Sketty Primary Newsletter

Spring End 2023

Article 28 - Children have the right to a good quality education.

Keep up to date at:
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Reminder of 2022 / 2023 INSET Days:

- Friday 28th April
- Monday 5th June
- Monday 24th July

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.

Hello, and Happy Easter Everybody!

Our Spring term has been a very busy one with all year groups working very hard on a vast array of projects and topics. This term has seen the continuation of our parent/carer workshops which have proved to be very popular and helpful.

Please look out for more dates when we return in the Summer Term.
I'd like to thank all our staff for their hard work, enthusiasm and commitment to our school, our governors who have been into school many times this term to help and support
our wonderful PTA who works so hard raising funds for us and to you our parents and carers for your continued support.

Have a fabulous Easter and here's to (hopefully) a sunny Summer Term.

Kindest regards

Mrs Bev Phillips

Head Teacher
Sketty Primary



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





In the Classroom

Nursery

It has been a busy, and as always, a very enjoyable term at Dragonflies Nursery. Our topic has been Helping Hands. In this topic the children have been learning how they can help others and how others can help them. Our focus has been our community and so the children have learnt to identify a variety of key workers, including those who help in an emergency. For example shop workers, doctors, nurses, dentists, mechanics, farmers, fire fighters, paramedics, police, teachers, TAs, coaches, RNLI, refuge collectors. We have also been developing the children's oracy skills and encouraging them to ask simple questions, in order to gain information. For example, "Who is this?" "How do they help you?" Developing understanding of children's rights has also been a key focus in this topic, and during Welsh Fortnight the children learnt that it was their right to find out about the place where they live, and it was the grown-ups responsibility to help them learn. The children thoroughly enjoyed having a go at traditional Welsh dancing and learning a variety of songs and rhymes in Welsh, some of which they sang for our school Eisteddfod. World Wildlife Day also took place during Welsh Fortnight and the children made posters to show the wildlife found in Wales and how it can be protected. Afternoon Nursery also thoroughly enjoyed making Welsh cake play dough for the celebrations, dressing up and singing songs and rhymes in Welsh. A great big thank you for helping your child to making a hat or flag at home to symbolise Wales.

Reception

Our topic this term has been 'Let me entertain you'. This topic got off to a very enthusiastic start with all the children putting on a talent show. We had comedians, singers, dancers, dinosaur experts, and many more! We celebrated the New Year by making a prediction and National hug day by making a pocket hug for someone we love. For Valentine's Day, the children made love and kindness potions and recorded a special message for the people they care about.We celebrated Chinese New Year in school by making noodles. The children all enjoyed this activity. We made predictions before they were cooked about how they looked and felt and then recorded our findings. The children used bossy verbs to write instructions on how to make them. However, the best parts were the cooking and the eating! In addition, Mrs Qin came into school to talk to us about how she and her family celebrate Chinese New Year. During Welsh fortnight, we learnt a poem and a song to perform in the Eisteddfod. The children have been using an app called Chatterpix to make our dragon mascot Dewi speak in Welsh. We entered competitions, to make bunting, and recite poetry. It was great fun celebrating all things Welsh and the children enjoyed dressing up in their costumes.

Year 1

This half term our topic was 'New Beginnings' with a focus on Spring, the changing seasons, growth and new life. It has been a busy term, which has included Welsh fortnight. The children completed a range of activities over the two weeks including persuasive writing, creating a digital Welsh poster and producing artwork in the style of Ann Blades our Welsh artist. They enjoyed a visit from Phil Stockton who, in his usual wonderful way, shared the story of the Red Dragon. They also performed a Welsh song brilliantly in our school Eisteddfod. Year One were able to use the school kiln this term, and the children have enjoyed designing and making clay Easter decorations, which will be revealed very soon. They also used the 'Talk for Writing' approach to write a set of instructions about how to make them. We were lucky enough to have two wellbeing workshops with Dani Boyce. Through lovely stories, the children learnt about the importance of resilience. Linked to our topic the children carried out a science investigation about germination. They were able to use their Maths skills to measure how much their seed had grown and complete digital graphs of their results. They also carried out a number of measuring activities as part of our Spring Term Maths Project, including measuring their head circumference, hand span, foot size, height, stride and temperature. In Music, they have been learning about rhythm – following rhythm cards, playing non-tuned percussion instruments and using rhythms to create a short sequence. Finally, the children have enjoyed a range of physical activities to develop their gross and fine motor skills including our loose parts play inside and outside, funky fingers areas and our physical development program, SKIP.







Year 2

Year 2 have been very busy this term! The children took part in fingerprinting, learnt about the police car and had an opportunity to ask them questions based on our EPIC. We have also started learning our 10x2x5 times tables, where the children have been doing amazingly! Year 2 also performed a VIP Dance show to their family and friends, as well as surprising them with our slot drillio chant, which we also performed in our Eisteddfod. Year 2 have been learning subtraction, doubling, repeated addition and near doubles in maths. We have also continued reading our Beaver Tower's series of books – we're currently on book 3 "A Dangerous Journey". We also joined in with Welsh fortnight, learning about our country, dressing up in Welsh costumes and learning new vocabulary. Children learnt to write in 3rd person in Welsh, a skill which they can translate into Dylan's Diary. We also carried out 3 science experiments as part of British Science Week: how different materials affect the height a ball can bounce, using jelly to understand mixing solutions and experimenting with different objects to understand push/pull forces.

Year 3

Year 3 have had another busy term. Our topic this term was 'Extreme Earth'. At the start of the topic, the pupils completed their EPIC planning and generated questions they had about the new topic. These questions were used to plan for the topic. The children have learnt about volcanoes and earthquakes in depth, which they have thoroughly enjoyed! The children have learnt about the 'ring of fire'. They have also learnt the names of different tectonic plates and how they work. In Literacy, the children used what they have learnt throughout the topic to write an explanation text about how volcanoes work. They have also written an instruction text on how to survive an earthquake! In Mathematics, we have been learning to tell the time, reading and using calendars, and using timetables. We have also been learning about addition and have been learning to make links to help us add, as well as using number lines. We have completed a Design Technology unit of work, where we looked at making towers, bridges and how we can make structures stronger. We even made an earthquake proof structure! In Expressive Arts, the children have enjoying learning a topic dance with Juile Hobday. It has been lovely to see the children being so creative! In Art, we have been learning about different lines and we have been looking at drawing correct proportions. The children completed a range of activities over Welsh fortnight. This included following a recipe to make welsh cakes, reading and writing Welsh number words, locating places in Wales using an atlas, re-telling the story of Gelert, and producing artwork in the style of Suzie Gridey of Three Cliffs. The children have been enjoying taking Dylan home each weekend. Every Monday we look forward to finding out what adventures he has been on with the children!

Year 4

As always, year 4 have had a busy spring term. Our topic was 'Inside out' the children set out questions during EPIC planning and we have has answered as many as possible. They have enjoyed finding out about the human body including the digestive system, organs, and comparing human and animal skeletons. The children also learnt how to put a casualty into the recovery position and give CPR. Thank you to our parent doctor expertise! In literacy, We have written explanation texts about our digestive system and instructions on how to put a casualty into the recovery position. We have also read the beautiful story of *The Miraculous Life of Edward Tulane* by Kate DiCamiilo. This half term, Year 4 have been involved in a creative arts project funded by the Arts council of Wales. They have explored and acted out the stories of Wales, made wearable art and produced short films. In numeracy, we have covered multiplication, division and fractions.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy term working towards our topic of Expressive Yourself. We started our term brainstorming what this topic meant to us and what we wanted to spend our time working towards. We looked at artists such as Keith Haring and Banksy, studying their work and linking them to the Rights of the Child. Working towards the half term, the pupils asked to have an experience in making their own graffiti, which was a real success (the work they created will be used for our enterprise, so stay tuned). Welsh fortnight was a success in year 5 with a record number of castle entries!





Year 6

In Year 6, the weeks have again flown by. Our topic this term has been Trade and we have been learning about how trade works, the importance of fair trade and the effect that trade can have on different countries around the world. Our class novel has been Holes by Louis Sachar. The children have loved this book and have been enjoying getting to know the characters, writing amazing diaries in response to the events. The children also wrote some fantastic biographies on people who inspire them, with the subjects ranging from Martin Luther King and Isaac Newton to Dwayne Johnson and Rick Astley. This term, the children have participated in a number of workshops, working with Spectrum, the Exchange and Action for Children. We have also benefitted from some fantastic PE sessions with Dan from Cardiff University, the Ospreys and a special sports day at Llandarcy Academy. During Welsh week, the children were very lucky to have a performance about the life of Henry VII and had a great time in the Ynni Da disco. Transition has also started in Year 6 and we all enjoyed our visits to Bishop Gore to see Little Shop of Horrors and Olchfa to watch Beauty and the Beast, even though we missed the ending because of the fire alarm.



School Visits

Year 1 visited Folly Farm to mark the end of their topic.



Year 2 visited Sketty Fire Station.

Year 3NT visited Sketty Library as part of World book week.

Year 4 watched a wearable art show in Cardiff, made by design students; which inspired them to make our own art from recycled materials. This inspired the children to put on their own wearable art performance.

The Lord Major invited our winners from his Christmas card competition to Mansion House for Afternoon Tea. The children represented our school superbly. Da iawn pawb!





Criw Cymraeg

We have had a busy term with lots of lovely Welsh activities taking place across the school. The highlight this term has been Welsh fortnight.



We had visits from Phil Stockton who told stories from the Mabinogion, a visiting Theatre company told us the story of how Henry Tudor became the first Welsh King of England, we powered our own Welsh music disco with Ynni da and took part in lots of competitions as part of our Eisteddfod.

Our fortnight finished with each year group performing a song or a poem for the school, competition winners receiving their certificates and our very own Bard, Eleanor Y6SLJ/EC being crowned.

We are now busy promoting Welsh across the school, encouraging each other to 'siarad Cymraeg' whenever we can and introducing new Welsh games on the yard. Our weekly Welsh assemblies are led by our Criw. We introduce and practise our Patrwm Yr Wythnos, sing a Welsh song (Ar Lan yr Mor at he moment) and give out certificates to children who have been speaking lots of Welsh.

Please remember to greet staff and pupils each morning with Bore da or Sut mae? and help us to show how proud we are to be Welsh.

Article 7 - You have the right to a nationality (to belong to a country).

World Book Week

We celebrated World Book Week from Monday 27th March - Friday 31st March.

The whole school united around one author: Nicola Davies. Each year group read a different story, to promote a love of reading for pleasure. Pupils from across the school dressed up on Thursday 30th March. Everyone looked amazing in the costumes of their favourite book characters!





Awareness Days

World Down Syndrome Day – Tuesday 22nd March - A day to raise awareness and acceptance and for our community to join together. In Sketty, we wore odd socks. The socks are representative of chromosomes and this is a really fun & colourful way to share our individuality and celebrate that we are all unique.

Onesie Wednesday – Wednesday 29th March – A day to raise awareness of Autism. In Sketty, we wore our onesies and all children learnt about Autism in their classrooms.



World Water Day

Year 2 and 3 took their learning outside to participate in world water day. We looked at water sources and how we can save water.

Article 29 - You have the right to education, which helps us learn to protect the environment.





Our curriculum helps our learners to become ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world

Language of the Month

British Sign Language (BSL)



Children across the school have been learning BSL and are enjoying using it with their friends.

Safer Internet Day

Pupils across the school took part in Safer Internet Day. This year's theme was 'Together for a better internet', which encouraged everyone to actively participate and engage in internet safety.

Article 17 – You have the right to access information.





Welsh Language Music Day
Dydd Miwsig Cymraeg

This term we celebrated 'Dydd Miwsig Cymraeg'.We learnt about Welsh culture and celebrated Welsh music and artists.



Article 30 - you have a right to your own culture and to use your own language.



Charitable Donations

Non-school uniform fundraiser to raise funds to support Turkey-Syria. We raised a total of £857 as a school. The money has been donated to the British Red Cross Society, delivering humanitarian aid.

Red Nose Day 2023. We managed to raise a wonderful £221!!

Thank you all for your ongoing support and generosity!!!

Article 22 - You have the right to special protection and help if you are a refugee (if you have been forced to leave your home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.

Netball

Our pupils have had a busy few months in netball club, learning all the new rules, passes and court positions. Some Year 5/6 pupils also had the opportunity to visit Dunvant Primary School and play a competitive match. We have seen such a huge improvement in their netball skills, as most pupils joined the club with no previous netball experience. We have been working off resources and lessons planned by Wales Netball, to help us be the best we can be!



We were also very lucky to have a sponsor "Praiseworthy Skateshop", who bought us bought us over £100 worth of equipment. We would like to say a huge thank you for your sponsorship as these resources have made a big difference to our club and the children's progression/learning. A big thanks also goes to J&S Products in Sketty, who will be engraving our new bibs with the school's logo free of charge. We have lots more games and tournaments planned for the Summer Term and are continually learning new skills which we can use on the court.

CAMHS In Reach Parent Workshops

School have been fortunate enough to have Amy Glass in, delivering workshops to parents, staff and pupils, as part of their CAMHS In Reach school service.

The first session focused on Mental Health vs Emotional Well-being. The workshop briefly outlined the School In-reach service aims, including challenging the medicalisation of well-being needs in children. We then explored the distinction between mental health and emotional well-being and discussed how to foster a measured and proportionate response to concerns.

The second workshop, outlined anger and children's ability to emotionally regulate. She discussed various strategies to help children understand their feelings, support the development of language around emotions, how to de-escalate 'meltdowns' in a positive way and avoid the reinforcing cycle of behaviour.

The 3rd session was titled, 'When to worry about your worrier', and offered a brief overview of the psychology of anxiety and worries, an understanding of the anxiety cycle and provided strategies for managing worries.

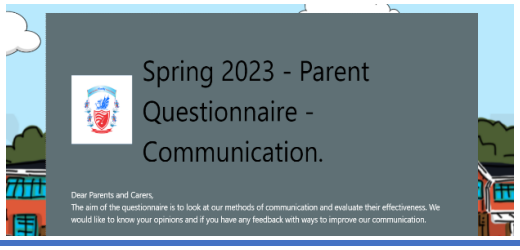
Thank you to all parents who attended, the workshops were very well attended and we have had positive feedback. All the Powerpoints from the sessions, can be found on the school website Under ALN, Mental Health and Well-being. We will be providing another session after Easter, from Amy, more details to follow.



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

Spring 2023 – Parent Questionnaire – Communication

This week, we sent out a questionnaire to parents about communication. We would appreciate as many parents as possible taking the time to fill it in. Please find the questionnaire form link on Class Dojo or the school website.



Sketty PTA

The PTA class bake sales are proving a great hit. After Easter we've still got Yr 1 LO/ER on 21st April, Yr1 KP/SP on 12th May, Rec KE/SM on 26th May, Rec AB on 16th June and nursery on 30th June. The class that makes the most money gets to have that money doubled by the PTA and the teacher for their proceeding year gets to spend it on new and exciting items for their class. So come on the infants….let's get baking! Thank you also to some lovely ladies for agreeing to be class representatives where we had some gaps. Welcome to Helena who is the class rep for reception KE/SM and Laura and Carlie who are the class reps for both nursery classes.

Weather permitting, we are hoping to hold a community morning 10am-12pm at the school on Saturday 22nd April. Bring your brush, trowel and maybe even a paintbrush! To help to spruce up the school for the sunshine months. Children are welcome but must be supervised. More information to follow after the Easter holidays. The PTA is also hoping to hold a royal ball (aka disco) to celebrate the Kings coronation on Thursday 4th May. More information to follow but mini Kings and Queens will be most welcome!

Many thanks, I hope you have a great time over the Easter holidays.

Best wishes
Helen

Our wonderful PTA can be contacted at skettyprimaryschoolhsa@hotmail.co.uk

