

SKETTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
YSGOL GYNRADD SGETI
Newsletter 20 – January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

January has flown by in the blink of an eye, and it already feels like a distant memory since our unexpected snow days earlier in the month. Despite the unusual start, the children have settled back into school life brilliantly, and there has been a great deal of wonderful learning taking place across all year groups.

It has been lovely to welcome so many of you into school for the recent class work-sharing sessions. The children are always so proud to show you what they've been doing, and your support makes these moments even more special.

I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you for the many kind messages I've received following the announcement of my upcoming retirement. Your thoughtfulness and warm wishes mean a great deal to me.

The governing body is now beginning the process of appointing my replacement, and we will keep everyone fully informed as things progress over the coming months.

Please enjoy our January newsletter — it shows just how busy the children have been already, a fabulous start to 2026!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Cofion Cynnes
Mrs Bev Phillips
Headteacher
Sketty Primary School

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~ Eich hawl i ddysgu a mynd i'r ysgol.~
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Nursery
Meithrin

A busy and fun start to 2026 in Dragonflies Nursery. A warm welcome to new parents and children of the afternoon Nursery class, which is rapidly growing in size. We look forward to lots of adventures ahead, and a great big thank you for your support in order to ensure your child settles well into Nursery.



Morning Nursery launched their new topic, Helping Hands, with an immersion day where they came dressed as someone who helps them in the community. The children took part in a photo booth and played a game called Guess My Job. By the end of the session, they were able to identify a variety of people who could help them. As part of our Cynefin, we are also having visits from parents who do a job in the community which involves helping others. If you are interested in coming in to share your job with the children, please speak to Mrs Fox.

Nursery have also celebrated World Religion Day through our "Big Question" approach. We discussed with the children "What is religion?" and found out the different religions in our class. This is also part of our No Outsiders and Think Equal programmed where we remembered our No Outsiders message - All different, all welcome!

We enjoyed taking part in music to movement to retell a story called Float. The children began in small groups and then were able to perform as a class. Each class then acted as an audience to each other. As a follow up the children then investigated the concepts of floating and sinking in our outdoor water area.

Nursery have also been enjoying building outside using a variety of large loose parts including cardboard boxes, crates, decking planks and plastic tubes. They have been working together to construct buildings and vehicles associated with people who help us. If you are able to donate any items that you think would be suitable for our outdoor builders' yard, we would be very grateful. We would love some pallets and tyres.

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Reception

Derbyn

Reception have had a wonderful start to the term and have been very busy settling back into our routines while diving into our new topic, 'Celebrations'.

To launch our topic, we held a very exciting Immersion Day, where the children truly threw themselves into the spirit of celebrating. We began by writing our own invitations to teachers around the school, inviting them to our special Reception Party. Everyone arrived dressed in their best party clothes, ready for a day full of fun and learning! The children worked together to create a fantastic paper mâché piñata, enjoyed dancing and listening to music from around the world, and took part in lots of party games and celebration-themed activities. We even made our own Photo Booth with props and took lots of fun pictures to capture the memories. The party was such a success that teachers from across the whole school came down to join in, and we certainly showed them how Reception knows how to celebrate! We sang, danced, enjoyed some sweets, and even did a conga dance around the school with Mrs Phillips — a moment we won't forget!

Throughout the month, the children have also:

- Explored Chinese New Year Maths
- Written lists of Welsh party foods
- Cut out and decorated colourful cake pictures
- Learned about celebrations from different countries
- Created beautiful Rangoli patterns in the tuff tray
- Designed their own henna prints
- Taken photos of our friends and teachers with Dewi Dragon in the Photo Booth
- Made delicious looking playdough cakes



The children have had an absolute blast and shown fantastic enthusiasm, creativity and teamwork throughout. This month has been all about settling back into routine and becoming familiar with our exciting new topic. We have lots more activities, trips and exciting opportunities coming up next month, and we can't wait to share them with you all.

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Year 1
Blwyddyn 1

Happy New Year and welcome back! We have had a fantastic start to the year in Year 1 and the children have settled back into school life after the Christmas break. January has been a busy and exciting month full of new learning and fresh beginnings.

Our new topic this term is “New Beginnings.” As part of this, we have been learning about how different countries around the world celebrate the New Year. The children loved exploring traditions from different cultures and sharing their own experiences. We also spent time talking about New Year’s resolutions, thinking about goals we would like to work towards and how we can challenge ourselves this year.



In topic work, we have been learning to identify and compare farm animals and wild animals. The children have enjoyed sorting, discussing habitats, and learning new vocabulary linked to animals and where they live.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of addition and subtraction, as well as exploring sharing into equal parts. The children have worked hard using practical resources to support their learning and are growing in confidence each day

We have also been learning about Dydd Santes Dwynwen, the Welsh day of love and friendship. The children created beautiful love spoons, learning about their meaning and significance in Welsh culture. They showed great creativity.



We are looking forward to another exciting term ahead!

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Year 2
Blwyddyn 2



Year 2 have made a fantastic start to the new term and have been extremely busy this month. We began our new topic, Turrets and Towers, by completing our EPIC planning, which helped us discover what the children were most interested in learning about. We have explored the different parts of a castle and their purposes and learned about coats of arms. Using this knowledge, the children designed their own coats of arms and created their own shields.



We also started reading our class novel, Beaver Towers by Nigel Hinton. The children have been captivated by the magical story so far and have enjoyed using their imaginations to predict what might happen next and to visualise the scenes.

In Literacy, we have been learning about nouns and adjectives, as well as how to use commas in a list. In Maths, we have focused on fact families and the relationship between addition and subtraction. We also took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch and celebrated St Dwynwen's Day by learning about her story. The children explored love spoons and discovered the meanings behind their symbols.

The children were delighted to welcome parents into the classroom to share all the hard work they have been doing in their books during our parents sharing morning.

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Year 3
Blwyddyn 3

A new year has brought an exciting new topic for Year 3: Food Glorious Food! We launched our learning by exploring what this theme means and created our own list of 10 things we'd love to do this year, inspired by the National Trust's 50 Things to Do Before You're 11¾. One item on the children's list was to celebrate foods from different cultures. Many children and staff brought in dishes from their own cultures for everyone to taste. It was a wonderful way to share traditions, try new flavours, and appreciate the diversity in our community.



Another goal the children identified understanding where food comes from. With that in mind, the class has been hard at work preparing the planting beds in our school grounds and beginning to plant a range of seasonal fruits and vegetables. They have shown real pride and teamwork in taking care of their growing spaces. When not enjoying outdoor learning, Year 3 has continued exploring food in the classroom. We've learned about the different food groups, their purposes, and how they help our bodies stay healthy.

In Maths, we've been developing our confidence with addition skills, while in Literacy we've been diving into persuasive writing—creating awesome alliteration and experimenting with similes to help make our adverts truly stand out.

We also welcomed visitors from Show Racism the Red Card, who helped us revisit what bullying and racism are, and reminded us how important it is to treat everyone with kindness and respect.

It has been a fantastic start to the term, full of learning, excitement, and positivity—and there's still so much more to come!

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Year 4
Blwyddyn 4

This month we began exploring a brand-new text type: Information texts. The children have been learning about the key features—such as headings, subheadings, technical vocabulary, diagrams, and factual paragraphs. We have been practising how to organise information clearly and use formal, scientific language. All of this is helping us prepare to write our own information text about the heart, linking with our new topic in Science. The pupils have already shown fantastic curiosity and enthusiasm about how the heart works!

January has been a very busy month in Maths! We have been focussing on Multiplication and Division looking at using efficient written methods, solving word problems and building confidence with reasoning and explanations. We are also placing a strong emphasis on times tables, especially ensuring fluency for 3's, 4's and 8's. Practising at home will make a big difference, so thank you for your support! We have just started learning how to calculate area and perimeter. The children have enjoyed working with grid squares and using measuring strategies to find the size and boundary of different shapes.



Our new topic for this term is The Human Body, and so far we have been focusing on one incredible organ: the heart. The children have been learning the job of the heart in the circulatory system, how blood travels around the body and why exercise helps keep our hearts healthy. We will continue to explore more parts of the body over the coming weeks, and this topic links beautifully with our Literacy work.

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Year 5
Blwyddyn 5

We have had a fabulous start to the new year in Year 5 and our topic The Blue Planet.

During our EPIC planning session, the children had lots of ideas for questions they would like to find the answers to. We held an 'immersion day' where the children created an animated water cycle using Stop Motion, experimented with methods for cleaning up after an oil spill and drew sea creatures to scale on the yard.



We are trying hard to develop our outside area with the help of Mrs Holland, the children have enjoyed their outdoor sessions.

In Literacy we are focusing on discussion writing, a great way for the children to learn how to see two sides to an argument. In Maths we have been working hard to develop our understanding of fractions and in Welsh we are developing our vocabulary through conversational Welsh and reading our Nici and Cris books.

The children have the amazing opportunity this month to be part of the Wicked Online Singalong at the Brangwyn Hall, alongside thousands of other children around the world. Next month promises to be equally exciting, stay tuned.

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Year 6
Blwyddyn 6

January has been a wonderful month of learning, creativity, and new experiences for Year 6. The children have returned with enthusiasm and maturity, ready to tackle a busy term and embrace every challenge.

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard in Maths, focusing on extending their understanding of fractions. This has included pupils exploring how fractions that look different can represent the same value. They used bar models, visual aids, and number facts to generate and simplify equivalent fractions with confidence. By using common denominators and reasoning strategies, the children practised comparing fractions of different sizes and ordering them accurately. They explained their thinking clearly, showing real progress in their mathematical language and reasoning. The class then applied their knowledge to add and subtract fractions—both proper and improper—sometimes converting between mixed numbers and improper fractions to solve more complex problems. Their resilience and teamwork have been fantastic to see.

In Literacy, Year 6 have been working towards writing clear, engaging instructional texts. To inspire their ideas, pupils researched traditional Welsh myths and stories, exploring characters, themes, and cultural roots. They then transformed these tales into fantastical poetry, blending creativity with descriptive language. The results have been imaginative, expressive, and full of flair!

In Computing, pupils developed their digital literacy by learning how to input, organise, and manage data using spreadsheets. They explored functions, formatting, and data organisation—useful skills they will continue to build upon throughout the year.

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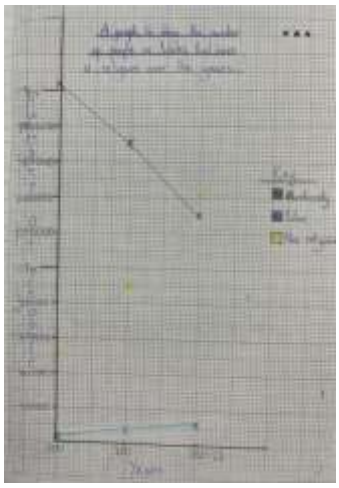
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Year 6 took part in an exciting singalong event based on Wicked, held at the Brangwyn Hall. The atmosphere was electric, and the pupils threw themselves into the songs with real enthusiasm. We were delighted to welcome the Swansea Music Service back into school. Pupils continued learning the Trombone and Cornet, building their musical skills and confidence through hands-on practice and performance.

To celebrate World Religion Day, Year 6 explored the diverse religions found across Wales. After discussing key beliefs and traditions, the children gathered data and presented their findings by plotting the information on a line graph. This allowed them to combine Humanities with mathematical skills in a meaningful cross-curricular activity.



Our new class reader, Holes by Louis Sachar, has been an instant hit! The children are already hooked by its mystery, humour, and twists, and our class discussions have been full of thoughtful predictions and excitement.

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School Council
Cyngor Ysgol

This half term School Council have reviewed and updated the school's Anti-bullying policy created by previous School Councillors. Councillors will be sharing this policy with their peers over the next few weeks.

School Council have also been working with Rights Respecting School Ambassadors to create a 'Playground Charter' to support pupils well-being during play times and lunch times.

Pupils will be making a playground promise to 'Be the Best they Can Be' using 'Kind Hands, Kind Feet, Kind Words' to abide by this charter. Staff will also be making a pledge on the charter to, as always, support pupils with their play in the yard.



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Rights Ambassadors
Llysgenhadon Hawliau



Our Year 5 Rights Ambassadors enjoyed taking part in the big conversation today, where they discussed all things health and wellbeing. We heard from The Senedd, Heartbeat Trust, Swansea Council and so many more great organisations to learn about different things that we can do to promote the health and wellbeing of children and adults in our community. They particularly enjoyed spending time with the therapy dogs!







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Eco Crew
Criw Eco



Congratulations to Y1HC who won the December/January battery competition. They collected an amazing 750 batteries- definitely one of the highest amounts we've collected. Well done Year 1.

The PTA are planning to launch a school uniform and costume swap shop later this year, designed to support families and reduce waste. All items will be free to take, with the option to leave a voluntary donation if you wish. Families will be encouraged to swap where possible, but no one will ever be required to give in order to take.

We are able start accepting donations of school uniform and costumes that are no longer needed.

Items can be laundered if required — so please don't worry if they have the dreaded whiteboard marker marks! We just ask that items are not damaged or dirty.

Mrs Palmer and The Eco Criw

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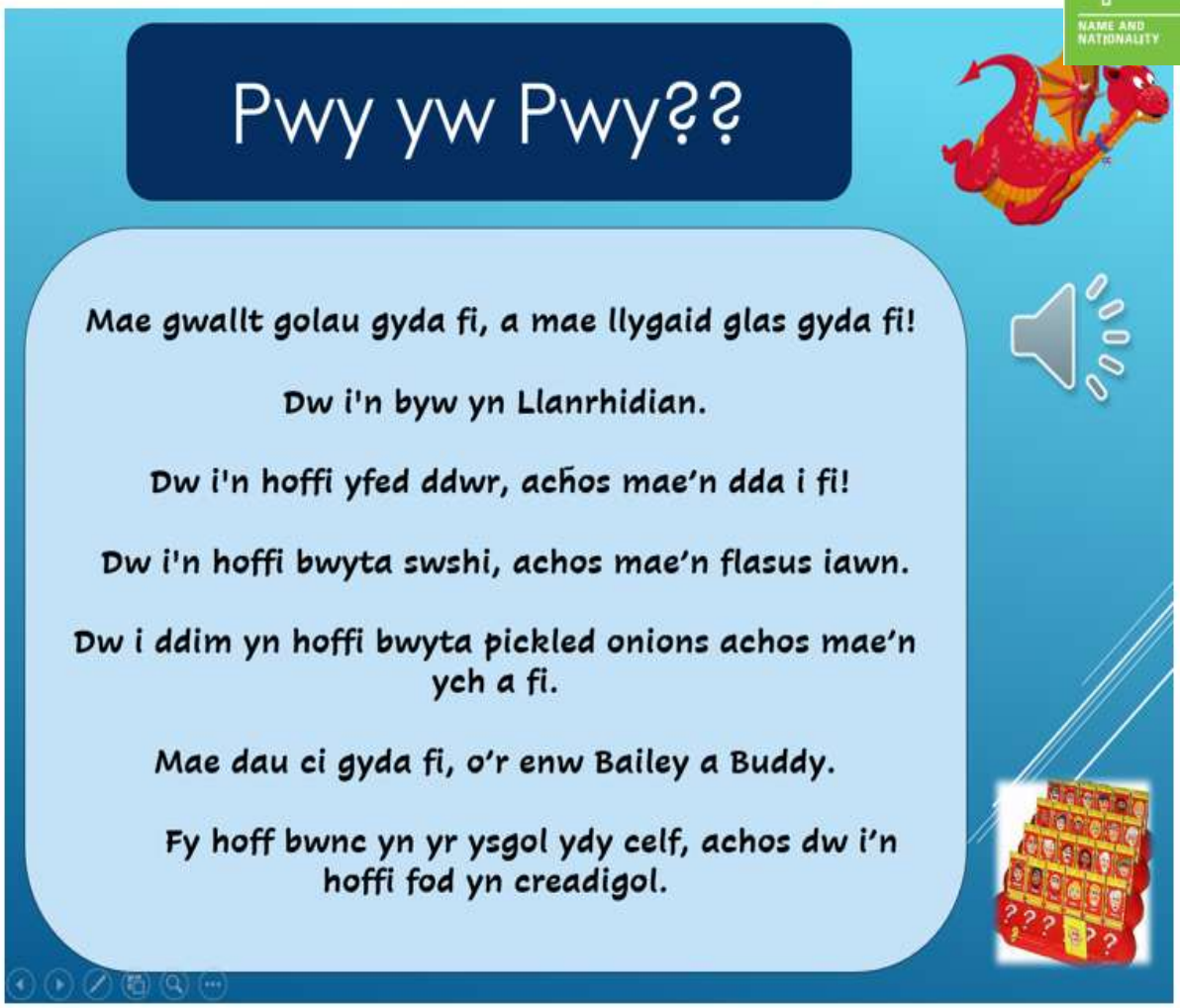
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Welsh Crew
Criw Cymraeg



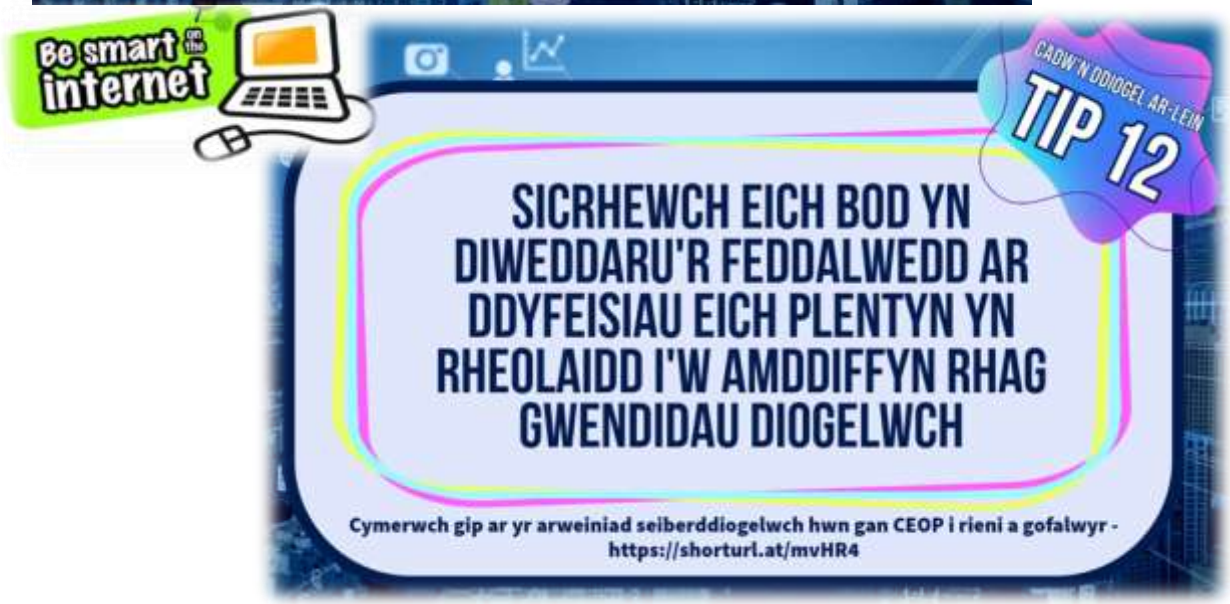
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Internet Safety
Rhyngrwyd Mwy Diogel





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Staff Development
Datblygiad y Staff

The staff have enjoyed some excellent training over the last month including Show Racism the Red Card workshops and a series of Welsh training sessions with Emyr Lewis from Swansea University supporting them to make lessons more bilingual. Staff have also completed a number of online ALN courses to further develop their understanding of Autism, which will enable them to offer greater support for pupils across the school.





As part of our partnership with UWTSD, Mr Lloyd-Jones recently presented to PGCE teaching students, offering support and strategies when starting as a Primary School teacher.



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Congratulations
Llongyfarchiadau

Huge congratulations to Sophie in Year 1 HC who appeared in the most recent episode of Casualty on BBC One.



What a wonderful opportunity and experience for her. Everyone at Sketty Primary School is very proud!!

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PTA

Cymdeithas Rhieni ac Athrawon



Bake Sale Dates 25/26

PTA

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
13/02/26	Valentine's Bake Sale	Year 3 - Miss Baldwin Rep - Alexandria Jones
27/02/26		Year 2 - Miss Jones Rep - Carlie Williams
13/03/26	St Patrick's Day Bake Sale	Year 2 - Mrs Wanless & Mrs Miller Rep - Stephanie Booth
24/04/26	Springtime Bake Sale	Year 1 - Mrs Palmer & Mrs Gillett Rep - Rhiannon Akers
08/05/26		Year 1 - Miss Christer & Mr Lloyd-Jones Rep - Hannah Cullen
05/06/26	Summer Bake Sale	Reception - Miss Emily Jones Rep - Mel Burtonwood
19/06/26		Reception - Miss Rees & Mrs Porter Rep - Beth Phillips
03/07/26		Nursery AM & PM - Mrs Fox Rep - Rhea Hill & Stephanie Booth

Thank you for your continued support of our Bake Sales. The proceeds all contribute to enhanced resources and activities for the children across the school.

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PTA

Cymdeithas Rhieni ac Athrawon

Many thanks to the PTA who have covered the costs of a number of items requested by staff and our pupils.

Including:

- A Scooter rack for safe storage and encouraging active travel to school

- Welly racks for Year 3 and 4 to promote outdoor learning.





Thank you for your continued support of the school. Diolch yn fawr!!

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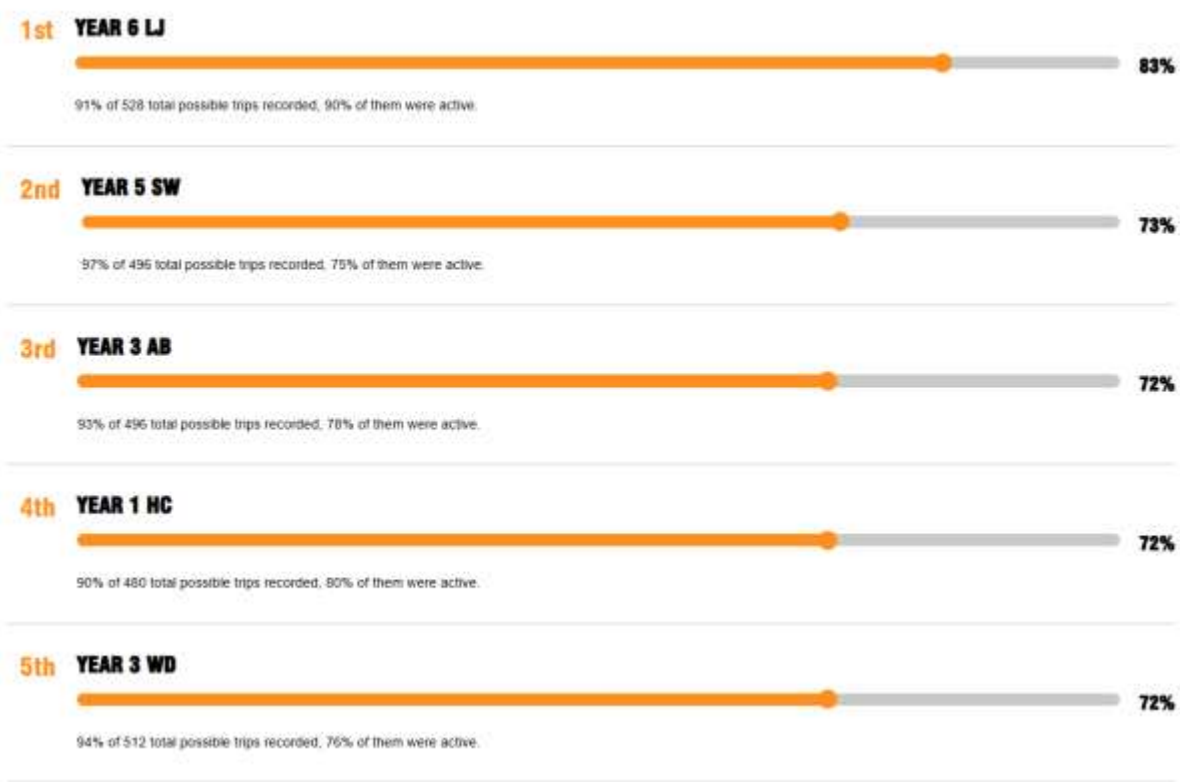
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Living Streets

Our Living Streets project has been continuing this month. Well done to everyone who has become more active since we started this project. The aim of the project is to create a nation where walking and wheeling is the natural choice for every day, local journeys. If the children can walk, cycle, scoot or walk and stride once a week it will make a difference.



Llongyfarchiadau i Blwyddyn 6 LJ who have made the most active journeys again this month. However, it is very close so da iawn pawb for being active!!

To find out more information about living streets, click on the following link https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/

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Important Reminders
Atgoffa Pwysig

- School gates are open from 8.40am-9.00am. Please come to the office if you arrive after 9.00am.

- The register is taken at 8.50am.

- School Uniform is a red polo shirt and blue sweatshirt, cardigan or hoodie.

- PE kit is black leggings/joggers and white t-shirt.

- Please wear sensible shoes to school. No flip flops, crocs or sandals for health and safety reasons.



- As you know, we are a large school and accumulate a great deal of lost property over the year. Please help us by making sure all clothes, bags and equipment are labelled.

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Attendance
Presenoldeb

Reception EJ	95.8%
Reception ER/SP	91.3%
Year 1 HC	95.4%
Year 1 KP/SG	95.3%
Year 2 CW	95.7%
Year 2 MJ	97.9%
Year 3 AB	94.7%
Year 3 WD	97.2%
Year 4 JG	93.9%
Year 4 NT	97.7%
Year 5 SW	95.2%
Year 5 SK	91.3%
Year 6 MW	91.3%
Year 6 LJ	92.9%

This month, our whole school attendance was 94.7% which is another big increase on last month.

Congratulations to Year 2 MJ who had the best class attendance this month. Da iawn also to Year 4 NT and Year 3 WD who were not too far behind. Llongyfarchiadau pawb!

Your Child's Attendance	National Guidelines
100% - 95%	Optimum chance to achieve well. Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity.
94.99% - 90%	Satisfactory, although your child may have to spend time catching up with work they have missed.
Below 90%	Cause for concern: - 1. Your child may be at risk of underachieving. 2. Your child may need extra support from you to help catch up with missed work. Your child may be missing out on a broad and balanced education.

If your child is unwell, please remember to contact the school office to inform us. A message can be left on the answer machine.

Please do not use class dojo to explain absences as teachers don't always get the chance to check during teaching time.

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Dates for your diary
Dyddiadau i'ch dyddiadur
February 2026

Date	Event	Year group
WB 02/02/26	Classroom Sharing	Nursery and Reception EJ
	Art Workshops with Nina Morgan	Year 6
02/02/26	Llangrannog Meeting for Parents 3.40pm-4.15pm	Year 4 + 5
05/02/26	Spectrum workshops	Year 2 + 5
WB 09/02/26	Classroom Sharing	Reception SP/SM
	Children's Mental Health week	All
09/02/26	Mr Phormula Welsh gig	Year 4,5 + 6
10/02/26	Safer Internet Day	All
	Classroom Sharing – 9.30am	Year 5
11/02/26	Rugby Tournament at Bonymaen RFC	Year 5 + 6 Rugby team
	Playgroup	Rising 3s
12/02/26	PTA Valentine's Disco 3.30pm-4.30pm (Reception – Year 2) 4.45pm – 5.45pm (Year 3 – Year 6)	All

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13/02/26	Classroom Sharing – 9.30am	Year 6
	Last day of half term **Pupils return to school on Monday 23rd February**	All
23/02/26	**Back to school** Welsh fortnight begins	All
24/02/26	Technocamps	Year 5 + 6

March 2026

Date	Event	Year group
05/03/26	World Book Day **(More details to follow)**	All
06/03/26	Eisteddfod – pupils can come to school wearing Welsh costumes, kits or Welsh flag colours.	All
WB 09/03/26	British Science Week	All
	Parents Evening Week **(NO TEACHER LED AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS)**	Year 3 – Year 6
10/03/25	Grand Theatre – The Hopeful Hare	Year 3
WB 16/03/25	Parents Evening Week **(NO TEACHER LED AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS)**	Nursery – Year 2
16/03/26 - 18/03/26	Llangrannog Residential	Year 4 Year 5
20/03/26	Warner Brother Studios	Year 6
20/03/26	Comic Relief – pupils can wear red if they wish **(Suggested donation of £1 per family if possible)**	All
27/03/26	Autism Awareness Day	All
27/03/26	Last day of Spring Term **Pupils return to school on Monday 13th April**	All

THE RIGHT TO LEARN AND GO TO SCHOOL
~ Eich hawl i ddysgu a mynd i'r ysgol.~
Article 28

THE RIGHT TO BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE
~ Eich hawl i fod y gorau gallwch fod ~
Article 29




SKETTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
YSGOL GYNRADD SGETI
Newsletter 20 – January 2026

School Term and Holiday Dates (2025-2026)
Dyddiadau tymhorau a gwyliau ysgolion

Term	Term begins		Half-term holiday begins	Half-term holiday ends		Terms ends
Autumn Term 2025	Monday 1st September 2025	Friday 24th October 2025	Monday 27th October 2025	Friday 31st October 2025	Monday 3th November 2025	Friday 19th December 2025
Spring Term 2026	Monday 5th January 2026	Friday 13th February 2026	Monday 16th February 2026	Friday 20th February 2026	Monday 23rd February 2026	Friday 27th March 2026
Summer Term 2026	Monday 13th April 2026	Friday 22nd May 2026	Monday 25th May 2026	Friday 29th May 2026	Monday 1st June 2026	Monday 20th July 2026

Bank holidays

3rd April 2026 - Good Friday

6th April 2026 - Easter Monday

4th May 2026 - May Day

25th May 2026 - Spring Bank Holiday

Inset Days

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Friday 3rd October 2025

Friday 19th December 2025

Friday 1st May 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

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