

MOUNTAIN NEWS

'Together in faith, we grow and learn'

Dec 2019

Merry Christmas!

As we approach the end of a very successful term, I would like to thank everyone associated with our school for their continued support and engagement.

Our children have benefitted from a wide range of activities and events this term, many of which have been showcased on our Twitter pages [@llansannorps](#).

September seems like a distant memory, as the term has been packed with activities, visitors into school, educational visits outside of school and of course our wonderful Christmas concerts. This has all been in addition to our staff and children working extremely hard to cover the national curriculum and to ensure all our children fulfil their potential in a happy and nurturing learning environment.



The highlights for me this term include the fabulous Llansannor Film, *'The Garden of Eden'*, which can be found on our website, and of course the three amazing Christmas productions. Our Nursery and Reception children beautifully retold the Christmas story in the school hall and Year 1/2 children stole our hearts with their version, 'The Inn-Spectors'. Year 6 children should be extremely proud of their lead in the KS2 Carol concert at Holy Cross Church where they retold the story in a charming and innovative way, ably supported by pupils in Year 3, 4 and 5. More than 300 parents, grandparents and friends watched the fantastic acting, singing and dancing over the course of the week. It was a privilege to see how the children have grown in confidence and how ably they entertained their audiences. These opportunities really enrich the curriculum and allow education to take place outside of the classroom.

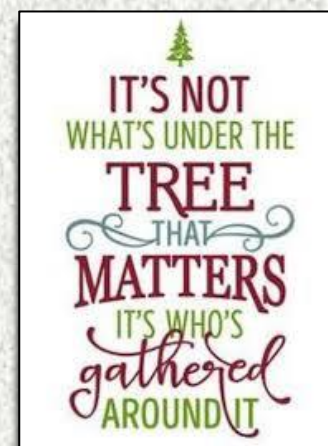
It has been a long and busy autumn term and we are all looking forward to Christmas with some family time and rest. On behalf of staff and governors, we would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a successful and healthy 2020.

Just a reminder, school will finish at 1:15 pm on Friday 20th December and the spring term commences at 8:55am on Tuesday 7th January 2020 (Monday is an INSET day).

Best wishes, Mrs Prosser

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INSET Days 2019/20

We have 6 inset days to take this year which includes the additional new curriculum training day. These are:

2nd & 3rd September 2019
6th & 27th January 2020
24th February 2020

Autumn Term Charity Work

We would like to say a very big thank you for supporting our values of generosity and compassion, by helping us raise money for the following charities this term:

- Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
- Harvest Local Food Bank Collection
- Cowbridge Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme
- Eden Gate Charity – Sock appeal for the homeless
- Children in Need
- 2 Wish Upon a Star
- National Autistic Society



Our school council will meet at the beginning of January to decide on charitable causes for the spring term and we welcome your suggestions.

KS2 Carol Concert

Key stage 2 pupils wowed us with their performance of 'The Amazing Advent Calendar' at Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge. All pupils sang beautifully a range of carols with the support of the audience, and this gave a real community feel to the event. Each class enjoyed performing their own song, whilst year 6 pupils held the responsibility of leading the show through retelling the nativity in a unique and charming way. We were very proud of the way all pupils participated in the concerts and delivered the message of the true meaning of Christmas to our families and friends.



KS2 trip to the Sherman Theatre

The whole of key stage 2 enjoyed a fantastic and enchanting performance of 'The Snow Queen' at the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff this week. The pupils were completely engrossed throughout the performance as we heard the story of Gerda's adventure as she set off to find her friend Kai. It was a magical journey with many unusual encounters and extraordinary characters and eventually Kai was rescued! The actors and actresses inspired many of our pupils and it proved to be a magical experience for us all. As one year 6 pupil stated, *'It was an exciting adventure for us all to enjoy!'*



Messy Christmas Fun

There's no better place to be at this time of year than a Welsh church school and the 'Mountain School' is a particularly special place to be in December. Messy Christmas fun was had by all this week as children mixed year groups and helped each other with a range of activities from exploring Welsh traditions and making mince pies, to building local churches using junk modelling materials. Across key stage 2, the children explored the traditions of Christmas in Norway, Spain, France and Wales. They enjoyed exploring their cultures and beliefs such as; the Epiphany celebrations in France and Plygain carols in Wales.



Foundation Phase Christmas Trip to Dan yr Ogof Caves

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 children's Christmas trip was a little different this year as they visited Santa in the Dan yr Ogof caves. It was quite simply a magical experience and the children's faces were a picture. After searching for Santa along a trail of wonderful lights, everyone was given the chance to put in their last minute wishes. It was a wonderful way to end our term and get into the Christmas Spirit.



Engagement and Pupil Voice – The Llansannor School Senedd



Our School Senedd continues to be active and have met with Mrs Prosser to share their very important work. All children from year 2 to year 6 are involved and participate in the following groups :

- Learning Ambassadors
- Language Ambassadors, including 'Cryw Cymraeg'
- Playground Pals
- Eco Council
- Digital Leaders
- SNAG team and Worship Leaders.

Each group has devised its own Mission Statement and is creating its own Action Plan. Staff are teaching pupils to take responsibility, through chairing and minute taking and reviewing actions. They have also elected their own Chair and Vice Chairpersons to lead their group's work. The Chair and Vice Chair from each group make up the school's Senedd who will regularly meet with the Headteacher to discuss their work and plans.

The Learning Ambassadors have been learning about the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and they have shared this information with all pupils. They have undertaken a whole school assembly to explain the UNCRC law and have mapped out which rights they would like to teach and develop an understanding of, over the next three terms. They have started to deliver this message and awareness of the 42 rights through lessons in every class which they have planned and delivered through games and activities to improve pupils' understanding.

Worship leaders have embarked on a very interesting project this half term. They have been working alongside Richard Weaver from Citizens UK to help support the 'Croeso Cowbridge' project. They have been learning about how to welcome a refugee family to live in Cowbridge and how we could support people new to our area. Together with Richard, they have put ideas together to develop a 'welcome pack' which includes thinking about where people would worship. We are looking to become a 'refugee ready' school and attaining the newly developed award.

Llansannor is Striving to be a Healthy School

Our School Nutrition Action Group (SNAG) have been busy planning their healthy messages which they will share with pupils across the school in January, to promote healthy eating and in particular Healthy lunchboxes. They are working hard to achieve the Phase 6 award of the Healthy Schools Programme for schools.

A polite reminder: fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate, crisps and sugary treats are not permitted during the school day. Our healthy school tuck shop offers fruit snacks and is available during morning play.



WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

Importantly, due to a number of our pupils having nut allergies, please can you refrain from providing your child with nuts as snacks or lunch box treats. Thank you.

PTA – Parents and Teachers Association and School Fundraising

Our committed PTA have worked extremely hard this term and organised successful discos and a well-attended Christmas fete which raised £2,280.79. Wow! Thank you to everyone who contributed but particularly to Santa who stepped in at the very last minute. We are all so very grateful to the PTA who sacrifice their time and energy to help raise vital money for the school. Without their drive, our children wouldn't access the extras such as the Polytunnel and outdoor play equipment.

As mentioned in earlier correspondence, many of the PTA members are ready to hand over the baton after many years' service but they really need successors to take over the lead. Please contact the school if you feel you could help in some way.

We decided not to charge for foundation phase concert tickets this year, but we do still rely on donations to support purchases of non-essential items. Thank you for the generous donations which amounted to £458.79 over the 2 days, excluding those who have asked to donate anonymously and directly to the school account. This money, together with PTA funds, will go towards the purchase of much needed high quality role play furniture in our foundation phase classrooms (examples below) and wireless microphones for the school hall.



Attendance Matters – Every School Day Counts

Our Attendance this term was 95.1% which is close to our 95.5% target. This is pleasing considering the amount of sickness over the last month. Our Year 3 pupils had the highest attendance at 95.9%. Well done Mrs Goldsworthy and year 3!



We appreciate how hard it is for children to achieve 100% attendance due to widespread seasonal bugs and illnesses and this is why we celebrate pupils who achieve an attendance over 97% at the end of the summer term.

Please ensure your child arrives at school promptly – the bell rings at 8.55am and any lateness is closely monitored by both the school and Education Welfare Officer. If you are experiencing difficulties, for whatever reason, in ensuring your child comes to school on time, please contact the school office or Mrs Prosser to discuss how we may help.

We would really like to achieve our target of 95.9% so please continue to support us in achieving very good levels of attendance.

Important Dates – Spring & Summer Term 2020

*** CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – 23rd DECEMBER TO 6th JANUARY ***

School Value 1st half term: COURAGE

Monday 6th January: INSET day (school closed to pupils)

Tuesday 7th January: School starts

January 20th - World Religion Day

Monday January 27th: INSET day (school closed to pupils)

February 11th - Safer Internet Day

*** HALF TERM HOLIDAYS : 17th – 21st FEBRUARY ***

School Value 2nd half term: FORGIVENESS

Monday February 24th : INSET day (school closed to pupils)

Feb 10th-15th: Random acts of kindness week

Feb 24th : Fair-trade Fortnight

Feb 25th : Shrove Tuesday

Feb 26th : Ash Wednesday

Feb 28th : Eisteddfod- Dress up in Welsh attire

March 6th : World Book Day - Dress up as story characters

March 12th: Book Fayre arrives in school

March 13th : Comic Relief - Pyjama day

Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th March - Parents evening

March 26th : Year 3 Parent Class Worship + class sharing event

April 2nd : Autism Awareness Day

April 28th - 5th May: Test window for Welsh National maths reasoning tests

*** EASTER HOLIDAYS: 6th APRIL – 17th APRIL ***

School Value 1st half summer term: FRIENDSHIP

Monday 20th April : School starts back

May 8th : Bank Holiday school closed

15th-17th May : Year 5 Llangrannog residential trip

*** WHITSUN BREAK: 25th MAY – 29th MAY ***

School Value 2nd half summer term: RESPECT

Monday 1st June : School starts back

8th – 10th June: Year 6 PGL residential

17th June: Sports Day (reserve 24th June)

1st July: Year 5 Parent Class Worship + class sharing event

Friday 17th July, 3.30pm : Last day of school



Llansannor calendar 2019- 2020

Calendar^{co.uk}
Your source for calendars

September 2019							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
35							1
36	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
37	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
38	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
39	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
40	30						

December 2019							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
48							1
49	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
50	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
51	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
52	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1	30	31					

March 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					

June 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

October 2019							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40		1	2	3	4	5	6
41	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
42	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
43	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
44	28	29	30	31			

January 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1			1	2	3	4	5
2	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
3	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
4	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5	27	28	29	30	31		

April 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

July 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2019							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44					1	2	3
45	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
46	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
47	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
48	25	26	27	28	29	30	

February 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5						1	2
6	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9	24	25	26	27	28	29	

May 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2020							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31						1	2
32	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
34	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
35	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
36	31						

KEY		School Closed/ Holidays		In-Service Training (INSET) (no school for pupils)
		Public and Bank Holidays		First and Last Day of School Around a Close

Bank holidays 2019/20 (UK)

25th December '19	Christmas Day	10th April '20	Good Friday	25th May '20	Spring Bank Holiday
26th December '19	Boxing Day	13th April '20	Easter Monday	31st Aug. '20	August Bank Holiday
1st January '20	New Year's Day	8th May '20	Early May Bank Holiday		

(Previously 4th May)