



Starfish



Penclawdd Primary School : Autumn Term 2026

Welcome Back!

We are so excited to welcome our Year 5 and 6 pupils back for another fantastic year! This year will be full of opportunities to learn, grow, and create wonderful memories together. As the oldest children in the school, our pupils will have the chance to take on new responsibilities, develop their independence, and set a positive example for younger learners. Throughout the year, they will enjoy exciting learning experiences, embrace new challenges, and continue to build the skills and confidence they need for the future. We look forward to celebrating their achievements and supporting them every step of the way.

Topic Overview

What's on the Menu in 2050?

Can Bugs Save Wales and the World?

This term, we will explore the future of food and how it impacts our planet. We will investigate whether insects could become a sustainable food source, learn about their importance in ecosystems, and even design our own future menus featuring bug-based ingredients. Through exciting hands-on experiences, we will discover how Wales can create a greener and more sustainable future.

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

- 🗨 *What will people be eating in 2050?*
- 🗨 *Could insects become the food of the future?*
- 🗨 *How healthy is our local environment in Penclawdd?*
- 🗨 *What can we do to create a greener and more sustainable future for Wales?*

Engage

We are excited to be taking part in two fantastic learning experiences this term. Pupils will visit Dr. Beynon's Bug Farm, where they will explore habitats, biodiversity, and the important role insects play in our environment. They will also take part in the Pestaurant – Cooking with Bugs experience, investigating insects as a sustainable food source for the future. These hands-on experiences will help bring our learning about sustainability and the natural world to life.



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Literacy

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

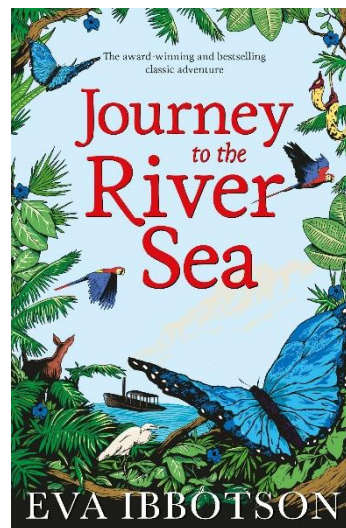


In the first half of the term, we will explore *Journey to the River Sea* by Eva Ibbotson. Through Maia's journey to the Amazon rainforest, we will encounter themes of adventure, family, friendship, and belonging. The novel will spark our imagination and inspire a range of reading and writing activities as we follow Maia's experiences in a fascinating and unfamiliar environment. This will give pupils the opportunity to develop their literacy skills while engaging with meaningful themes and a rich, exciting story.

After half term, we will focus on discussion writing, exploring different viewpoints and learning how to construct balanced arguments. Through research, debate, and thoughtful discussion, pupils will develop their ability to present opinions clearly, support their ideas with evidence, and consider alternative perspectives. This will be a valuable opportunity to connect our literacy learning with the big questions explored throughout our topic.

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 5/6, 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 the fascinating world of minibeasts, habitats, and biodiversity. We'll be:

- 🐛 Investigating how many worms live under our school field, using scientific enquiry, data collection, and analysis
- 🌱 Exploring ecosystems and biodiversity and discovering why minibeasts are so important to life on Earth
- 🔍 Learning how to classify minibeasts and investigating how they adapt to different environments
- 🏠 Designing, making, and evaluating our own bug hotels to create habitats for local minibeasts

We will also explore what living things need to survive and how different habitats support a variety of organisms.

In ICT, we will use digital tools to research and present our ideas around the question: Are bugs the super food of the future? 🖥️ 📺 Pupils will organise information, create digital presentations, and share their ideas about future food choices and sustainable eating.



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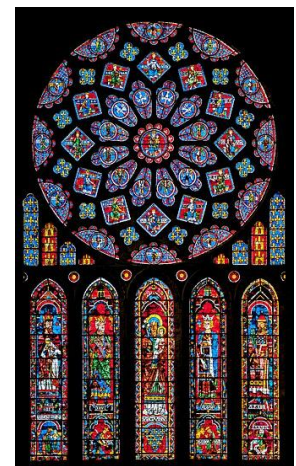
Humanities

This term, Starfish will be taking a journey around the world to explore the fascinating world of insects and minibeasts. We'll investigate where different insects live and discover how their habitats and environments influence the species that can survive there. We'll compare habitats in Wales with rainforests, deserts, and other environments around the world, exploring how insects adapt to different conditions. We'll also investigate how climate change is affecting insect populations and their habitats, considering what might happen if important species disappear. As we look towards the future, we'll explore food security and sustainable food production, thinking about how a growing population, changing climates, and limited resources could affect the food we eat.

Through our learning, we'll consider whether insects could play an important role in creating a more sustainable food system for Wales and the wider world, and how the choices we make today could help protect our planet for the future.

RVE

This term in RVE, Starfish will be exploring how Welsh stained glass and art can express spirituality, values, and beliefs. 🏰 ✨ We'll discover how stained glass has been used to communicate ideas about faith, love, community, life, and hope, exploring examples from different religious, spiritual, and cultural perspectives. We'll also consider how our own cynefin and communities express important values through art and public spaces. As part of our learning, pupils will create their own piece of artwork inspired by spirituality and Welsh culture, using their ideas and creativity to explore a big question. They will then write a thoughtful commentary explaining the meaning and inspiration behind their work. 🌀 🌈



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Expressive Arts

This term in Starfish, we'll be exploring art through the fascinating world of minibeasts 🐛 🐜. We'll develop our painting and drawing skills by experimenting with colour, texture, blending, shading, and detail to create realistic and imaginative insect artwork.

We'll create acrylic and pastel bug paintings, as well as observational drawings inspired by the patterns, shapes, and textures we find in minibeasts. To celebrate our creativity, we'll finish the term with a Bug Art Exhibition, where pupils will present their artwork to an audience and share the inspiration behind their creations. 🐛 ✨



Health and Well-Being

This term in Starfish, we will be exploring food choices, health, and sustainability, thinking about how the choices we make can affect ourselves, other people, and the environment. Pupils will investigate what makes food healthy and sustainable, explore the links between nutrition and food production, and consider how we can make positive choices to help create a healthier planet. We'll also explore how spending time outdoors and caring for nature can support our own wellbeing. 🌱 🐛

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	Swimming kit for first 10 weeks – see consent and letter for details Indoor kit required following swimming NB - 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 – Miss Evans leading class	Forest School	Alternating Thursdays following swimming. 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	15/09/26 International Day of Democracy Pupil Groups voting 16/09/26 National Fitness Day Autumn Sports Day – wear house colours 22/09/26 Class visit to Dr Beynon's Bug Farm NB – Consent form and letter to follow
October	1/10/26 - 31/10/26 Black History Month 09/10/26 World Mental Health Day 15/10/26 Shwmae Day 19-20/10/26 Parents Evening 21/10/26 Y3-Y6 Harvest @ Tabernacle— Y3-Y6 Parents invited
November	10/11/26 World Science Day 11/11/26 Remembrance Day 13/11/25 BBC Children In Need 16/11/26 Odd Sock Day 16/11/26 - 20/11/26 Anti Bullying Week 20/11/26 Universal Children's Day School 30/11/26 Sherman Theatre visit



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=226&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

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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