



SKETTY PRIMARY SCHOOL
YSGOL GYNRADD SGETI
Newsletter 9 – January 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy first month of 2025 it has been!! The children hit the ground running from day one with lots of fun and exciting activities as part of their new topic Immersion Days. I am sure you will enjoy reading the class pages to see what the children have been learning.

It has been a pleasure to welcome you into school as we started our Classroom sharing mornings. The children really enjoyed sharing their books with you, showcasing their hard work so far this academic year. We look forward to seeing parents and carers from Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 5 and 6 in the first few weeks of February.

We have had a number of special visitors into school this month including the Dogs Trust and students from UWTSD. They have been so impressed by the positive attitudes and excellent behaviour of our children. Da iawn pawb!! We are very proud of you!!

Kind Regards
Mr Simon Lloyd-Jones
Acting Headteacher
Sketty Primary School

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Nursery

Meithrin

Morning Nursery launched our new topic Helping Hands by finding out who helps them in their community and how they can help others. The children identified and sorted pictures of people who can help us every day and in an emergency. As part of developing our Cynefin, an understanding of where we belong, we would welcome parents who work in the community to come in and talk to the children about their job. If you would like to volunteer, please get in touch with Mrs Fox. We celebrated World Religion Day and found out the different religions in our class and we talked about the meaning of religion. We also remembered our No Outsiders message "All different, all welcome!"



Afternoon Nursery and their parents enjoyed participating in a Mini Movers session, led by SKIP Cymru. There were lots of suggestions for games and activities that can be done at home and in school to encourage a love of movement. The children were also provided with a bag of equipment to continue their fun at home. Afternoon Nursery have also been introduced to tummy time each session to develop core stability, which will in turn, aid bodily awareness and their ability to coordinate their arms and legs effectively for a variety of daily tasks. If you would like more information regarding this, please get in touch with Mrs Fox.

To conclude the month, we celebrated Saint Dwynwen's Day, along with National Hug Day. The children enjoyed listening to the story of Saint Dwynwen and then decorated hearts and made cards to give someone who they love. We also talked about how a hug can help someone.

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Reception

Derbyn



We have kick started the Spring Term with our new topic 'Let's Celebrate'. We began looking at weddings and how different cultures Celebrate getting married. We looked at the similarities and differences between Christian, Islamic, Hindu and Sikh weddings. As part of our Literacy lessons, we had a go at creating a silly story about a wedding and we had some brilliant ideas, many rings went missing, cakes fell over and one groom fell off a rainbow boat! To end the wedding celebrations, we walked to Sketty Community Church where we held our own Reception wedding and party!



Our next celebration was St Dwynwen's Day. We listened to the story and found out that one of her wishes was for everyone in Wales to be loved and happy. We shared with each other who looks after us and who makes us feel happy and loved.



Our last celebration of the term was Chinese New Year. We listened to the zodiac story and found out which of the 12 animals crossed the finished line. We developed our Numeracy skills by learning about ordinal numbers, finding out which place each animal came. We were very lucky to have special visitors from China who talked to us about why they celebrate Chinese New Year and how they celebrate it. We then had a go at some tai chi, Chinese calligraphy and paper cutting patterns. It was lovely to be immersed in the culture!

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Year 1

Blwyddyn 1

January has been a fun and busy month in Year 1! We kicked off our *New Beginnings* topic with an exciting 'EPIC Planning' session, where the children shared their ideas about what they'd like to learn. The children came up with lots of creative suggestions, including trips and craft projects, and one fantastic idea was to transform our role-play area into a farm shop. The children have loved making salt dough items to sell in the shop, learning about how farm shops work and the different items they sell. As part of our new topic we also focused on *New Year's Resolutions*, with each child setting a goal to challenge and improve themselves in school. It's been wonderful to see their determination to be the best they can be!



Our classrooms have also been filled with beautiful seasonal artwork created by the children, linking perfectly with our *New Beginnings* theme. The children have enjoyed expressing their creativity through painting, drawing, and crafting. In addition, we celebrated *Dydd Santes Dwynwen*, the Welsh day of love, by making thoughtful cards for someone special. The children really enjoyed expressing kindness through their artwork.

We also had an educational visit from the *Dogs Trust*, where the children learned about how to care for pets and when to give them space. Finally, we took part in *Action for Elders* this month, wearing orange to show our support. The children learned about the importance of helping the elderly and raised money for this great cause.

It's been a month full of creativity, kindness, and learning, and we can't wait to see what the next month brings!

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Year 2

Blwyddyn 2



Year 2 have had a great start to the new term. We have been very busy this month. We started our new topic 'Turrets and Towers' by completing our EPIC planning to find out what the children would like to learn about. We have learned about the different parts of a castle, and what their uses are. We have also learned about coats of arms. We used what we found out to design our own coat of arms and we made our own shields. We started reading our class novel 'Beaver Towers' by Nigel Hinton. The children have been captivated by the magical story so far. They have enjoyed using their imaginations to predict what will happen next and to visualise the story. In Literacy, we have been learning about nouns and adjectives, and how to use commas in a list. In Maths, we have been learning about days of the week, months of the year, and the seasons. We also took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. We used the data we collected to make our own graphs on jit.



We celebrated St Dwynwen's Day by learning about the story of St Dwynwen. We learned about love spoons and the meanings behind their symbols.

We have also celebrated Chinese New Year. We learned about the Chinese New Year story, the zodiac animals, and they discovered the meaning behind the festival. We learned how to write numbers to 10 in Chinese, and how to write the symbol for 'snake'. We learned a song and have been trying to learn some Chinese.

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Year 3

Blwyddyn 3

Happy New Year! The children have settled back wonderfully after Christmas and we've had a fantastic start to the new term.



In Maths, we've been focusing on addition and subtraction, building confidence in mental and written methods to solve problems. The children have been working hard to apply these skills in different contexts and are showing great perseverance. In Literacy, we have been exploring persuasive writing. They have loved using persuasive language to argue their points, they have all written a brilliant brochure page for Sketty Primary School arguing different points on why they believe it is the best school in the world. Their confidence in expressing opinions is growing every day!

Our Welsh lessons have been all about extending our sentences using *achos* (because). The children have enjoyed using this to explain their ideas in more detail, helping to develop their spoken and written Welsh skills. We were also joined by people from Ffa La La to record us singing our Welsh songs.

Our new topic this term, *Extreme Earth*, has truly captured the children's imagination! We have been learning about volcanoes, the structure of the Earth, and the seven continents. The enthusiasm in the classroom has been fantastic, with many children eager to share their own knowledge and ask brilliant questions.

It has been a busy and exciting start to the term, and we look forward to more great learning ahead!

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Year 4

Blwyddyn 4

Year 4 have hit the ground running since returning to school. During the first week each child made a New Year's Resolution. They decided whether to learn a new skill or improve an existing one. It'll be interesting to see whether or not they have achieved their goals, by the end of this year.



Our theme this term is 'Inside Out'. We will look at how parts of our bodies work as well as exploring how our emotions affect our bodies. The children have helped with planning out what they would like to learn this term. We've already made a great start by finding out facts about the skeletal system.

Figurative language is also on our list this term as we start to write stories. Similes, metaphors and personification have been rolling off the children's tongues, like babbling brooks, as they've been busily creating their own. Well done Year 4!

The children are continuing with their trumpet/trombone lessons and this month both classes have been learning a song and playing together. It is such a joy to see how far they have all come. Ukulele lessons are also ongoing and they are all making excellent progress.

A big thank you to those parents who had the time to come in and look at their child's books. We can try and arrange another time for those who weren't able to make it this time.

We would like to thank you all once again for your support. Now it's all systems go, February here we come!

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Year 5

Blwyddyn 5

January has been an exciting month for Year 5! Year 5WD have made a splash with their swimming sessions, earning praise for their exceptional behaviour, whilst down at the National Pool. Y5MW are looking forward to their turn after half term.



In class, we've explored our new topic, "Express Yourself," focusing on art styles like graffiti, inspired by Banksy and Keith Haring. The children are busy planning their own positive graffiti messages, set to be created next month. Year 5 have also written a recount text imagining a Banksy visit to school—sparking debates about whether graffiti is right or wrong! In Maths, we've tackled fractions, mastering equivalent fractions, comparing and ordering fractions and using these to solve problems.

We also joined the school in wearing orange for Elders Day, celebrating the wonderful work of charities supporting older members of our community. We have also taken part in celebrating Dydd Santes Dwynwen in our Progression Step 3 assembly and follow up Morning Challenge.



Year 5 had the pleasure of interviewing three brilliant students who shared their experiences of celebrating Chinese New Year. The children asked insightful questions, deepening their understanding of this vibrant festival. They then used this new-found knowledge to create a fantastic piece of work linked to our topic, Express Yourself. It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate cultural traditions and develop valuable communication skills. Da iawn pawb!

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Year 6

Blwyddyn 6

What a fantastic start to the year we've had in Year 6! January has been packed with exciting learning experiences across all subjects. Here's a recap of what we've been up to and a look ahead at what's to come.



This month, we've been delving into data handling and exploring how it works in the real world. We've looked at census returns and discussed how data can reveal fascinating insights, such as life expectancy across Wales. The children were amazed by how numbers tell stories!

In Science, we've had so much fun experimenting with lung capacity! Using balloons, the children discovered how much air they could blow up, sparking great discussions about how our bodies work and the importance of healthy lungs. We've been diving into the rich history of Welsh myths and legends. The children have loved hearing these timeless tales and have begun crafting their own exciting journey stories, weaving in imaginative characters and vivid descriptions.



This term, we've started practising our rugby skills. From passing drills to teamwork games, the children are developing both their athletic abilities and their understanding. We've been inspired by the work of Ruth Jen, exploring her artistic techniques and styles. The children are beginning to create their own pieces, drawing on her methods to express their creativity. Our dance project with the talented Julie Hobday is officially underway! The children are loving the chance to express themselves through movement and are building confidence with each session.

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School Council

Cyngor Ysgol

School Council have been busy working on their projects for this term:



Attendance Policy

Councillors are continuing to review the school's attendance policy and have talked about what initiatives would help to improve pupil attendance and lateness.

Fire Safety

The council discussed the Fire Safety Audit and ways in which we can keep our school and ourselves safe.

Eat Them to Defeat Them 2025

School Council registered for the multi-award winning 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' programme.

The programme returns to schools for its seventh year in 2025. The Welsh Government have confirmed funding to run the programme in Wales this year.



The 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' programme is proven to increase veg consumption across the UK and support improvements in children's dietary health.

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Right Respecting Schools Ambassadors

Llysgenhadon Ysgolion sy'n Parchu Cywir

Our Rights Respecting School Ambassadors were invited to attend the Big Conversation at the National Waterfront Museum. They represented our school brilliantly with their impeccable behaviour, politeness and good manners. Da iawn pawb!!



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Welsh Crew

Criw Cymraeg

The Criw Cymraeg continue to work hard each week leading the development of Welsh in Ysgol Sgeti. Each Monday they welcome all pupils to the Gwasanaeth Cymraeg (Welsh assembly). They lead the singing of our song of the week, introduce the Patrwm yr Wythnos, present learners with our Welsh Siaradwyr yr Wythnos Award, and also lead our prayer and reflection time!! Wow...and that's just a Monday!! Arbennig Criw!!



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Staff Training

Hyffordiant Staff

Our INSET Day in January was spent engaging in Trauma Informed School training, a fantastic day which enabled all staff to reflect on our practice and reinforced our whole school commitment to ensuring we are supporting all pupils to 'Be the best they can be.'



Good Luck

Pob Iwc

At Sketty Primary School we work very closely with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's and are very fortunate to have a number of teaching students with us as part of their training. This month we said goodbye to Tatjana Jones (Rec AB) and Hannah Waters (Year 1 KP/SP) and wish them all the best with the rest of the PGCE course.



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Dogs Trust

Ymddiriedolaeth Cŵn

This month, children across the school enjoyed an assembly and class workshops from the Dogs Trust, a charity which support rehoming and caring for dogs in our community.



To find out more about the charity,
click the link below.

[Dogs Rehoming & Dog Rescue Charity](#)
[| Dogs Trust](#)



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Action for Elders

Ymddiriedolaeth Cŵn

This month we have been supporting the charity Action for Elders which helps older people improve their lives. The charity aims to help people live well in later life. We all dressed up in orange and raised an incredible £178.92. Da iawn pawb a diolch yn fawr!!



To find out more about the charity, click the link below.

[Action for Elders | Adding life to later life](#)

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Chinese New Year

Blwyddyn Newydd Tsieineaidd

This month we celebrated Chinese New Year. The children in Reception, Year 1, Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed workshops with teachers from UWTSD where they learnt the story, played games, made snakes and learnt how to say 新年快乐! (Happy New Year!)



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PTA

Bake Sale Dates 24/25

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
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

**Many thanks to parents, carers, children and staff
 who have continued to support the Bake Sales this
 academic year.**

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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 MW



2nd YEAR 5 WD



3rd YEAR 1 EJ



4th YEAR 1 KP/SP



5th YEAR 2 ER/SG



Llongyfarchiadau i Blwyddyn 5 MW who have made the most active journeys again this month. Da iawn pawb!!

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

This month, our whole school attendance was very low at 89.5% which is a further dip on last month.

Reception AB	86.4%
Reception KE/SLJ	86.1%
Year 1 KP/SP	91.4%
Year 1 EJ	92.1%
Year 2 MJ	94.0%
Year 2 ER/SM	88.5%
Year 3 NT	88.5%
Year 3 JG	91.5%
Year 4 SK	91.1%
Year 4 LO'M/SM	89.9%
Year 5 WD	90.6%
Year 5 MW	89.4%
Year 6 SW	86.4%
Year 6 LJ	87.5%

We have a new EWO, Carly Grancourt, who will be monitoring attendance in the Spring Term. 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 2 MJ 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
03/02/25 – 09/02/25	Children's Mental Health Week	All
04/02/25	Classroom Sharing – 9.30am	Year 1
05/02/25	Classroom Sharing – 9.30am	Reception
	Orchard Planting	Eco Team
06/02/25	Classroom Sharing – 10.45am	Nursery
	Graffiti Workshop	Year 5
11/02/25	Safer Internet Day	All
	Classroom Sharing – 9.30am	Year 5
12/02/25	Classroom Sharing – 9.30am	Year 6
13/02/25	Valentine's Disco 5.30pm-6.30pm 6.45pm-7.45pm	Nursery – Year 2 Year 3 – Year 6
17/02/25	Welsh Fortnight Begins	All
18/02/25	Ffa La La Gig	Year 1 Year 2
21/02/25	Last day of Half Term Pupils return to school on Monday 3rd March	All

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Date	Event	Year group
03/03/25	Back to School Welsh Fortnight continues	All
07/03/25	Eisteddfod – pupils can come to school wearing Welsh costumes, kits or Welsh flag colours.	All
07/03/25– 16/03/25	British Science Week	All
10/03/25	World Book Day (More details to follow)	All
14/03/25	Comic Relief – pupils can come to school wearing red if they wish (Suggested donation of £1 per family if possible)	All
WB 17/03/25	Parents Evening Week (NO TEACHER LED AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS)	Nursery – Year 2
21/03/25	World Water Day	All
WB 24/03/25	Parents Evening Week (NO TEACHER LED AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS)	Year 3 – Year 6
02/04/25	Autism Awareness Day	All
02/04/25– 04/04/25	Llangrannog Residential	Year 4 Year 5
11/04/25	Last day of Spring Term Pupils return to school on Monday 28th April	All

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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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