



# Sealions



Penclawdd Primary School : Autumn Term 2025

## Shwmae Sealions!

Welcome to a brand-new school year! We're so pleased to have our Year 1/2 children back in class, and it's already been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and smiles as they settle into new routines.

This term will be filled with exciting opportunities to learn and grow. Most importantly, we'll be focusing on helping the children feel confident, happy, and proud of their achievements, while continuing to build strong friendships and a supportive classroom community.

We can't wait to see what this term brings and to share the children's successes with you along the way!

### Topic Overview Cynefin

This term, our project is all about *Cynefin* — exploring our village of Penclawdd and what makes it such a special place to belong. The children will become curious *Street Detectives*, spotting human and physical features in the local area and learning how Penclawdd's history and famous cockling industry have shaped its identity. The children will create maps, recounts, and digital projects, and later in the term will design adverts and posters to celebrate Penclawdd

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

- What makes Penclawdd unique?
- How has it changed over time?
- What does it mean to belong to a community?



### Engage

**After an initial chat with the children about what they wish to learn about, they have expressed a major interest in cockling! We hope to visit the Estuary and see the cockle pickers in action soon. They have also expressed a love for nature and local animals – we hope to have a visitor with some loud and fluffy animals so watch this space!**

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



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Our literacy this term will be closely linked to our Cynefin topic. Through carefully chosen texts, the children will explore themes of belonging, community, and how places change over time.

We will:

- Read and enjoy books such as *The Secret Sky Garden*, *Town Mouse*, *Country Mouse*, and *A Street Through Time*, using them to inspire discussion, imagination, and writing.
- Write recounts of our local walks and visits, sharing the features of Penclawdd we discover.
- Practise giving instructions, such as how to cross the road safely or directions to the estuary.
- Create captions, labels, and maps to describe our village.
- Take part in oral storytelling with prompts like "If I were a cockler..." to connect with our local history.

These activities will give the children lots of opportunities to build their skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening, while also celebrating their sense of place and identity.

## Welsh and French

In Welsh, Sealions practice their Welsh through daily slot Drillio sessions, which allows them to practice patterns and phrases. Our daily Helpwr Heddiw takes part in building speaking and listening skills. Alongside this, they will continue with Tric a Chlic to strengthen early reading skills in Welsh, and use Fa La La songs to make learning fun and musical. In French, pupils will be introduced to simple greetings, colours, and numbers through songs, games, and role play.



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



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## Mathematics and Numeracy

This term in maths, Year 1 and Year 2 will be building strong number skills while linking their learning to real-life contexts in our Cynefin project.

- Year 1 will focus on place value within 20, exploring how numbers are made and comparing them using practical resources. They will also begin addition and subtraction using pictures, objects, and number lines, and start exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.
- Year 2 will be extending their understanding of place value to larger numbers, practising addition and subtraction with more confidence, and solving problems in different ways. They will also be investigating the features of 2D and 3D shapes, recognising them in the classroom and around Penclawdd.

We'll make maths hands-on and meaningful with plenty of opportunities for counting, problem-solving, and exploring patterns in the world around us.

## Science and Technology

In science this term, the children will be exploring **materials and their properties**, linking their learning to the homes, buildings, and landscapes of Penclawdd. Year 1 will focus on naming and identifying everyday materials, sorting them by properties such as hard/soft, waterproof/absorbent, and transparent/opaque. They will also carry out fun investigations, including floating and sinking, and testing which materials are best for different purposes. Year 2 will build on this by comparing the suitability of materials for particular jobs, grouping and identifying objects by what they are made from, and investigating how some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting, and stretching. They will also learn about inventors like John McAdam, Charles Macintosh, and John Dunlop,. Alongside this, the children will use BeeBots, cameras, and iPads to record features of Penclawdd, create maps, and design simple digital projects.



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## Humanities

This term, the children will explore both the history and geography of Penclawdd as part of our *Cynefin* project. They will become *Street Detectives*, spotting human and physical features in the village, using maps, and comparing old and new photographs of Penclawdd to see how homes, jobs, and transport have changed over time. The children will also learn about the local cockling industry, creating timelines and stories that connect the past to the present.

## RVE

Alongside this, in Religious Values and Ethics (RVE), pupils will think about *what it means to belong* – to a family, a school, a community, and a faith. They will learn about sharing and kindness through harvest, explore why Christmas is special to Christians, and consider big questions such as: *What makes us happy?* and *How can we show love, care, and respect for others?* They will also be introduced to different beliefs and celebrations in Swansea, learning that people can have different faiths and worldviews but still live and work together in harmony.





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## Expressive Arts

This term, the children will be using art, drama, music, and performance to bring our *Cynefin* topic to life. They will create observational drawings of cockle shells, baskets, and local landmarks, and explore the work of LS Lowry, using his style to inspire their own paintings of Penclawdd and its industry. The children will also experiment with mixed media to produce estuary landscapes, celebrating the beauty of our local environment.

In drama, they will take on the role of cockle pickers and tour guides, using role play to explore life in Penclawdd past and present. In music, they will create simple rhythms inspired by the sounds of cockling — digging, raking, and collecting.

## Health and Well-Being

This term, we will be focusing on helping the children to build confidence, resilience, and positive relationships. Through our *Cynefin* project, they will learn about teamwork in the cockling industry, thinking about how families worked together and how we can support one another in school and in our community today.

The children will take part in discussions about kindness, belonging, and who helps us in our community, as well as reflecting on what makes them feel happy and safe. We will explore important skills such as how to cross the road safely and how to stay safe near water, linking to our walks and local visits.

In PE, the children will continue to develop coordination, balance, and teamwork through fun games and activities, while also enjoying the chance to be active and healthy outdoors. Our aim is to help every child feel secure, valued, and ready to face new challenges with a positive mindset.

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	PE kit required. Suitable footwear is needed. Long hair will need to be tied back.
Monday (AM)	PPA	Mr Culpin will cover the class.
Thursday	Library	Children will have the opportunity to visit the school library and change their book weekly.
Friday	Forest School	Please bring wellies and a coat.

## Diary Dates

September	15/09/25 International Day of Democracy Pupil Groups voting 24/09/25 National Fitness Day Autumn Sports Day
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/class-pages-and-online-learning/sea-lions-progression-step-2/home-learning>

### How can you support at home

#### Spelling / Phonics

Want to help your child become a spelling superstar? Click the link to visit our website and check out our Spelling Menu, full of fun and creative ideas to practice spelling at home!

<https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/cwricwlwm-curriculum/our-pps-curriculum-subjects-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](https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/_site/data/files/users/curriculum/0A1E980194124CB951C86194C3233BA5.pdf)



#### Maths At Home

Encourage your child to practise number skills at home, such as counting forwards and backwards, number bonds, simple addition and subtraction, and recognising shapes. Everyday activities like cooking, shopping, or spotting house numbers are a great way to make maths fun and practical.

### 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](#)

