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Headteacher: Kerina Hanson B.Ed. (Hons) NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. V. Eynon BA.Ed. Hons

Wednesday 11th October 2023

Annwyl Rhieni,

We've had a busy few weeks, we have a lot going on! Our INSET day on Friday was great, we focussed on mathematics and numeracy opportunities for inquiry and making links to problem solving. Parents have asked for more information on how we teach mathematics and numeracy and so we will plan a workshop for parents to come along to soon. We held a curriculum workshop in September – thank you to those parents who joined us. We are finalising the information about our curriculum and we will share this with you soon.

Zambia School Partnership Project

We are working with several schools in Swansea and along with some schools in Zambia on a project linked to sustainability. We welcome our partner teachers from Zambia on Friday. Next week Bae 3 have a special week of activities planned, but all our children will have the opportunity to meet our visitors and take part in a Question & Answer session with the teachers.

The project is focussing on plastic and finding useful ways to reuse plastic to make shelters. While we often think of plastic in bottles and packaging, we wanted to raise awareness of the plastic used in clothing and many fabric items we use. We would like to recycle any old waterproof coats or clothing you might have, old tents, tarps or even shopping bags or rucksacks made from waterproof fabric.

Please send in any old items you may have that can't be reused, and ask your family and friends to have a look for anything they could donate too.

We aim to build a shelter we can use in our outdoor areas. We have several very kind parents who have offered to make the frame for us for our project. We will be working on the project the week of the 16th October 2023, and taking part in a sharing celebration event on Monday 23rd October. Miss Booth will be travelling to Zambia to help run the project with our partner school early next year. What an amazing opportunity for us – I am sure we will learn lots in the coming year about Zambia, it's people and fantastic wildlife.



Bae 3 parents have had a consent form for filming the project. Please complete it as soon as possible <https://forms.office.com/e/wq8bHwkyE0> it will only take a minute or two.

Please join us for Bore Coffi Diwrnod Shwmae, our Shwmae Day Coffee Morning on Friday.

Chickens

We had a great response for helping us look after the chickens – thank you! We have managed to get a grant to help us buy a run and all the equipment we need which has arrived this week. We will build the run with the children in the coming week or two and then sort the chickens to return to us. I'll put a planner out for our volunteer parents in the coming weeks to help with the chickens over the weekends. It's great that we've had such a positive response, families hopefully will need to sign up for helping 2 or 3 times a year.



Dream, Believe, Achieve Together - Breuddwydio, Credu, Cyflawni Gyda'n gilydd

www.ASDinfoWales.co.uk

Homework

We believe that homework is an important part of the learning process for our children. We know that occasionally homework causes anxiety amongst some families and that defeats the objective of supporting children in their learning. For teachers, homework is a consolidation of work children have covered in school, it is not new work that needs to be taught as such. I hope the following will help.

How long should children spend doing homework?

The guidelines for how much homework children should receive are set by government and are as follows:

Reception: Building to 10 minutes per day

Years 1 and 2: 1 hour per week

Years 3 and 4: 1.5 hours per week

Years 5 and 6. Aiming for 30 minutes per day in preparation for expectation at secondary school.

Children should not be expected to spend significantly longer on homework than the guide times above. It does not matter if activities do not take as long as the guide times as long as they are useful. It is, however, very important that they get used to doing homework as this will help prepare them as they move into secondary and for further education.

What homework will my child get each week?

We aim to ensure that homework set for each class is appropriate and consolidates skills they need and have learnt in school.

Bae	What	When
Bae un	Not every child will receive the same homework. Tasks set will be based on consolidation of a skill or a target set from the weeks learning to support your child in making the next step. Tasks will vary but will include literacy and number skills and reading when your child is ready.	Weekly
Bae dau	In Bae dau homework tasks will increase on a progression as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading books and Flash cards (if appropriate) weekly• Literacy numeracy alternates The type of tasks set for your child will be right for their stage in learning.	Set on Friday No need to return
Bae tri	Reading, Maths sheet, Literacy task.	Set on Friday Return on Wednesday

Please note that we do understand how tired children are at the end of the day and therefore the following suggestions should be read in light of this. 'Little, but often' is a valuable guideline and five minutes of practise, several times a week is what we recommend. As they approach Y6, we would recommend building up to half an hour a day in readiness for expectations as they move to secondary education.

Reading

We cannot stress too highly the importance of regular reading at home; this should be encouraged on a daily basis particularly during holiday periods. We do see a marked dip in reading skills / attainment after school holidays. Reading is a necessary and enjoyable activity which can be shared as a family, should you need guidance on this please see your child's teacher or take a look at our useful guides here on our school website [Pennard Primary School - Home](#) Classes/Bae/end of year expectations. Or here [Pennard Primary School - Homework & Helping My Child](#)

Reading should always be an enjoyable, shared experience where children develop a love of books and stories. Please continue to read and share a range of books with your child, encouraging them to talk about events, characters and illustrations.

In Bae Un reading books will be sent out when your child is ready. The first books we sent have no words – this is to encourage children to talk about the pictures and stories they could tell. Telling stories is a very important start to learning to read and we recommend you read to your child as often as you can whatever their age in primary school. For older children audio books are also a great option.

Flash cards

We will also send home the phonics sounds and high frequency words we have learned that week. Try to play short sharp regular games with these so that they gain sight recognition. When reading, encourage your child to look out for these in their reading books as this will help to consolidate their learning.

Spelling

We send home spelling to learn but do not then test them as such. There is a lot of evidence that learning spelling for tests simply does not work for many children as they do not retain the knowledge. Some children will always struggle with spelling, for example those who have dyslexia. While spelling is very important it should not become the most important aspect of writing, we focus on the skill and style of writing rather than just getting spellings right. It is the skill of writing in the long run that will enable your child to function in the working word. Technology can support those who struggle with spelling in the long run.

For older children we send home words to practice in super sentences. This not only supports learning spellings but helps understanding of words in context. It also encourages children to use a wider vocabulary. Our super sentences help children with the skill of writing with an engaging style. Please encourage children to use as many of the target sentence types as they can – they will know what the symbols mean as we use them all the time in school.

Maths

We will send home a range of maths activities for your child. These will rehearse and consolidate skills they have covered in school. We do not send home tasks your child has not learnt in school and so children should be able to complete tasks independently. Part of the mastery approach to mathematics is ensuring that children become fluent in basic mathematical facts so that when required they can quickly recall these and use them. The very best we can do for our children is to ensure they have a super quick recall and understanding of basic number facts to 100 and their times tables by the time they leave Y6. Sounds too simple? No! These essential facts can be applied to many aspects of maths – your secondary school maths teachers will be very pleased if they know these inside out.

Marking

In Bae dau and Bae Tri homework must be returned on a Wednesday. Work handed in late will not be seen. Teachers mark homework with the children, work set is discussed or share as a class as a means of giving immediate feedback. Teachers will not necessarily write a comment in books, however, they will leave a stamp to show that they have seen the work. If teachers are absent they may stamp the book, however, they will check in upon their return. Our teachers time is limited so they don't have time to mark every homework book, we do not see the benefit of doing this as verbal feedback and pupil involvement is shown to be far more effective in helping children learn.

Still worried?

If you have any concerns about the homework your child is receiving, or you are unsure about how best you can support your child's learning, the first point of contact must always be the class teacher. There is lots of information on what your child needs to know on our website.

FoPP

FoPP met last night to plan some activities for the year, they have some exciting ideas.

This term they planning

Halloween Disco Thursday 26th October

Christmas Fayre Thursday 30th November

If you are able to help with either of these activities, please let FoPP know through your FoPP representative.

We would like to say thank you to FoPP for funding the decking up in our Pond area and especially to Mr Fowley for building it. It is looking great so far. A further thank you to FoPP and Mr Hinton for helping make our cube ready for our Zambia project. We will be using it next week!

Gymnastics,

We had a great response for the gymnastics club, I'll send some information about this club and how to book in the next couple of days.

Clwb Aros a Chwarae.

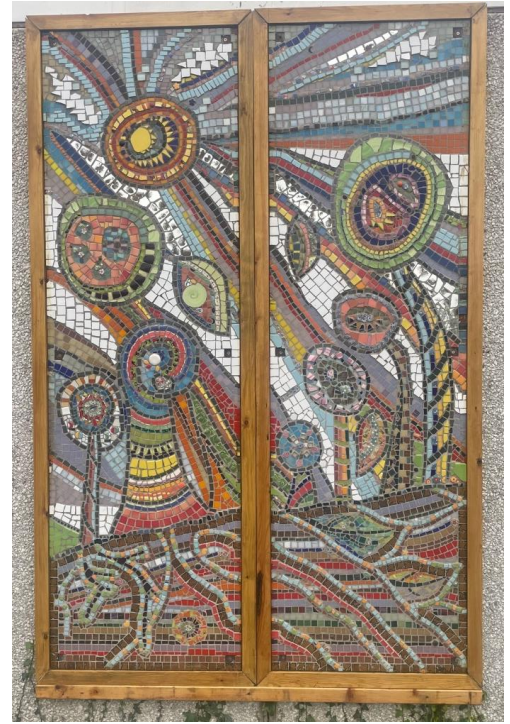
Bookings are now open for using the childcare club after half term. We've reduced the late booking fee to £10 but we really need parents to book in advance to help us in knowing how to staff the club. We also need parents to support the club to ensure it stays open, we are only just breaking even on staffing costs at the moment. We really do want to help working parents, but we need the uptake to ensure we can keep the provision going.

Parent Meetings

Bookings will be open soon – please go to our website [Pennard Primary School - Parent Meetings](#) You should also have had an email to let you know and also a new password generator link if you haven't yet set up your account. Apologies for the confusion today. We've rung the website host and they are helping us resolve the issue. We will email to let you know when you can book again.

Finally,

It's lovely to see the mosaic artwork up near our Nursery entrance – it looks amazing. I think we need some more now! As always if you have a problem or a great idea you'd like to share please drop us a line.



Cofion,

Kerina Hanson

Headteacher

Dates at a Glance

Event	Details	Dates
Community Events	Bore coffi diwrnod Shwmae FoPP Christmas Fayre	13.10.23 30.11.2023
School Trips/ Visits/ Events	Zambia visit to Pennard Parents Meetings Halloween disco Bae 3 Techniquet Bae Un Christmas Bae Dau Christmas Concert	13 th – 23 rd .10.23 23 rd – 26 th .10.2023 26.10.2023 30.11.2023 13.12.2023 14.12.2023
Term Dates	Monday 4 th September 2023 (Children return to school) – Friday 27 th October 2023 Monday 6 th November 2023 – Friday 22 nd December 2023	
INSET days 2023	Inset Day 1 - Friday 1 st September 2023 Inset Day 2 - Friday 6 th October 2023 Inset Day 3 - Friday 22 nd December 2023 (3x Twilight sessions for staff) Inset Day 4 - Friday 9 th February Inset Day 5 - TBC Inset Day 6 - TBC	