



Newsletter

Issue 02

Friday 19th December 2025

A message from Vickie

As we come to the end of a fantastic autumn term, I would like to celebrate the many wonderful experiences and achievements our pupils have enjoyed. It's been a busy and joyful half term, full of memorable moments.

Our pupils showed great respect and maturity during our Remembrance Service, and their teamwork shone through while raising money for Children in Need through Challenge 25 activities and dressing up. We also enjoyed celebrating the King's Birthday with a street-party-style event and traditional British food, as well as capturing smiles on school photo day.

Learning extended beyond the classroom during National Tree Week, where pupils explored tree species and ecosystems, and on our first full school trip to the pantomime with Maple Grove School – a huge success filled with laughter, dancing and fun. A special visit to Head Office in Bolton saw pupils spreading festive cheer with songs and signing, followed by a well-earned pizza treat.

The term ended on a high with a delicious Christmas lunch, an incredible Christmas Fair, and a festive video performance created by each class. I am beyond proud of everyone involved.

Alongside these celebrations, we are incredibly proud of the individual personal growth journeys we have witnessed, made by our pupils this term. Their confidence, independence and love of learning continue to flourish.

Phew! – what a half term, and a brilliant way to end our autumn term. Thank you for your continued support and have a very merry Christmas from Vickie and the team.

Highlight of the Term



Chestnut Hill School's first school trip out to the Panto!

Reminders



If you intend to take your child out of school during term, including medical appointments or holidays, please complete the [Absence Request Form](#).



As the weather is changing with the seasons, please remember to send your child into school with a coat, and extra layers including appropriate footwear on their Outdoor Education days.



If your child is unable to attend school, please notify us directly before 7.45am. Please do not pass messages through the taxi drivers or escorts.

Clinical Update

In this term, clinical have continued building great relationships with students and staff, laying this as a foundation on each we carry out our therapeutic sessions on.

We have been able to support staff and students with class transitions, which can be tricky for some of our students, however they have been fantastic and taken this all in their stride. Similarly, we have welcomed new students into our school who have done nothing but thrive in a very short space of time and have impressed us at how well they have integrated with the rest their peers.

Staff training this term has included, sensory circuits, PACE training and others which have reflected the needs of our young people.

As always, we have continued to provide 1:1 clinical support to anyone who needs, this is for students as well as staff. We have worked tirelessly to ensure the wellbeing of Chestnut Hill is always at the front. As with our school promise, we all work together to make remarkable happen.



Food Technology

This half term in Food Technology, all our learners have been exceptionally busy preparing for our annual Christmas fair. The pupils enthusiastically took part in making generous batches of hot chocolate and delightful reindeer treats, helping to create a festive atmosphere and ensuring there were plenty of delicious goodies for everyone to enjoy.

In the final two weeks of term, our students turned their attention to a special project: preparing and sharing a class Christmas dinner. Working together, they planned, cooked, and set the table for a lovely festive meal. It was wonderful to see everyone sitting down as a class family, enjoying the food they had made and celebrating the end of a successful term together.

We are incredibly proud of all our learners for their teamwork, creativity, and festive spirit. Wishing everyone a joyful holiday season!



School Council

As we come to the end of another busy and exciting term, the school council would like to thank all pupils, staff and families that support and enthusiasm this past term. This term has been full of positivity and fun and we are proud to share some our highlights with you all.

Pupil Voice continues to be loud and proud across the school and we as the council continue to give feedback and share ideas with Vickie and Ben.

We have had lots of events over the last term including the colour run, which was a great success and lots of messy fun, we have raised money for Macmillan and Children in Need, visited OFG head office to sing carols and just last week we visited a local care home to spread festive cheer by singing to the residents.

The council is looking forward to 2026 to continue to make our school a happy and safe place for everyone. Nadolig Llawen pawb.

Chestnut Hill School Council - Alex, Seth, Lacey, Beau, Harry and Jasmine

Enrichment



Another great term of Art with Katie!

We have also enjoyed lots of Yoga fun with Sally!



Outdoor Education

This term in Outdoor Education, we've made fantastic progress with the Wild Passport programme. Our learners are developing a deeper understanding of the natural world and, most importantly, how to care for it responsibly.

We've been building essential life skills, including safely starting and managing fires, using basic tools, and constructing effective wildlife shelters. Who knows—perhaps we have a future Steve Backshall or Lizzie Daly among us!

After all our hands-on learning and exploration, we love to finish each session gathered around the campfire with a well-deserved hot chocolate, warming up in the crisp winter air.



Dates for your Diary

Last Day of Term - Friday 19th December 2025

School reopens for pupils - Tuesday 6th January 2026

Chestnut Hill School Open Day - 21st January 2026



Classroom Moments



Afon

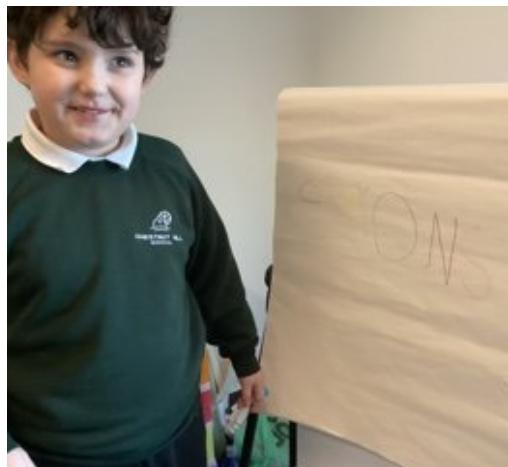
Afon have had an amazing second half to their Autumn term, and they should be very proud of themselves! It has become apparent that the children in Afon enjoy coming to school and always arrive with a smile on their face- which has been wonderful to see!

It has also been recognised that the children in Afon take part in a wide range of activities, and from this it has helped them to develop their overall confidence and skills- well done Afon! Supporting this, the children in Afon have received a multitude of rewards for following the school's ethos consisting of being: ready, safe and respectful. In addition, they always work hard and show motivation and enthusiasm whilst they are in school.

During our literacy lessons, we have been continuing to focus on the book 'We're Going to Find a Monster'. This term, we have looked closely at a wide range of phonic sounds that are linked to the vocabulary within the book. From this, children have been given the opportunity to make their own sentences through combining words that contain specific sounds. Furthermore, children have also practised using capital letters and full stops and have begun to check their work accordingly. In addition, children have been practising their inference skills and have considered a wide range of emotions and feelings that are presented in the book. This has also lent itself well to our PSCHE lessons that consider strategies of regulation and ways we can make healthy choices.

In maths, this term, we have looked closely at 2D and 3D shapes. Within this unit of work, we have learned about the names of shapes and their properties. One of the lessons, consisted of the children taking part in a shape hunt both in the classroom and around the outdoor facilities. They thoroughly enjoyed this aspect of the learning and began to see how shapes are used in real life as they had a practical hands-on experience. Afon children have also had the opportunity to develop their innovation, through creating pictures by using different shapes and lines.

During our recent expressive arts sessions, the children engaged in a paper mache project that focused on creating people's faces. The activity involved using: balloons, glue, paper and paint. The project helped to enhance their creativity when using paint to make their own unique facial details, through experimenting with a range of colours and patterns. It was clear the group thoroughly enjoyed the activity as they mentioned how fun it was! Supporting this, in our science lessons we have created a tough tray to show different landscapes linked to the book 'We're Going to Find the Monster'. One of the materials used was ice. From this, children have developed their exploration skills through play and scientific enquiry as this has been a vehicle to allow them to find out more about the world around them.





Classroom Moments



Copa

A fantastic term of growth and engagement! Students have shown increased engagement in lessons, particularly in maths and literacy, and are demonstrating real determination. Their confidence continues to grow, alongside strong self-advocacy skills and a greater awareness of themselves and social situations. Positive behaviours across the school have also increased, creating a more supportive and friendly environment for everyone.

Hands-on learning is thriving! Outdoor education and food technology have been highlights this term. Many students are enjoying getting practical and creative, some have discovered a love for baking, while one student has been inspired to consider a career as an electrician after exploring electrical circuits in science. We've also seen fantastic artistic talent emerge, showcasing creativity and skill.

Wellbeing and social connections students are making the most of sensory circuits and other wellbeing activities, helping them to regulate themselves, therefore, enabling for the pupils to be ready to learn. It is so lovely to see the pupil's tolerance for social interactions across the school continue to grow with greater success, pupils are supporting each other, building friendships, and enjoying time together. They are also engaging positively with PE lessons, enjoying physical activity and working together as a team.

Fun and celebration! Trips this term have been brilliant! Students loved their visits to Abakhan, cakes included! The pantomime to see 'The Wizard of Oz' was a fantastic experience that brought lots of excitement and smiles.

Overall, this half term has been fantastic. Pupils have shown determination, creativity, and kindness in abundance, making great progress academically, socially, and personally. We can't wait to see what the next term brings!





Classroom Moments



Merlin

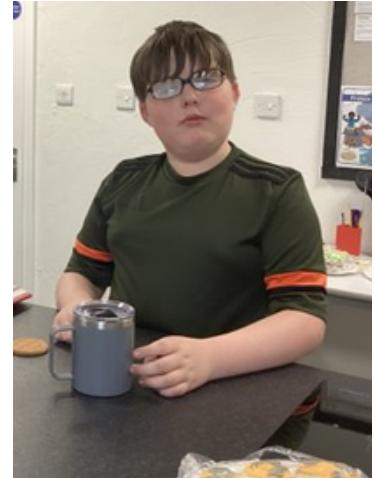
Hello, hello, hello and welcome to Dosbarth Merlin's second newsletter update of the 2025/2026 academic year! What a busy second half of the Autumn Term all four of our boys have had.

We begin our journey on a cold November's morning where Team Dosbarth Merlin welcomed our wonderful boys back after the spooktacular October half term. Continuing our academic learning in rather the same vein as how we had left it, the boys worked hard to reengage with our book of the term, 'Look Up!' which delves into the life of Rocket, a young girl who is determined to, one day, become an astronaut. Inspired by the first black female astronaut to go to space, Mae Jemison, our protagonist, Rocket, pleads with her older brother Jamal to just put his phone down for one second to appreciate the wonders of space. It really is an excellent read!

In Mathematics and Numeracy, Dosbarth Merlin have been working hard on their place value and addition and subtraction. We've worked our way through adding two-digit numbers with and without exchanges, which have proved to be a little tricky at times! Similarly, Science and Technology has proved to be somewhat of a sticky wicket also! We've wormed our way through the topic of 'Living Things' to discover what makes something living or non-living. The awesome foursome have used the acronym 'MRS NERG' or 'MRS GREN' (depending on where you come from) to explore this. Do you know what that acronym stands for?

What else have we been up to? Ah yes! Dosbarth Merlin have continued reading The BFG, with all its funny accents, created poppy art for Remembrance Day, firework art for Bonfire Night, completed lots of cooking and horticulture sessions, taken part in BSL and yoga sessions, learnt about the top 10 British bands (opinions of Dosbarth Merlin), attended a pantomime and a care home to sing carols, all whilst filming for our incredible Christmas movie! Try saying all of that in one breath! What a busy half term we have had!

In some ways, we can't wait to return in the New Year to do it all over again! For now, however, all of Team Merlin, staff and students, wish you all a very merry and happy holiday period. Whatever you celebrate, whether it be Christmas or otherwise, enjoy the time off, relax and recuperate and we can't wait to see you in 2026. Take care, folks – Dosbarth Merlin over and out for 2025! *Lots of explosions and dramatic Christmas music to see us out – imagine us all walking away in slow-motion*





Classroom Moments



Menai

Another fantastic half term for Dosbarth Menai pupils, who continue to WOW us and shine brightly.

Dosbarth Menai have worked exceptionally hard this half term. We have focused particularly on 'People' in our Humanities & Science, Careers and PSHE learning. We have had the opportunity to explore the careers and roles of people who help us. Menai have also challenged themselves in their literacy and numeracy learning focusing on applying the four rules in numeracy and creative writing in literacy. Menai continue to shine brightly in all they do, and in their behaviour. Menai pupils are well-mannered and polite and will always offer support and care to those around them.

This half term, we had the opportunity to pay our respect and remember those on Remembrance Day. Dosbarth Menai created poppy wreaths in their art enrichment and respectfully held a minute silence alongside the whole school community. We are incredibly proud of how respectful and caring Menai pupils are.

We have been incredibly lucky to have participated in our first offsite visits. The pupils demonstrated our school values of 'Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe'. Dosbarth Menai had the opportunity to travel to our company's office in Bolton. The pupils took part in singing carols in Welsh and British Sign Language at the Head Office. The pupils did very well and appreciated the response of this. They also enjoyed a Dominoes and hot chocolate and had the opportunity to judge the office's department Christmas trees. Dosbarth Menai also enjoyed their first pantomime trip during their time at Chestnut Hill. Menai pupils were able to share their fantastic behaviour on both trips and were excellent representatives of Chestnut Hill.

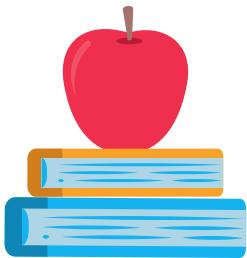
Christmas Activities – Christmas can be a very busy and overwhelming time for anyone. We are so proud of all Menai have achieved alongside engaging in all their Christmas activities. Dosbarth Menai pupils have had the opportunity to collaboratively write a unique parody to '12 Days of Christmas'. They were able to practise and record the song and have used their 'Pupil Voice' to have an input in our music video. Menai pupils have also worked well together to create our class Christmas dinner. They used their teamworking and life skills to contribute to our whole class Christmas dinner and it was such a lovely experience to sit together and enjoy what they had made.

We are so overwhelmingly proud of all Dosbarth Menai pupils. We wish them and their families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2026.

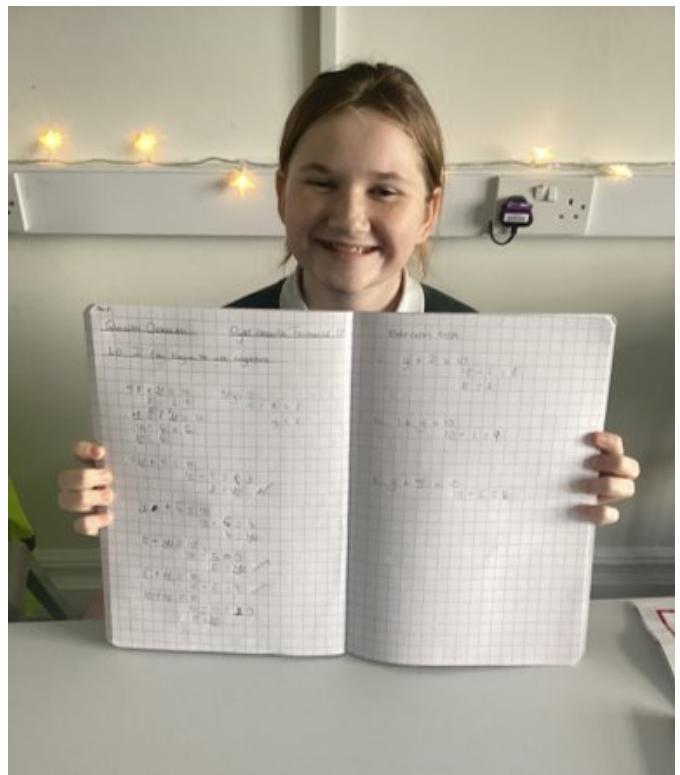
- Dosbarth Menai staff team.



Classroom Moments



Menai Continued...





Classroom Moments



Tryfan

As we come to the end of the second half of the autumn term, we would like to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly special and memorable time for Dosbarth Tryfan.

The pupils have worked incredibly hard this term, and we are so proud of the effort, resilience and enthusiasm they have shown in everything they have done. In particular, they poured so much creativity and joy into creating our magical and festive Christmas Performance video that was shown during the Christmas Performance evening this week. Our pupils loved sharing what they had been up to in the run-up to Christmas, and their excitement really shone through. We even had some very special guest stars in the video, with Bo and Loki the dogs making their debut performances.

A very special mention must also go to one of our pupils, who worked tirelessly for two weeks to create the wonderful Christmas scene that was on display during the Christmas Performance evening. She poured an incredible amount of creativity, care and hard work into her creation, and it was truly magical. Her dedication and pride in her work was clear to see, and it was a joy to share her beautiful scene with everyone.

We also enjoyed some wonderful festive experiences together, including the much-anticipated snow disco, where everyone had great fun dancing and celebrating the season. Another highlight was our whole school trip to the pantomime. All pupils attended successfully, travelling by coach alongside pupils and staff from different classes. The performance was thoroughly enjoyed, with some pupils especially amused by the cheeky “6-7” jokes cleverly slipped into the show!

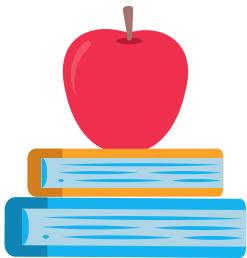
For some of our pupils, the festive magic continued with a truly memorable trip to head office in Bolton. They did an amazing job singing Christmas carols, including a Welsh carol and a fantastic rendition of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer in BSL. Alongside enjoying pizza and hot chocolate, the pupils were given the very important responsibility of judging which Christmas tree in the office was the best dressed; a task they took very seriously!

As we look ahead to the new year, we are also preparing for some changes within our class group. Two of our wonderful pupils will soon be moving on to their new class, Glyndwr. They have worked exceptionally hard during their time in Dosbarth Tryfan, and we are so proud of all they have achieved. We wish them every success in their new class and cannot wait to see them continue to thrive, grow in confidence and make new friendships along the way.

We are so proud of Dosbarth Tryfan and all that they have accomplished this term. We wish everyone a happy, restful Christmas and look forward to an exciting new year ahead.



Classroom Moments



Tryfan Continued...





Classroom Moments



Yr Wyddfa

This half term Yr Wyddfa have been working hard on our schoolwork as well as developing our independence, team working skills, and our health and well-being. We enjoy taking part of the Golden Mile Walk and playing Cricket for Physical Education. Our pupils have been learning new skills, such as batting, fielding and bowling. The class has worked great in teams and has supported each other. The pupils in Yr Wyddfa have expended their social and emotional skills; welcoming other new pupil into the class and being very welcoming and supportive.

This term we have purposely been learning about appreciation and friendships, this is to support the pupils with their social and emotional understandings of the world and to understand and encourage positive relationships with friends, online friends and friends outside school.

In Language, Literacy and Communication we have been working from our scheme of work, 'Pathways to Write'. We have been learning about famous artists and their songs from different genres. Our pupils have been learning about the meanings of different songs, they have been breaking the songs down, rewritten the songs along with writing power speeches and written letters of sympathy, showing empathy, relating to their own life experiences.

Our pupils have been learning and developing their grammar, extending their vocabulary and staff have been successful encouraging the pupils to check their work against the success criteria.

The pupils in Yr Wyddfa have been amazing at working as a team to create multiple PowerPoint Presentations and factifies and have presented them to the class to develop their confidence.

In Mathematics and Numeracy our pupils have been learning fractions, decimal points and percentages. Our pupils have been learning to find the fraction of a whole number using visual aids. Our pupils have been working independently by the end of the term!

Our pupils attend yoga lessons with Sally and every week and have been engaging well with the new routines and staff member. Our pupils have chosen other pupils they want to join; some pupils are from different classes.

We have very creative pupils in Yr Wyddfa, they have been attending Expressive Arts with Katie on a Friday, they have created beautiful pieces of artwork!

The class went to Jackson's Nurseries as a treat for always working so hard in school. We choose a bauble for the school Christmas tree, and we ordered some treats from the café!

We have had lots of fun creating our class Christmas production in class, lots of giggles and sharing ideas and acting in front of the camera. Pupils came up with most of the ideas and took responsibility with their own roles and making props. This was lovely to see! The pupils decorated the classroom and put up a Christmas tree and worked beautifully together.



Classroom Moments



Yr Wyddfa Continued...

