

Newsletter

Issue 04

Friday 27th March 2026

A message from Vickie

As we come to the end of a busy and rewarding spring term, it's wonderful to reflect on what has been a truly jam-packed and engaging few months. Our pupils have taken part in a wide range of activities, all thoughtfully designed to support their individual needs and help them thrive.

Reading through this newsletter fills me with pride. The rich variety of opportunities on offer provides so many therapeutic benefits for our pupils, supporting emotional regulation, reducing anxiety, encouraging communication, and offering valuable sensory experiences, particularly through time spent in the natural environment.

A personal highlight for me this half term was World Book Day. Everyone truly upped their game, and the addition of staff awards made it a fun and memorable occasion for all.

We are also pleased to have expanded our IT resources, enabling us to further support learning in ways that engage pupils according to their individual interests and needs.

Thank you, as always, for being such an important part of our school community. I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and I wish you all a wonderful Easter break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back on 14th April.



Clinical Update

Our students have made an excellent start this term, working hard towards their individual targets during LEGO-based therapy sessions. These sessions have continued to strengthen problem-solving, communication and teamwork skills, and staff are seeing great progress across groups. A student led, 'free-play' group has also been set up for Friday lunch times which is regularly attended!

We've also enjoyed building relationships with our new students, supporting them to complete their AAD profiles (communication and sensory) to ensure we understand their strengths, needs, and preferred ways of working. Establishing these early connections is helping us tailor support that truly works for them.

All staff across the education team have now completed their Advanced Introduction to AAD (Ask, Accept, Develop) training, further enhancing our consistent, neuro-affirming approaches.

Highlight of the Term



Celebrating World Book Day!

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 sun cream applied, a hat, and water bottle.



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.



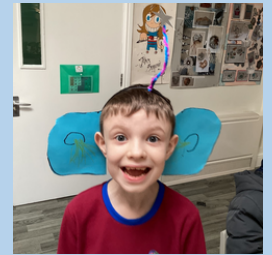
Food Technology

This half term in Food Technology, our learners have truly excelled in developing their cooking skills. From mastering basic techniques to experimenting with new recipes, their progress has been outstanding. Cooking not only nurtures creativity and teamwork but also builds confidence and encourages healthy living. I am delighted to see such enthusiasm and achievement in the kitchen, as these skills will benefit our learners both now and in the future.

I hope you all have a great easter break!



Enrichment



School Council

Thank you all for your continued support over the last half term. The school council continues to have a strong pupil voice across the school. We are looking forward to starting the summer term after enjoying the Easter break.

The council representatives enjoyed a visit to Flint library with Laura, Pastoral & Careers Co-Ordinator, to celebrate World Book Day and to collect Chestnut Hill's membership. They also enjoyed meeting The Mayor of Holywell, showing him around our amazing school and opening the careers section of the school library.

Thank you all for supporting World Book Day and Comic Relief. Have a lovely Easter break

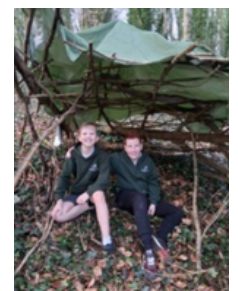
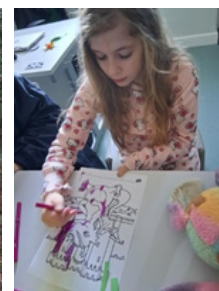
The School Council.

Outdoor Education

This term, our DofE pupils have visited several beautiful spots in Eryri in preparation for their expedition next term. We have all thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and have been fortunate to have clear, sunny weather each time. We now have frogspawn in our pond, which will help increase biodiversity in the garden and support pupils' environmental learning through real-life, hands-on experience as we watch them develop.



Pupils have also continued progressing through their Wild Passports, with some already able to light cotton wool using a flint and steel. As the weather improves, we are beginning to do more outdoor cooking too. I'm looking forward to seeing the pupils continue to grow and explore even more next term.



Dates for your Diary

Last Day of Term - Friday 27th March

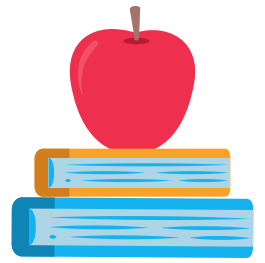
School reopens for pupils - Tuesday 14th April

Bank Holiday - School Closed - Monday 4th May

End of Summer Term 1 - Friday 22nd May



Highlights



In case you are not on our Facebook, here are some of our highlights from the half term!

Chestnut Hill School, Holywell
18 March at 14:05

National Science Week in Dosbarth Tyfán

Last week, Dosbarth Tyfán embraced National Science Week through this year's theme of "Curiosity - What's your question?".

We followed our curiosity by asking questions, carrying out experiments, and discovering answers together. By loosening our usual timetable, we created more opportunities for hands-on investigations and deeper thinking.

A fantastic week of exploring, experimenting, and learning like real scientists!

+5

Chestnut Hill School, Holywell
5 March at 16:28

We had a lovely time enjoying St David's Day with a range of Welsh-themed activities! Pupils took part in crafts, listened to Welsh music, tasted Welsh snacks, explored the smells of daffodils and leeks, and enjoyed mindful colouring whilst listening to Welsh stories.

What a wonderful way to learn more about the culture and traditions of Wales!

+8

Chestnut Hill School, Holywell
19 March at 16:03

DofE pupils enjoyed another preparatory walk yesterday, visiting the beautiful Llyn Idwal this week!

+10

Chestnut Hill School, Holywell
18 March at 16:34

National Science Week Continued!

As part of National Science Week, our pupils combined science and creativity in their art lesson by exploring the life cycle of a frog.

They carefully observed and drew frogspawn, learning about how frogs grow and change while expressing their ideas through different art techniques such as printing, sgraffito and mark-making. It was wonderful to see such focus, curiosity, and creativity in the classroom!

Well done to all our pupils for their fantastic work!

+2

Chestnut Hill School, Holywell
11 March at 16:35

Today in outdoor ed we worked together to create dens in the woodland. They demonstrated great communication, team-work and logical thinking to create a den using sticks and a tarp. We then went back to the campfire to cook some minestrone soup which was a big hit! Campfire cooking is a great way to build a sense of community and gain life skills!

+2

Chestnut Hill School, Holywell
17 March at 09:49

Through fun, interactive activities like this, our pupils explore everyday skills such as making healthy choices, taking turns, communicating, and building confidence. It was wonderful to see such great engagement, smiles, and teamwork here!

+2

Chestnut Hill School, Holywell
6 March at 16:08

World Book Day 2026!

+10

Chestnut Hill School, Holywell
10 March at 13:31

To celebrate World Book Day, our School Council representatives visited Flint Library where they explored a range of books, including careers that interest them.

They also helped us begin developing the careers section of our school library and signed us up for a membership! We look forward to continuing our link with the library and encouraging a love of reading!

[Llyfrgelloedd Gwella Libraries](#)

+10

Chestnut Hill School, Holywell
6 Mar

We are so pleased to share the wonderful improvements to our breakout and quiet reflection spaces, created with the help of our Art Enrichment Teacher, Katie Sheen Art.

Working alongside our pupils, Katie has created a beautiful piece of artwork that has transformed the space and helped make our environment even more calming and welcoming. Our pupils loved watching the artwork grow and were excited to get involved along the way.

A huge thank you to Katie for sharing her creativity and for helping us create such a special space for our school community. We are incredibly grateful!

+10

Check out our Facebook [here!](#)



School Moments



Careers

Our young people shared their interests and showcased their enterprise ideas at the Business and Enterprise Afternoon on 11th March. The students' confidence and enthusiasm was fantastic.

They also enjoyed the opportunity to discuss their projects with guests from the West Cheshire and North Wales Chamber of Commerce, Young Chamber - Maria Davison, Skills and Policy Director. We are excited to be taking part in the Young Chamber's 'Phoenix Programme' and look forward to the next steps in this inspiring initiative.

There was plenty of participation and the photo with Rhianne Wray from 'Type on Data' (lead mentor for the project) shows our School Council Chair, taking part in the shoe-creation workshop.



The QT Robot has now arrived at Chestnut Hill School and this week spoke to Menai students. QT is supporting us to learn about Community Helpers such as the Police, Firefighters, Medical Professions and more.

We have made a start with QT's help and will find out some more of what careers may be on offer that we can work towards.



The team at Chestnut Hill School, Holywell, welcomed Mayor Matthew Sprake to our library- 'Stairs to Stories'- Cutting the Ribbon Opening Ceremony for our school library on 18th March 2026.

Reading is about making meaning, and as well as a selection of stories, the school has started to develop careers readiness with students with a selection of books together with Flint library to provide our students with information to develop their ideas, interests and possible careers opportunities throughout their school journey.

One of our students, also the Deputy Chair of the School Council, was involved in providing a tour of the school to the Mayor who was enthusiastic to support the school's progress and initiatives in pupil involvement.

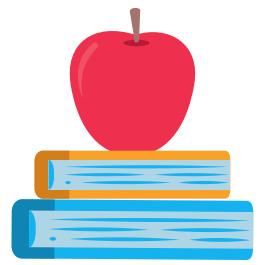


Please see below link to the Careers Wales Spring 2026 Newsletter. Inside, you'll find practical transition planning tips, recent event updates, expert guidance, and helpful resources to support you and your child as they plan for the future.

Check out the newsletter [here!](#)



Classroom Moments



Afon

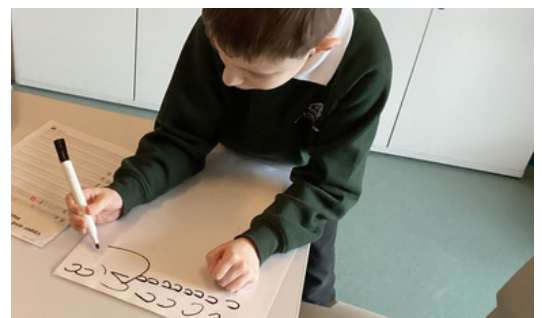
Afon Class have had a very busy and enjoyable half term. The pupils have made the most of the lovely early spring weather, spending lots of time in the play park. These opportunities have helped to build positive relationships with other classes, particularly older pupils, who have kindly supported them by pushing swings, balancing the seesaw, and joining in with games of tag. It has been wonderful to see the pupils interacting in this way, developing friendships and strengthening their social skills.

In the classroom, pupils have been working hard on the correct formation of letters, using worksheets and whiteboards to support their learning. They have also been developing their understanding of punctuation, focusing on the correct use of capital letters and full stops. In maths, we have explored the value and order of coins, even opening our very own "Afon Shop." Here, pupils enjoyed "buying" items while learning how different combinations of coins can make the same amount, such as using two 10p coins to make 20p.

Art sessions have really brought out the pupils' creativity. They have enjoyed making a range of exciting pieces, including dingly poppers for Red Nose Day and painting the life cycle of a frog after exploring frogspawn. We also made colourful celebration hats for Holi, which truly showcased their vibrant and creative ideas.

We have also enjoyed taking part in fun dress-up days, including Red Nose Day and World Book Day. It has been lovely to see the pupils fully engaging in these special events and showing off their wonderful costumes. As Easter approaches, we are looking forward to a week full of exciting activities, including lots of creative crafts.

Wishing you all a very Happy Easter from Team Afon!





Classroom Moments



Copa

This term, our students have been diving into the world of Shakespeare, exploring his life, works, and the timeless themes in his plays. They've gained a wealth of knowledge and are really enjoying discovering how his stories still connect with us today. It's wonderful to see their curiosity and confidence growing as they discuss ideas and share insights with their peers.

We've also seen great improvement in maths, particularly with recording and interpreting data. Students are tackling challenges with increasing confidence and independence, showing that they can apply their skills with growing accuracy and enthusiasm.

We were lucky to enjoy a sunny trip down to Abakhan, giving students a chance to explore creativity and hands-on learning outside the classroom. They have also been focusing on work experience and future prospects, encouraging them to think ahead, explore possibilities, and begin planning for their futures with excitement and purpose.

Across the board, students are becoming more independent, both socially and in their work. They are developing self-confidence, managing tasks on their own, collaborating effectively, and taking responsibility for their learning. It's been amazing to watch them grow into more self-assured and capable young people.

In our Personal, Social, Health and Economic lessons, students are becoming more informed, thoughtful, and ethical. They are learning to make considered choices, reflect on their responsibilities, and think about how they contribute positively to their communities.

We are incredibly proud of the progress our students have made this term. Their hard work, curiosity, and determination have been inspiring to watch. Each student is developing not only academically, but socially and personally, and it's a joy to celebrate their achievements. The growth we've seen in confidence, independence, and engagement is something to be truly proud of, and we can't wait to see them continue to thrive in the coming term.





Classroom Moments



Glyndwr

Glyndwr have excelled this Spring Term 2. As a cohort our young people have settled in well and are beginning to make some positive friendships- which has been great to see! It has been noted that the young people in Glyndwr are happy to be in school and that their confidence and self esteem are forever growing!

The children in Glyndwr have also participated in a wide range of activities including: music club, School Council, British Sign Language and Yoga - well done!

A multitude of rewards for following the school's ethos consisting of being: ready, safe and respectful have been awarded and celebrated. As a group we have created a new incentive chart and will have many exciting rewards- watch this space!

During our literacy lessons this term, we have continued to study non-chronological reports. From this, we have created our own non-chronological report based upon our class topic- 'Natural Disasters'. The young people have created a plan to help them write their final piece and then have edited their own work to ensure they have included all areas of the success criteria.

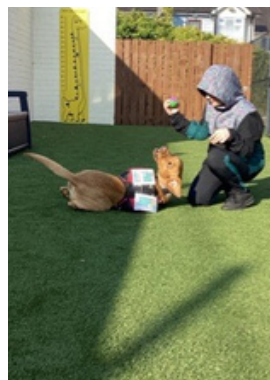
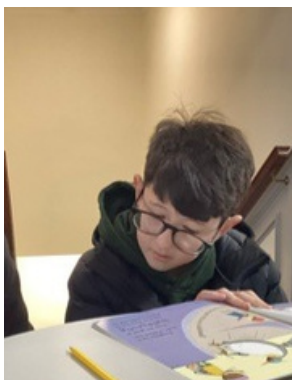
During our grammar lessons, we have looked at a range of learning objectives that are linked to writing a non-chronological report. These include, past and present tense, contractions that are linked to their expanded form and first and third person.

This term, during our reading sessions, we have been practising our retrieval skills by extracting the information from a text that is based upon our class unit such as, volcanoes and tornadoes. In addition, the young people in the class have begun to use our school library and each have chosen a book that they can read with an adult-we have enjoyed this relaxing time together.

During our maths lessons, we have consolidated our fractions unit. This includes: simplifying fractions, creating equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators of the same multiples. These are tricky learning objectives; however, the young people have demonstrated a vast amount of motivation and resilience throughout this term- well done Glyndwr! From this, we have begun to look at decimals. We have studied, tenths, thousandths and hundredths, of which they have enjoyed learning about.

During our science lessons, we have begun to look at the water cycle- which the children were most interested in. We have then taken this further and looked at energy levels and particle movement of each state of matter. The children then could see how the water cycle doesn't necessarily stop, the matter just changes form.

It has been great to see the young people take part in additional activities such as spending time with Loki – our school therapist's dog. Enjoying long walks around the grounds and teaching her new tricks. This activity has really brought the class closer together, and it is something we all look forward to each Thursday. Have an exciting Easter from all of us in Dosbarth Glyndwr!





Classroom Moments



Merlin

Hello and welcome back to another newsletter input from Dosbarth Merlin. Another busy and exciting short half term for the Merlin boys.

This half term began with a change in our class team. We said a fond farewell to Josh and have since welcomed Stacey, who has settled in brilliantly and is already building fantastic relationships with the boys.

Our journey through Languages, Literacy and Communication has seen us continuing to develop our skills across a range of areas. We have been focusing on comprehension work, building our understanding of subordinating conjunctions, question marks and commas. The boys have been working hard to develop their reading and writing skills, showing great effort and engagement throughout.

In Mathematics and Numeracy, we have built on our knowledge of money by learning about UK coins and notes to help the boys develop practical skills they can use in everyday life. The boys have learnt how to recognise different coins and notes, understand their values, practise adding and subtracting amounts to work out totals and change. This has supported the boys' problem-solving, as they have learnt to apply their knowledge to real-life scenarios such as shopping or budgeting. Through these activities, the boys have built confidence in handling money and develop a stronger understanding of number and value which is a very important life skill!

This half term has had a strong Humanities focus. The boys have explored topics such as recycling, evolution, animals and the environment, and mythology. They have shown great curiosity and have engaged thoughtfully with these important and interesting themes.

Across our wider Areas of Learning, Food Technology and Horticulture have continued to be a big hit, with lots of opportunities for hands-on learning and developing practical skills.

We have also taken part in some fantastic whole-school events this half term. Red Nose Day brought lots of fun and laughter, while our Business and Enterprise afternoon gave the boys a chance to engage in discussions about their futures. We were also very lucky to welcome some special visitors, including the Mayor of Holywell, which was a wonderful experience for everyone.

Clubs have continued to be a great success, with pupils enjoying opportunities such as Coding Club, where they have been developing their problem-solving and digital skills.

Well, that's all for now! It's been another fantastic and productive half term in Dosbarth Merlin, and we're incredibly proud of all the hard work and enthusiasm shown by the boys. We're already looking forward to what next term will bring...

Catch you next time for another newsletter input from Dosbarth Merlin!





Classroom Moments



Menai

Menai Class have experienced a highly engaging and productive half term, enriched with a variety of memorable events including World Book Day, Comic Relief, and an Enterprise Afternoon. These opportunities allowed pupils to demonstrate creativity, collaboration, and initiative, while also building confidence in sharing their ideas with others.

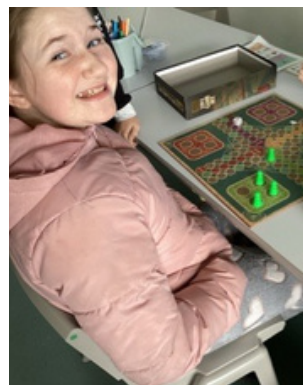
During the Enterprise Afternoon, pupils worked in teams to develop and present their own business ideas. One group successfully established a dog grooming company alongside a café, carefully considering branding and customer experience, while another group designed and presented a construction company, showcasing thoughtful planning and teamwork, and problem solving skills throughout the process.

Across the curriculum, pupils have explored key topics such as money management, recycling, and creative writing, developing both practical life skills and their imagination. They have also enhanced their awareness of current affairs through regular viewing and discussion of Newsround, which has encouraged thoughtful conversations and the sharing of opinions. Team-building skills have been further strengthened through board games and collaborative learning activities, helping pupils to support one another and work effectively as a group.

In Physical Education, pupils have made notable progress in developing their netball skills, demonstrating improved coordination, teamwork, and confidence. It has been great to see pupils encouraging one another and showing resilience as they continue to build their abilities.

Overall, it has been a very positive half term, with pupils showing enthusiasm, creativity, and a strong commitment to their learning. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and look forward to seeing their continued progress next term.

- Menai Class Team





Classroom Moments



Tryfan

What a fantastic and busy half term it has been for Tryfan Class! We are excited to share some of the wonderful learning experiences and achievements the children have enjoyed.

During British Science Week, we had a brilliant time exploring a range of exciting science experiments. The children showed great curiosity, asked thoughtful questions, and loved getting hands-on with their investigations.

Our topic this term has been all about food. As part of this, we visited a farm to learn where milk comes from. It was a fantastic trip, and the children really enjoyed making their own Milkshakes.

We have also begun writing our stories for the Picker Pals competition. The children have been working hard to develop their ideas, showing creativity and enthusiasm in their writing.

A huge congratulations to one of our pupils who earned a special trip to Ninja Tag after achieving all of his stars on his reward chart. This is an incredible accomplishment, especially as he has been working towards this goal since September—well done!

We also had lots of fun celebrating Red Nose Day. The children came to school in their pyjamas and took part in creative activities, including making fun headbands in art with Katy.

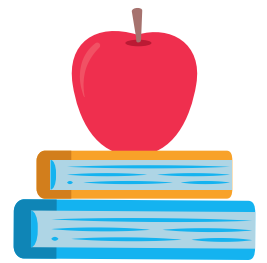
To finish off the half term, we have been enjoying lots of Easter-themed activities. One highlight was our Easter egg hunt, which cleverly incorporated our maths learning on coordinates—learning and fun combined!

It has been a joyful and productive half term. We are very proud of all the children and their hard work.





Classroom Moments



Yr Wyddfa

This half term Yr Wyddfa have been working hard on our schoolwork as well as developing our independence with our learning, our team building skills, our social skills and our mental health and well-being.

This term for Health and Wellbeing we have purposely been learning about healthy friendships, toxic friendships and healthy friendship boundaries. This has been to support pupils in school learn how to be a good friend. We have also been learning about 'medications and the impacts of different medications and their benefits when taken consistently.

In our Topic lessons, we have been linking our topic work 'Natural disasters' and we have been learning about the water cycle, as well as the effects humans have on the water cycles. We have been learning about climate control, and the impact climate control has on our water. Pupils have been tasked to research these topics create factsheets and reference where the information was from.

For Language Literacy and Communication our pupils have been focused on skillsets and linking our work to 'Natural Disasters'. Our pupils have been engaging with learning all the skills in 'skills week' and using all the practised skills in 'practical week'. Our pupils have written their own success criteria for writing different report, a non-chronological report and a newspaper article.

In Mathematics and Numeracy our pupils have been revisiting fractions, focusing on simplifying them using common factors. They have worked increasingly independently, using multiplication knowledge to reduce fractions to their simplest form. Pupils began with multiples of two and progressed up to eleven, building confidence and accuracy. With some visual support, all pupils have made strong progress and are now working more independently.

Last week, we started practicing NCFE Numeracy exam papers in class. The pupils have engaged very well with this and have been accepting of what they need more practice with.

Our pupils are still attending yoga lessons with Sally every week and this has been beneficial for our pupils as they come back to class more relaxed and ready to learn.

We have very creative pupils in Yr Wyddfa, they have been attending Expressive Art lessons with Katie on a Friday. Our pupils have been enjoying this and producing lovely pieces of art linking to the SMSC calendar.

Pupils who are enrolled in Duke of Edinburgh have been exercising more on-site and going offsite for longer walks. We have been building up our fitness levels this term and completed a three mile walk to Ogwen at Eryri National Park with Sarah from Outdoor Learning.

As a class we have been taking part in our afternoon walks, down the drive and on-site. This is a chance to get out of school and enjoy the fresh air and enjoy each other's company whilst litter picking for our DofE qualification.

Careers this term we have continued with 'Incredible Future' scheme and we have been busy! We have been looking at identifying own interests for future jobs. We have been using our advice and feedback forms from our Career appointments and looking at possibilities with colleges and courses. Laura our Careers advisor on-site has been working with our class closely this term. Faye from Careers Wales has been in for a visit to meet our pupils and has been talking to us about apprenticeships and internships as possibilities for our pupils. The class engaged and joined in with discussions. As well, we have had a visit from Amber Quay Care, they came in to talk to our pupils about care in the community, they were able to share their role and what they do. We learnt about apprenticeships and benefits working in the community.

We have had a new addition to our class, and she has settled in beautifully. Our newest pupil has been transitioning into our class for two weeks and is finally with us full time. All the pupils have been very welcoming and positive role models.

One of our pupils has started his exciting work placement in the school kitchen, and he is being supported by Laura, our Careers advisor in school and Laura is providing lots of positive feedback.

'I was very proud of our pupil today, although he has been attending the kitchen before this, he is now developing into formal work experience as he goes forward to develop himself, to be on time and his independence together with his career aspirations as a Chef' -Laura

This pupil has also been to visit Cambrian College with Laura and Mum, and this has also had a positive impact.

