

3-16

Ebbw Fawr Learning Community

Newsletter

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome to the first newsletter following the recent departure of the Founding Director, Mr Harkness. I am delighted to be able to lead Ebbw Fawr on the next stage of its journey in the interim period until the permanent Headteacher position has been recruited.

Ebbw Fawr faces a number of challenges over the coming months, not least ensuring our results continue to improve in both our Primary and Secondary phases. These challenges must be faced in collaboration. When we work together we achieve amazing results. Resources, strategies, conversations, ideas, everything I have done at Ebbw Fawr has been inspired by someone from our Learning Community so really, I want to start this brief period of office by saying 'Thank You'. Thank you to everyone at Ebbw Fawr. It is fun, hard work and incredibly rewarding helping lead a school, but when you have the delightful students and the quality staff we have, it all seems so much easier.

Parents and carers too, have an essential part to play in supporting their children's' learning in and out of

school and encouraging them to succeed. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at our Open Evenings and would like to thank you for your support at these important events.

I believe that schools should not lose sight of the personal touch. It is the faces that matter; the belief in children, the belief in adults, the uncompromising belief in leadership principals. But most of all, it is the belief that people make the difference. I believe that all our students have the potential to succeed and the pages of this newsletter demonstrate their ability to do this in so many ways.

I hope, in the time I have to lead the school, that we can all work together to make Ebbw Fawr the caring successful school we all want and build on our current success.

If you have any comments or suggestions that would make Ebbw Fawr even better I would be pleased to hear from you, please contact me at www.ebbwfawr.co.uk.

Saul Graydon
Acting Headteacher

Calendar Dates



EASTER HOLIDAYS
Friday 25th March 2016 -
Friday 8th April 2016

MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 2nd May 2016

GCSEs BEGIN
Friday 13th May 2016

YEAR 7 PARENTS' EVENING
Thursday 19th May 2016

INSET DAY
Friday 27th May 2016

WHITSUN HOLIDAYS
Monday 30th May 2016 -
Friday 3rd June 2016

YEAR 8 PARENTS' EVENING
Thursday 16th June 2016

INSET DAY
Wednesday 20th July 2016

SUMMER HOLIDAYS
Thursday 21st July 2016 -
Wednesday 31st August 2016

GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS
Thursday 25th August 2016

Year 8 Anti Smoking Ambassadors



A selection of Year 8 students were chosen to take part in a two day training programme in order for them to be anti-smoking ambassadors at Ebbw Fawr. The students developed a wide range of skills as well as having an insight in to the dangers of smoking and damage it can cause to their health. We are proud of the mature way in which they represented Ebbw Fawr Learning Community.

Internet Safety Week

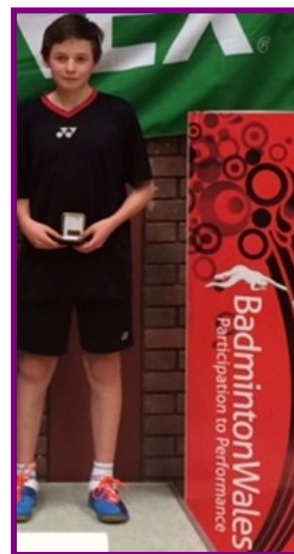
In February we had an Internet Safety Week. In the Primary Phase there were a series of assemblies one of which was led by the Digital Leaders who shared their top tips for being SMART online that included:

- ◆ Keep your personal information safe
- ◆ Friends made online are strangers; meeting them can be dangerous
- ◆ Accepting files can be dangerous. If unsure, ask an adult!
- ◆ Not everyone or everything online is reliable or trustworthy
- ◆ Always tell an adult if something online upsets or worries you



Yonex Welsh Junior National Championships

Ebbw Fawr students produced outstanding performances at the Yonex Welsh Junior National Championships on Sunday 13th March. Year 8 Jonathan Ewins was an impressive runner up in both U13 doubles and mixed doubles and Llwyd Crump Year 4 competed in the U11 doubles also finishing as runner up. An excellent achievement – da iawn fechgyn!



Gwent Wildlife Trust Visits Year 1



The children in Year 1 took part in an exciting workshop on Tuesday 1 March. Rebecca Ward from Gwent Wildlife has been working closely with Class 3 on projects in the outdoor learning environment.

Last term as part of the furnace to flowers project, over 100 Tenby daffodils were planted. This term, Puppet Soup worked with the children to create puppets linked with the traditional Welsh story the Golden Harp. They were encouraged to use their imagination and recycled materials to make their puppets.

Community Trust Schools Project



Swansea City Football Club are running a 6 day Community Trust Schools Project. The days include a 1 hour themed assembly/ workshop and the other hour is a practical football session.

The project themes are as follows:

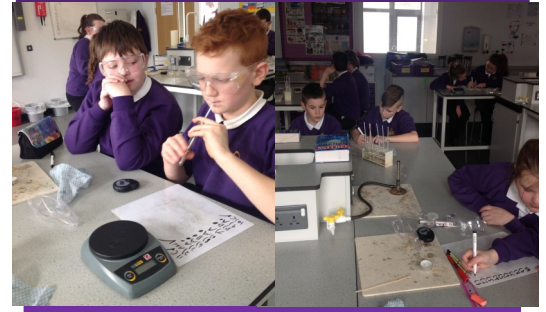
- ◆ Show bullying the red card.
- ◆ Give bullying the boot.
- ◆ Kick drugs into touch.
- ◆ We is better than me.
- ◆ Health is Wealth.
- ◆ More important than being a footballer is being a good person.

The 6 day workshop will then be followed by a stadium tour at The Liberty Stadium where each student will be presented with a Swansea City AFC certificate.

The students selected from our school are Liam Jones, Lee Price, Tyler Norris, Delmi Willis and Joel Harris. Each week, all our students are accompanied by teaching assistant, Mr Battle. The aim of the project is to help improve the students' knowledge and understanding of the weekly topics and to gain new friendships along the way. So far, our students have engaged with the project and have been very positive about what they have gained from the experience.



Science Transition



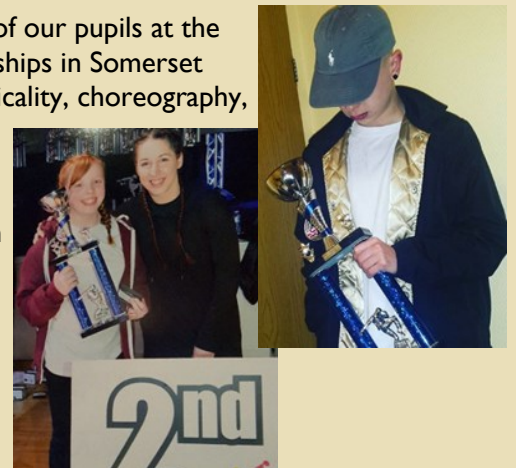
Class 11 have been enjoying weekly Science lessons with Miss Roberts and Miss Creak conducting a variety of fantastic scientific investigations. The highlight of the work was when the children visited the Secondary Phase site to complete an investigation into what happened to the weight of a candle when it was burned. All of the children really enjoyed this activity. Tyler and Morgan, Class 11 School Council representatives said, "It was really fun and fantastic to work on our own. We felt really responsible to be able to use the bunsen burners, with adult supervision. We hope that we can do more lessons like this at the Secondary Phase."

Success at British Street Dance Championship



Outstanding performances from two of our pupils at the UDO British Street Dance Championships in Somerset this March. They were judged on musicality, choreography, energy, enthusiasm, confidence, uniqueness and interpretation. Both pupils obviously impressed as Luke Cadwallader finished an amazing 1st in U16 advanced solo. He also recently obtained full marks in this element of his GCSE PE practical course. Lauren Griffin was moved up to the U18 age

group in the advanced solo category and finished an excellent 2nd place. They both also competed in the U18 advanced teams finishing runners up. We are extremely proud of these fantastic achievements!



Twitter

Please follow us on twitter @EbbwFawr to keep up to date with news and events #LearningToAchieveTogether



Class 5 PACT Session



A huge thank you to all Class 5 parents and family who attended the PACT session.

The students put on a wonderful assembly by explaining why St David is so important! They sang Welsh songs and parents participated in traditional Welsh folk dancing and fun was had by all. Well done everyone!

High Flyers

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated for pupil of the half term from January to February.

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Reuben Bevan Jessica Cox Ethan Giles Lowri Green Millie Phipps Ethan Poynter Tyla Pugh Emily Robinson Adam Taylor Lia Whyatt	Paul Flockton Morgan Gould Cerys Goulding Aleece Jones Joshua Jones Lowri Lawrence Ceejay Purnell Callan Talmage-Orr Connor Williams Dafydd Williams	Keeley Banks Chloe Butler Callum Davies Sam Hinch Ben Morgan Nicole Mullen Connor Newcombe Lewis Reynolds Ben Steed Sophie Thomas Laura Tranter Chloe Wares
Year 10	Year 11	
Megan Bartlett Liam Chislett Sam Cox Jack Dobbs Sheridan Lawrence Chloe Lines Daisy Llewellyn Jasmine Morgan Callum Price Dylan Williams	Elyse Bird Thomas Bygrave Ellis Carter Alex Craven Anya Edwards Bradey Edwards Chloe Gagen Bethany Inglesby-Wood Jordan Paull Jonathan Powell Ieuan Watkins	

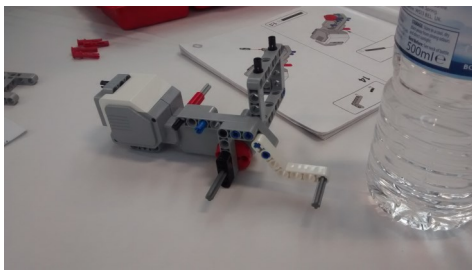
World Book Day



World Book Day at the Primary Phase was a fantastic success again this year. Students in every class dressed up as a character from their favourite book, and brought a book to school to read. There were lots of activities taking place - including making bookmarks and competitions in our fantastic library. A fab day was had by all!



LEGO Intra-School Competition



Three of our students participated in a LEGO intra-school competition at the Eden Education centre. They were asked to build and programme their robot, and manoeuvre it to complete different challenges. They were judged not only on the success of their robot but also their team name (Ebbw Steelmen), how they work together as a team and their presentation of the final challenge.

Most importantly, it was an opportunity for them to develop many work related skills including teamwork,

communication, problem solving, resilience and creative thinking. Supporting the students was Sam Richards from Carillion who acted as a mentor for the students.

Unfortunately, they didn't win but overall the boys did us proud and it was an experience they will never forget.

The Ebbw Steelmen are:

- Krishna Williams
- Ethan Mills
- Liam Miles Lewis

Foundation Phase - Witches and Wizards

The Foundation Phase have been having a spell of exciting learning, through their topic on Witches and Wizards. They have been making pungent potions and writing sizzling spells. They have read and written stories about witches and wizards and have designed magic carpets, wonderful wands and tall pointy hats. Even the maths problem solving activities have involved rats and bats and broomsticks. Everyone has had a fabulous time, as this colourful display shows.



National Cross Country



South East Wales Honours
Amelia Hill, Tahnee Jones, Molly Ball,

WELSH ATHLETICS
ATHLETAU CYMRU

South East Wales County representatives, National Cross Country, Brecon, Dydd Iau, 10 Chwefror 2016. Ardderchog ferched!!

My name is Tahnee Jones, I like to compete in cross country races, swimming galas and duathlons, and have recently joined the BGAC (Blaenau Gwent Athletics Club) to improve my running and overall fitness. I have entered in a total of 11 cross country races and won medals in a few events, and have also competed in a duathlon event and came third overall for the south east region.

I'm Molly Ball, each week I have a set training plan made by my coach so I know what training to complete each day. Somedays we have long runs of about 6 miles where me and a few of my other friends have a long catchup! However, other times we have fast speed sessions which are always lots of hard work! Each week on average I train 4x a week and race most weekends. This year I have been lucky enough to take part in 'The British Cross Challenge' which is several cross country events all across the U.K. So far I have run in Liverpool, Milton Keynes, Cardiff and Ireland and I'm soon to run in the final next week in Birmingham. Even though training all the time can be difficult I wouldn't change it for the world as of all the amazing experiences I have!

My name is Amelia Hill, I am part of Blaenau Gwent Athletics Club as a sprinter I mostly do internal training. I train 4-5 times a week. My Monday programme consists of sprints such as 4 x 100m, 6 x 80m and 5x 50m, before I do this we have to do 2 laps of the track and then a warm up of stretching, after the session we do a lap to cool down. On a Tuesday I train at the International Indoor Athletics Centre in Cardiff where I do sprints or plyometrics. I sometimes train on Wednesdays and in the session we do core which contains press ups, sit ups, star jumps, squats, medicine balls, hurdlers and ladders for fast feet. On Thursdays we do sprints again but over a longer distance. We do 150m, 120m, 90m, 90m, 120m, 150m and then a 180m. In this session we normally practices out of blocks. I'm thoroughly enjoying the challenge!

KS2 Welsh Week



The sound of traditional Welsh music filled the corridors and classrooms. Children were enthusiastically preparing for the Eisteddfod. It was clear to everyone walking the corridors that Welsh week had arrived.



Children could be found learning the iconic Welsh folk dance 'Cylch y Cymru'. Steps were mastered, partnerships perfected and the routine remembered ready for March the 1st. The children worked tirelessly learning the dance but they thoroughly enjoyed doing so, evident in

their smiles and laughter. This traditional dance was popular in Wales in the 17th Century and is still promoted and celebrated in the Urdd Eisteddfod today.

The topic in Year 3 and 4 is Global Gourmet, which gave children the opportunity to taste foods from around the world. Welsh foods were of course taking centre stage with Caerphilly cheese, Welsh cakes and Bara Brith. We also feasted on pasta, noodles, and curries with rice, hot dogs and waffles. The children

challenged themselves to try different things which resulted in lots of differing opinions. The various dishes were deliciously mouth watering to some while others were definitely not a hit! Everyone agreed it was a fun afternoon and enjoyed by all.

Students worked hard on the many competition entries for the Eisteddfod including handwriting and Art, some of which will be on display with the Easter bonnets.

A big thank you to all the parents who supported us, and helped children to complete their entries as part of the homework activities.



Star Points

How many points have you earned?

High Flyers	20 Points
100% attendance for a week	10 Points
Having a positive attitude to learning	5 Points
No late marks in a week	2 Points
Having full equipment	1 Point

The following students have achieved the most achievements within their Year Group:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Jessica Cox 7RJ	Connor Williams 8CMc	Samuel Hinch 9CR	Alysha Morris 10DW	Chloe Gagen 11NP
Madison Lewis 7RJ	Alece Jones 8TP/SS	Taylor Bowen 9PT	Morgan Green LRB CB	Jordan Paull 11DHa
Ethan Poynter 7SGr	Morgan Gould 8CL	Chloe Davies 9RE	Kaitlyn Lewis 10DW	Bradey Edwards 11CW
Evie-Kate Coughlin 7SK	Kian Prosser 8NO	Harrison Barnes 9CR	Megan Bartlett 10HP	Lauren Kelly 11NP
Kani Tilki 7SK	Callan Talmage-Orr 8NO	Rhian Wyatt 9HW	Jevon Griffiths 10DHi	Jonathan Powell 11EJ
Matthew Megraw 7SK	Finley Harris 8CMc	Jemma Savage 9JCr/AC	Katie Nicolson 10CG	Shafiu Alam 10HP
Lia Whyatt 7SGr	Megan Walker 8TP/SS	Connor Newcombe 9KD	Callum Price 10HP	Tia Williams 11DP
Millie Phipps 7CAJ	Rhys Thomas 8SC	Abbie Hewlett 9JCr/AC	Bethan Daniel 10CG	Ieuan Watkins 11DHa
Jemma Morris 7SK	Molly Lewis 8RP	Eleanor Poynter 9CR	Bethan Wyburn 10HP	Jordan Lewis 11CD
Rebecca Thomas 7SK	Ceejay Purnell 8MT	Daniel Russo 9JCr/AC	Carly-Ann Adshead 10AM	Thomas Bygrave 11GP

South East Wales Netball – by Rhian Wyatt and Ffion Witcomb



We were very apprehensive on the bus, travelling to our latest league game opponent and our most important game yet. We appreciated

that Bassaleg were going to be a tough team to beat. We started the game optimistically after winning the first centre pass. The team maintained their commitment and determination through-out the game, allowing us to secure several goals. We would like to say a big thank you to Emily, who joined us in a time of need, we are all very grateful. Hopefully we will be able to continue our great success this year, into the next season.

Mrs Price said, 'A tough season in the South East Wales netball league this year for Ebbw Fawr. All of the girls were highly committed and fought each game to the end. The year 8s finished as close group runners up and the year 10s with third position within their group. The standard of play from all individuals was excellent, with some areas of development to work on tactically in both attack and defence, the girls should be very proud.

We were delighted for the second year in a row that the year 9s topped their group, beating some very worthy opponents. Although a fantastic success, the league group

stages win did come at a cost as both Rhian Wyatt and Ffion Witcomb were forced off the court with knee/ankle injuries. However, the disruption failed to impact the momentum that the girls on court had gathered as the year 9 team professionally and maturely took to the court at a very cold and windy Bassaleg for the semi finals. Although they were forced to play out of position, the girls were relentless, kept their heads high and fought until the end- the score didn't really reflect how close the game was in match play. I am really proud of them – to finish third place overall in the county is a fantastic achievement. Their mental toughness and tactical play is evident every time they step on the court - they really did us proud.

Finally, we are very proud that Ffion O'Callaghan recently represented Ebbw Fawr Learning Community in the National Netball Super Cup at Monmouth School on Friday 11th March, finishing an impressive third overall. Ffion continues to be an extremely valuable member of the county team, relentless in her tactical play and decision making skills. A sure talent for the future!



8A1's Project Penpals - by Molly Lewis 8A1

Over the past few weeks 8A1 have participated in a special project. We have been helping Thai students improve their ability to learn English as a second or even third language! So far we have written twice to our penpals. The Thai students are from the Pinklao branch of Wall Street English which is one of the largest providers of the English language education for adults around the world. It was first established in Italy in 1972. Now it has been running for over 40 years and has spread into many different countries.

The Pinklao branch of Wall Street English is located in Thailand in Bangkok which is the capital. The students we are in contact with are taught by a man called David. They are a special group started by one of our English staff called Miss Chapple.



Here are David, Jurn, Mai, Ann, Eye, Som O, Cream, Palm, Few, Pray, Pookun and Too. These are not their real names but they are nicknames. They have nicknames given to them by their parents which have a special meaning to them. They are a special group and have special lessons. They run student parties, write letters to the UK, and they take part in charity events - all in English!

In their letters they wrote to us, they included a drawing of two of our students as they claimed they must be twins as they had the same name! We all admired the art work included in their letters and how neat their

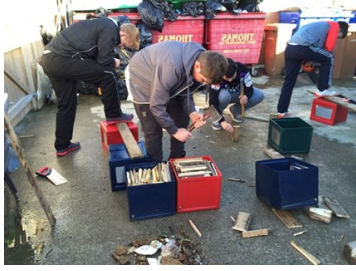
handwriting was so we wanted to send back a good example of Ebbw Fawr's work too.

We were curious about Thai culture and what life is like in Thailand so we asked them many questions and they seemed curious about our culture too. Some had never even heard of Wales before! The whole class are very engaged in this project at the moment and we hope we can keep the chain of letters going for a while. It is also nice to know that we are helping them learn a language. We are currently awaiting their second reply and hope we can keep on being penpals!



Forest Schools Blog Update

Shwmae pawb. I bet you are all eager to continue to follow our Forest School journey! Since our last update we have battled with cold, wind, rain and snowy conditions, but we have never taken a day off.



Before our hard earned Christmas break we set ourselves the challenge of clearing any area of the recycling compound so that we could use it as our base to work from and somewhere that we could build a storage shed; you will see our progress later... The recycling area contained many wood pallets that needed to be disposed of but we felt we had a responsibility to become carbon neutral so each and every one of them was disassembled. The good ones were put aside ready to construct a "bug hotel" with the ASDAN group and the not so good cut and chopped into kindling, which was sold proved very popular with staff who had wood burning stoves.

Mid January and its snow put a stop to our conservation work but not our love of the outdoors. Off we took, climbing above the trees and along the heritage trail the Domen Fawr dram road. Through a gateway we saw the first of the industrial archaeology, a wheel and the remains of a rusting cylinder, of which was formerly a steam boiler that generated power to move trams up and down the hillside. Also from this vantage point we could appreciate the views of our valley in splendour of white snow.



It was back to the "yard", our giant Meccano set had been delivered and was in need of assembly, our storage shed. Our biggest challenge was not to deal with the poorly presented instructions but

with the anti-social behaviour from storms Henry and Imogen. The stormy weather had played havoc with the partly constructed building but after many hours and good teamwork from the lads we completed its construction during the first week of March. The skills these students gained whilst participating in this project can be considered priceless to their futures.



Following our return in January it was back to Beaufort Woodlands to continue some maintenance along the path at the Upper Boat pond. The grass and weeds that had grown into the path was cleared and

swept, it may have taken us a while but with two teams starting at either end it was a race to get to the middle first. I was also fortunate to borrow 2 year 11 pupils, Jordan Paull and Nathan Rees who were more than willing to help cut back some over growth and prepare the area to plant some tree whips. We have received free trees from [The Conservation Volunteers](#) (TCV) through their Ovo Energy 2015 tree planting programme. A mix of varieties received that will mainly be used to replace many of the lost hedge planting around the perimeter of the Upper Boat pond.

Many thanks once again to Mr Battle for his support with the following students:

Jordan Miles, Zac Davies, Shane Jones, Charlie Jenkins, Lee Price, Kian Badcock-Richards, Brandon Ewers, Connor George and Eli Carpenter. Continue to keep a watch out for future blogs to follow their progress as the spring emerges.



St David's Day at the Primary Phase

The Primary Phase Eisteddfod was an event enjoyed by all! All year groups gathered together in their Houses becoming competitive and cheering each other on during the afternoon's events. Both the Foundation Phase and KS2 performed folk dances in their Houses followed by various Welsh songs for different year groups.

As well as an afternoon full of activities we also had year group competitions, with winners being decided by the Governors. The afternoon finale comprised of everyone standing to sing the National Anthem with pride. After totalling up each and every activity the houses were placed in the following order:

1st Place - Gelert 5166 points
3rd Place - Glyndwr - 3821 points

2nd Place - Taliesin 4477 points
4th Place - Branwen - 2060 points

Da iawn to everybody who took part!