Sketty Primary Newsletter

Autumn Half Term 2022

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

Season's Greetings Everybody!

It has most certainly been the most wonderful time of the year! A very special visitor, Santa, was excitedly welcomed to our Nursery and Reception classes. The children had a lovely time listening to his stories and I am sure they will be on the "nice list" as the children were all so well behaved!

Year 1 and 2 have been to see the show "Elf The Musical" at Gorseinon College. The show was of an exceptionally high standard and everyone was mesmerized by the performance (including the teachers!!).

Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 have had a visit to the cinema to see the film adaptation of Matilda the musical. I do not know who was more excited to see the film the children or the adults!!

Our school choir have had a few "gigs" over the festive period including; singing at the switching on of the tree lights at Pastor Paul Morts' Sketty Community Church, singing in the Carol Shed in Swansea City Centre and singing at Sketty House Care Home. All performances were wonderful. A big thank you to Mrs Porter and Mr Lloyd-Jones for helping the children to prepare and a thank you to all staff, parents/carers and governors who were able to support.

Our Christmas concerts have been a hi-light of the year. We have not been able to hold face-to-face performances since 2019 and everyone was delighted to get back to having a live audience. Every performance has been well received, and the children worked very hard supported by their teachers and assistants to produce beautiful pieces that were enjoyed by all. The concert raffles raised £1001!! We thank everyone who was able to contribute.

A big thank you to our fantastic PTA for all their support this term. They have brought back our loved bake sales and our Halloween disco. Thank you for providing the children with chocolate for Christmas – it was a big hit!

Please check our website for the results of the recent parent/carer questionnaires. Your input is vital in moving our school forward. Our school has an open door policy. If you have, any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do everything we can to help and support. We ask that any meeting held in school be treated with confidentiality. Sometimes information shared through social media or on the schoolyard can be unintentionally misinterpreted or relayed incorrectly. To protect everyone, if you have any queries or concerns please contact the school directly.

Please check the website for a series of parent/carer workshops that will be delivered in the New Year. We shall be covering topics that will include the New Curriculum, RSE (relationships and sexuality education) and anger and anxiety. We shall also be gathering your thoughts and feelings about how we communicate with you and your opinions and concerns about homework and how we can improve these areas.

I know there have been some concerns over school lunches. I recently met Allison Cosker who is head of the catering and cleaning department for Swansea schools. She has assured me they are looking at changing the combinations of food that have been on offer, the quantities served to the children and will inform us in the new year on how the free meal offer will develop in schools across the city. As soon as I have any updates I will let you know.

It has been a very busy Autumn Term; we have said a fond farewell to Mrs Dalling who is taking up a post with Swansea University working with teaching students. We will miss her but wish her every success on her new adventure.

All that remains for me to do is to thank all parents/carers, staff, governors and our beautiful children for all their hard work in making our school the special place it is. We are told there are difficult times ahead but I know we are stronger together and can face any storm that is put before us.

Please have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I look forward to seeing everyone well rested after the holidays ready for an exciting Spring Term.

Nadolig LLawen Pawb a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda.

Mrs Bev Phillips

Head Teacher

Dyddiadau / Dates for the Diary!

- Monday 9th January – Return to school.
- Monday 16th January – Martin Luther King Day
- Week commencing 6th February – Children's Mental Health Week
- Week commencing 27th February – Welsh fortnight

Reminder of 2022 / 2023 INSET Days

- Friday 28th April
- Monday 24th July

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



In the classroom

Nursery It has been a busy half term at Dragonflies Nursery, and as always, thoroughly enjoyable! Morning Nursery have continued their topic, Myself and My Family, and have been collecting data on their favourite fruits, as part of the DCF and Numeracy curriculum. The children have also been creating simple timelines, using photos of them as a baby and first day of Nursery. They have had fun identifying and comparing photos! Morning Nursery also launched our Dragonflies Walking Campaign, as part of our pledge to take care of the environment. The campaign involved swapping a car journey for a walk once a day. We also practiced walking in school each day, by testing how many times we could walk around the junior playground in 5 minutes. Our best effort was 4! The walking campaign was our Numeracy project for the term as it involved talking about time, estimating, counting and collecting data. We also celebrated Anti-bullying Week as part of our topic, by comparing our physical features e.g. colour of hair, eyes and skin, height, size of hands and feet, and then celebrating diversity. A warm welcome to the children and parents who have joined Rising 3 Nursery this half term. It was wonderful to welcome you to take part in an afternoon of Christmas crafts. We hope you enjoyed too and we look forward to doing something similar in the Spring term. Here are the Rising 3 class enjoying mud kitchen!



Reception This half Term Reception have started a wonderful new programme called Think Equal. This programme covers the Health and well-being and Humanities Areas of learning, as well as RSE. The children have been developing their social and emotional skills, taking a literature based approach. We read the story 'Mother Earth is Weeping' and we thought of different ways we could help save her, such as turning off taps and lights, recycling and planting more trees. We have also celebrated awareness days such as Children in Need and Anti-bullying Week. For Anti-bullying week, we read the story 'Troll Stinks' and discussed how she felt when she received nasty messages. We all thought of a kind message to make her feel better. As part of our topic 'There's no place like home', the children completed a survey on what they saw on their journey to school. We then compared what we saw with other children and created a tally chart. Our clever children then used their digital skills to create a bar chart on Jit. We have also been questioning each other on what we celebrate in our homes.



Year 1 This half term the children continued their work linked to the topic 'As far as the eye can see'. We enjoyed a wonderful trip to Bracelet Bay to see the Lighthouse close up. The children enjoyed using beach materials to make models linked to our Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch series of books. They also completed a locality walk and a second traffic survey whilst there, so they could compare the two localities- Tycoch and Mumbles. Back in the classroom, after much discussion, the children created a Venn Diagram comparing the two localities. The children enjoyed learning about the Hindu festival of light, Diwali. They produced literacy work linked to the story of Rama and Sita- Rama and the Demon King, produced their own symmetrical Rangoli patterns and designed and made clay Diva lamps. In Maths, the children have been recording number bonds to 10, using Numicon for support, place value, counting on from a bigger





number, addition sums and word problems. They have been recognizing and naming 3D shapes and creating symmetry designs linked to Diwali. This term our Maths Project is a Christmas Market Enterprise Project. The children have been completing lots of work linked to money, including recognizing coins, sorting, ordering, paying for items, word problems and counting amounts.

Year 2 This half term Year 2 have been continuing with their topic Dungeons and Dragons. After designing and making shields with their own coat of arms before half term, they then wrote instructions on how to make a shield. Year 2 have enjoyed reading the book Beaver Towers this term and have been focusing on adjectives to describe the different characters before writing character descriptions. During the COP27 conference, we had a Science Week focusing on climate change using the book Mother earth is Weeping as a stimulus for the week. We created a new recycling logo using collage of recyclable materials from our lunch boxes as well designing posters about COP27 using ICT skills. Year 2 also carried out an experiment to find out the best way to melt ice, linking this to the melting of the ice caps due to climate change. They also looked at their carbon footprint and identified ways that they could contribute to helping our environment. Year 2's Numeracy Project this term was to make a prototype and build a model of a Welsh castle using 3D shapes.





Year 3 have had another extremely busy half term. We have continued our topic, A step through time, with a focus on how Victorian children and school life. The children wrote a fantastic recounts from their trip to St Fagans. In Science, we have learnt about and made basic circuits. In technology, have been working on our coding skills and block coding through hour of code. Dwr Cymru delivered a workshop to Year 3 about wasting water. This linked with our Mathematics topic of measure. The children have been learning to use different standards of measure, measuring accurately and reading scales. Our class novel focus this half term has been 'The Huey's in the new jumper' by Oliver Jeffers and 'Mother Earth is weeping' by Claire Donald. In expressive arts, the children have continued their ukulele sessions and been learning to play Christmas songs. The children practised performing for their Christmas sharing 'Lights, camel action!'. This term, we used the kiln to make clay baubles. The children worked hard on their Christmas Market Enterprise project in Mathematics. We learnt about Money in Mathematics in preparation. They decided what they wanted to make for our Christmas market, did the product design and came up with the prices.

Year 4 Another busy half term for Year 4! It was lovely to return to face to face meetings for parent evenings and we look forward to seeing you again in the spring term. In **Humanities** have continued exploring our topic of Civilisations 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**, we have made simple electrical circuits, investigated insulators and conductors and introduced a switch into a circuit. We then worked in groups to design and create an electrical quiz board using our knowledge of the Romans. In **Expressive arts** we have used wax resist, designed Christmas cards, drew and researched siapo patterns and continued to improve our skills in our sketchbooks. In dance, we have continued to work with Julie Hobday to choreograph a short dance based on the story of the Mabinogion. In drama, we have rehearsed and performed for our class assembly. While in Music, we have practised and refined short pieces of music on the ukuleles. As part of our **Language and Literacy** sessions, we have been learnt





the features of information texts including the rules of paragraphing, quantifiers, captions and subheadings. We have produced information texts about the Romans. In **Health and wellbeing** the children have developed their attacking and defending skills in small game activities. We have read 'Dog's don't do ballet' and discussed the importance of respecting others and appreciating everyone is unique. Within **Mathematics and Numeracy** the children have practised column addition and subtraction, found area and perimeters of simple shapes and measured accurately to the nearest mm.

Year 5 This half term Year 5 have been diving further into the topic of 'Escape!' moving on from looking at the refugee crisis from Ukraine and Syria to looking at the World Wars. In doing so, we started with an educational trip to the cinema to watch 'The Railway Children' which gave Year 5 an experience of what life was like for Evacuees. Following on from this, we looked again at 'The World from our doorstep' focussing on Swansea and how the Three Nights Blitz damaged Swansea. In language we used the knowledge of Blitz style poetry to create our own poem on the Blitz. Expressive Arts crossed with Science and Technology where Year pupils created stop motion animations using their water-colored Swansea city to show the destruction from the Three-Day Blitz. To round off an exciting and important topic, we had a local volunteer bring his Jeep from the world wars in to school, along with a collection of clothes and equipment for Year 5 to look at.

Year 6 have had another extremely busy half term. We have continued our topic, Frozen Kingdom, with a focus on how our planet is changing and learning about climate change and the greenhouse effect. The children worked brilliantly on their explanation writing and have produced some fantastic final pieces, showing their learning over the term. This term, we had two brilliant workshops from Dwr Cymru, who taught as about the ways we are wasting water and Size of Wales who told us more about the rainforests and how they are becoming destroyed. Our class novels this half term have been Mother Earth is Weeping by Claire Donald and Clockwork by Phillip Pullman, two amazing books which we have been thoroughly enjoyed reading. We have been continuing to learn sign language and have also started Spanish lessons with Mrs O'Leary.



School Visits



Year 1 went on a trip to Bracelet Bay.



Year 3 had a fantastic trip to St Fagans. We enjoyed looking at the Ryd-y-Car cottages and seeing how they had changed over time. We had a great lesson in Maestir School, where we were taught by a Victorian Teacher.

Awareness Days

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

As a school, we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week, we enjoyed wearing their odd socks to mark this.

We celebrated Children in Need and enjoyed taking part in children in need activities. Thank you for your donations.



PTA

A big thank you from the PTA for supporting the PTA cake stalls, Halloween disco, Christmas card project and Rags2Riches initiatives. There will be another Rages2Riches in February. You can also raise funds for the school by simply shopping online. It won't cost you a penny extra and there are over 4,000 shops/sites that will donate a % of your shop to Sketty School PTA. It's like cashback for the PTA. Please go to www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for **Sketty Parent Teacher Association**, **JOIN** then **SHOP** it's as easy as that! Easier still, download the app on your phone /tablet. It's the easiest way to donate to the PTA and it doesn't cost you a penny. **PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS!** We are also still in need of a class representative for nursery classes and reception. If you can help, please let your child's teachers know. We look forward to bringing more fun events to the school in 2023, happy holidays from the PTA.

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.

