



☰ Pennard Primary School, Pennard Road, Pennard, Swansea, SA3 2AD

☎ (01792) 233343

✉ [Pennard.Primary@swansea-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:Pennard.Primary@swansea-edunet.gov.uk)

<http://pennardprimary.co.uk/>

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

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

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2024

19.1.24

Annwyl Rhieni,

I can't believe we are into the second week of the new year already – Blwyddyn Newydd Dda from us all here at Pennard Primary! We are looking forward to a great 2024!

### Learning and Progress

Over the last few weeks, teachers have been carrying out some assessments with children for reading and phonics, writing and number skills. Teachers will analyse the assessments to ensure teaching and learning is pitched at the correct level to support progress for each child. The information we gain helps us plan and support the development of pupil skills. We can also check that children are making progress from their starting points. Teachers keep ongoing records of pupil progress and plan learning accordingly. These assessment check-ins provide us with an overview of progress. Teachers will share progress with parents again during parent's evenings during the week of March 18<sup>th</sup> (Reception pupils will have a different date).

### Additional Learning Needs

We know that every parent worries about their child's progress. Every child is different and will make progress at different rates, some children will have some specific difficulties that may mean they need some extra support at times. For many children these can be supported in class, it is only those children identified as having ALN that require an IDP (Individual Development Plan). Children identified as having ALN might have significant greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or has a disability for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities for education or training of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream maintained schools.

In the past we might have put an IEP in place for any children receiving an intervention in school, for example a catch up group for maths. Under the new ALN Bill, this is not the case unless the intervention required is specifically tailored for the child. To support parents in the changeover from IEP's to IDP (which have a far greater ALN requirement) we adopted the use of Learning Plans to keep parents informed about specific next step targets some children or groups of children might have. Unlike an IDP, these are not a legal requirement. We will continue to use these to inform parents about some children who may need group or short term individual support. Teachers will be in touch with parents about these in the next few weeks. Those children who have an IDP will have their plans updated as part of their annual (or 6 monthly in Nursery) Person Centred Reviews.

To help parents understand more about ALN and the new Bill we are planning a Coffee morning in the next term, we have invited Parent Carer Forum to speak with parents as well and are awaiting a date that they can do.



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

It's important to remember that some difficulties, dyslexia for example, are not ones that can be solved as such. Children need to learn strategies to live with these difficulties and their own ways to learn best. As a parent of sons with Dyslexia, I understand how worrying and frustrating it can be at times. However, with support and encouragement children do develop strategies to help them learn best. The progress may not happen at the same pace as most, but they do find their way.

As a cluster of schools, we share our approach to universal provision that supports the learning of all pupils. Our ALNCo's also meet regularly to ensure that levels of need are assessed and supported in the same way across our schools. Mrs Dardecker is the cluster lead ALNCo, and attends meetings at a Swansea level to ensure the practice of the school and cluster is in line with that of the Local Authority.

### Inquiries for Spring term

Our Inquiry focus in each Bae is as follows:

<b>Bae Un</b>	<b>EXPRESS YOURSELF!</b> People of Wales use the arts to convey their culture, heritage and belonging.
<b>Bae Dau</b>	<b>EXPRESS YOURSELF!</b> Histories, traditions and places of Wales inspire stories, myths and legends followed by People of Wales use the arts to convey their culture, heritage and belonging. (art)
<b>Bae Tri</b>	<b>LIVING &amp; WORKING TOGETHER</b> Responsible economic decisions can have a positive impact on our personal wellbeing, our local community, and society as a whole.

Teachers have been exploring with children their current knowledge and understanding and will develop the Inquiry journey alongside the pupils over the next few weeks.

Bae Tri have a fantastic addition to their Inquiry with the opportunity to take part in a Rights Respecting Schools pilot program being developed by Swansea University. The aim is to develop a resource that can be shared with all schools to improve pupil understanding of rights in a creative way. Children's Rights are integral to Curriculum for Wales and are a key element of our ethos. The pilot will help us ensure we set rights at the heart of inquiry and learning. Parents will have had a permission slip to take part for the purposes of the University, please note the **NO** personal data is collected, only data that assesses understanding before and after the program.

### Attendance *'We have the right to learn & be the best we can be'*

Attendance at school is important both academically and for social/emotional reasons. Whilst we understand that pupils will be absent from time to time due to illness; absence from school for other reasons should only be for exceptional circumstances. As a school we look at each request for leave from school on a case-by-case basis, where the attendance rate is on track to meet our school target of 96.5% leave of absence may be granted. However, where attendance is falling below this it is unlikely that leave will be authorised. Where **attendance** falls below **90%** for any pupil, we will contact you to discuss this and put in any additional support needed.

Arriving to school on time is also vital. Arriving late is not only disruptive to the child, but to other children in class. Being late can mean a child feels flustered and this disrupts the rest of the day making learning difficult. Please note that arrival after the closure of the register will mean an absence mark for that session. Registration is between 8.50 and 9.00, arrival after 9.00 until 9.20 will result in a late mark. Our registers close at 9.20, so arrival after this time will result in an absence mark.

While we are encouraging good attendance, we also ask you to ensure your child is well enough to be in school. Illness will impact on attendance, but spreading illness impacts on the attendance of many more.

**We hope that you can support our attendance record and arrange your holidays around the existing 175 days the schools are closed through weekends and school holidays and help us to support your child to "be the best they can be!"**

## Table of impact!

Attendance %	Impact on Learning	Impact on Learner
95% – 100%	Best chance of success	Your child is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity
90% – 95%	At least 2 weeks of learning missed	Your child will have to spend time at home catching up on missed learning.
85% – 90%	At least 4 weeks of learning missed	Your child is at risk of under achieving and will need extra support from you to catch up on missed learning. The school and EWO will support parents and children with attendance below 90%.
80% – 85%	At least 5 ½ weeks of learning missed.	Your child's poor attendance is having a significant impact on learning and wellbeing.
Below 80%	At least 7 ½ weeks of learning missed.	Your child is missing out on a broad and balanced education with a significant impact on learning and wellbeing. You are at risk of prosecution.

### Snack & drinks *'We have the right to be fit & healthy'*

Children should bring fruit or a healthy snack option for morning break. NO crisps, sweets or chocolate please. Teachers will update classes on opportunities to buy snacks in their welcome letters. Children should bring a reusable water bottle to school. Children are only allowed water during the day. Squash or juice may be provided for lunch time only.

### School Uniform *'We have a right to our own culture & way of life'*

A reminder that we expect **all** pupils to wear school uniform. Wearing a uniform provides a sense of identity and cohesion within the school and instils pride in its achievements. Uniform enables pupils of all backgrounds to share in a common identity and help reduce inequalities between pupils and some triggers for bullying. Wearing a uniform also prepares children for later life, it teaches them to dress appropriately and take pride in their appearance. You can purchase uniform at a very reasonable cost from My Clothing by following this link <https://myclothing.com/collections/pennard-primary-school-11963>. Every uniform bought from here also provides a small donation to the school. Or uniform is available from <https://www.bergoni.co.uk/collections/pennard-primary>

Please can you ensure that all uniform is clearly labelled so that we can quickly return any lost property to pupils. In addition, jewellery such as necklaces and bracelets should not be worn to school. Parents should take particular care with earrings, if children have pierced ears, please ensure small stud earrings are worn to school. Any parents considering an ear piercing for their child should do so during the long summer break as we use the swimming pool weekly during term time.

### Internet Safety *'We have the right to be safe & protected from harm'*

As part of our daily use of digital technology in school we teach children about keeping safe online. At school our link to the internet is well protected, and we ensure that we provide safe access to the internet and named sites chosen by staff. Our curriculum ensures that children learn about e-safety at school and we ask that you follow this up by chatting to your child at home. Internet Matters has a huge range of advice from social media settings to home filtering. I would start with this website:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

There is also lots of useful information for parents here: <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/mobile/digital-parenting/>

Think you Know (Think U Know) is dedicated to educating young people and parents on the dangers of the internet: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

The Safer Internet Centre is also a good place for information: <https://saferinternet.org.uk/>

CEOPS is the Child Exploitation and Online Protection command agency. If you are worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online, you can make a report at the CEOP website. <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

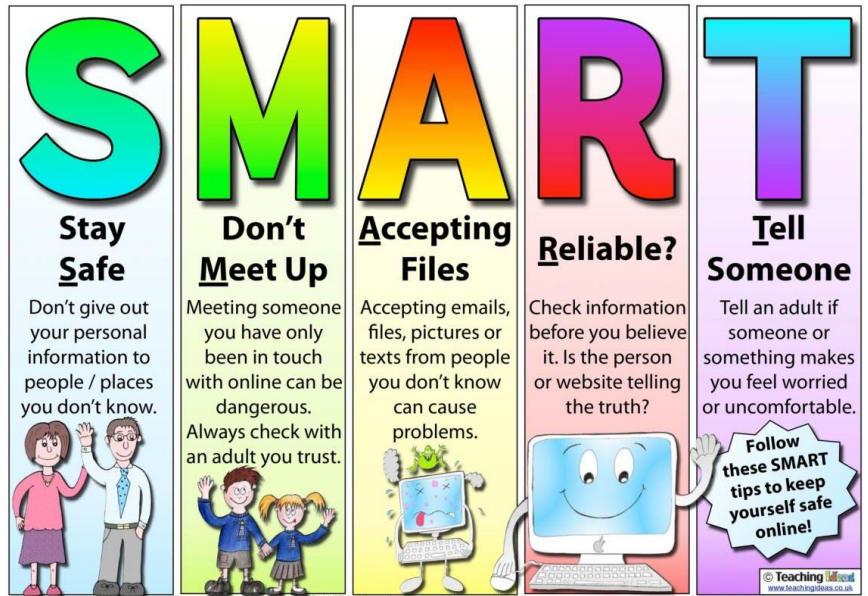
Childline is an excellent website with lots of information and support for children and young people around keeping safe especially around the use of social media.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/>

### Social media

The age rating for nearly all social media is 13. I would advise parents to keep away from most social media for as long as possible as children are often not mature enough to use it safely. The NSPCC has some good advice around social media here

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>



### Clwb Aros a Chwarae - After school club.

Our new after school club is proving popular with the children and we are breaking even at the moment. Please support us to keep the club going – you can book for the spring via SchoolGateway. It is just £10 a session with no late booking fee at the moment – we just ask that you ring to let us know if you are booking within 7 days as we can't check the booking system every day.

**Finally**, a shout out for our fabulous staff who are dedicated to ensuring the very best learning experiences for every child in our school – I'm sure 2024 will see our fantastic school continue to go from strength to strength.

As ever if you have any concerns or queries, please contact the school.

Kind regards,  
*Kerina Hanson*  
Headteacher

