

Ysgol Gynradd Aberbargoed Aberbargoed Primary School

"Everybody Matters"
"Mae Pawb Yn Bwysig"

Ambitious Capable Enterprising Creative Ethical Informed Healthy Confident

Spring 2024 Newsletter

Diolchi

A huge thank you to you, our amazing community for your support with Eisteddfod entries and the end of term Easter Parade. As always we are very impressed with your creativity!

Charity Fundraising

Thank you for supporting our many events in school and enabling our learners to recognise their impact as global citizens.

Children In Need £193.00

Comic Relief £51.45

Clothes appeal £32.16

Teddy Appeal - So far, Year 6 have collected 34 teddy bears that will be sent off to Ukraine, Syria and Gaza (via their collection point in Herford) this Easter. They will provide comfort to so many children who need it the most. Thank you to all who sent in a bear.



We are delighted to be able to share the arrival of Mrs Ashcroft's baby girl who came to visit us in school this week. We are sure you'll join us in congratulating Mrs Ashcroft and her family on their beautiful new arrival.



Cynefin

"Learners should be grounded in an understanding of the identities, landscapes and histories that come together to form their cynefin. This will not only allow them to develop a strong sense of their own identity and well-being, but to develop an understanding of others' identities and make connections with people, places and histories elsewhere in Wales and across the world" ..

We have explored this through our topic in the spring term by learning about what makes Wales, Caerphilly and Aberbargoed unique and distinct in our world. What makes us Welsh? What does a diverse Wales mean? What gives us a sense of Welsh pride?



Ambitious,
capable
learners.



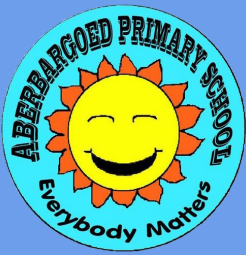
Enterprising,
creative
contributors.



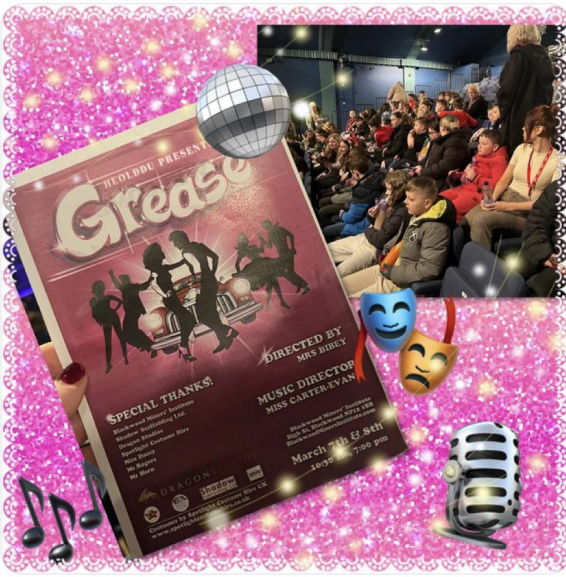
Ethical,
informed
citizens.



Healthy,
confident
individuals.



Expressive Arts



Year 5 and 6 were truly inspired by Heolddu's version of 'Grease'. They were in awe of the singing, dancing, stage presence and acting. It was wonderful to see some familiar faces in the cast and crew.



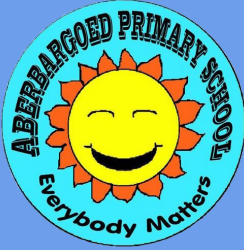
Year 2 have been busy designing and creating fairy homes following reading our text 'The Giant of Gilfach'.



Pupils across the school have been inspired by Welsh artists to create paintings that depict 'cynefin', a sense of home and belonging.

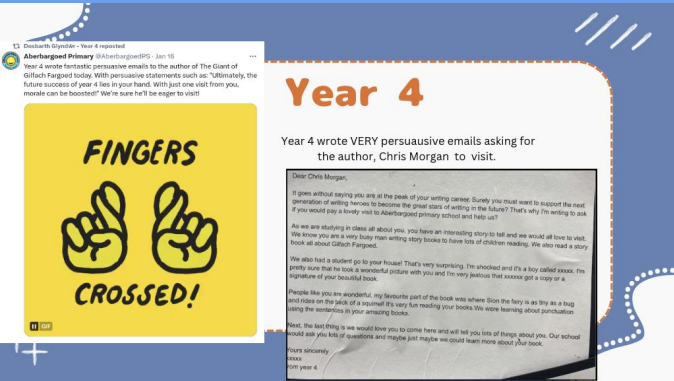


Pupils in Glee club and violinists from year five delighted their audience in the ACAT community and Bargoed Town Council Community St David's day celebrations.



Language, Literacy and Communication

The whole school have been learning about 'The Giant of Gilfach Fargoed' from local author and illustrator, Chris Morgan. Year 4 wrote some VERY persuasive emails to try to convince him to visit us and look at all of our hard work.

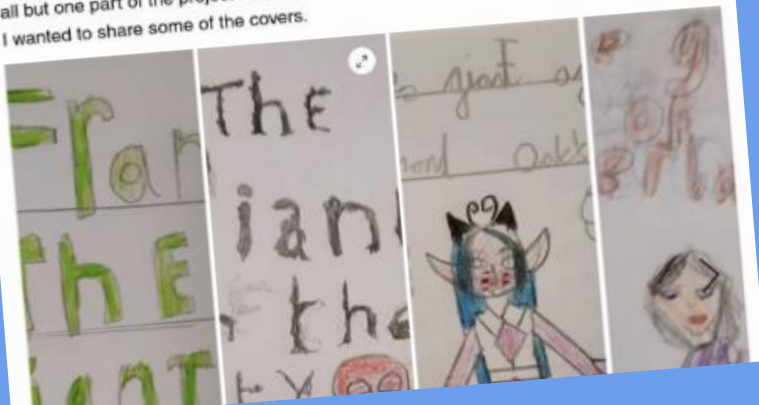


We were fortunate that Chris was able to join us for assembly (thanks to year four) on the most appropriate day..World Book Day. We were able to ask him lots of questions about writing a book.



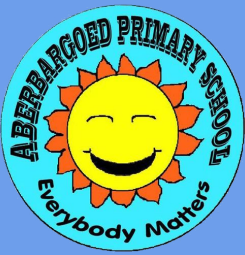
He looked at all of our work and this is what he said...

I am humbled at how well the book has been received; and to see the children re-creating my characters, as I did with characters from my favourite books when I was a child is so rewarding. I took so many pictures that it would be impossible to share them all but one part of the project was for the children to create their own miniature books and I wanted to share some of the covers.



Some year 6 were lucky enough to meet author @JDunrod today and felt so amazed that she'd overcome so many relatable challenges. We are feeling inspired 🙌 Thank you @AberMrsoc 🙌





LLC - Cymraeg



Tŷ Melyn
Eisteddfod 2024

Llongyfarchiadau i tŷ Melyn on winning the Eisteddfod! It was a very close race this year. Diolch to all the parents and Carers who helped the children with their home school entries and helping the children practise for their performances.



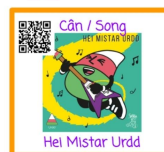
Diolch to everyone who came to our Welsh Cafe to watch and celebrate the Children's work and Eisteddfod contributions. I think everyone enjoyed the Welsh Cakes!



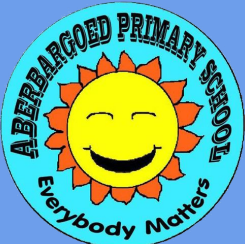
We had some special visitors for our Welsh Launch Day! Seren a Sbarc were so impressed with our new ideas from the Criw Cymraeg. Speaking Welsh is now worth 5 points and completing our half-termly challenges can win you cinema tickets!!! Look out for the first Summer Challenge!



Sialens Seren a Sbarc Spring 2

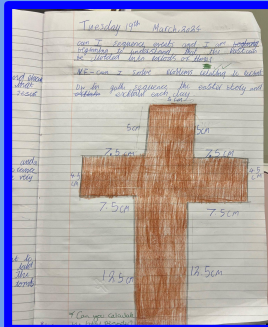
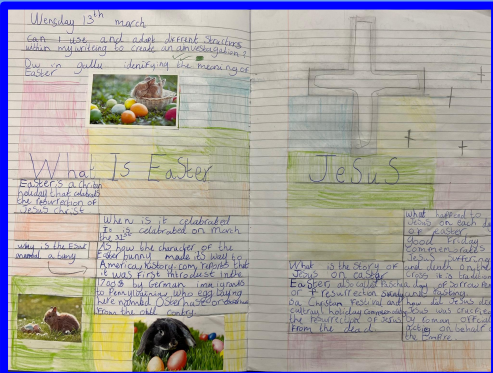
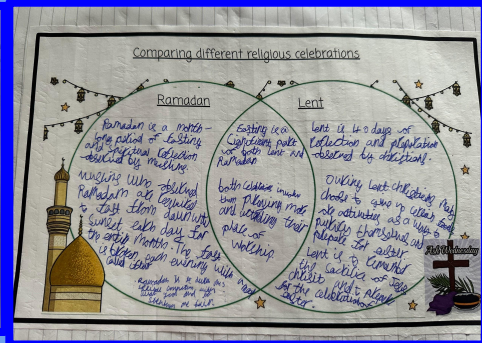
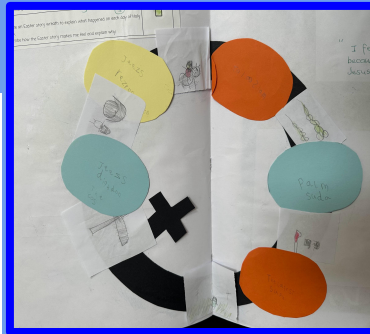


Complete each challenge to get the chance to win Cinema Tickets each half term.
Send a picture or video on twitter using our #siarteriathabgpps

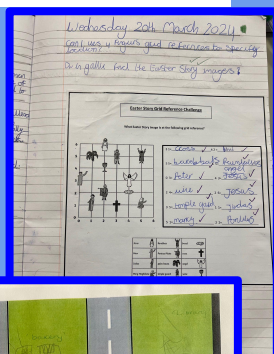
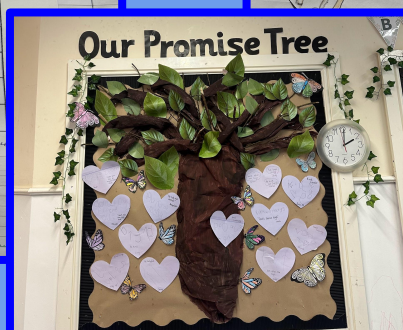
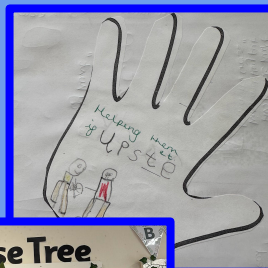
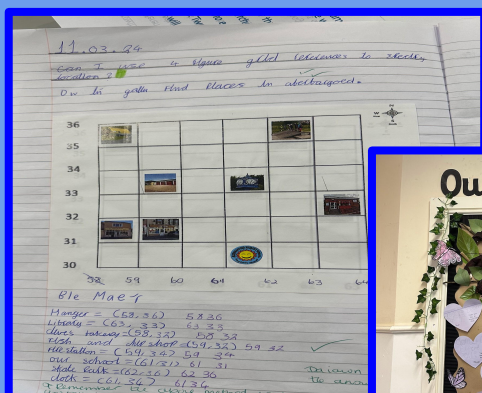


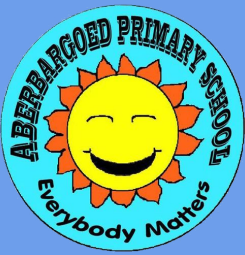
Humanities

We have been exploring the story of Easter across numerous religions. The children have enjoyed learning about and comparing how different religions celebrate different holidays.



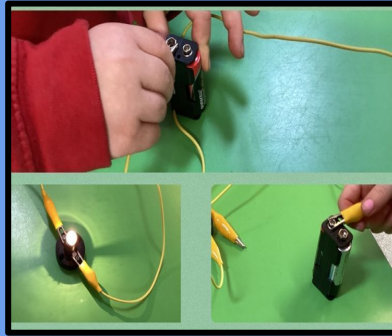
Children have also been exploring and using maps of local areas and of wider Wales. The children found places using coordinates and explored directions.





Science and Technology

Years 1 & 2 explored light sources and how to light a bulb for their fairy houses



Fairy lights

Light sources



Firework



Sun



Light bulb



Fire fly



Candle

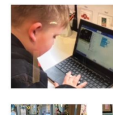
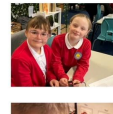
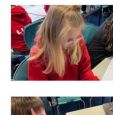


Fire

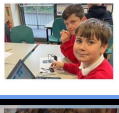


Light house

Years 4-6 have been learning to program a micro:bit by inputting accurate algorithms and transferring the data to the simulator to 'test'. Any mistakes needed 'debugging' which required patience and resilience!

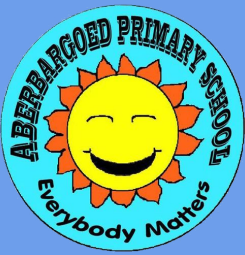


Micro:bit



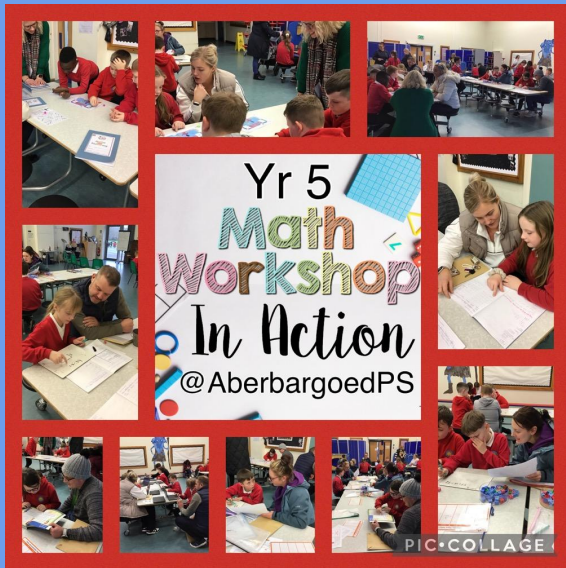
Year 2 had fun exploring the lego spike kits.



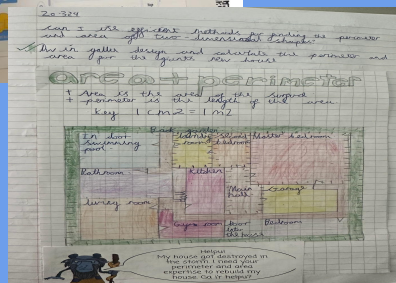
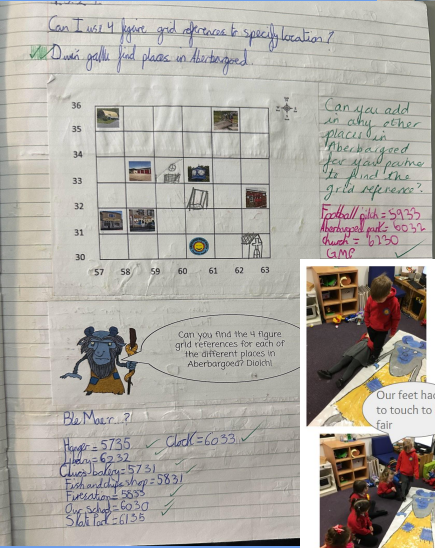
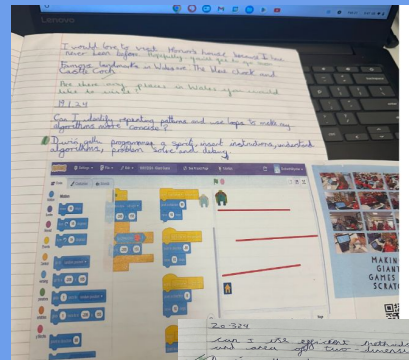


Maths and Numeracy

Thank you for attending our Maths family engagement workshops. It was so lovely to have your support & see the children demonstrating a range of maths strategies and methods, as well as playing maths games!



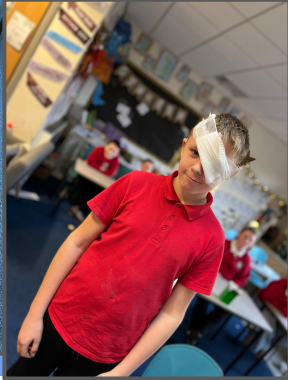
During our Cynefin topic, the children have had many opportunities to complete Numeracy tasks across the curriculum. Progression step 3 have looked at position and direction, area and perimeter, measuring and even coded their own giant games on Scratch.





Health and Wellbeing

Years 2 - 6 were lucky enough to have an incredible session with Forces Fitness. It was a day full of team building, fun and laughter.



Year 6 successfully completed a first aid course in which they were taught how to deal appropriately with small cuts and scalds. They were also taught how to safely help someone choking and CPR. Invaluable life lessons, we are sure you would agree. ❤️

A visit to 'Crucial Crew' to learn about how to keep safe was another enjoyable part of the term. Pupils learnt who to call in an emergency including gas safety, electricity, network rail, coast guards. We had lots of misconceptions corrected and were warned about the possible consequences of antisocial behaviour or any behaviour that may break the law.



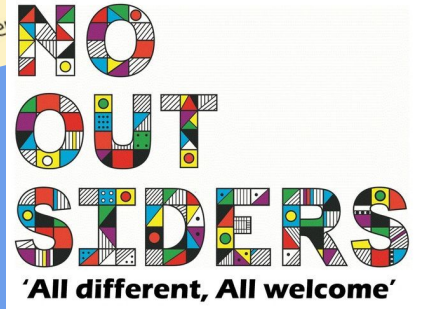


Diversity



Friends

What do you see in the picture?
How are the children different?
How are the children similar?
How are they friends?



Do you think Blake chose this shirt?

Why doesn't Blake's shirt say, "I will be your friend if you are black" Or...
"I will be your friend if you are white?" Or...
"I will be your friend if you are Christian?"

Does Blake care about the race or religion of his friends?

Do you think Blake cares if his friends have disabilities, different genders or different families?



We have begun exploring the 'No Outsiders' curriculum in school. Assemblies aim to promote inclusivity, community cohesion and prepare our learners for life as global citizens. Workshops with No Boundaries also helped reinforce the importance of eradicating prejudice and unfairness wherever it exists.

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.

Families are asked to note that holiday requests will not be authorised for any pupils where attendance is below 95%.

LATENESS

How much time can you lose?

in one school year

5 MINUTES

late each day



=3
days off

unicef
UNITED KINGDOM



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

In February 100
pupils achieved
100%
attendance.

In March 99
pupils achieved
100%
attendance.



Year six were thrilled to be the second class this year to cross the golden line and chose a popcorn and pyjama party to celebrate. *Which class will be next?*

Our current attendance is 90.7%
We need your help to further
improve attendance.

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 by governors to evaluate our progress towards our school development priorities.

Activities undertaken by governors

- Learning walks and guided tours of the school from children
 - Book looks and listening to learners
 - Looking at displays and learning environments
- Learner voice presentations including the Language and Literacy AoLE Year 6 team sharing learning based on 'The Giant of Gylfach Fargod' and Year 6 presenting a whole school approach to 'Cynefin'.

Strengths

- Children were proud of their work and felt confident to share and discuss with governors work they had completed
- Governors saw a range of learning experiences within learning journey books
- Pupils are happy and feel they can talk to their friends and adults in school if they have any worries.



Areas for development

- Governors felt that after discussions, children wanted more equipment for play times
- Children were keen to continue with their learning at home and Governors would like to review the home learning offer available to families

Next steps

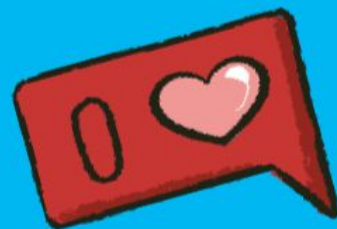
- Purchase a selection of equipment and play apparatus for playtimes.
- Trial a 'Home learning menu' with a range of activities relating to our themes for families to work on together.

We are experiencing increasing conversations in school with learners about issues arising from online activity at home. Please see the information and links below to support your child/children in remaining safe online and regularly discuss with them the importance of a positive online reputation.

Socialising Online

Social media provides a lot of freedom in how to connect with other users as well as how information and content is made available. This has provided certain platforms with worldwide appeal, giving anyone an opportunity to connect and engage with others. To promote keeping safe on social media, ensure that young people know how to:

- 1 Report harmful content online**
- 2 Block and report users who are being offensive or harmful**
- 3 Manage privacy settings to limit exposure to known friends and family members**
- 4 Speak to a trusted adult if they are concerned about something online**



www.swgfl.org.uk

For more advice and guidance please see: [Online Safety and Social Media](#)

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>

Wider Curriculum Experiences



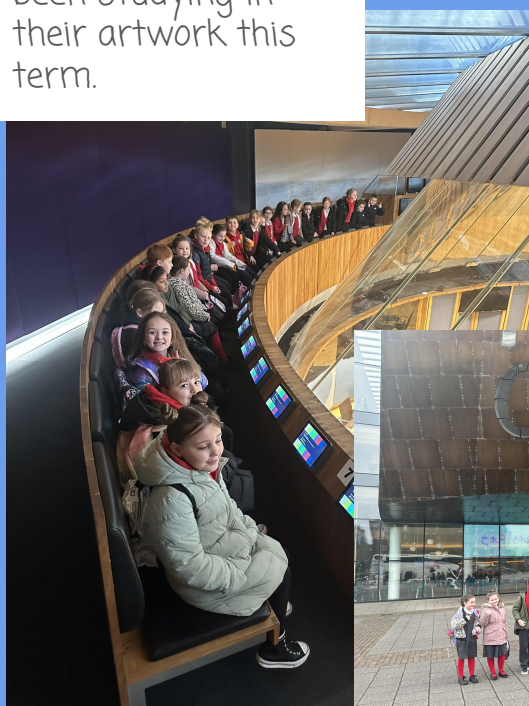
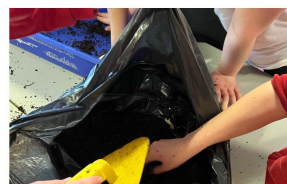
Swimming: Year 6 have recently completed a three week block of swimming at Cefn Forest Leisure Centre.

"We learnt so much. I learnt how to float on my back, do the butterfly stroke, and what all of the flags on the beach mean. The best part was being taught how to safely save someone else with a pole or float. I know how to behave when I am near open water too.". All children progressed confidently and feedback from staff at the pool at the end of the three weeks was positive. One member of staff said "These children, our future generation, are a credit to the school with their politeness, camaraderie and ability to think outside of the box".



Y4 visited the Senedd and the Wales Millennium Centre where they explored an Opera workshop. Pupils were amazed to see the buildings they've been studying in their artwork this term.

Gardening club have been enjoying the drier weather to begin planting.



Year 3 also enjoyed developing their appreciation of music with a workshop in the Welsh College of Music and Drama followed by a visit to the museum.

Wider Curriculum Experiences

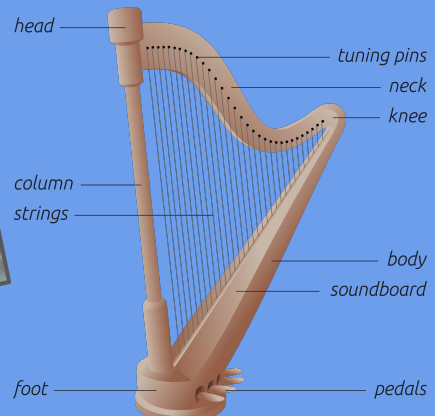


Pupils from Reception to Year 6 enjoyed visits to the library this term.

Year 1-4 really enjoy opportunities to develop their singing skills each week. Along with weekly Music lessons, learning to play the Guitar, Violin and drums.

Cynefin workshop

Years 3 - 6 were fortunate to work with a specialist teacher (Huw) from @UpBeatWales to learn about historical welsh music such as the Welsh harp and tin whistles. They also had the chance to trial welsh clog dancing. Huw answered lots of our questions and we felt a sense of 'cynefin' and pride to be learning about welsh history.



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 -

[School Essentials Grant | GOV.WALES](https://gov.wales/school-essentials-grant)



Often after holiday periods pupils struggle to settle back into routines. Please support your child/children by considering how you can promote health sleep patterns.

Here is the link to the poster:

[10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators - Developing Healthy Sleep Patterns](#)

Summer Term Dates for the Diary

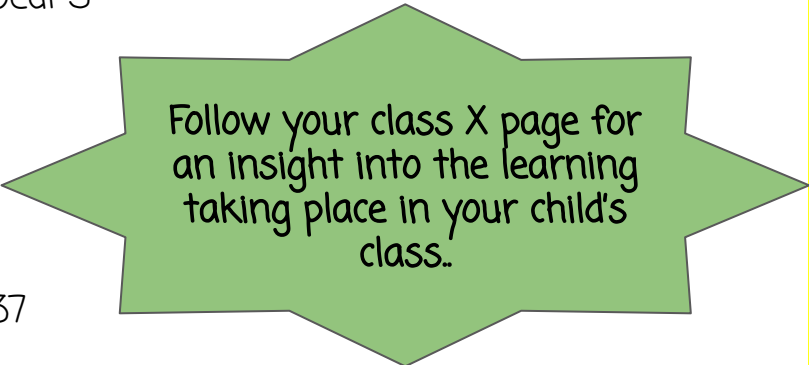
- Monday 8th April INSET day - school closed to pupils
- Tuesday 9th April - Pupils return to school,
13pm Year 6 Parents/Carers Q & A with Lewis (Gilwern)
- Wednesday 17th April Class Photos
- Monday 29th April - 2nd May Year 6 Residential (Gilwern)
- Thursday 2nd May - Polling Station - School Library
- Monday 6th May Bank Holiday
- Wednesday 22nd/Thursday 24th May - Provisional Sports Days - to be confirmed the week before with more accurate weather forecast.
- Friday 24th May INSET Day - school closed to pupils.
- Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May Half Term
- Monday 24th June - Friday 28th June - Mini Enterprise Week
- Friday 5th July - Nursery Graduation
- Monday 8th July - Friday 12th July - Transition Week
- Wednesday 17th July Leavers Assembly am Leavers Party pm
- Thursday 18th July - 100% Attendance Reward Day
- Friday 19th July End of Term



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: @_Miss_Griffiths
- 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..