



Sea Turtles



Penclawdd Primary School : Autumn Term 2026

Croeso Nol!

Waaa!! We are SO excited to be back and back as a class of 'Turtely Awesome' sea turtles! I cannot wait to continue our learning journey and reconnect with some of the children and you as families too. I am passionate about us working together to make the best possible learning experience for your little one (or not so little now!) I am so excited by our topic this term and I know the children will be too. Here's to a wonderful year of being a 'bale' of Sea Turtles! Much love, Mrs D and Miss Short x

Topic Overview

Our topic for this term is 'Dragons, castles and discoveries'...I know - goose bumps or what!? We will use the magic of Welsh legends as a starting point, encouraging children to explore the stories, landscapes and discoveries that make Wales special. Beginning with the Welsh dragon, children will investigate and extend their knowledge on whether dragons are only part of stories or whether Wales has been home to incredible creatures throughout history. Through exploring castles, local landscapes and prehistoric discoveries, children will uncover the layers of history beneath their feet — from medieval Wales to the time of dinosaurs - we cannot wait!



- Why is the dragon a symbol of Wales?
- Did dragons ever exist?
- Why were castles built?
- Who lived in Welsh castles?
- Could a dinosaur have walked across Wales?
- What can fossils and footprints tell us about the past?
- How has our world changed over millions of years?



Engage/ visitors

We will be exploring Caerphilly Castle where we hope to extend our knowledge on the tale of the white and red dragon of Wales. It will also give us the opportunity to learn about Welsh Princes. Prior to the visit we will immerse ourselves into the virtual tours that the castle offers.

A happy face, a learning place , a growing space



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Literacy

This term, our literacy learning will be inspired by *The Last Wolf* by Mini Grey, a wonderful story that will spark curiosity, creativity and imagination. Through this engaging text, the children will explore characters, settings and themes while developing their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills.

We will focus on narrative writing, encouraging the children to create their own imaginative stories and use increasingly rich vocabulary and descriptive language.

Alongside this, daily phonics groups, spelling activities, guided reading sessions and grammar lessons will support the children in becoming confident communicators, readers and writers.

My personal passion of reading will also be hard to hide! I hope that this will transfer to the children and that during each day we will stop for story telling, fact sharing and document all the books we have read. Your child will read each day in school - I wholeheartedly encourage reading at home on a daily basis too - I would also love us as grown up's to share our reading too - let me know what you read!

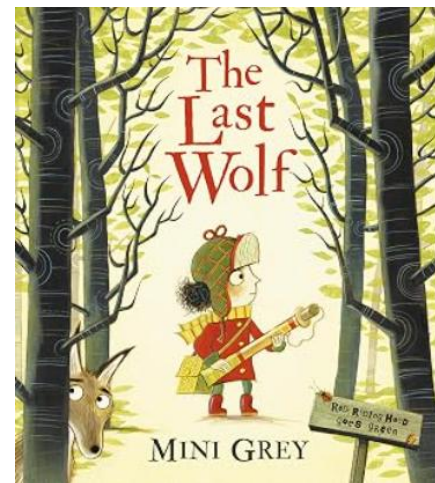
The children will develop their ability to discuss and share ideas, read with growing fluency and understanding, and write for a range of purposes and audiences while building a lifelong love of literature and storytelling. 📖 🐼 ✨

Welsh and French

We learn Welsh daily during 'Slot Drilio' sessions. These are quick, fun activities that reinforce vocabulary and sentence patterns.

We also have separate Welsh lessons to extend our knowledge of the Welsh language through new sentence patterns, vocabulary, reading and writing.

Our focus in French is greetings and simple phrases. Building on all the learning the children have completed last year, they will learn greetings, helping to develop their confidence, pronunciation, and enjoyment of the language.



Our September Right of the Month is:
Article 28 : The right to education.





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Numeracy

We will continue to foster a love of maths and this Autumn term we will continue to focus on place value, addition and subtraction - including parts and whole and as the term progresses we will include shape as part of our learning. We will also work on reasoning skills and put our maths to the real life test - just like during our 'Grow a £1' week where we will be busy shopping, calculating, evaluating and reflecting. The children will also be using Hwb and J2 Blast to practise their times tables. During the week practical activities will be out to help us develop our skills and have hands on experiences.

Science & Technology

Our Science topic for this term will be an investigation into changing shape. We will be looking at materials and asking these questions - How accurate were your predictions?

Was your test fair?

Which object was the hardest to deform?

Which object was the easiest to deform?

Did you notice any patterns in your results?

Which result was the most surprising?

We will of course have our exploration area open for the children to explore and wonder - and of course make a daily potion! If you have any spare spices/soaps/shower gels etc please send them in! It is a great way to discover language and develop thought processes.

Digital Skills (DCF Focus)

Throughout the year, we continue to develop our computer skills through focused computer lessons and applying skills across the curriculum. This term, we will focus on producing - the children will begin by making posters and ensuring they have a title. We will then move forth in making digital posters and using images online to make them vibrant. We will be using simple apps like 'Piccollage' to help us create these. Children will also be using a 'key word search' to help extract specific information.

We're always promoting online safety and ensuring that the children know how to keep themselves safe when using devices.



Hwb



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Humanities

This term, we will be using our topic work to develop our understanding of the History of Wales by exploring Welsh castles and discovering who lived in them, why they were built, and how they have helped to shape Wales over time. Through enquiry and investigation, the children will learn about important events from the past and make connections between history and the local area, exploring what is on our doorstep and how the places around us tell stories about Wales's rich heritage. As part of our learning, we will also celebrate Black History Month by finding out about the life and achievements of Martin Luther King Jr. and considering how his actions helped to bring about positive change and inspire fairness and equality. In addition, we will become young geologists as we investigate fossils and explore what lies beneath our feet, learning how evidence from the past can help us understand the world around us. Through discussion, observation and hands-on activities, the children will develop their curiosity, ask questions about the past, and begin to understand how people, places and environments change over time.

RVE

We will be exploring our big questions about Christianity and using the Christmas story to help us understand the story. We will be discussing 'God as a Creator' and delving into the meaning of 'advent'. We will also look at non religious world views. We will use this time to listen and begin to show an understanding of the values and beliefs of the people in our world and share the common value of 'respect' when we hear of different religions and values.





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Expressive Arts

This term, we will be developing our creativity and imagination through a range of exciting Expressive Arts experiences. As part of our Grow a Pound project, the children will explore different printing techniques to create their own designs on fabric, learning how patterns, colours and images can be used to communicate ideas. They will experiment with fabric paints and a variety of tools and materials, developing their confidence in making creative choices and evaluating their work. Through this process, learners will explore how art can be used for a real purpose while developing their skills in designing, creating and refining. We will also bring Welsh culture and heritage to life through drama by retelling and recreating the legend of the Welsh Dragon. The children will use movement, role play, storytelling and performance to express ideas, work collaboratively and build confidence in sharing their thoughts and emotions. Throughout these activities, learners will be encouraged and create imaginatively, developing the key Expressive Arts skills to create, explore and respond.

Health & Wellbeing

This term, we will continue to focus on the well-being of ourselves and others through our Think Equal programme, exploring stories that help us develop kindness, empathy and respect. The children will reflect on their own strengths and the qualities of their friends, learning how to build positive relationships and care for the world around them. In PE, we will begin the term with a variety of team games and cooperative challenges, encouraging children to communicate, support one another and show kindness that can be carried into the playground at breaktimes. Throughout all our learning, we will promote resilience, perseverance and cooperation, helping every child to grow in confidence and develop a positive attitude towards challenges. We aim to 'move more' as a school community - so keep your eyes peeled for some events where our families can also get involved - we cannot wait to share the fun with you all too!



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
Monday	PE	Please ensure children have a change of kit (shorts, t-shirt) and appropriate footwear for PE. We always encourage children to change before and after a PE lesson but they will always be able to do PE, even if they forget to bring their kit, providing they have suitable, safe footwear.
Monday	Library	Children have the chance to visit our School Library to select a reading book - this book will remain in school for the children to enjoy after PE to rest and relax.
Wednesday	Outdoor learning	Please ensure the children have wellies/ change of shoes and a waterproof coat for this day. However due to the way we learn please ensure waterproofs and wellies are left in school for each day.
Friday	PPA Spellings (PM)	Our PPA lead will be teaching the class Miss Short will be leading spellings on a Friday pm.



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Diary Dates

September

14.09.26 'Meet the Teacher' short presentation 3.15pm and 3.45pm
15/09/26 International Day of Democracy Pupil Groups Voting
16/09/26 National Fitness Day
21/09/26 Book Fayre
28/09/26 Book Fayre
23/09/26 Sea Turtles Trip to Caerphilly Castle

October

Black History Month
09/10/26 World Mental Health Day (for 10/10)
14.10.26 Flu Vaccination (R-Yr6)
15/10/26 Shwmae Day
19 & 20/10/26 Parents Evening
21/10/26 Harvest @ Tabernacle for Yr 3-6.
23/10/26 Harvest Morning N-2 (in school no parents)

November

10/11/26 World Science Day
8/11/26 Choir to sing at Remembrance Service Penclawdd
11/11/26 Remembrance Day
13/11/26 BBC Children In Need
16-20/11/26 Anti Bullying Week - Break the silence
16/11/26 Odd Sock Day
20/11/26 Universals Children's Day School

December

DATES TO FOLLOW



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**HOME
LEARNING**

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

[Penclawdd Primary School - Home Learning](https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=189&type=pdf)

How can you support at home

Spelling

Children do regular spelling activities throughout the week and are tested on their words each Friday. Please support your child by practising these words with them regularly.

Reading Books

We always encourage reading at home as much as possible. Children will take part in guided reading sessions, reading based work in their literacy as well as being listened to read during the school week.

Take a look at our termly reading spine for some wonderful books to read with your child.

<https://www.penclawddprimary.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=189&type=pdf>

One Minute Maths

White Rose Maths has a wonderful 'One Minute Maths' app - I would really encourage this and challenge your little one each day - they love it!

SeeSaw

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. Please also note seesaw will only be monitored by me during the hours of 8am-4.30pm.



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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