

Casnewydd Catchup



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If music be the food of love...



This year's school eisteddfod may have been held a week before the actual St David's day, but it was a rousing and uplifting afternoon filled with singing and poetry.

It really was the perfect end to a week that had been filled with activities and stories from Wales and its interesting past. The whole school were busy creating, cooking, writing, drawing and

listening. The Nursery cooked Welsh Rarebit and did activities based on the story of Palu's Leeks from Pentre Bach; Reception children enjoyed activities based on the daffodil and the red dragon; Year 1 found out about St David; Year 2 heard the story of Gelert the faithful dog and cooked Welsh Rarebit; Year 3, continuing with their work on the Romans, heard the story of

the dream of Magnus Maximus; Year 4 heard the story of Blodeuwedd from the Mabinogi tales and cooked Welsh cakes; Year 5 heard the heart-breaking story of the girl from Cefn Ydfa; Year 6 heard the story of Branwen from the Mabinogi tales.

The eisteddfod itself was a cultural and musical afternoon. The competing teams of Cadog, Islwyn and

Llanofor in their red, yellow and green, along with the numerous Welsh rugby shirts and traditional costumes, made a colourful sight. The children performed fabulously. Miss Dinah Jones came from Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw to judge the annual Year 6 writing competition - this year it was a soliloquy of the Egyptian mummy. Mali Edwards was awarded the golden cloak and the bardic chair, Tia Pitman was second and Elys Knorz came third. It ended, as usual, with a rousing rendition of 'Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau'.

Staff would like to thank the parents for their energetic rendition of Calon Lan! It was good for the soul.

Let's go for a little Walk

Nursery

This term we have been busy in the Meithrin learning Traditional Tales. We learnt the story of Hansel and Gretel, The Gingerbread man and Red Riding Hood using Pie Corbett's style of learning, through story maps. Here we are pretending to be Hansel and Gretel walking in the forest. We also learnt some letters along the way!



Brave bears!

Reception

What a busy term the reception class had learning about Goldilocks and the three bears and then going on an exciting bear hunt in the forest. We made Wanted posters looking for Goldilocks, compared different bear sizes, built Baby bear a new chair, and found lots of facts about bears! On the bear hunt we travelled through long grass, swam in the river, trampled on mud, through a snow storm, and into a dark cave..... "Aaaaaah bear!"



Wonderful Wolves!

Year 1

Did you know that not all wolves are bad? We do! During our 'living things' topic we read about the 'three little pigs' and other animals. We immersed ourselves with 'three little pigs' activities such as performing a puppet show, making a sound story based on the characters and used hot seating techniques to ask and answer questions about the characters. We also discovered that some pigs can be cruel after reading 'the three horrible pigs and the kind wolf.'



Here and there

Year 2

During our explorative project 'Here and there' we took full advantage of our local area and took a long and winding walk down Hartridge Farm Road. We collected pieces of evidence of our journey and created journey sticks. We also had the opportunity to create and send postcards and sent them to our home addresses to track the journey on a map of Newport.



Romans Rule the School

Year 3

During the term we have been learning about the Romans. We had a lot of fun while digging for artefacts in the garden. We discovered a lot of interesting information about some of them. We became soldiers who came over the sea to invade Britain and wrote a newspaper article about it. Then, we celebrated the era with a Roman day where Year 3 children dressed in togas and soldier uniforms. We cooked leeks and cheese on toast. The leeks were one of the vegetables that the Romans brought with them to Britain.



School of Superheroes

Year 5

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No... it's children from year 5. This term we have been learning about the characteristics of Superheroes and we held a special Superheroes' day where pupils designed their own Superheroes. The children had loads of brilliant ideas, such as Disco Girl and the keeper of time. As well as having fun wearing their Superhero outfits, the children enjoyed learning about the dark Superhero Spring Heeled Jack, who would steal the voices of naughty children in Victorian times. During our physical education lesson the children had to save the day by overcoming a variety of obstacles to find Spring Heeled Jack's cave and rescue the voices. More importantly due to Spring Heeled Jack's naughty behaviour the children had to write a Code of Conduct to show Spring Heeled Jack how a superhero should behave. Luckily, they succeeded to complete various difficult challenges so now we all can sleep safely at night.



The Mysteries of the Woods

Blwyddyn 4

Throughout this term we have been learning about the creatures that live in the woodland. We studied bats and created voice overs for batty nature films. We also learned of Serenola, a lost little bat who had fallen into a bird's nest. We discussed the differences between bats and birds and looked at how to look after a lost bat. When the mother caused a stir one morning by leaving her posters around the yard, we created our own posters to help her in her search. We have also studied snails, spiders, owls and different garden birds and we did a spot of bird watching for the RSPB to help their data.



Role-Models and Inequality

Blwyddyn 6

Year 6 have been learning about famous leaders and people who have fought for the rights of others. We have studied leaders such as Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Malala Yousafzai and Nelson Mandela. We have written a biography of Nelson Mandela's life a newspaper article about Rosa Parks and a letter to Malala Yousafzai. With help from the company Winding Snake, we have also discovered about the Lady Rhondda and her fight for women's rights. We have learnt about the Lakota and what happened to their tribe at Wounded Knee. We have enjoyed learning about these role models who inspire us to want to change the world. We will be writing and performing our own speech entitled 'I have a dream.' We may even get to perform on our new amphitheatre!! Who knows, Year 6 may hold some future leaders and role models.



Amazing Art!



The after school club for the More Able and Talented artists among us have been very busy creating for the Art competition held by the Urdd. The theme this year is 'Wonders'. Parents, teachers and pupils have been designing, creating, painting, sewing and much more. Good luck to all in the upcoming competition. Thank you to all who have helped: Miss Davies (Y4), Miss Pugh, Mrs Phillips, Mrs Evans (Nursery), Mrs Ella Edwards, Mrs Rachel Morgan, Ms Beth Davies, Mrs Michelle Hobbis., Mrs Alice Butler-Bright, Miss Sneddon, Miss Cutts, Ms Sally-Ann Mellor, Mrs Mandy Evans, Miss Davies (Y3).



Eisteddfod



In this year's local Eisteddfod (the cyrch), many of our pupils competed in the numerous competitions - Florence Ledley and Caitlin Sykes (solo singing for the under 7s); Euan Radfford and Sorel Butler-Bright (solo reciting for the under 7s); Rhianwen Lewis and Freya Barret (solo singing for the under 9s); Ceirios Bebb and Jemima Bradshaw, (solo reciting for the under 9s); Eleri Marshall and Evie Campbell (solo folk singing 'alaw werin' without accompaniment); Tom Rist and Caitlyn James (solo singing for the under 11s); Owain Jones and Evie Campbell (solo reciting for the under 11s); The acting group: Letisha Hughes, Harrison Kembrey, Seren Howells and Ben Gibbons; The reciting group: Letisha Hughes, Harrison Kembrey, Ben Gibbons, Morgana Davies, Owain Jones, Mali Edwards, Shyana Fleming. We had success in the solo singing for the under 11s (Caitlyn James - 2nd), the acting group (2nd); folk singing (Evie Campbell - 2nd). They went through to the county eisteddfod 29th March. Also competing with them in the county was the disco dancing group: Tegan Matthews, Molly Donovan, Phoebe Doran, Elinor Hardwidge, Jasmine Butler-Bright; the disco dancing solo: Seren Howells and Evie Campbell and, the choir. A massive THANK YOU to the children and all the members of staff who have been training hard during break times, dinner hours and after school for many weeks: Miss Williams (reception), Miss Davies (year 2), Miss Williams (Year 2), Miss Cutts, Miss Williams (year 1), Mr Williams, Miss Lotwick, Miss Davies (Year 4), Mrs Evans (year 4), Miss Pugh, Miss Thomas, Miss Leyshon, Mrs Parry and Ms Beth Davies. A big thank you also to parents for bringing the children to compete.



Mathematical Madness!

We had a day of using Techniquest mathematical puzzles and problem solving equipment this term. They were a lot of fun and the children had to discuss together how to solve the puzzles. We were also visited by Mr Paul Godding who worked with Years 5 and 6. These activities were also problem solving, reasoning and logic mathematical puzzles that asked for a lot of head scratching and team playing.



Gold Stars for 100% Attendance!

We had an awards ceremony in our assembly recently. Certificates were awarded to pupils to celebrate their punctual attendance. More than 60 bronze (95% attendance); 62 silver certificates (98% of the time) and 25 lucky pupils were awarded a gold certificate for 100% attendance!!! Well done to all of them!



New Additions to our School Grounds

Although our recycled bottle greenhouse was very environmentally friendly, it had started to dismantle in the stormy weather. In its place, we have had a brand spanking new and robust greenhouse fitted. In addition to this, there has been an amphitheatre built at the far end of the juniors yard. Not only will it be an excellent resource for teachers to use with their class, but the year 5 and 6 pupils have been enjoying it immensely during break times. Newport has talent!



FIVE A DAY

Our school fruit shop is open. What a success it has been! The school council have been working hard to promote the venture, run the business and ensure that our school is a healthier place. A member of the council stated "Working in the shop helps me prepare for my future". Another member of the council said "I would like to thank everyone who has bought fruit and queues up smartly every day. You have helped make the shop a success!"



Willow Wonders!

The Eco Council helped to keep our willow tunnel under control once again this year. They were helped by Natalie Waller from the Newport Council to trim and shape the willow branches. We will keep the trimmings in order to add to our willow fence that surrounds the allotment garden.



World Book Day

Once again our school was full of Twits, Wonkas, hobbits and wizards to celebrate reading and books. We all had a lot of fun and loved guessing everybody's costumes.



Fair Trade for All!

Elin Jones came into our Key Stage Two assembly to discuss the importance of Fair Trade with the children. Not only did she introduce us to Foncho, a small banana farmer from Columbia, but she brought in a giant inflatable banana to ensure we all turn mouths into smiles when buying Fair Trade produce from around the world.



Yet another Green Flag!

The Eco Council have been a busy bunch this term. We were awarded our third Eco Schools Green flag for the work that goes on in our school: in classes, in lessons and on the grounds, to ensure a better tomorrow by recycling, gardening, looking after nature and learning about how to be good citizens. Our next challenge will be to work towards our Platinum award!



Sport Spot



Fab Footballers

Well done to the football team who beat Eveswell Primary School. Two games were played and both games were won. Teuan Hancock was named man of the match for his performance in the goal.



Roaring Rugby Players

The Rugby team beat Marshfield Primary school in a close game 20 - 15. All of the boys played well but Oliver Sams and Callum Richards tackled brilliantly. Owain Jones and George Ovey showed excellent running and passing skills. Good luck to them in the Newport Schools Cup on the 2nd of April.



Jumping Gymnastics

The gymnastics team gave a flawless performance in the national Urdd competition in Aberystwyth. Their performance showed lots of accuracy and co-operation. Well done girls!

Our Brilliant Books!

Mrs Parry, Miss Catrin Evans (Deputy Head of Ysgol Cwmbran) and Mrs Liz Jones, our Systems Leader from the EAS, came to participate in a Book Scrutiny recently. Mrs Jones has noted **that marking and feedback to pupils' books is exceptional and is practice worth sharing (with other schools). The quality of presentation in pupils' books is exceptional and is practice worth sharing (with other schools). Opportunities for the more able and talented are very effective and well planned across the curriculum in all classes.** If you'd like to read the full report you can do so on our website under the title 'Book Scrutiny 2014'.

In addition to this, Mrs Helen Phillips recently hosted a training course for teachers from other schools on excellent standards in the Foundation Phase. The feedback has been very positive.

Easter Eggsitement!

For your information, Magor Marsh Reserve is hosting many fun activities for children and families during the Easter holidays. There is a **Spring Fun Day** on Saturday 12th April 1 - 4 pm (£1 per child, adults are free) that includes a water vole trail, pond dipping, bird watching and a guided walk as well as crafts and using a microscope.

Wildplay Thursday 17th April 10 - 3pm - a holiday club with a difference for children aged 8 and over. Games, crafts, outdoor exploration and wildlife investigation (booking is essential) (£15 per child) Phone Leigh on 01600 740358 to book.

Wildlife Warriors - for ages 10 and over - starting on Wednesday April 30th 6:30 - 8:30 it will run every week during term time until October half term. (£12 per half term or £10 for Gwent Wildlife Trust members) Please phone Kathy on 01633 889048 or e-mail her at magormarsh@gwentwildlife.org for more information.

Once again thank you to the PTA for providing to enable us to produce this newspaper and for organising the many activities throughout the term. If anybody would like to become a member of the PTA, registration forms are available in the office.