Sketty Primary Newsletter

Autumn Half Term 2022

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www.skettyprimary.co.uk

@sketty_primary

Article 28: All children have the right to a good quality education.

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful start we have had to this new academic year. I am very grateful that we have been able to return to an almost normal timetable.

Parent Workshops

We have started our parent workshops with Mrs Palmer and Mr Knight sharing our work on Emotion Coaching. Please look out for invites after half term for workshop updates on The New Curriculum, Additional Learning Needs (ALN) and the requisites of Curriculum for Wales: Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) Code. I look forward to sharing our approaches and to some lively debate.

Important Dates

Please check the website for dates re – parent/carer meetings immediately after half term and check the calendar for dates for our Christmas Concerts.

Helping us improve

Parent and carer questionnaires will be sent out after half term to gather your views on how we can improve our provision and what you really like about our school. We are always reviewing and reflecting on how we can improve things in Sketty Primary and your opinions are vital to the success of this process.

Changes in staff

Mr Crofts our year 6 teacher is leaving us at the end of this half term to join Swansea University,
Miss Wiltshire our year 2 teaching assistant also leaves us for pastures new in Neath Port Talbot.
We wish them both every success in their new ventures.
We welcome back Ms Liz Copus who will join us after half term to work alongside Mr Lloyd-Jones in year 6. Ms Copus is a wonderful teacher who has lots of experience working in year 6 and the children know her well. As soon as we know who will replace Miss Wiltshire we will inform you.

PTA!!

A big thank you to our wonderful parents/carers who have organised our cake sales and worked hard prepping for our first Halloween disco since 2019. In addition, a big thankyou to all parents/carers for all your support over this half term.
Our children continue to be fantastic with the school council elections having taken place and committees being completely re-established after half term. Watch this space for reports on their different projects.
Thank you again for all your support, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or concerns and have a fabulous half term.

Happy Halloween!!!

Mrs Bev Phillips
Head Teacher

Be the best you can be!
Gwnewch eich gorau glas!

Dyddiadau / Dates for the Diary!

Week beginning 7th and 14th November - Parents Meetings
Wednesday 7th December – Nursery Christmas Concert
Monday 12th December – Year 2 Christmas Concert
Tuesday 13th December – Year 1 Christmas Concert
Wednesday 14th December – Year 3 Christmas Concert
Thursday 15th and Monday 19th December – Year 4 and 5 Christmas Concert
Tuesday 20th December – Year 6 Christmas Concert

Reminder of 2022 / 2023 INSET Days

Friday 23rd December - INSET

You can subscribe to our school calendar online at www.skettyprimary.co.uk

Article 29 Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities.

In the classroom



Nursery have had a busy and exciting. It has been wonderful to welcome new children and families to our school. Our topic is Myself and My Family and the children have enjoyed sharing photographs of their favourite places to visit in Swansea, along with their favourite family celebrations. A key focus in our topic is to celebrate difference and that we are all unique. As part of our "Cynefin", where we belong, and to learn about our Welsh heritage. The children look forward to our PE sessions in the hall every Wednesday. So far we have worked on a selection of warm-up games, using a variety of fundamental motor skills to travel through an assault course and catching skills. The children have learnt to say, "Hands ready, eyes on ball" when they are working in pairs to practise catching. We are very much looking forward to the run up to Christmas and cannot wait to start practicing our Christmas Show!



Reception have been learning all about the home. They have welcomed a visitor from a local estate agent to talk to us about houses, what we would expect to find inside a house, e.g. lounge, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and also differences and similarities between houses. It has been lovely and interesting asking the children why their home is important to them and sorry mums, dad and carers but toys rank high on the list! The children have loved meeting and playing with their buddies, it is the highlight of their week.

Year 1's autumn term topic is 'As Far as the eye can See'. The children have been looking at their immediate locality, taking traffic surveys and recording what they could see in and around the school. They have also been learning about lighthouses and we are excited to be visiting Mumbles shortly to see one up close. We have been enjoying the Lighthouse Keeper series of books by Ronda and David Armitage. The children have completed several literacy activities linked to the story including sequencing it in English and Welsh, character descriptions, creating word banks of nouns and adjectives and compiling shopping lists for Mrs Grinling. They have designed their own lunch baskets and discussed healthy eating. The children have created a beautiful role play area including a large lighthouse, Mr and Mrs Grinling's little white cottage with a zipwire connecting the two! In Maths, the children completed a baseline assessment and have been



enjoying a range of activities to include practical and recorded work. We have been revisiting number formation, counting forwards, estimation, place value, one more and one less, and 2D shapes. The children have enjoyed using number inside and outside the classroom.

In Outdoor Learning, children have been exploring our school woodland, learning to identify different trees and leaves, making bug houses as well as using different adjectives to describe what they find. They have been planning for and enjoying the activities in our outside area including making food for Mr Grinling in our mud kitchen, creating lighthouses and boats using big construction, exploring boats in the water, creating slaloms for their scooters and using the outside painting easels to create some wonderful paintings linked to our story.



Year 2 have been learning about castles and through their topic 'Dungeons and Dragons. We have been learning about and comparing life now and in Medieval Times. Year 2 have designed and made shields with their own coat of arms. They are also building a model of a Welsh castle using 3D nets for their joint D&T and Numeracy project. We are enjoying reading 'Beaver Towers' and we have received an email and video from the author Nigel Hinton.

Year 3 have been learning about 'The Victorians' through their topic 'A Step Through Time'. This is our **Humanities** focus topic. The children undertook EPIC (Every one planning in class) planning at the start of the term and have decide what they would like to learn about. The children wanted to learn about who the monarch was during Victorian times, how school was, what life was like for children to name a few. We have enjoyed learning about Queen Victoria, what life was like in comparison to now. The children have learnt about inventors and their inventions too. After half term we will be focusing on School. We are looking forward to a trip to St Fagans, where we will have a lesson in the Victorian school. In **Science and technology**, we have been learning about how circuits work and have enjoying making our own circuits. We have been learning hour to code through 'Hour of code'. In **Mathematics and Numeracy**, we have been



focusing on place value. The children have been learning to double and halve by using partitioning. They have been using inequality signs for great than, less than and equal to. As well as recognising odd and even numbers. In **Language, Literacy and Communication**, we have been focusing on recount writing. We have learnt about time phrases, using adjectives to describe emotions, past tense, present participle verbs, past participle verbs and prepositional phrases. We are enjoying reading our class novel 'Fantastic Mr Fox' by Roald Dahl and completing task lined to the novel. In **Expressive Arts**, we have been learning about colour. We have enjoyed learning about primary and secondary colours, warm and cool colours. We have been using watercolours and pastels. The children have started having ukulele lessons with Mr Godwin. In **health and wellbeing** the children have enjoyed weekly PE slots. In outdoor learning, the children have been busy in our woodland making dens, collecting natural objects and looking for signs of Autumn.



Year 4 have been learning about 'Civilisations', their Humanities topic. We have begun exploring our topic based on questions generated by the pupils. We have compared Celts and Romans way of life, checked for historical accuracy and we are beginning to find out why the Roman Empire was so successful. For **Science and Technology**, following on from the children's questions about light, we have investigated why we need light to see, sources of light, how light travels and light dispersion. Children have started to code and debug using Scratch. In **Expressive arts** we have explored the impact of the arts on wellbeing. We have studied the artist Yayoi Kusama and the children have enjoyed drawing pumpkins using a range of techniques and materials including water colours. Year 4 have continued learn the ukulele with Mr Godwin – they are sounding great! We have also been lucky enough to be joined by Julie Hobday who has worked with year 4 to create dances based on our text 'The Mab' a retelling of the stories of the Mabinogi. As part of our **Language and Literacy** sessions, we have been learnt the features of persuasive texts including superlatives, imperatives and rhetorical questions. We have produced persuasive Airbnb adverts for a stay at a choice of places in Wales – book your weekend break soon! The children have continued to use Welsh in their daily activities (Helpwr yr Dydd) and are developing the ability to talk about themselves and their feelings. In **health and wellbeing** the children have enjoyed weekly PE slots. They have learnt a selection of small team games in order to play them independently. We have also discussed the importance of physical fitness. Within **Mathematics and Numeracy** the children have continued to increase their understanding of place vale. They have rounded numbers to the nearest 10,100,100 and 10,000. They have revised and practised column addition and subtraction and used their skills in order to solve problems.



Year 5 have been looking at '*The World From My Doorstep'* leading into our *'Escape!'* topic. In doing so, we have spent time learning about refugees, looking at push and pull factors, where they begin their journey and where they end, and everything in between. We were very fortunate to welcome so many parents and family members in to watch our class assembly where we sang the song 'Refugee' by Skip Marley and learnt the poem 'Refugee' by Brian Bilston. We concluded this half term looking at Italian immigration during World Wars, and we couldn't complete this work without creating our very own ice-cream!



Year 6 have had a very busy half term in Year 6 as we settled back into our new routine as the oldest class in the school. Our topic this term is Frozen Kingdoms. We have been learning about life in Antarctica, finding out about explorers such as Edgar Evans and Robert Falcon Scott, as well as reading an amazing story 'Race to the Frozen North' by Catherine Johnson. We have participated in Cycle Profiency, had Spectrum workshops about Healthy relationships, and learnt sign language and first aid. In class we have celebrated World Animal Day, Mental Health Day and Show Racism the Red Card. We were the first class to do our Class Assembly this year and enjoyed telling our parents and families about the things we had been learning in school.

Roald Dahl Day

Roald Dahl Day was celebrated school wide. All pupils enjoyed dressing up as Roald Dahl Characters. Below are just some of the activities that the various year groups took part in.

In Reception the children enjoyed listening to some of Roald Dahl's short stories throughout the day.

Year 2 focused on the BFG for Roald Dahl Day.

Year 3 had a Roald Dahl themed hunt around the school and had to work out clues to receive a Golden Ticket! On Roald Dahl day we launched our class novel 'Fantastic Mr Fox' and made predictions about the story.

School Visits

Year 5 were blown away, by our trip to Theatr Nanog to watch 'The Trial of Elgan Jones' where We chose the verdict that Elgan was NOT guilty!

In **Year 6, o**ur first school trip of the year was to the Dylan Thomas Theatre where we watched the Theatr Nanog production of The trial of Elgan Jones. It was such an amazing show and we were the jury, making the decision about what happened to Elgan. In the afternoon, we visited the National Waterfront Museum where we were taken back in time to a Victorian classroom. The teacher was very strict! We also visited Swansea Museum and enjoyed some activities looking at how everyday items such as hoovers, irons and even hair curlers had changed over the years.

Year 6 have started their weekly swimming sessions at the National Pool.

Awareness Days



Awareness days are a key focus of Our Curriculum at Sketty Primary School. This half term we have celebrated many awareness days.

Black History Month

Children throughout the school have been celebrating Black History Month and have learnt about lots of significant Black people from throughout History.

Reception have learned a poem about Martin Luther King and they generated their own dream based on kindness.

Year one made bright multi-coloured hands linked to our discussions marking Black History Month.

Year 2 learnt about Rosa Parks as part of Black History Month and sequenced events in her life.

Year 3 learnt about Mary Seacole, a Victorian nurse. We learnt about Marcus Rashford and how he is trying to tackle food poverty in the UK.

Year 5 have been reading lots of information about important figures and comparing our lives to them



World Mental Health Day

A variety of activities took place to raise awareness for Mental Health Day. The children also dressed in yellow to show their support.

Year one have made Love Hearts to mark World Mental Health Day teaching the children to be kind to themselves.



Children in Year 2 to Year 5 have taken part in friendship workshops.

Year 2 have had a series of workshops run by the Spectrum Project focusing on gender and managing our emotions which also coincided with Mental Health Awareness Day.

International Day of Peace



Year one have created their own peace doves for International Day of Peace.

World Fitness Day

Year 4 celebrated world fitness day by measuring pulse rates before and after exercise. We discussed the importance fitness in our daily lives.

Shwmae Day

Across the school we celebrated Shwmae day. Children wore Welsh colours and took part in activates that celebrated being Welsh throughout the day.

In Nursery, the "selfie frame" was very popular during Shwmae Day, and the children loved to use it to practice saying "Shwmae"

Diwali

Children across the school have been learning about Diwali 'The Festival of Light'.

Nursery have created their own Diva lamps, and have especially enjoyed dancing along to traditional Indian music. A great big thank you to Mrs O'Leary for dressing up in her sari to show the children traditional Indian clothes worn for Diwali.

Show Racism the Red Card

Pupils dressed red to show support and we completed our hand designs to show unity through different cultures.



Charitable Donations



On October 6th, The **Year 4-6 Sketty Singing Club** performed alongside the Swansea Excelsior Ladies Choir in a Concert in St Paul's Church, Sketty, in aid of The Singleton Hospital Breast Care Unit. The Concert was a roaring success and raised over £3,000. The children sang beautifully, and we have already started working on our Christmas Repertoire!

Children from across the school have been collection donations for Matt's Cafe and Sketty Foodbank. A big thank you to all for your generous donations.



The children in **Reception** have been busy with their numeracy charity project. The reception children decided to undertake a 'Fitathon' to raise money. The children voted on the activities they wanted to participate in but more importantly they were given the opportunity to vote for the charity they wanted to support. The result was the charity 'Matthew's House' and as a Reception Team we would like to thank you all for supporting the children and helping us raise money for such a good cause.

MATTHEW'S HOUSE

Internet Safety



Pupils from Nursery to Year 6 have been learning out internet safety. All pupils have agreed to our ICT Acceptable Use Policy, which has been signed by the children. This has set out our expectations for the children working online. Please reinforce this with your children at home and we will continue to deliver lessons to help children become responsible digital citizens.

We regularly post online safety posters to our website for you to keep up to date with tips on how to help your children stay safe online.

Article 24 You have a right to a clean and safe environment



PTA

The PTA have been busy this half term. Here is a round up of some of the things that have been going on:

1. We have enjoyed having our loved bake sales again.
2. The children have been busy doing their Christmas card designs in school. More information on this and how to view and buy items will follow next term.
3. Christmas cards have been designed in school by the children. Please send the form completed with your information on Monday 7th November.
4. Rags2Riches will be directly after half term (7th & 8th November) please have a clear out in half term and donate good quality, clean clothes, paired footwear, accessories, belts and handbags.

NO poor quality items, bedding, school uniform or books/CD's. Please take your bags to the storage container by the main entrance of the school on the 7th & 8th November.

5. Weather dependant, cakes and carols in the yard after school, Friday 16th December 2022.
6. We have funded the Year 6 leavers hoodies, which they all look fantastic in!

PTA Bake Sale Rota

Date		Class	Class reps
14/10/2022		Y6 JC	Lucy Haines/heather Parkinson
28/10/2022	Halloween	Y6 SW	Rachel Bull
11/11/2022		Y5 WD	Helen Saunders
25/11/2022		Y5 JH	Kim Edwards
16/12/2022	Christmas	Y4 LJ	Samatha Arthur/Sharon Hearne
13/01/2023		Y4SK	Kirsty Richards
27/01/2023		Y3 NT	Janine Walters
17/02/2023		Y3 MJ	Hannah Chriswick
10/03/2023		Y2LC	Aimee Rushton/Shal Qasim
24/03/2023	Easter	Y2 DD	Kirsty Richards
21/04/2023	Easter	Y1 LO/ER	TBC
12/05/2023		Y1 KP/SP	Katie Cooze
26/05/2023		Recep KE/SM	TBC
16/06/2023		Recep AB	TBC
30/06/2023		Nursery	TBC

As you can see we are missing PTA class reps for 4 classes. If anyone would like to come forward to help with their childrens class, please contact the PTA via email (skettyprimaryschoolhsa@hotmail.co.uk).

After School Clubs

We have been enjoying our after school clubs this half term. We have a range on offer for children from Reception – Year 6. Sports clubs, fun club, art club, coding club and more.
Full details for clubs available can be seen on the school website.