



SKETTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
YSGOL GYNRADD SGETI
Newsletter 6 – October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

The first half term brings to a close a very busy time in Sketty Primary, what a wonderful beginning to the year! We are finishing in great style with our Halloween Disco and various classes taking part in visits bringing some half term projects to a close.

A big thank you to our magnificent PTA for all their hard work in organising a bumper healthy schools Halloween Disco that I'm told raised over a thousand pounds. This is much needed funds for our school as budgets get tighter and tighter. A big thank you our wonderful, committed staff who, appreciatively supported as they recognise the work of the PTA allows them to access funding for extra equipment they need. And a big thank you to parents/carers and children for the wonderful effort made with Halloween costumes. Everyone looked scarily fabulous!

I hope everyone has enjoyed our class assemblies, it has been particularly lovely to see the year 6's and their Reception buddies getting on so well, singing together and forming positive relationships.

Adele, our talented artist, who takes our ideas and transforms areas of our school with a stroke of her paint brush, has been in school. She has created a special space celebrating our School of Sanctuary award and the commitment we have to continuing this work. She has also added more "balloons" to our partnership wall showing the diverse mixture of expertise we work with making our curriculum exciting for our children. We are lucky to have access to such a talent and thank her for her hard work and support.

Thank you everyone for supporting our wonderful school!

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Please have a wonderful half term and a well earned rest as I believe when we return to school on Monday 4th November it will only be 51 sleeps until that most wonderful time of the year!!!

Take care everyone!

Mrs Bev Phillips
Headteacher
Sketty Primary School

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Nursery **Meithrin**

What a fun-filled October we have had at Dragonflies Nursery. Water play has been a particular favourite for most children, along with the dough table.



On the 10th October we celebrated World Mental Health Day by dressing up in yellow and going for a walk to explore our school grounds. We discussed the importance of exercise and being in the outdoors, with regards to having a healthy body and mind. As part of our topic, *Myself and My Family*, the children have explored the "I have" element of resilience. They enjoyed looking at pictures of everyday routines, such as getting dressed, brushing teeth, having a bath, and then discussing in a group who helps them in their family to carry out these activities.



On the 15th October we celebrated Shwmae Day by dressing up in something to celebrate living in Wales, and practising saying "Shwmae" using props and a selfie frame. The children enjoyed using the props, and the photos can now be seen around our classroom doors to welcome others to our class.

We have also been busy practising for our class assembly, by learning a variety of poems and songs associated with our topic and Autumn. We are very proud of the children, especially as it will be their first performance on our school stage.

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Reception

Derbyn

October has been a very busy month in Reception. We have been continuing our Once Upon a Time topic and have been enjoying starting up our Drawing club sessions for Literacy. The children have all worked really hard and produced some fantastic written work so far.



During Active Learn time, the children have been having fun exploring the outdoors, when we use the mud kitchen to experiment and make mud potions.



The highlight of the week for all our Reception children is Friday Afternoon Buddies time. Our Year 6 children work hard in the week to create interesting activities and games which they have fun playing with our children in the classroom. This is such an amazing opportunity for both year groups and it is lovely seeing these relationships develop as the weeks go by.

Our class assembly was fantastic and we were so proud of the children for participating so enthusiastically, singing so confidently and performing the story of The Three Little Pigs so well.

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Year 1

Blwyddyn 1

What an exciting month we've had in Blwyddyn 1! We recently performed our Year Group Sharing for parents, and what a show it was! The children showcased they're learning this term, delighting the audience with their beautiful sea shanties. Their enthusiasm and confidence shone through, making it a memorable morning for everyone. We were so proud of their hard work and the joy they brought to the stage!



Following our performance, we took an exciting trip to Bracelet Bay, where we visited Mr. Grinling and the lighthouse as part of our topic, "As Far As The Eye Can See." The children demonstrated exceptional behaviour and enthusiasm while exploring the stunning surroundings, engaging with the landscape and learning about its significance. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect classroom learning with the real world, and the excitement on their faces when meeting Mr. Grinling was priceless!

This month, we also celebrated several important awareness days that enriched our understanding of the world around us. We kicked off the month by celebrating Mental Health Day, where the children wore yellow and created lovely "Be Kind to Yourself" love hearts, 'Diwrnod Shwmae', where we wore red, white, and green, and the children engaged in a variety of Welsh activities, including crafting the word "Shwmae" using different resources and conducting a 'Wyt ti'n hoffi...?' survey. We also celebrated Black History Month by connecting our learning to the initiative "Show Racism the Red Card." The children wore red to show their support and created unique handprint designs that celebrated our differences and promoted understanding. Their creativity and insight were truly inspiring, demonstrating a deep appreciation for diversity.

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Year 2

Blwyddyn 2

We have had a very busy first half term in school! Our topic this term is VIP's. The children have enjoyed learning about people who help us in the community. We have learned about doctors, nurses and the RNLI. The children have enjoyed learning about the coastguard and how they help people at sea. We have also learned about famous important people too such as Mary Seacole who was a famous nurse, Grace Darling who saved lives at sea, and Louie Braille who invented braille.



As part of World Mental Health Day, the children learned about their emotions, and we talked about things that make them happy and how to make ourselves feel better. For Shwmae day, we tried to use lots of Welsh throughout the day, we sang lots of Welsh songs, played games, and talked about why speaking Welsh is important. We read the story 'We are all different' as part of Show Racism the Red Card Day and talked about our similarities and differences and how these make us each unique and special.

As part of Black History Month we read lots of stories about famous people throughout history and talked about their significance. We learned about Mary Seacole, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Katherine Johnson and many more. We have also been learning about the Hindu festival of Diwali, focusing on why and how the 'Festival of Light' is celebrated. We have also looked at different Mehndi patterns.

This week, we enjoyed carving pumpkins to get ready for the Halloween disco.



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Year 3

Blwyddyn 3



Another exciting and busy month in Year 3. We have started Chinese lessons with Mrs Gong on a Tuesday afternoon. We will be learning about Chinese culture and how it is similar and different to our own. We enjoyed finding out about the Chinese Mid-Autumn festival and the delicious moon cakes that Chinese people eat. We made our own Chinese lanterns to decorate our classroom. Xie Xie Mrs Gong.



Payal Sood, a lecturer from Swansea University, came to tell us all about the Hindu festival Diwali. She wore her beautiful decorative Sulwar suit, and her bindi to show us what a traditional Hindu lady would wear. We had many interesting questions to ask! Diolch. We have really enjoyed finding out about different religions, festivals and cultures this term and it has helped us to understand that we are all different but all welcome at Sketty Primary School.



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Year 4

Blwyddyn 4



What an exciting time we've had at school recently! Our music programme has been bustling with energy as students have been diving into the world of brass (but plastic) instruments—specifically cornets and trombones. They have explored pitch, dynamics and rhythm.



We've held a fantastic assembly where students showcased their Roman army formations. We have really appreciated all the positive comments; the children reflected on the experience of working towards a goal as part of a team.

They've been honing their persuasive writing skills, crafting compelling arguments to purchase a Roman villa. Unfortunately, the time machine that is required to actually move in isn't provided! They have also really enjoyed the challenge of creating code to draw shapes.



One of the highlights of our recent activities was the collaborative songwriting session with the "Welsh Whisperer." The children wrote lyrics for our new school song. The energy in the room was electric as everyone sang the song and then danced with at the 'gig' they performed in.

We're incredibly proud of all the hard work and creativity your children have shown this term. We can wait...I mean we can't wait for the upcoming Christmas term!

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Year 5

Blwyddyn 5

This October, Year 5 has been working hard, deepening our understanding of refugees and their experiences. We've explored the stories of refugee children and the challenging journeys they've taken, as well as studied the push and pull factors that cause people to seek refuge. Building on this knowledge, we've applied our language skills to write informative texts about refugees. Mastering the use of quotations was a particular challenge, but one we successfully overcame!



Our biggest achievement this month was the **Gwasanaeth Blwyddyn Pump** (Year 5 Assembly). During the assembly, we proudly presented two poems. The first was a Welsh poem about the school day, which reminds us of all that we have to be grateful for. The second was a poem about refugees, highlighting the importance of kindness and empathy in a world where many people don't always receive the compassion they deserve. To top it off, Year 5 sang *Refugee* by Skip Marley—good luck getting that catchy tune out of your head.

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Year 6

Blwyddyn 6

October has been another busy month in Year 6. One of the highlights for the children and staff was definitely our class assembly/ Performed in front of a packed audience of family, friends and our buddies, the children shared work, memories from trips and their hopes and dreams for the future. They also sang (and signed) and performed poetry. Da iawn Year 6.



This month we have also had visits from the author Onjali Q Rauf and the Welsh Whisperer. We have also started to learn Christmas Carols for a special concert in December.

In addition, we have been learning; how to write a persuasive letter, asking Sir Ernest Shackleton to allow us to join his expedition to the South Pole, how life has changed since the 1930's and to solve long multiplication and short division sums.

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School Council Cyngor Ysgol



In today's meeting Councillors discussed the NSPCC Speak Up Stay Safe campaign, assemblies and workshops and also Anti-Bullying Week 2024. Monday 11th - Friday 15th November. The theme this year is Choose Respect.



The Council talked about the NSPCC Speak Up Stay Safe campaign and the importance of speaking up, staying safe and raising awareness on Anti-Bullying Week with Anti-bullying activities, Odd Sock Day and Friendship Friday.



Last years' Anti-Bullying winning posters will be displayed in classrooms and around the school to encourage everyone to be kind and stay safe.



School Council also discussed mobile phones in school. They made a list of pros and cons about phones in school and will share their thoughts with Mrs Phillips, Mr Lloyd Jones, the Senior Leadership team and School Governors to update the school policy.

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Welsh Crew

Criw Cymraeg

The Criw Cymraeg have been keeping busy with Learning Walks, judging our Croeso classroom door competition, and leading our Weekly Welsh assembly. Each week the Criw present rewards and certificates to pupils and teachers who are spotted speaking Welsh in our school community. Gwaith arbennig Criw Cymraeg!



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Welsh Gig

Gig Cymraeg

The Welsh Whisperer visited Ysgol Sgeti last week. He worked with classes across the school to create a brand new and original school song. We now have a school anthem that includes all the values and beliefs that we hold here in Sketty. In the afternoon, we all sang our new school anthem together, and we had a very energetic gig with the Welsh Whisperer!! Bendigedig bawb!



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Awareness Days

Diwrnodau Ymwybyddiaeth

This month, we have enjoyed a number of awareness days including Mental Health Day, Shwmae Day and Show Racism the Red Card Day. These days are so important in helping our children to understand the world around them and help them to be Ethically Informed Citizens and Healthy, Confident Individuals.



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Meet the Governors

Cwrdd a'r Llywodraethwyr



Mrs Joanne Griffiths has been teaching at Sketty since September 2023 and joined the Governing Body shortly after. Mrs Griffiths has been teaching since 1999 and was also teacher governor in her previous position at Bishopston Primary School. As part of her role at Sketty, Mrs Griffiths teaches Year 3 and is responsible for Welsh language development and successfully led the school to achieving the Silver Award for Siarter Iaith last summer. She also uses her talents in Music and Drama to support Mrs Porter with Singing Club and runs the Music and Drama club for Year 3 and 4.

My name is Kath Byrne and I became a governor at Sketty Primary School just over ten years ago when I retired from a senior management role at the local college. I have served on several committees and currently am sitting on Curriculum and Standards. I have enjoyed supporting the school to develop and achieve its strategic aims through carrying out the governor's role as a critical friend. It has been exciting to see the many developments and initiatives introduced over the last few years all focused on improving the learning experiences for every child. I have enjoyed all visits to the school whether for concerts, lesson observations or children's presentations. Each visit confirms the happy and inclusive environment provided by the school.



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PTA



We are thrilled to announce that last night's Halloween disco was a fantastic success, raising a whopping £1101! A HUGE thank you to all the teachers who put in an incredible effort to make the event run smoothly. We truly appreciate your hard work and dedication!

We also want to thank all the children and parents for attending and making the night so special. A special shout out to all our amazing volunteers who helped out—you are the heart of our events!

We are always looking for new ideas and feedback to improve our future events, so please feel free to share your thoughts with us at skettypta@gmail.com

Thank you once again for your support, and we can't wait to see you at our next event! 🎃❤️

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Bake Sale Dates 24/25



DATE	EVENT	NOTES
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 - Carrie 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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***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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Sketty Primary School Events & News Organised By The PTA

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Help the Community

Helpu'r Gymuned

Thank you to everyone who helped support Matthew's House at Harvest time. All donations will be used to support some of the most vulnerable people within our community.

For more information about Matthew's House, please click on the link below.
www.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 5 WD



2nd YEAR 5 MW



3rd YEAR 1 KP/SP



Well done to Year 5 WD who made the most active journeys in the month of October.

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	92.5%
Reception KE/SLJ	90.9%
Year 1 KP/SP	96.5%
Year 1 EJ	95.0%
Year 2 MJ	96.0%
Year 2 ER/SM	93.1%
Year 3NT	97.7%
Year 3 JG	97.0%
Year 4 SK	94.4%
Year 4 LO'M/SM	91.1%
Year 5 WD	95.0%
Year 5 MW	96.9%
Year 6 SW	94.5%
Year 6 LJ	93.5%

This month, our whole school attendance was 94.5% 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
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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Dates for your diary – Film Fortnight

Dyddiadau i'ch dyddiadur – Pythefnos Ffilm

Date and time	Film	Venue	Year group
Tuesday 12 th November 10.00am	Smeds and the Smoos Superworm	Vue Cinema Swansea	Reception Year 1
Friday 15 th November 10.00am	Trolls Band Together	Vue Cinema Swansea	Year 4
Thursday 21st November 1.00pm	If	Odeon Cinema Swansea	Year 5
(Children will be returning to school at approximately 4.15pm)			
Tuesday 26 th November 11.00am	Trolls Band Together	Odeon Cinema Swansea	Year 2 Year 3
Thursday 28 th November 11.00am	Spider Man	Odeon Cinema Swansea	Year 6

**INTO
FILM**

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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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~ 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