

Starfish



Penclawdd Primary School : Spring Term 2026

Welcome Back, Year 6!

Welcome Back & Happy New Year! Croeso nôl! I hope you all had a wonderful, restful Christmas break and a fantastic start to the New Year. It has been lovely to see the children return to class with such enthusiasm and energy, ready to dive into the Spring Term. We have a busy and exciting calendar ahead, filled with new challenges and opportunities for the pupils to shine. I am particularly looking forward to seeing their creativity spark as we launch our new comparative inquiry between the traditions of Wales and Mexico!

Topic Overview Would you rather...?

Dio de los Meurtos or Dydd Gwyl Dewi Sant?

We will be comparing the vibrant traditions of Mexico with our own rich Welsh heritage, from the colourful ofrendas of Mexico City to the daffodils of St David's Day. By looking at how both nations celebrate identity and remember their ancestors, the children will develop a deeper understanding of their own cynefin while growing as globally aware, ethical citizens. It promises to be a term full of colour, culture, and discovery!

Engage

To hook the children into our new inquiry, we are launching a feast for the senses! We will be busy in the kitchen cooking Welsh cakes, cawl, Mexican bean burgers, salsa, and Mexican French toast. Alongside these flavours, we'll dive into art by exploring the iconic work of Frida Kahlo and joining a Welsh Paint-along to create pieces inspired by our own heritage. These hands-on experiences will provide a vibrant start as we begin comparing the cultures of Wales and Mexico.

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

- What does it mean to truly belong to a place?
- How can we find "light in the darkness" during times of challenge?
- Why is it important to remember our past?
- What makes our own cynefin so special?
- In what ways are the vibrant festivals of Mexico similar to our own celebrations of Welsh identity?
- If you had to choose, would you rather celebrate the 'Day of the Dead' or 'St David's Day' to show who you are?





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Literacy

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



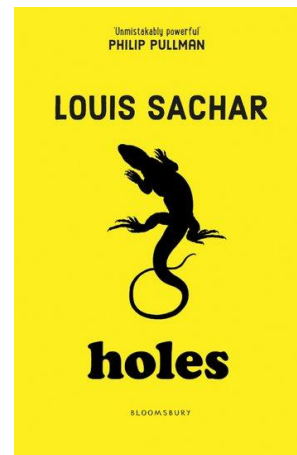
In the first half of the term, Starfish will be:

- writing persuasively. We will be exploring how to effectively influence and engage our readers. We will apply these skills by planning and executing a persuasive writing task, learning to use powerful techniques like rhetorical questions and emotive language to great effect.
- continuing to develop 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 be diving into the novel, *Holes* by Louis Sachar. This adventure-filled, multi-layered story will fire our imagination and inspire rich discussion, critical reading, and creative writing projects. We will be analysing Sachar's expert use of complex plot structures, character development, and foreshadowing to deepen our understanding of literature. This will be a chance for the children to connect their writing to rich literary techniques while continuing to develop their skills in an exciting and meaningful way.

Welsh and French

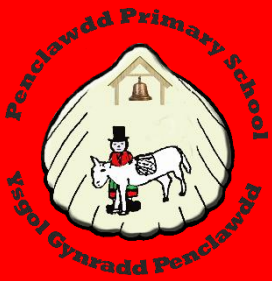
In Welsh, Starfish will have a daily slot ddrilio session practising patterns and phrases, building speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills, and creating a one-page profile about themselves. In French, pupils will learn basic greetings, introductions, numbers, colours, and where they live, helping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



Our January Right of the Month is:
Article 22 : The Right To Be the Best you
Can be



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Penclawdd Primary School : Autumn Term 2026

Maths

This term in Starfish, we will be diving into lots of exciting maths, including:

Decimals: We will be building confidence in ordering, comparing, and carrying out calculations involving decimals.

Fractions: We will be deepening our understanding of fractions, focusing on equivalent fractions, comparing, and performing all four operations.

Decimals, Fractions, and Percentages: We will explore the crucial connections and conversions between these three number forms.

Statistics: We will be tackling data representation and analysis, learning to interpret and create various charts including line graphs, dual bar charts, and pie charts. We will also be calculating the mean average of data sets.

Shape and Geometry: We will be exploring angles, focusing on finding missing angles in shapes and on straight lines. We will also be investigating 3D shapes and their nets, linking 2D and 3D geometry.

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



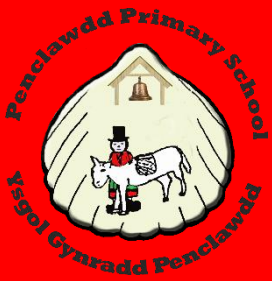
We'll also be growing our mathematical vocabulary so we can explain our thinking like true maths detectives!

Science and Technology

In Science, Starfish will be exploring the properties of light and shadow through our challenge: **"Can We Illuminate the Afterlife?"** 🧠🧠 We will investigate opaque, translucent, and transparent materials and use Shadow Geometry to design and construct a shadow puppet theatre and themed puppets inspired by the Mexican Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos). We will finish by experimenting with coloured filters to add a vibrant, cultural feel to our shows.

In Design and Technology (D&T), we will have a food focus! 🧠 Children will become food researchers and chefs, taste-testing and researching Mexican and Welsh foods. The ultimate challenge will be to design, make, and evaluate a Welsh:Mexican fusion dish, putting our design and practical skills to the test.

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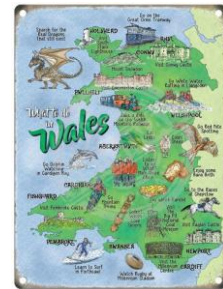
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Humanities

In our Humanities inquiry, "**Would you rather... Día de los Muertos neu Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant?**", Year 6 will dive into a vibrant comparison of the cultural and physical geography of Mexico and Wales. We will begin by investigating our cynefin, using the *Land of Legends* map to locate local folklore and landmarks, before traveling across the globe to explore the diverse climates, mountain ranges, and regions of Mexico. By studying how different environments influence national traditions—from the flowers grown for Mexican *ofrendas* to the agricultural roots of our own St David's Day—pupils will discover the deep connection between the land and the people. This journey will help the children understand how our unique surroundings shape the stories we tell, the food we eat, and how we celebrate our identities today.

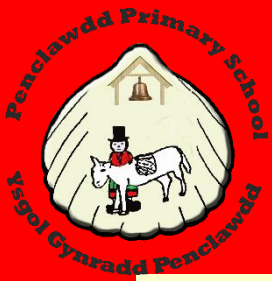


RVE

This term, Year 6 are embarking on a powerful new inquiry: "**How have Jewish people in Wales and the world found light in the darkness?**" We will be looking deep into our local history and the stories of those who found sanctuary in Wales. By studying traditions like Passover and reflecting on the history of Beth Shalom, pupils will explore the importance of resilience. Our goal is to empower our pupils to become ethical, informed citizens who actively challenge prejudice and champion diversity within our community.



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Expressive Arts

In our Expressive Arts sessions, Year 6 will be exploring the vibrant rhythms and visual styles of two unique cultures. We will be comparing the energetic patterns of traditional Welsh dance with the lively footwork and music of Mexican folk dance, allowing the children to express their cultural identities through movement. In the art studio, we will dive into the iconic world of Frida Kahlo, studying her use of colour and symbolism. To bring it all back to our cynefin, the children will also participate in a "Welsh Paint-along," creating their own masterpieces inspired by the heritage and landscapes of our local area.



Health and Well-Being

In our Health and Well-being sessions, pupils will continue to build their physical confidence through weekly swimming lessons and football skills. Once our swimming block concludes, we will transition into dance, where the children will have the opportunity to choreograph and create their own folk dances inspired by the traditions of Wales and Mexico. Beyond the field and the pool, we will be focusing on healthy eating by linking our nutrition lessons to our culinary workshops. The children will learn about balanced diets and the nutritional value of fresh ingredients as they design and prepare their very own Welsh-Mexican fusion dish.

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





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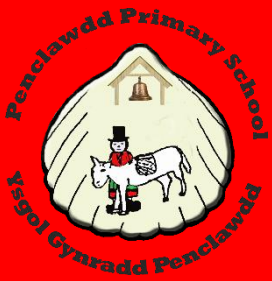
Reminders

Day	Activity	Information
Thursday	PE	Swimming kit in the first instance Indoor kit required following swimming
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

January	26 th – Dydd Santes Dwynwen
February	5 th - Time to Talk Day 9 th – 13 th – Children’s Mental Health Week 10 th – Safer Internet Day 13 th – Dydd Miwsig Cymru
March	2 nd – St. David’s Day celebration 5 th – World Book Day 9 th – 13 th – British Science Week 20 th – Red Nose Day 23 rd – Y6 Express Event – Parents/Carers invited – PM only





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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 56 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

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](#)

