



SKETTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
YSGOL GYNRADD SGETI
Newsletter 5 – September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the new academic year. School has most definitely hit the ground running with exciting activities happening across our school. Thank you to all parents/carers who have taken the time to complete our Parent/carer questionnaire, we look forward to sharing its findings with you over the next 2 weeks. It is so important that we have your views about our current practice and needs for the future.

Despite the weather, the children have returned in a very bubbly mood excited to be back in school, meeting with their friends and getting back into routine. Our class meetings have taken place and class assemblies will begin soon. I look forward to seeing everyone, as we enjoy learning about the children's topics, and what they have been up to already!

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to another wonderful year at Sketty Primary. We continue to have an open door policy and encourage you to contact us if you have any concerns or need any support.

Diolch pawb!
Mrs Bev Phillips
Headteacher
Sketty Primary School

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
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Nursery
Meithrin



To begin, a great big welcome to the new children and families, and welcome back to the children who attended afternoon Nursery in the Summer. The children have settled fabulously into the routine of morning Nursery and have shown so much enthusiasm for engaging in a variety of learning experiences. The children were introduced to their class topic on week 3, which is *Myself and My Family*. They have thoroughly enjoyed sharing the photographs of their families with their peers,



and talking about what they enjoy doing with their families. This topic is linked closely with our No Outsiders Programme - All different, all welcome! Through talking about their family photographs and sharing stories about a variety of families, the children are developing their understanding that all families are different and that's okay.

During Pupil Voice Week, the children made a chart to show their favourite activity or area in Nursery. Pupil voice is a key element of our planning, as it ensures that we are able to engage children in learning, through capturing their interests. Cynefin, where we belong, is also a key part of all of our topics. The children enjoyed finding out about Roald Dahl, and learning that he was an author who came from Wales. The children also enjoyed looking at the book covers, guessing the story and of course dressing up as their favourite book character and having their photo taken was the highlight of the day!

Our class assembly is on Thursday 24th October and you are in for a big treat!

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Reception

Derbyn

Well, what a fantastic month we have had in Reception! We have been so proud of how well the children have settled into full time school. From going out into the big yard to trying the new school dinners, learning new routines and meeting our Year 6 buddies. Da iawn! The children have all taken part in our EPIC planning and shared their ideas about things they would like to learn in our new topic 'Once Upon a Time'. They told us about their favourite stories, characters and films.



We launched our topic with a Fairy tale dress up day and had the very special Snow White visit us, who read us a story and spent some time with us in class. On this day, we enjoyed decorating fairy tale outfits, we played fairy tale bingo and spent lots of time in the role-play acting out our favourite stories. We have enjoyed listening to our first fairy tale story, The Three Little Pigs. We have now taken on the challenge to build The Three Little Pigs a new house using different materials. The children have been working as a team to plan, design and build the house. We have sequenced the story, had a go at re-telling it and now we are learning the story Pie Corbett style to share with you during our assembly, we are very excited!



We have read our first No Outsiders book 'You Choose'. We had lots of fun looking through the pictures and discussing with our peers some of the things that we like and dislike. During Think Equal, we read the book 'Marvellous Me'. We talked about all the things that make us unique and special.

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Year 1

Blwyddyn 1

The children in Year One have had a great start to the new academic year. They have settled so well and are already showing great independence and a keenness to learn. It has been a busy start and the children have already created our Class Expectations, discussed Rights of a Child, internet safety, Anti-bullying and Fair Trade.



We launched our Autumn Topic, 'As Far as the Eye Can See' with our immersion day. The costumes you put together from The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch were fantastic and the children enjoyed making a lighthouse sandwich, constructing a zip wire for Hamish, and collaborating on a lighthouse collage.



Another day of dressing up was Roald Dahl Day- it was lovely seeing who we had all come as and well done to our golden ticket winners!



In Maths they have been working on sorting and counting sets of objects and representing numbers in different ways. The children have also been completing a traffic survey around the school and recording their results as a tally chart.

We have started our Big Book, Group Reading and RWI sessions and the children have written about themselves as well as characters from the Lighthouse stories. The children enjoyed one of our 'No Outsiders' texts 'Elmer' which recognises that it's good to be different and everyone is welcome!

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Year 2

Blwyddyn 2

We have had a very busy first few weeks in school! The Year 2 children have settled in well to their new routines and classrooms.



As the Year 2 class assembly quickly approaches the classrooms have been full of singing, poems and the practising of lines. The children are all very excited to share their hard work with you.

Our topic this term is VIP's. The children have been typing lists on the laptops of people that they consider VIP's. We have started to learn about doctors and nurses, their roles and responsibilities. We have also been learning about Florence Nightingale and how hospitals have changed over time.

We all had a wonderful time celebrating Roald Dahl Day, the children came dressed as their favourite characters and some children brought in their favourite Roald Dahl books to share. As part of our celebration the children completed a visualisation activity based on the book The BFG. It was lovely to see the children using their imaginations to complete their work.



The children have been enjoying outdoor learning and using our woodland. They have been 'nature detectives' looking for the first signs of Autumn.

We have read our first 'No Outsiders' book, which was called Amazing, using the book as a stimulus we discussed and recorded 'what makes a good friend'.

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Year 3 Blwyddyn 3



We have had a great start to the new school year in Year 3. We started our topic “A Step Through time” with a trip to Hafod copper works and a journey along the river Tawe on the Copper Jack. We have also been looking at the differences between life in Victorian times and the present day.



In Literacy we have started to look at the different features of a recount text type. We have read our first “No Outsiders” book of the year Beegu in which the children produced great work on how to be welcoming. Roald Dahl story day was a great inspiration for the children as we began our first class novel Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.



In Maths we have begun the year looking at place value, including place value charts, number bonds, using dienes and the expanded form of multiple digit numbers.

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Year 4

Blwyddyn 4



We have had a great start to Year 4 with lots of exciting things happening. We have started our topic Civilizations and watched Asterix and the Mansions of the Gods to see what happens when two great civilizations (the Celts and the Romans) collide.



Year 4 had an amazing opportunity to meet the author Sarah Todd Taylor at Waterstones. She read part of her latest book Alice Eclair, Spy Extraordinaire and talked about how she wrote the characters. She also discussed her fascination with codes which gave us plenty of inspiration for our learning. We look forward to working with her in the future and inspiring the next generation of writers.



Through planning together, we have mapped out the areas of history that the children are interested in and are looking forward to our learning this coming year. We are really pleased with the way the children have settled into their new routines

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Year 5

Blwyddyn 5

What a fantastic start to the year we've had in Year 5! Over the past month, we've been settling into our class and school routines, getting to know each other, and diving into new learning experiences. We've also celebrated some important awareness events, including *Roald Dahl Story Day* and *Fairtrade Fortnight*. These activities sparked engaging discussions, and we're already looking forward to next month's *Black History Month* celebrations.



Our new topic, "Escape!", has been an absolute highlight. Year 5 took on the challenge of an exciting Escape Room adventure! We journeyed through Anderson shelters solving tricky math puzzles, plotted the paths of refugees on a map, and even used Micro Bits to send Morse code messages. With every clue we discovered, including hidden numbers in books, we moved one step closer to unlocking the escape.

In class, we've also been working hard in our language lessons, where we've started studying information texts. We're developing our skills in this style of writing, learning how to structure and present facts clearly and effectively. In Maths, we've kicked off the term with place value and have been revisiting our times tables to help sharpen our number skills.

It's been an action-packed start to the year, and we can't wait for more learning and adventures to come!

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Year 6

Blwyddyn 6



It has a very exciting and busy start to Year 6. We started our new topic, Progress, with a visit to the Dylan Thomas Theatre to watch a performance about the Welsh boxer Cuthbert Taylor, called The Fight. We

followed this with workshops in Swansea Museum. It has inspired the children to think of wonderful areas for us to research this term.

We also had the amazing opportunity to be part of the launch for the Urdd Eisteddfod which will be held in Margam next summer – watch out for us on TV closer to Christmas!



We also visited Waterstones in Swansea to see Welsh author Catherine Fisher. She read extracts from her new books Starspill and Culwch and Olwen.

The children are also very excited to have met our new buddies. We have discussed what being a good role model means and they were all so keen to take on this new responsibility. Go Year 6!

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School Council

Cyngor Ysgol

We are so proud of last year's School Council for the amazing work they did to improve road safety around our school grounds.



Their campaign for a pelican crossing was incredibly successful and we are so pleased that it was ready for the start of this academic year. Thank you to all the parents and carers and the school community for filling in the petition and being so supportive.

The children also worked together to design posters which have been produced and printed by Dawsons to remind everyone of the importance of safe parking around our school grounds. Many thanks to Naomi Webborn for her support with this.



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Rights Respecting Committee

Pwyllgor Parchu Hawliau



This month, our Rights Respecting Committee had the exciting opportunity to visit Swansea Waterfront Museum, where we joined other Rights Respecting Schools from across Swansea. The event was particularly special for us, as we welcomed four new representatives from Year 5 to serve as our Rights Ambassadors.



During the day, we took part in thoughtful conversations and activities alongside both primary and secondary schools, focusing on the important topic of transitions that children face throughout their lives. We shared our personal experiences and listened to those of others, discussing the challenges of growing up and moving through different stages of life, including the transition into adulthood.



Together, we explored strategies and skills to help us navigate these changes, recognising that transitions can impact us emotionally. It was an inspiring day, full of meaningful discussions, and we left with new ideas on how to better support one another through life's changes.

We're excited to see what our new Year 5 ambassadors bring to the committee this year!

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Welsh Crew **Criw Cymraeg**



Our Criw Cymraeg continue to work hard to help promote the Welsh language throughout Sketty Primary School. Alongside Mrs Griffiths, they lead Welsh Assembly on a Monday, welcoming the school into the hall, presenting the certificates and leading the school prayer.



Last year we achieved the Silver Award for Siarter Iaith Cymraeg and this year we are “GOING FOR GOLD.” Nerine Griffiths, our Welsh language advisor, visited school this month to present our award. Da iawn pawb!!



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Fairtrade Fortnight

Pythefnos Masnach Deg

The whole school celebrated Fairtrade Fortnight this month with a range of activities to help the children to understand the importance of farmers getting fair prices for the work they do.



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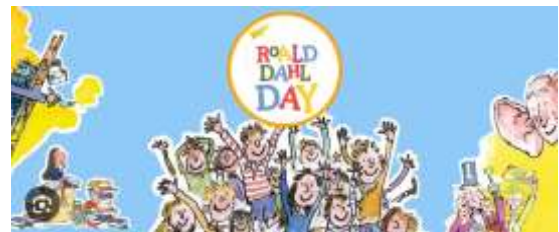


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Roald Dahl Story Day

Diwrnod Stori Roald Dahl

Sketty Primary School loves a dress up day and we enjoyed our first of the year where we celebrated the stories of Roald Dahl. Great efforts made by the children and staff. Thanks to parents and carers for their support with these amazing costumes



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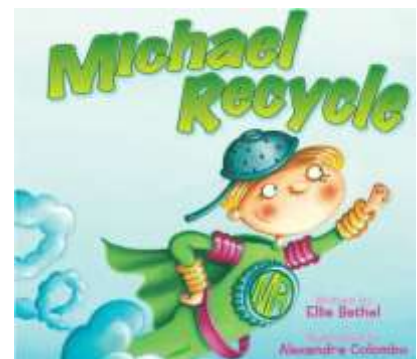
Recycling Assembly

Gwasanaeth Ailgylchu



This month, we were very fortunate to have an exciting assembly which was led by Thomas Williams from the Recycling team. He taught us all about recycling and the dangers to the environment if we don't recycle our things.

He explained the importance of recycling our rubbish and read an interesting story called 'Michael Recycle' which is about a boy who rescues his town and proves to the lazy layabouts that recycling can actually be quite good fun. He is a new kind of superhero in a new kind of world.



Sammy the Seagull also made an appearance and helped to show us all which bins we can use to recycle our rubbish.



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Meet the Governors

Cwrdd a'r Llywodraethwyr

My name is Rev'd Layfetta Masih and I am Priest with Responsibility for The East Gower Cluster of Churches. This comprises of All Souls in Tycoch, St Hilary's in Killay, and St Martin's in Dunvant. I was born in Jamaica and came to live in the UK when I was 17. After completing my first degree, I did my PGCE in Business and Economics teaching in secondary schools in London and later Manchester. I retrained in Early Years when my husband and I had children of our own and started my own nursery. I am a new governor having only been involved with Sketty Primary School for under a year, serving on the Standards, Performance & Curriculum sub-committee. I have enjoyed supporting the school by attending their whole school St David's Day Assembly and having the school visit All Souls Church for our "Experience Easter" week. We have also had Year 2's in church for Pancake Tuesday, ie Shrove Tuesday. I look forward to many more such celebrations.



Dr Bryony Coupe has been a parent governor at Sketty for two years and is part of the Finance and Well-being committees. Bryony has two children currently at Sketty Primary and an older child who also attended. She became involved through her love for the school and desire to be a support in its vision to help pupils 'be the best you can be.' As a Governor she has truly enjoyed being able to see the school from a different perspective and support the senior leadership team in their strategic decision making. She loves every opportunity to spend time in our wonderful school.

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Staff Training
Hyfforddiant Staff

We had a brilliant first two days back in school in September for our Inset Days.



All staff attended Advanced ADHD training from Penny Kennedy who gave us a great insight into ADHD and provided us with a range of interesting and helpful strategies to support our pupils across the school.

Our teachers also received fantastic training from James Nottingham, author of the Learning Pit, which supports the ways which we think about, and articulate, our learning. The model, first created by James Nottingham, is particularly popular amongst teachers wishing to build their students' resilience, growth mindset, curiosity and collaborative skills.



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PTA



Bake Sale Dates 24/25

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
04/10/24	Autumn Bake Sale	Year 6 - Mrs Williams Rep - Helena & Sharon
18/10/24	Halloween Bake Sale	Year 6 - Mrs Johns Rep - Sian Channon & Kirsty
08/11/24	Bonfire Theme Bake Sale	Year 5 - Mr Dunt
29/11/24	Pre loved Xmas Sale	Year 5 - Mr Williams Rep - Hannah Chiswick
13/12/24	Christmas Bake Sale Carol Singers	Year 4 - Mr Knight Rep - Shai & Sam
16/01/25	...	Year 4 - Mrs O'Malley & Miller Rep - Kirsty
14/02/25	Valentines Theme Bake Sale	Year 3 - Mr Tucker Rep - Emma Grey
14/03/25	...	Year 3 - Mrs Griffiths Rep - Katie Cooze
04/04/25	Easter Bake Sale	Year 2 - Miss Jones
09/05/25	...	Year 2 - Miss Rees & Mrs Gillett
23/05/25	...	Year 1 - Mrs Porter & Mrs Palmer Rep - Stephanie Booth
06/06/25	...	Year 1 - Miss Jones Rep - Carlie Williams
20/06/25	...	Reception - Miss Baldwin, Mrs Eagle, Mr Lloyd - Jones Rep - Rhi Akers & Hannah Cullen
11/07/25	Summer Fayre Uniform Sale	Nursery - Mrs Fox AM & PM

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PTA



***BAKING A DIFFERENCE: ONE
ALLERGEN-FREE CAKE AT A
TIME!***

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**Spread the
Cheer: Donate
Christmas
Items Here**



**Donate Preloved
Christmas Items**

**By Friday 22nd November 2024
To Sketty Primary
Reception Office**



Help support the PTA and help make this
festive season special for our children.

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Help the Community

Helpu'r Gymuned

This year at Sketty Primary School we are continuing to support our friends at Matthew's House at Harvest time. We would be very grateful if you were able to provide any of the items listed above to support some of the most vulnerable people within our community. Collections can be brought to the school office until Friday 18th October.

For more information about Matthew's House, please click on the link below.
www.matthewshouse.org.uk

HARVEST 2024

Items we love	We do not need
✓ Custard, rice pudding, jelly	✗ Tinned soup & tomatoes
✓ UHT milk & coconut milk	✗ Teabags
✓ Coffee, hot chocolate & sugar	✗ Honey & jam
✓ Cooking oil	✗ Gravy granules
✓ Tinned beans, pulses & veg	✗ Cereal & biscuits
✓ Tinned meat & fish	
✓ Tinned fruit	
✓ Jarred sauces	
✓ Squash	
✓ Ground pepper	
✓ Men's deodorant, men's pants, men's socks, lip balm	

For more details, contact friends@matthewshouse.org.uk



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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 over the month it will make a difference.

1st YEAR 1 EJ



91% of 418 total possible trips recorded, 85% of them were active

2nd YEAR 1 KP/SP



93% of 418 total possible trips recorded, 83% of them were active

3rd YEAR 5 WD



87% of 605 total possible trips recorded, 87% of them were active

Well done to Year 1 EJ who made the most active journeys in the month of September.

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. School starts 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 AB	96.3%
Reception KE/SLJ	92.0%
Year 1 KP/SP	95.7%
Year 1 EJ	96.7%
Year 2 MJ	94.6%
Year 2 ER/SM	94.6%
Year 3 NT	97.0%
Year 3 JG	96.6%
Year 4 SK	93.2%
Year 4 LO'M/SM	95.1%
Year 5 WD	95.5%
Year 5 MW	94.3%
Year 6 SW	95.5%
Year 6 LJ	94.8%

This month, our whole school attendance was 95.1% which is a great start to the new academic year. If you your child is unwell, please remember to contact the school office to inform us.

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.

Congratulations to Year 3 NT who had the best class attendance this month.

Llongyfarchiadau pawb!

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Dates for your diary

Dyddiadau i'ch dyddiadur

Date	Event	Year group
01/10/24	Black History Month begins	All
02/10/24	Year 2 Class Assembly (9.30am)	Year 2
03/10/24	National Poetry Day	All
	Year 6 Class Assembly (9.30am)	Year 6
09/10/24	Year 5 Class Assembly (9.30am)	Year 5
10/10/24	World Mental Health Day – children are welcome to wear yellow. Please do not feel the need to buy anything new.	All
	Year 4 Class Assembly (9.30am)	Year 4
WB 14/10/24	Parents Evening Week	Nursery – Year 2
15/10/24	Shwmae Day - children are welcome to come to school in Welsh flag colours if they wish. Please do not feel the need to go out to buy anything new for this day.	All
	Author visit – Onjali Q Raif	Year 5 + 6
16/10/24	Year 3 Class Assembly (9.30am)	Year 3
17/10/24	Welsh Whisperer	Year 4 - 6
	Concert at St Paul's Church	Singing Club
18/10/24	Show Racism the Red Card day – children are welcome to come to school in red. This can be wearing school uniform. Please do not feel the need to buy anything new.	All
WB 21/10/24	Parents Evening Week	Year 3 - 6
23/10/24	Year 1 Class Assembly (9.30am)	Year 1
24/10/24	Reception Class Assembly (9.30am)	Reception
	Nursery Class Assembly (10.45am)	Nursery
	PTA Disco	All
25/10/24	Trip to Glynn Vivian	Year 3
	Playgroup	Rising 3s
	Last Day of Half Term	All
Pupils return to school on Monday 4th November		

THE RIGHT TO LEARN AND GO TO SCHOOL

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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 5 – September 2024

Dates for your diary

Dyddiadau i'ch dyddiadur

Date	Event	Year group
04/11/24	Back to school	All
WB 11/11/24	Anti-Bullying Week	All
11/11/24	Remembrance Day	All
12/11/24	Odd Socks Day - an opportunity for the children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique!	All
14/11/24 + 15/11/24	Nasal Flu Vaccinations	All
15/11/24	Children in Need Day	All
WB 18/11/24	Parliament Week	All
04/12/24	Nursery Christmas Sharing 10.00am	Morning Nursery
09/12/24	Year 1 Christmas Sharing – 2pm and 5pm	Year 1
10/12/24	Year 2 Christmas Sharing – 2pm and 5pm	Year 2
11/12/24	Year 3 Christmas Sharing - 2pm and 5pm	Year 3
12/12/24	Year 4 Christmas Sharing – 2pm and 5pm	Year 4
13/12/24	Carols on the yard – TBC	All
16/11/24	Reception Christmas Sharing – 2pm and 5pm	Reception
17/12/24	Year 6 Christmas Sharing - 6.30pm	Year 6
18/12/24	Visit to Gower Christmas Tree Farm	Reception
	Year 5 Christmas Sharing – 2pm and 5pm	Year 5
19/12/24	Last day of Autumn Term for pupils	All
20/12/24	Inset Day – no school for pupils Pupils return to school on Tuesday 7th January	All

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SKETTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
YSGOL GYNRADD SGETI
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School Term and Holiday Dates (2024-2025)

Dyddiadau tymhorau a gwyliau ysgolion

Term	Term begins		Half-term holiday begins	Half-term holiday ends		Terms ends
Autumn Term 2024	Monday 2nd September 2024	Friday 25 th October 2024	Monday 28 th October 2024	Friday 1 st November 2024	Monday 4 th November 2024	Friday 20 th December 2024
Spring Term 2025	Monday 6 th January 2025	Friday 21 st February 2025	Monday 24 th February 2025	Friday 28 th February 2025	Monday 3 rd March 2025	Friday 11 th April 2025
Summer Term 2025	Monday 28 th April 2025	Friday 23 rd May 2025	Monday 26 th May 2025	Friday 30 th May 2025	Monday 2 nd June 2025	Monday 21 st July 2025

Bank holidays

18th April 2025 - Good Friday
 21st April 2025 - Easter Monday
 5th May 2025 - May Day
 26th May 2025 - Spring Bank Holiday

Inset Days

Monday 2nd September 2024
 Tuesday 3rd September 2024
 Friday 20th December 2024
 Monday 6th January 2025
 Friday 2nd May 2025
 Monday 21st July 2025

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