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Highlights from The Adventurers



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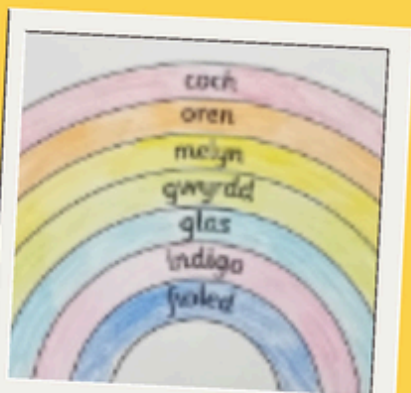
Highlights from The Navigators



This term, Dosbarth Blodau have been busy exploring a wide range of learning experiences across all Areas of Learning and Experience.

The learners researched castles in Wales and created their own fact files. They selected important information and presented it using words, pictures, and simple captions, helping to develop their reading and writing skills. They also learned the names of colours in Welsh, practising identifying and matching them. Learners were encouraged to use the colour words confidently in their spoken Welsh.

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Highlights from The Navigators

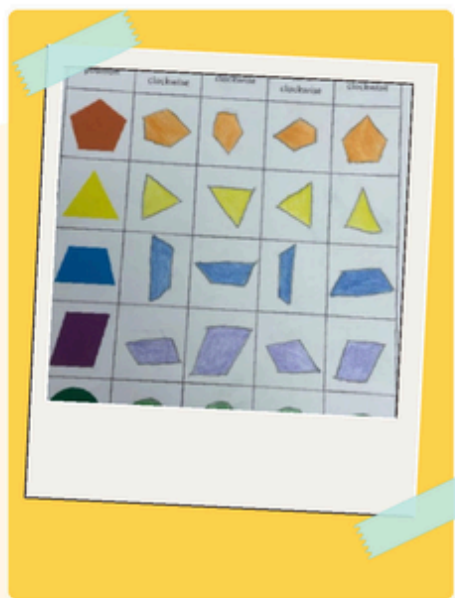


Dosbarth Cwningen have been participating in data-handling activities we've been doing in class while learning about famous Welsh people. This work forms part of our current topic, Land of My Fathers, and the pupils have been exploring how to collect, organise and interpret information. They've enjoyed creating charts and discussing what the data shows about the achievements and impact of notable individuals from Wales.



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Highlights from The Navigators



We explored different shapes and practised rotating them clockwise. This helped the learners develop their understanding of shape, position, and direction.



The class looked at rainfall in Wales and compared it with rainfall recorded at Ysgol Ty Coch over one week. Learners discussed what was similar or different and began drawing simple conclusions from the data.

Learners experimented with bold and bright colours in their artwork, using a range of materials and techniques. This encouraged them to express their ideas creatively and make confident artistic choices.



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Highlights from The Navigators



Pupils in Glyderau have had a wonderfully busy and productive term. They have been developing their horticulture skills and have already planted a variety of seeds, ready to flourish in the spring.

Two of our pupils have also begun planning an Easter enterprise project, creating beautifully crafted Easter baskets. Our next steps will involve marketing the products and working out how much we are going to sell them for, thinking about sensible margins.



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Highlights from The Navigators

In PE, pupils have worked hard on improving their gymnastics skills, exploring movements at different heights and practising a range of gymnastics shapes. They have had hands-on experience using the beam, springboard, floor, and the vaulting horse, showing growing confidence and coordination each week.

Cookery has been another highlight this term. Pupils have prepared delicious dishes including Welsh rarebit and chicken and cheese quesadillas, developing key life skills along the way.

Our topic, Land of My Fathers, has taken us on a journey across our wonderful country of Wales. Pupils have engaged brilliantly with our class text, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, and have enjoyed practising their Welsh language skills using simple conversational phrases such as “Beth ydy dy enw di?” They have also had great fun presenting their own Welsh weather reports.

We even carried out a scientific investigation, measuring rainfall in three contrasting environments—the coast, the mountains, and a city, to discover which location experienced the most rain.

This is just a small snapshot of the incredible hard work and enthusiasm shown by Glyderau pupils this term. Looking ahead, we are preparing for our school's Eisteddfod, working on our creative entries and rehearsing our performance of Sosban Fach.

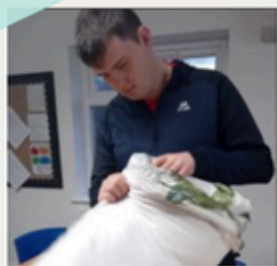


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Highlights from The Navigators

Welcome to Dosbarth Tryfan's slice of the school newsletter. We have had an amazing time in class and have explored a diverse range of activities with emphasis on learning through life skills and having fun. The students have been exploring first aid and have been learning about how to clean and dress wounds and learning CPR through activities on the British Heart Foundation website. Students have also been practicing their Independent and Life Skills. They have been cleaning the classroom using correct equipment and products as well as practicing changing bedding, pillows and duvet covers. One of the funniest things has been making music with fruit, plants and even Mrs Fargher's yoghurt. None of the students thought it could be done and their reactions were wonderful. We have also explored National Holocaust Day and created candles to display on our window. Stay tuned for another instalment in the next Newsletter.



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Highlights from The Navigators



Our Draenog learners have been thoroughly enjoying their brand-new classroom space. From the very first day, the children took an active role in helping to organise and sort different areas, making the room truly their own. The new environment has quickly become a favourite – the class have found it noticeably calmer and quieter than their previous room, which has helped everyone feel more settled and focused. It's been wonderful to see how proud the children are of the space they helped create. The new classroom has already become a fantastic place for learning, exploring, and growing together. Well done, Draenog!



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Highlights from The Pathfinders



This term has marked an exciting and meaningful chapter for Dosbarth Graig Ddu, as we have been working proudly and purposefully towards our OCR accreditations. These qualifications have opened the door for us to develop a wide range of essential life skills that will support us far beyond the classroom. Within our providing personal information qualification, pupils have been learning to both write their full addresses, to confidently forming their dates of birth. Every young adult has shown real focus and determination, and it's been inspiring to see how these skills are helping us communicate more clearly, express ourselves with independence, and prepare for the future.



Alongside this important work, we have been exploring creative media in a variety of exciting ways. Whether experimenting with digital tools, trying out new artistic techniques, or expressing ideas through different forms of media, the class has shown curiosity, imagination, and a willingness to try something new.



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Highlights from The Pathfinders

One of the highlights of the term has been our mini enterprise project. Learners took on real world roles, made decisions as a team, and are developing our spring term projects with pride and purpose. From planning and designing to creating and sharing, the project helped build confidence, communication skills, and a sense of achievement that was felt across the classroom.

We have also been making fantastic use of a community facility over a sustained period of time, giving learners the chance to build routines, practise social skills, and engage with the wider community in meaningful ways.

As we look back on the term so far, it's clear that Dosbarth Graig Ddu has embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and resilience. The progress made, both big and small, is something to be celebrated. We are incredibly proud of each of our young adults and excited to see what the rest of the year will bring in terms of our OCR achievements!



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Highlights from The Pathfinders



This half term, the Barcud Coch classroom have been busy exploring our topic of Heroes. Pupils have particularly enjoyed taking on the role of science heroes by investigating the magnetic properties of different materials. During our experiment, we tested a range of objects to discover which ones were magnetic, helping learners develop their prediction and observation skills. One of the highlights was watching our superhero glide across the city scene, powered entirely by a hidden magnet! Pupils had great fun manipulating the superhero's movements. It has been an exciting and hands-on start to our heroic adventures this term.



Experiment: Magnetic Properties	
The best objects are magnetic and non-magnetic using hands-on investigation.	
Item	Magnetic property
RUBBER	NON MAGNETIC
LOPPER COIN	MAGNETIC
PAPER CLIP	MAGNETIC
COUNTER	NON MAGNETIC
SILVER LOIN	NON MAGNETIC



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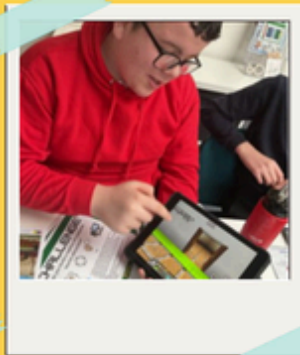
Minecraft Crew



Our brilliant Minecraft team has taken part in a league matches and created rather fantastic builds.

We are so proud of their teamwork, creativity and dedication.

Da iawn, team!



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Table Cricket



Ysgol Ty Coch's table cricket team enjoyed a fantastic day at Sophia Gardens in Cardiff, delivering an outstanding performance throughout the competition. The team won three matches and only narrowly lost one, securing a well-deserved second place in their group during the South Wales stage, enough to qualify for the next round. They will now progress to the regional stages of the national competition, where they will compete against schools from South Wales and Southwest England. If Ty Coch can advance once again, they will earn a place in the national finals at the iconic Lord's Cricket Ground in London. Da iawn pawb—what a fantastic achievement!



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School Council

Our School Council have had an incredibly busy and exciting half term. One of their standout experiences was a journey to Ysgol Hen Felin, where they took part in a collaborative School Council meeting with pupils from across the cluster.

The focus of the meeting was exploring new uniform options for the brand-new special school, Ysgol Cambrian. During their visit, our learners took part in a range of activities including:

- Collaborative discussions with pupils from another school
 - Designing creative and practical uniform ideas
- Participating in a fair and democratic vote to share their opinions
- Building new friendships over squash and biscuits afterwards

The experience gave pupils the chance to practise teamwork, communication, and fairness – all key elements of pupil voice and active citizenship. Most importantly, they discovered how enjoyable and rewarding working with others can be.

All of our School Council representatives are now looking forward to their next collaborative meeting. We are incredibly proud of their enthusiasm, maturity, and the way they represent our school.



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Healthy Schools



Blasau Bach at Ysgol Ty Coch!

Encouraging Healthy Choices, One Snack at a Time.

At Ysgol Ty Coch, we are always looking for new and exciting ways to help our learners make healthy choices throughout the school day. This term, our Healthy Schools Committee has been busy working on a colourful new initiative we're calling "Blasau Bach".

The aim of the project is simple: to offer a wider variety of fresh fruit options so that children can explore new tastes and develop healthy habits that can last a lifetime. To make sure our choices truly reflect what the children want, members of the committee have been visiting our Explorers Department to gather ideas directly from the pupils.



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Seesaw Workshop



A huge thank you to all the parents who attended our recent Seesaw workshops. It was lovely to see so many of you engaged, asking thoughtful questions, and taking such an active interest in your children's learning.

We truly appreciate your time, enthusiasm and the valuable feedback you shared. Your support makes a real difference



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Criw Cymraeg



This term, our school has proudly launched a new initiative called “Two Ways Are Better Than One,” designed to promote inclusive communication and ensure that all learners can participate fully in school life. As part of this initiative, Criw Cymraeg have taken on an exciting leadership role during Welsh assemblies and they have been brilliant ambassadors.

At the front of each assembly, members of Criw Cymraeg sign along to the Welsh songs that are playing, offering pupils two meaningful ways to engage: through spoken language and through sign. Da iawn, Criw Cymraeg! Their work this term captures the true message of the initiative: when we communicate in more than one way, more people can join in and our whole school community grows stronger because of it.



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BETT

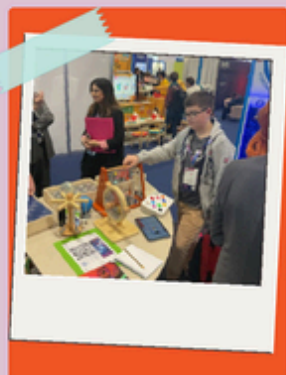
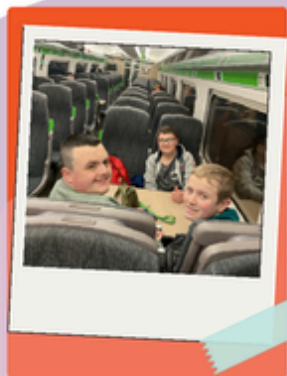


Pupils travelled to London by train to attend the BETT conference, demonstrating impressive confidence and independence throughout their journey. At the conference, they explored a wide range of innovative and emerging technologies, using their pupil voice to share thoughtful insights about what they would like to see introduced at Ysgol Ty Coch. These ideas have now been passed on to the school's Digital Committee, who will review all suggestions and prepare proposals for the School Council. Their recommendations will help shape decisions about the technologies that can best support pupils' quality of life, learning, and progression.



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BETT



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Reporting a pupil absence



STEP 1

Telephone the school on 01443 203471

STEP 2

Select option 1 on the automated list



STEP 3

Leave the following information;

Pupils name

Pupils class

Your name

Reason for pupil absence



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School Diary Dates 2025 – 2026

Inset Days

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

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	20/3/26	Buarth y Capel Site Tonteg Site
Explorers Learning Showcase	24/3/26 (1.30pm)	Tonteg Site
Pathfinders Curriculum Celebration	19/3/26 (1.30pm)	Buarth y Capel Site
Navigators Curriculum Celebration (Sixth Form Only)	20/3/26 (1.30pm)	Tonteg Site
Adventures Curriculum Celebration	23/3/26 (1.30pm)	Tonteg Site
Navigators Curriculum Celebration	24/3/26 (10.30am)	Tonteg Site

Summer Term Diary Dates

Calendar Event	Date	Where?
Move Week (please send children to school in suitable clothing)	w/o 18 th 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

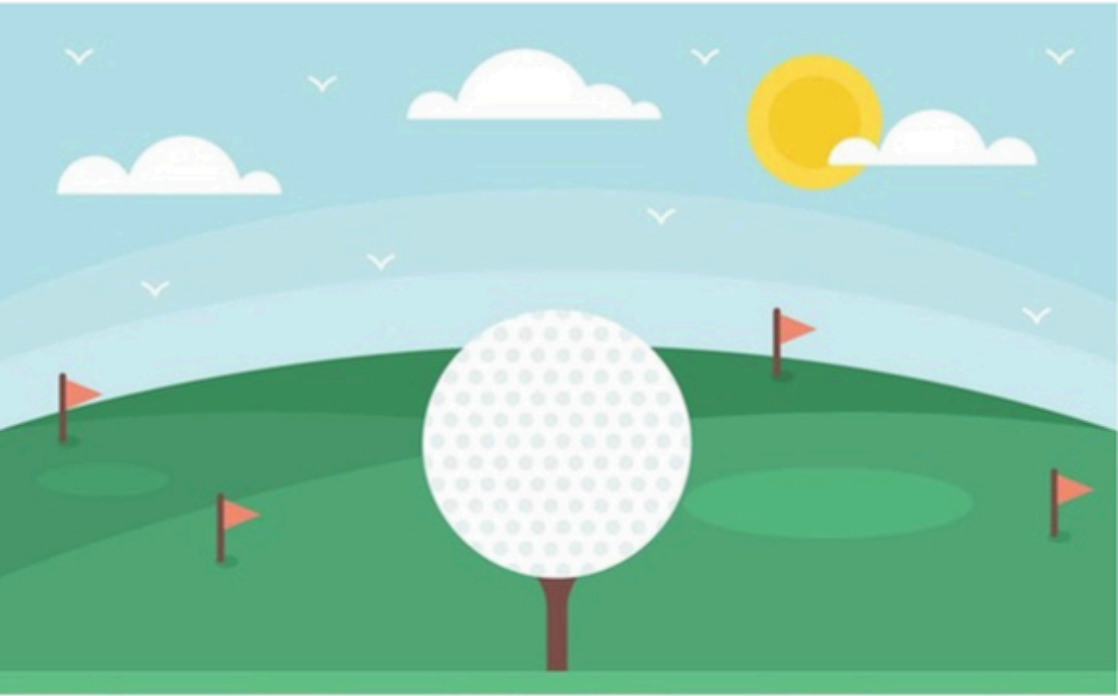
Buarth y Capel Leavers Assembly	9/7/26	Buarth y Capel Site
Tonteg Leavers Assembly	10/7/26	Tonteg Site

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





WOODY'S LODGE & YSGOL TY COCH



ANNUAL
GOLF
DAY

4th June 2026

18 HOLES OF GOLF ON THE NATIONAL COURSE | 2 COURSE MEAL
COURSE SURVIVAL BAG | DRINK BUGGY | RAFFLE, SILENT AUCTION AND AWARDS

£100 PER PLAYER & £380 PER TEAM
£40.00 BUGGY HIRE

PLEASE CONTACT SHARN OR KATE TO REGISTER YOUR TEAM
SRICHARDS@PINNACLE-GROUP.CO.UK | KSTITTFALL@PINNACLE-GROUP.CO.UK



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