



# Starfish



Penclawdd Primary School : Autumn Term 2025

## Welcome Back, Year 6!

We are so excited to welcome our Year 6 pupils back for their final year in primary school! This is such a special time, filled with opportunities to grow, lead, and make lasting memories together. Over the coming months, the children will take on new responsibilities, enjoy exciting learning experiences, and prepare for the next step in their journey. We know they will rise to every challenge with enthusiasm and determination, and we look forward to celebrating all their achievements in this important year.

### Topic Overview

#### Conflict, Compassion and Belonging: A Child's War

From Mohinder to Ahmet: A Journey Through History and HopeGet ready for an exciting adventure through time, stories, and emotions! This term, we'll be exploring what life has been like for children who have lived through war — both in the past and today. Through powerful novels and thought-provoking discussions, we'll discover how young people find courage, belonging, and kindness in the face of challenge.

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

- ☞ *What does it mean to belong?*
- ☞ *How does it feel to be far from home?*
- ☞ *Why is kindness and compassion so important during difficult times?*
- ☞ *What can we learn from the experiences of children in World War II?*
- ☞ *Why is it important to remember and share the stories of the past when we think about conflict today?*

### Engage

We are delighted to share that we have secured a grant from the GEM Museum Visit Bursary Scheme, which will fund two exciting trips this term to bring our World War II learning to life. Year 6 will be taking part in the *Life on the Home Front* workshop at Cardiff Castle and the *Blighty in the Blitz* workshop at Brecon War Museum. These visits promise to be amazing experiences and a wonderful opportunity for the children to deepen their understanding of the topic in an engaging and memorable way.



***A happy face, a learning place, a growing space***



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## Literacy

This term in Year 6, our literacy learning will be full of creativity, adventure, and inspiration!



In the first half of the term, Starfish will be:

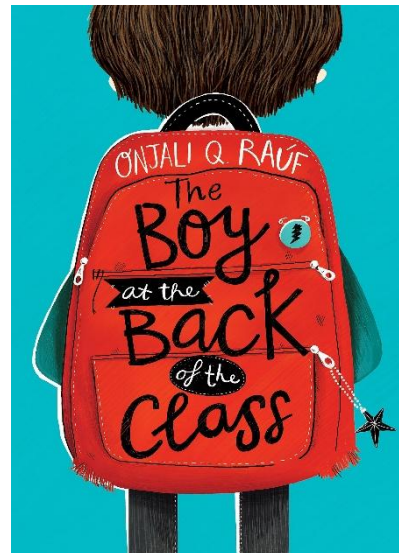
- Writing recounts in a fictional narrative style, inspired by a secret film (shh... it's a surprise!) to spark our ideas and help our stories come alive
- Developing our reading comprehension, SPaG skills, and handwriting, so we can express our thoughts clearly and confidently

In the second half of the term, Starfish will explore the story of Ahmet in *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. Through his experiences as a refugee, we'll think about conflict, compassion, and belonging, using literacy to fire our imagination and inspire discussion, reading, and writing. This will be a chance for the children to connect their writing to real-world themes while continuing to develop their skills in an exciting and meaningful way.



## Welsh and French

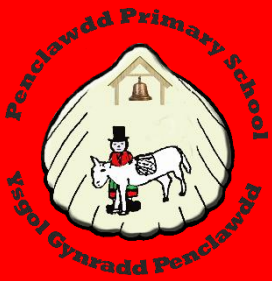
In Welsh, Starfish will have a daily slot ddrilio session practising patterns and phrases, building speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills, and creating a one-page profile about themselves. In French, pupils will learn basic greetings, introductions, numbers, colours, and where they live, helping 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 Year 6, Starfish will be diving into lots of exciting maths, including:

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



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

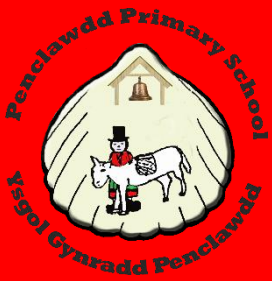
In Science, Starfish will be exploring electricity and discovering how it powers the world around us. We'll be:

- Making and testing circuits
- Drawing circuits using the correct symbols
- Learning about different electrical components and cells

To finish the topic, we'll take on an exciting WWII-themed challenge: can we create a coded message like wartime codebreakers using our circuits? It's a fun way to combine science and history while putting our skills to the test!

In ICT, we will be exploring coding like WWII codebreakers!





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## Humanities

This term, Starfish will be exploring World War II, the life of Anne Frank, refugee experiences, and cultural diversity, including Wales' role in welcoming evacuees. As part of our learning, you'll meet:

- 📖 Joelle and Mohinder, who go on a daring escape during World War II in *Mohinder's War*
- 👤 Ahmet, a refugee boy starting a new life in *The Boy at the Back of the Class*
- 📖 Jimmy, an evacuee discovering secrets in a Welsh village during the war in *The Valley of Lost Secrets*

These children — like Anne Frank — share something in common: they face fear and uncertainty but also discover friendship, bravery, and kindness in the people around them. We'll also engage with moving and thought-provoking films, including *Goodnight Mister Tom*, *Carrie's War*, and *Back Home*, which bring to life the experiences of children during World War II.

Wales plays a special role in our learning, too. During the war, many children were sent to Welsh villages for safety, and the spirit of welcome shown then continues to inspire us to think about how communities today can support those affected by conflict.

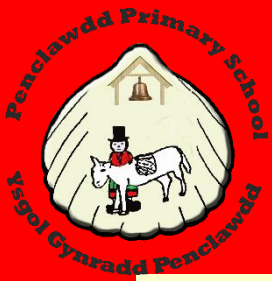
## RVE

This term in RVE, Starfish will be exploring important ideas like discrimination, prejudice, equality, and diversity 🌍. We'll look at these through religious and non-religious perspectives, thinking about how communities — including Swansea — work to promote fairness and understanding for everyone 🤝.

As part of our learning, we will take part in a Spirited Arts exploration 🎨 ✨. This is a creative project where children can express their thoughts and ideas about kindness, respect, and inclusion through art, poetry, photography, or performance. It gives the children a chance to reflect on big questions about life, values, and communities in a fun and meaningful way.



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## Expressive Arts

This term in Starfish, we'll be using drama, art, and storytelling 🗣️ 🎭 📖 to bring characters and themes from our World War II topic to life. We'll explore how stories can be expressed in different ways and develop our creativity and imagination.

We'll also be looking at the art of Will Evans ✍️, studying his style and techniques, and using his work to inspire our own creative projects. These activities will give the children the chance to express ideas, emotions, and historical experiences in fun and meaningful ways.



## Health and Well-Being

This term in Starfish, we will be focusing on empathy, resilience, and kindness, exploring how people cope with challenging situations. Through our World War II topic and the stories of evacuees, refugees, and wartime children, 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 football ⚽ 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.

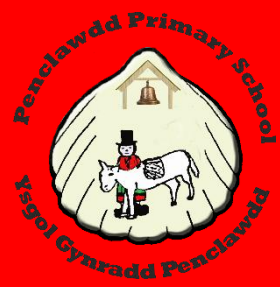
The fruit trolley is fully stocked and ready for customers — **30p per day.**

### **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
Thursday	PE	Indoor kit required NB - If it is wet on a Thursday, we will use the gym. Swimming consent forms for later in the term will be sent out soon. 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.
PPA – Mr Culpin leading class	Forest School	Alternating Thursdays. Please bring wellies and a coat
Friday	PE	Outdoor kit required
	Library	Children will have the opportunity to visit the school library and change their book weekly.

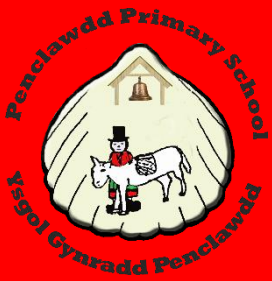
### Diary Dates

September	15/09/25 International Day of Democracy Pupil Groups voting 24/09/25 National Fitness Day Autumn Sports Day 29/09/25 Y6 visit to Cardiff Castle for Life on the Home front workshop – no cost 30/09/25 – Y6 visit to Brecon War Museum – no cost  <b>NB – Consent forms and letters to follow</b>
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*

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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

<b>Spelling</b>	Want to help your child become a spelling superstar? ★✎ Click the link to visit our website and check out our 56 Spelling Menu, full of fun and creative ideas to practise spelling at home! <a href="https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/cwricwlwm-curriculum/our-pps-curriculum-summary/aole-languages-literacy-and-communication/spelling-and-phonics-home-learning">https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/cwricwlwm-curriculum/our-pps-curriculum-summary/aole-languages-literacy-and-communication/spelling-and-phonics-home-learning</a>
<b>Reading Books</b>	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! <a href="https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/_site/data/files/users/curriculum/0A1E980194124CB951C86194C3233BA5.pdf">https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/_site/data/files/users/curriculum/0A1E980194124CB951C86194C3233BA5.pdf</a>
<b>Times Tables</b>	Regular practice of times tables helps children build confidence and speed in maths 🧠✖️÷️. Your child can practise at home by <b>accessing TT Blast</b> through their <b>HWB account</b> , 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](#)

