

Ysgol Gynradd Aberbargoed Aberbargoed Primary School

"Everybody Matters"
"Mae Pawb Yn Bwysig"

Ambitious Capable Enterprising Creative Ethical Informed Healthy Confident

Autumn 2023 Newsletter

Farewell from Miss Harris

To all families past and present,

As many of you are aware, I shall be retiring at the end of this term and after almost thirty years I shall be leaving Aberbargoed Primary School. I made the decision with a very heavy heart, but a new chapter awaits. I shall, however, be leaving with the most amazing memories.

I have had some of the best moments of my life whilst working here, from my very first school trip to Techniquet, to taking children white water rafting and having the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. The children have been the main source of all these happy times. They have made it a joy to come to work.

I must mention this fantastic community which has also made my time here so wonderful. We have children who are full of compassion, who care for one another and live our virtues every single day. They make me extremely proud, and I know they will all go on to do great things in later life. They are a credit to all of you.

Being able to teach generations of families, seeing children become parents; parents become grandparents has been a privilege. I have so many things to be grateful for, not least all the thoughtful messages and kind words from so many people. They have truly touched my heart.

I will miss you all and although I am sad to be leaving, I am excited about the new chapter in my life and looking forward to the many new adventures I will have.

Thank you once again for allowing me to be part of the community of Aberbargoed over the last 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Miss Jayne Harris



A message from our Chair of Governors

As we approach Christmas and the end of 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude as Chair of Governors to everyone here at Aberbargoed. It has been a year filled with challenges, yet incredible achievements and I am sure, I speak on behalf of my fellow governors to say that we are immensely proud of what has been accomplished this year.

Firstly, I would like to extend my appreciation to our Headteacher, Sally Everson and the very dedicated teaching and support staff. Your unwavering commitment to education and wellbeing of the children in Aberbargoed is truly commendable. Every day, you all go above and beyond to ensure that the children receive the highest quality of education in a safe and nurturing environment.

I would also like to express my thanks to the wonderful pupils. Your enthusiasm and willingness to embrace new challenges have been impressive. Throughout the year, when the Governors and I have visited school at different events, we have had the privilege to meet you in lessons, talk to you about your work and see you shine. Your achievements, both academically and personally, are a testament to your dedication and the support you have received from your families and our dedicated staff.

Finally, I would like to thank you our parents and carers, for your continued support to the school and, would like to to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mrs K Waythe

Chair of Governors



We are pleased to welcome new staff to our school community. You'll have the opportunity to meet them over the coming weeks in school.

Mrs Lewis who will be working alongside Mrs Davies in Year 1 and Miss Griffiths who will be teaching year 5 when Mrs Ashcroft takes her maternity leave next term.

Mr Edwards will also be joining us in the spring term as our new caretaker. He will work alongside Mr Rowlands for a few weeks before taking on the position after half term.

Please join us in giving our new staff a very warm welcome to our community.



Hi, I'm Mrs Lewis, and I'm really looking forward to joining Aberbargoed Primary School in the New year. I've been teaching for four years, with some of that time spent teaching in England before making the move back to Wales.

I'm passionate about making learning come alive for the children I teach through creative and explorative ways, especially in science.

Outside of the classroom, my favourite moments involve spending quality time with family and friends, whether we're exploring the outdoors, swimming or having a cozy movie night together.

Hello, my name is Miss Griffiths. I am looking forward to joining your lovely school in January. I have a partner called Gavin and a little girl called Ava-May, she is 13 years old. I have two cats called Thunder and Lightning, and two guinea pigs called Wiggy and Willow.

I love being a teacher, it's all I ever wanted to be! To inspire and nurture future generations to be the best they can be provides me with great satisfaction. I look forward to meeting you all in January.



How to support your child's progress in school



Attendance Matters

We are going to be working hard with families this year to raise attendance levels in school. Our target for **excellence** is **97%** attendance.

A whole year has 365 days; a school year has 190 days. That leaves 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and appointments.

LATENESS

How much time can you lose?

in one school year

5 MINUTES

late each day



= 3
days off



Mayor Mike Adams and link governor Mrs Horton came to school to celebrate the hard work of our Attendance Ambassadors who promote excellent attendance every week in school.

School Development Plan Progress Update



We are always striving to improve and provide the best possible education for the children of Aberbargoed Primary. Here is an update on just some of the activities undertaken to address targets in our School Development Plan.

Target 1

- Ongoing development of self and peer assessment tools for learners to evaluate their learning and plan for next steps
- All teaching staff have been observed as part of ongoing professional development

Target 2

- Growth mindset and independence training for staff working with our eldest children to ensure perseverance and a positive mindset.
- Role of the adult training to enable all staff to work as effective facilitators of learning.

Target 3

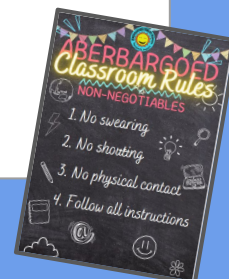
- Leaders continuing to work with support networks to refine and improve practices in school.
- Ongoing termly pupil progress meetings.

Target 4

- Training for all staff on development of oracy skills - (Voice21)
- Progression in maths and numeracy training for all staff

Target 5

- Weekly prizes for the 'Top Green Point Scorers'.
- Ongoing monitoring of 'red points' and follow up action from Miss Everson when needed -including working with families
 - Golden phone calls home
- Staggered lunchtimes and playtimes to maintain a calm school environment
 - New Behaviour Regulation policy implemented
- Each class has established four classroom 'non-negotiables' relevant to year groups and cohorts.alongside our
 - current 'school rules'.
- Classroom blinds installed to reduce distractions.



At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

It can be difficult to stay away from technology and devices, and sometimes this means that people – of any age – can find it hard to be present in the moment. As a period when families are able to spend some quality time together and enjoy each other's company, Christmas is the perfect opportunity to step away from our phones, laptops and consoles and concentrate on the things that really matter. Follow our top ten tips for a tech-free festive period and make the most of this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

1. BOARD GAMES CAN BE FUN (HONEST)

OK, no one wants a repeat of that incident when your youngest had to pay triple rent on Mayfair, but going back to basics with a card or board game can be a fantastic bonding experience. Choose a game that even the youngest members of your family can enjoy and have a fun tech-free time.

2. MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS

Spending time on arts and crafts is a brilliant way to relax and spend some productive time offline. Making your own Christmas decorations as a family can become a wholesome tradition and leave you with some treasured mementos, too.

3. GO FOR A WINTER WALK

Not much beats wrapping up warm on a crisp December day and taking a stroll. Whether alone or with the family, a walk is a fantastic way to clear your head and relish the break from hectic normal life. As an extra festive treat, why not make a flask of hot chocolate to take with you?

4. BAKE SOME FESTIVE TREATS

Not all Christmas cooking has to be a stressful chore that's timed with military precision. Baking some simple festive treats like cookies doesn't have to take hours – and will make sure you're stocked up on tasty things to offer any friends or family members who pop round.

5. READ A FAMILY STORY TOGETHER

Turn story time into an event. Make the living room or bedroom into a tech-free space, light some candles, make some hot drinks and reach for a classic Christmas tale. It's a fantastic way to relax before bed, and the right story will help to get the whole family into the festive spirit.

6. TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS

It sounds obvious, but turning off email and app notifications can give you more control of your relationship with technology. Getting into the habit of checking your phone periodically – rather than reacting every time a notification arrives – helps you to stay present in the moment.

7. FEED THE BIRDS

Food's hard to come by for wildlife in winter, so helping our feathered friends is a very worthwhile reason to put down those devices and reconnect with nature. Fill a bird feeder in the garden or take a snack for the ducks in your local park (but ditch the bread in favour of oats, rice or birdseed).

8. SET DAILY LIMITS

Many apps and devices let you set reminders to let you know how long you've used them for that day. Setting daily limits puts you firmly in charge of your time and will help to ensure you don't miss out on any family Christmas memories because you're engrossed in your phone or laptop.

9. GET ON YOUR BIKE

Exercise, such as going for a run or a bike ride is an excellent way to burn off some of those Yuletide calories while giving your brain and eyes a break from screen-based activity. Physical exertion also helps reduce anxiety and releases endorphins which can improve your sense of wellbeing.

10. MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF

There can be a lot of pressure to meet up with friends, make video calls and check in with people at Christmas – but remember that you need time to relax as well. Don't feel guilty about not replying to messages and emails immediately – the holiday is your chance to drop down a gear or two.

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#WakeUpWednesday



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STAY SAFE ON NEW DEVICES

Whether you're an internet newbie or a pro at surfing the web, it's always important to keep online safety in mind. We've pulled together a list of top tips to make it easier for you to protect yourself and your devices in the digital world - helping you steer clear of hazards like misleading information and vicious viruses. There's never a bad time to refresh your internet safety knowledge, but it's an especially smart thing to do before you start using any shiny new devices!



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Say it in Cymraeg this Christmas....



| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Merry Christmas | Nadolig Llawen | Na-doh-lig lla-when |
| Happy New Year | Blwyddyn Newydd Dda | Bl-oi-ddin New-ydd Dd-ah |
| Present | Anrheg | Ann-rhh-eg |
| Star | Seren | Se-ren |
| Christmas Tree | Coeden Nadolig | Coy-den Na-doh-lig |
| Father Christmas | Siôn Corn | Shaun Corr-n |
| Snow Man | Dyn Eira | Dean Eye-rah |
| Reindeer | Carw | Ca-roo |
| Snow | Eira | Eye-rah |
| Christmas Dinner | Cinio Nadolig | Kin-yoh Na-doh-lig |
| Christmas Pudding | Pwdin Nadolig | Pww-din Na-doh-lig |
| Christmas Carols | Carolau Nadolig | Car-ol-ai Na-doh-lig |
| Stocking | Hosan | Hos-ann |
| Mince Pie | Mins Pei | Mince Pay |
| Decorations | Addurniadau | Add-irn-iad-ai |
| Angel | Angel | Ann-ghel |
| Holly | Celyn | Ceh-lynn |
| Lights | Goleuadau | Go-ley-add-ai |



I can
&
I will

Our GROW Curriculum

For
Excellence and Equity

Helping
children develop
wings to fly

G
R
O
W

Goals

Real and Authentic

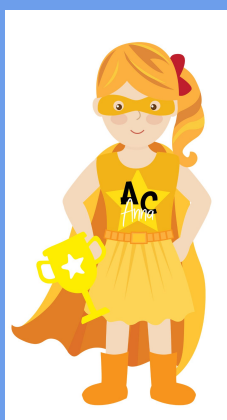
Opportunities

Work together

Our whole school topic this term has been Heroes.

Each year group has explored the theme in a slightly different way.

Here are some examples of the learning that has taken place as we strive towards developing our learners as...



Ambitious,
capable
learners.

Enterprising,
creative
contributors.

Ethical,
informed
citizens.

Healthy,
confident
individuals.

Curriculum Experiences N & R



Our youngest pupils showed amazing confidence as they performed their wonderful Christmas concert. They used sign language to ensure all pupils felt included in their performance. We are very proud of them all!



We are learning to be healthy and confident just like our heroes. We know we need to eat healthy foods for our bodies and minds to be strong and healthy.

We had a lovely time visiting Santa today. The children were amazing and represented the school superbly! Da iawn pawb!
@AberbargoedPS

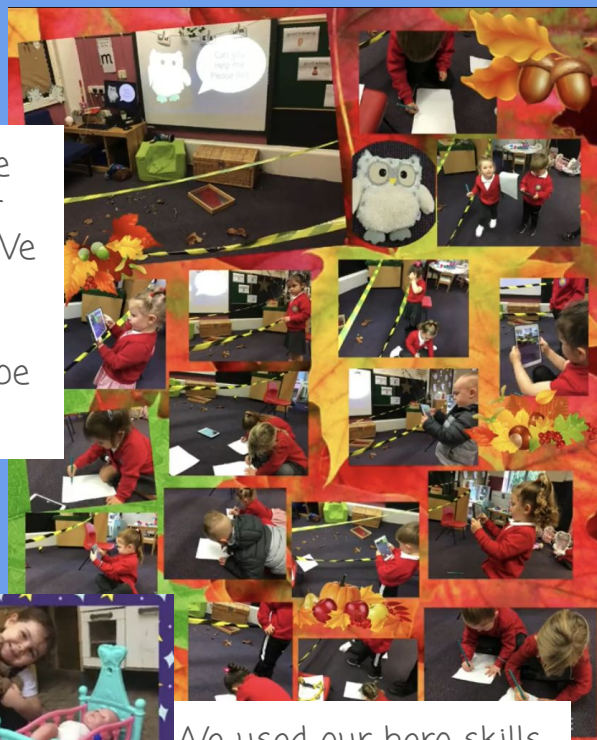


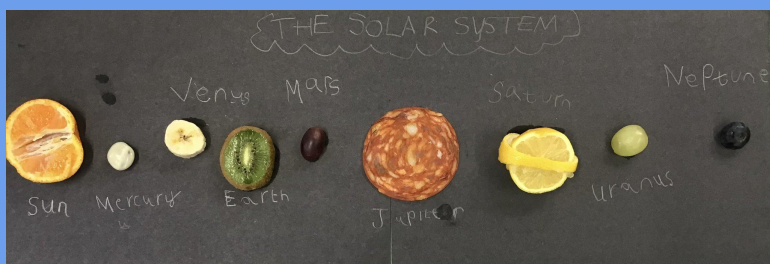
We used our hero skills to solve the mystery and find our feathered friend.

Well done to all the Reception children in wearing red to support , Show Racism the Red Card



Building our muscles when we play outdoors is also helping us to become healthy. It's also teaching us to take turns, collaborate and problem solve.





Year 2 - Christmas Trip



Year 1 and 2 wanted to learn all about the heroes who travel into space. They built rockets, designed their own creative representations of the solar system and even made their own space sandwiches to take on their adventures! It's be a fun filled term of learning.

Curriculum Experiences Y3 & Y4



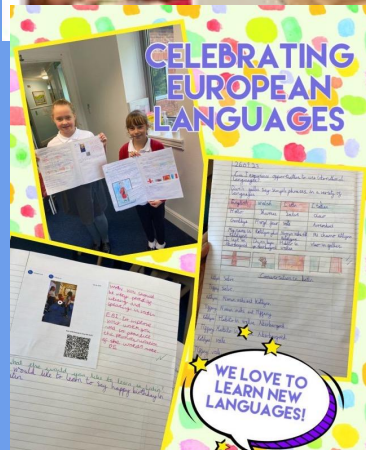
Year 4 have been busy testing and firing trebuchets as part of their work exploring the Romans.

We've also been busy using our maths resources to develop our skills.



CELEBRATING EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

Celebrating the many languages our families use at home was a great part of our European day of languages this year.



Year 3 have used their mathematical skills to make and test different 3d shape columns to see which was strongest! We used weights to compare the strength of our mini Roman Pantheons!



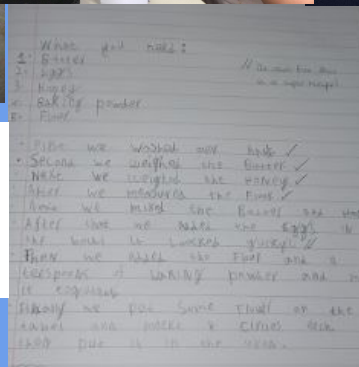
History of Roman Shields

Designing Shields

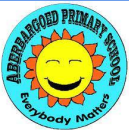


We have also explored symmetry when designing and making Roman shields.

In Literacy, we had lots of yummy fun, writing instructions to make Roman honey biscuits!



Curriculum Experiences Y5 & Y6



During October, we celebrated 'Black History Month' and learnt about why this was important, how it started and who were influential changers of history.



We enjoyed our first visit to the theatre to watch a pantomime.

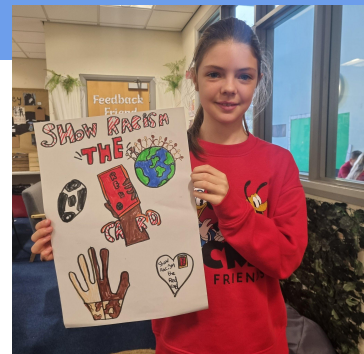


We ended our Autumn term with a production of 'Lights, Camel, Action' and are so proud of the talent and confidence that has grown from our practices. Year 4 - 6 did a wonderful job, we are sure you would agree!



SCAN ME

Year 6 made a film to reinforce our message, "There's no room for racism in Aberbargoed".



Our whole school theme for next term is...

Cynefin - Belonging

"Cynefin" is a Welsh term defined by Curriculum for Wales as 'the place where we feel we belong, where the people and landscape around us are familiar, and the sights and sounds are reassuringly recognisable.' We look forward to sharing the ways you can get involved with theme and support your child's learning.

Following the success of our autumn term reading cafes, we will be offering maths workshops for each class throughout the spring term. The sessions will explore strategies used in class so you are able to further support your child/children with their learning. Dates for these sessions will be sent out in January.



Multiply

We are also thrilled to share that we will be working with the Multiply project. They will be offering free sessions for parents and carers of pupils in year 2 to engage in further development of maths skills. This is our first project of this nature, so we hope to see as many families as possible participating. Based on the success of the project we will look to expand to other parent education sessions across other year groups.

Whole school events



Our talented Glee club used their singing talents to bring joy to the community. They performed at the ACAT Christmas event, Morrisons and our local residential home to bring joy through their love of music.



By wearing odd socks to school during anti-bullying week, we reminded ourselves that we are all different and unique. We love to celebrate our differences at Aberbargoed Primary. Remembering that our uniqueness is what makes our community so special!



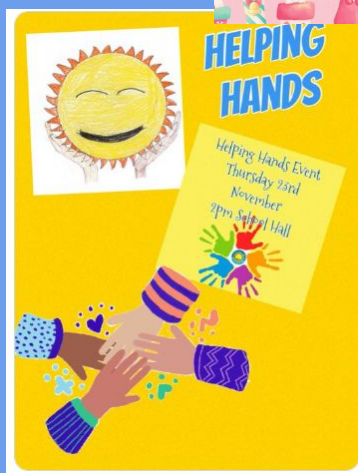
Our Healthy Hero Pupil Voice team shared the importance of mental health and encouraged us to remember no one is alone as part of the Young Minds 'Hello Yellow' event.

Cynefin - Belonging

Being part of our wider community has been very important this term. We've enjoyed being part of Remembrance events and the ACAT scarecrow project. We've also enjoyed making links with Ysgol Bro Sannan to develop our Welsh language skills.

To support our community we had our first helping hands event. We're looking forward to their next event in the spring term - look out for dates on the calendar.

Please remember we can sign post to lots of advice and services so please pop into school and ask to speak to our Health and Wellbeing team if you need any support.



Helping Hands

We were pleased to host our first Helping Hands event this term, sharing important information about ways families can access support and information about a range of topics such as school uniform, food banks, parent education workshops, agencies and other support services.

Look out for more information in the New Year about our Spring term event!

As well as providing food, Rhymney Valley food bank have been in touch to offer support for any families who may be experiencing an energy crisis - If you are struggling to pay for energy or think you may get into difficulty, please contact;

Rhymney Valley Foodbank
St Peter's Church, Church Street,
Aberbargoed CF81 9FF
Phone 07944 354175
Email
info@rhymneyvalley.foodbank.org.uk



If you need any support or signposting to agencies or services, please pop into school and speak to Mrs Phillips and the Wellbeing team.



A reminder of how you can access the School Essentials Grant (Replaces PDG Access Grant) 2023/2024

This grant provides **£125** (except for Year 7 which is **£200**) to buy school uniform, equipment, sports kit, and kit for activities outside of school for your child.

The scheme for the 2023/24 academic year will begin on 1 July 2023 and end on 31 May 2024.

This grant applies to all eligible pupils of compulsory year groups (Reception - Year 11).

For Year 7 learners the grant is **£200**, recognising the increased costs associated with starting secondary school.

If you have already purchased the items, you can still receive the funds retrospectively.

If you have any queries relating to this 2023/24 grant please e-mail: schoolessentialsgrant@caerphilly.gov.uk or call our Catering Support Team on 01443 864055

Further information about this funding is available on the Welsh Government website -

https://www.gov.wales/school-essentials-grant?fbclid=IwAR2eE3NrBWV7oxJVV6gFx07z34aiZJl6ldv53PY1YLd3M_30QDLaC-2b_uc5w



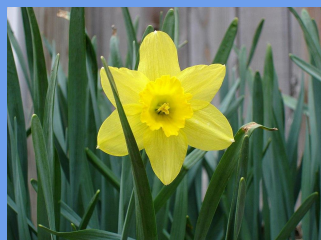
PE Days

Pupils can wear their PE kit to school on PE days. We ask that PE kit is in our school colours where possible. Children should wear shorts and T-shirts for PE or jogging bottoms if the weather is cooler. They will also need to wear appropriate footwear for outdoor lessons.

Children will not be allowed to wear earrings for PE with one possible exception. Pupils who have had their ears pierced in the last six weeks will be allowed to wear studs providing they are covered during PE sessions.

Any items of jewellery brought to school shall remain the responsibility of the child and parent. The school accepts no liability or responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, any items of jewellery or any accidents caused by the wearing of such items. Additionally, **pupils must not wear false nails to school.**

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|
| | | | | |



Spring Term 2024

Clybiau ar ôl ysgol After School Clubs

Beth sydd ar gael? What's on offer?
3.20-4.15pm

| | Monday | Tuesday | Thursday |
|-------------------|---|---------|----------|
| Reception | Information regarding spring term clubs will be issued the first week back in January and clubs will restart the second week of term. | | |
| Year 1 and Year 2 | | | |
| Year 3 and Year 4 | | | |
| Year 5 and Year 6 | | | |

Spring Term 1 Dates for the Diary

- Monday 8th January - Term Begins
- Thursday 18th January 2.15pm Parents and Friends of Aberbargoed meeting - school hall
- Thursday 18th January - Year 6 residential trip initial parent meeting
- Friday 19th January - Crow Cymreig - Launch Dyddiad Cymraeg (Welsh Day)
- Thursday 25th January - Year 6 Crucial Crew visit
- Week commencing 5th February - Children's mental health week information to follow including a sponsored event.
- Tuesday 6th February - Safer Internet Day
- Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th February - Pupil Progress Meetings with parents and carers after school
- Friday 9th February - Dress to Express Day - Non-uniform day as part of Children's Mental Health week, pupils dress to express their personality.
- Friday 9th February - Dydd Miwsig Cymru - Welsh music day
- Friday 9th February - last day of half term - Eisteddfod home learning project sent home.
- Monday 19th February Pupils return to school..



X (Formerly known as Twitter)

Please follow your child's class on X/Twitter for updates on learning experiences:

- School Account: @AberbargoedPS
- Year 6: @MrsRoach_Rooke
- Year 5: @mrs_ashcroft
- Year 4: @misssnailham7
- Year 3: @abermrsphillips
- Year 2: @MrsFBaber
- Year 1: @AberMrsDavies
- Reception: @miss_phill25837
- Nursery: @AberMrsoc

Follow your class X page for an insight into the learning taking place in your child's class..

NADOLIG LLAWEN

We wish you all a happy and healthy
Christmas holiday and look forward to
welcoming you back to school on Monday 8th
January for a fun filled term of learning.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd Dda
Pawb!

