

Polar bears



Penclawdd Primary School : Autumn Term 2025

We are so excited to welcome you back to school for a brand-new term of learning and adventures with fresh opportunities to explore and grow together. *Mrs Garcia and staff*



Class Topic

This term, our topic is “Misty Mountain Sierra”!



We’ll be climbing high into the world of mountains, discovering how they are formed, learning about famous mountain ranges, and meeting some of the amazing people and animals who live there. Get ready for exciting geography, creative writing, fascinating science, and fun art projects – all inspired by the magic and mystery of mountains.

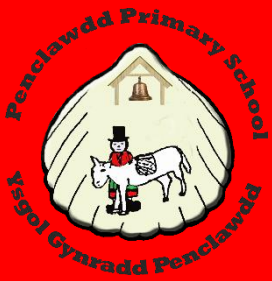
Along the way, we will be asking big questions like:

- How are mountains made, and why do they all look so different?
- What’s life like for animals and people who live high up in the mountains?
- Why do some mountains have snow on top all year round?
- What challenges do explorers face when climbing the world’s tallest peaks?
- How do mountains shape the weather and rivers around them?

Engage

We are excited for our upcoming trip to Penwyllt mountain on the edge of the Brecon Beacons with our very own survival guide. Who will teach us all about the formation of mountains and the equipment we will need to go on a mountain expedition.





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Literacy

This term in Year 4 and 5, our literacy learning will be full of creativity, adventure, and inspiration! ✍️📖

In the first half of the term, Polar bears will be:

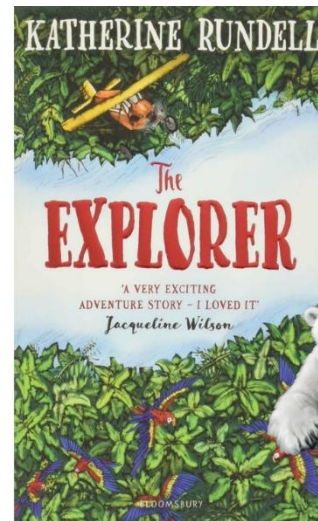
- Writing adventure stories in a fictional narrative style, we will be learning about literacy devices like story writing, character descriptions ,adjectives, similes , alliteration and personification to enhance our narratives.
- Developing our reading comprehension, SPaG skills, and handwriting, so we can express our thoughts clearly and confidently.

In the second half of the term, we will explore the story of ‘The Explorer’ by Katherine Rundell. Where we see children working together to survive after a plane crash in the Amazon rainforest. With real-world themes like courage, friendship, teamwork, survival, and the power of nature. The story highlights problem-solving, resilience, and empathy as the children work together to survive.



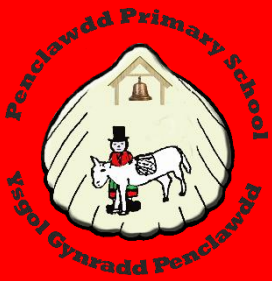
Welsh and French

In Welsh, Polar bears will have a daily slot ddrilio session practising patterns and phrases, building speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. In French, pupils will learn basic greetings, introductions, numbers, colours, and where they live, helping them gain confidence in speaking and listening while having fun with language.



Our September Right of the Month is:
Article 28 : The Right To Education





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Maths

This term in Years 4 and 5 we will be diving into lots of exciting maths, including:

- Place value
- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication and division
- Fractions
- Area, length and perimeter

To make maths come alive, we'll be:

- Taking part in outdoor maths challenges
- Trying a range of mental maths activities
- Tackling reasoning and problem-solving challenges



We'll also be growing our mathematical vocabulary so we can explain our thinking like true maths detectives!

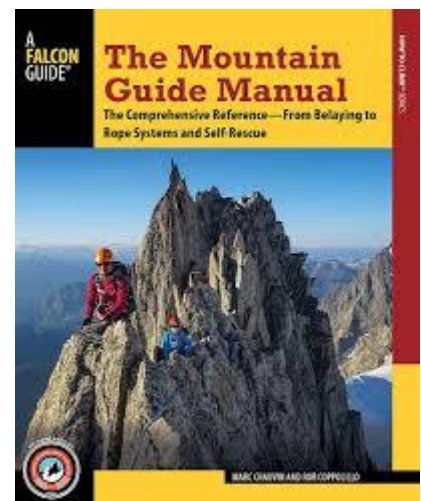
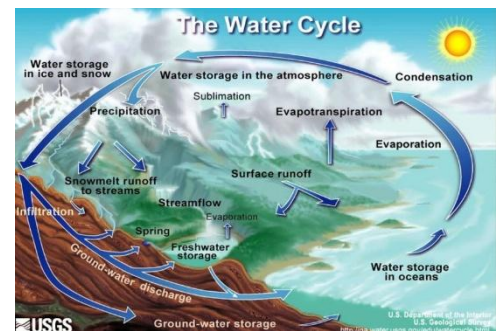
Science and Technology

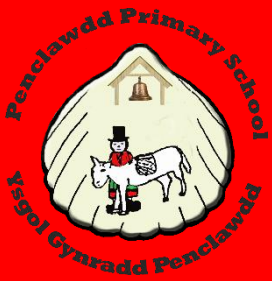
In Science, Polar bears will be exploring states of matter discovering all there is to know about solids liquids and gases and how we can change and reverse them. We'll be:

- Investigating melting points
- Making a solar still
- Learning about the water cycle and evaporation

In ICT, we will be exploring and creating spreadsheets using excel to record and plan a mountaineering expedition.

- Using Minecraft to build a mountain range
- Using adobe and word to design and record our work.
- Sharing work and creating online collaboratively





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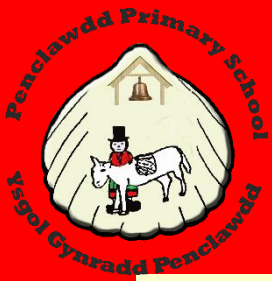
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Humanities

This term in Year 4 and 5, the children will be learning all about **mountains**! They will explore how mountains are formed, look at different types such as fold, fault-block, dome, and volcanic mountains. They'll study famous mountain ranges around the world and locate them on maps, building their geography skills. The class will also learn about the challenges of surviving in mountain environments, including weather, terrain, and wildlife, and will be inspired by stories of **famous explorers and climbers** like **Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay** who have tackled these incredible landscapes. Through this topic, children will develop their understanding of the natural world, strengthen their map-reading skills, and be encouraged to think about resilience, problem-solving, and adventure.

This term, we will continue to explore **Religious and Values Education (RVE)**, helping the children to understand and appreciate different beliefs, traditions, and cultures from around the world. Lessons will encourage thoughtful discussions about values such as kindness, respect, and fairness, while also deepening their knowledge of major world religions, their festivals, and places of worship. Through stories, debates, and creative activities, children will be encouraged to ask big questions about life, beliefs, and morality, developing empathy and curiosity. RVE lessons aim to help pupils celebrate diversity, reflect on their own values, and become thoughtful, respectful members of their community.





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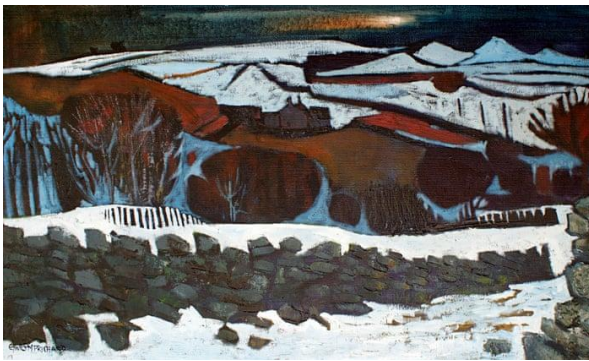


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Expressive Arts

This term in Polar bears, we'll be using drama, art, and storytelling 🗣️ 🧠 📖 to bring characters and scenes from our story 'The Explorer' to life. We'll be exploring different ways to develop our creativity and imagination through dance by creating our own mountain pieces using movement to music and props.

We'll also be looking at colour mixing, the art of landscape painting and how to create mood by using colour tone and light. We'll explore the work of the Welsh artist Gwilym Prichard and how he created famous Welsh landmarks using landscapes.



Health and Well-Being

This term in Polar bears, and using our novel as a stimulus, we will be focusing on empathy, resilience, and kindness, exploring how people cope with challenging situations., pupils will reflect on their own feelings, the importance of supporting others, and children's rights, considering how everyone deserves to feel safe, respected, and valued.

In PE, we will continue to develop our core skills such as coordination, balance, and teamwork, while enjoying activities like hockey and swimming 🏊. These sessions will help the children build physical fitness, confidence, and healthy habits, while learning to work positively with others and understand the rights and responsibilities that help us all thrive.

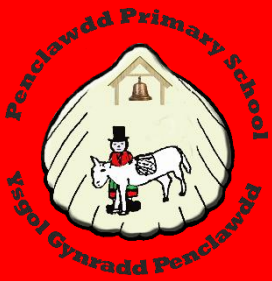
The fruit trolley is fully stocked and ready for customers — **30p per day.**

Healthy School Reminder 💧

As part of our commitment to being a healthy school, we kindly ask that children **only bring water** to drink during the school day. This helps promote good habits, supports concentration, and encourages healthy choices

Warm Autumn Treat! 🍲

After half term, we'll be serving homemade vegetable soup—a cosy and healthy option for chilly days! Available to buy at school, it's a delicious way to warm up and enjoy fresh, seasonal ingredients.



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Reminders

Day	Activity	Information
Monday	PE	Outdoor kit required NB - If it is wet on a Monday, we will use the gym. We encourage children to change but they will be allowed to take part if they are wearing suitable clothes. Roll-on deodorant may be used before/after PE.
Tuesday PPA – Mr Culpin leading class	Forest School	Alternating Tuesdays. Please bring wellies and a coat
Thursday	Swimming Library	Children will have the opportunity to visit the school library and change their book weekly.

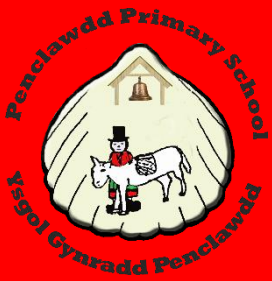
Diary Dates

September	15/09/25 International Day of Democracy Pupil Groups voting 24/09/25 National Fitness Day Autumn Sports Day 24/09/25 –Y4/5 class visit to Penwyllt
October	1/10/25 - 31/10/25 Black History Month 10/10/25 World Mental Health Day 15/10/25 Shwmae Day 23/10/25 Harvest @ Tabernacle— Parents invited
November	10/11/25 World Science Day 10/11/25 - Odd Sock Day 10/11/25 - 14/11/25 Anti Bullying Week 11/11/25 Remembrance Day 14/11/25 BBC Children In Need 20/11/25 Universal Children’s Day School



December dates to be shared after half term

A happy face, a learning place , a growing space



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HOME LEARNING

Literacy, Maths, Topic and Reading Spine— please find on our online class page

<https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=163&type=pdf>

How can you support at home

Spelling	Want to help your child become a spelling superstar? ★✎ Click the link to visit our website and check out our 4,5, Spelling Menu, full of fun and creative ideas to practise spelling at home! https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/cwricwlwm-curriculum/our-pps-curriculum-summary/aole-languages-literacy-and-communication/spelling-and-phonics-home-learning
Reading Books	Encouraging your child to read at home regularly helps build confidence, comprehension, and a love of stories 📖💎. You can explore some great reads by clicking this link to access our Reading Spine, full of exciting books for all interests. Don't forget — children should bring their reading books to school every day so they can enjoy reading in class and at home! https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/_site/data/files/users/curriculum/0A1E980194124CB951C86194C3233BA5.pdf
Times Tables	Regular practice of times tables helps children build confidence and speed in maths 🧠✖️÷️. Your child can practise at home by accessing TT Blast through their HWB account , making learning times tables fun and interactive. Daily practice, even for just a few minutes, really makes a difference!

SeeSaw

If you have not yet received your Seesaw code, please contact us as soon as possible. Weekly updates—including important information, photographs, and highlights of classroom activities—will be shared via Seesaw. Please note that during teaching hours, I may not be able to respond to messages immediately. If your message is urgent, kindly contact the school office directly.

Be On Time!

Please ensure your child arrives promptly for school each day. Lessons begin at 8:50am, and a calm, punctual start helps children settle quickly and get the most from their learning.

Attendance

Please report your child's absence via this form – [click here](#)



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