What a wonderful half term it has been in our Sea Turtle Class – it has been lovely to be back together and if you wonder why we might be a little wedi blino then pop the kettle on and have a little read of our learning this half term…

Dragons, Castles and Discoveries: Our Visit to Caerphilly Castle



Our Trip to Caerphilly Castle

We went on an exciting trip to **Caerphilly Castle** to start our new topic, **"Dragons, Castles and Discoveries."** It was so much fun exploring one of the biggest castles in Wales!

We walked around the huge castle walls, looked inside the different rooms and discovered lots of interesting things about life in a castle. We loved spotting the

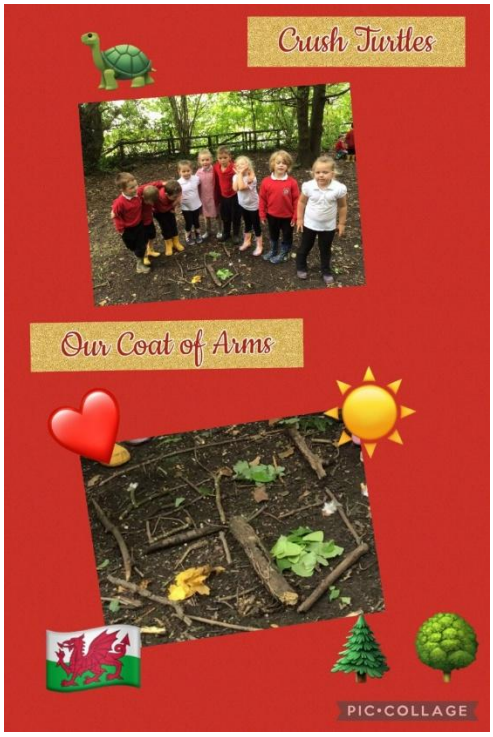
dragons in the castle grounds and our most favourite part was when we had the dragons' eggs.

We also loved our delicious lunch that we ate outside in the grand gardens. We had an explore up all the steps around the castle.

When we came back to school, we learned about the **Welsh dragon on our flag** and found out why it is such an important symbol of Wales. We shared our ideas and talked about dragons from Welsh stories and legends.

Our visit inspired our learning based on the story **"Tell Me a Dragon..."** We used our imaginations to create our own dragons and thought about what they looked like, where they lived and what special powers they might have. We then used exciting describing words to write about our dragons and bring them to life.

🏰🌳 **Our Outdoor Learning Coat of Arms Adventure** 🌳🏰



Our Sea Turtle Class Coat of Arms 🐢❤️🧢

We had lots of fun learning about **Caerphilly Castle** and the special **coats of arms** that people used a long time ago. We discovered that coats of arms used symbols to show what was important to people and their families.

After learning about this, we went outside into our woodland area to create our own **Sea Turtle class coat of arms**. We collected natural materials such as sticks, leaves and flowers and worked together to make a special design that represented our class.

Every part of our coat of arms had an important meaning. The leaves showed our love of nature and outdoor learning, the yellow flowers represented happiness and friendship, and the heart showed kindness, caring and being part of our school family. It also echoed our love for Wales!

We shared our ideas, listened to each other and explained why our chosen symbols were important. We learned that, just like people in the past, we can use symbols to tell others about who we are and what matters to us.

We enjoyed being creative with natural materials, experimenting with different shapes, patterns and textures to create our artwork together. Working outdoors helped us explore, discover and learn as a team.

We used the coat of arms to help us link the Welsh Princes to a timeline – we looked at the Middle Ages and found out facts about Prince Llewellyn the Great and his family – we then learnt how to put these Princes in timeline order.

💰 Our Maths Enterprise Adventure! 💰



We started the year by learning all about **money** through our exciting **Maths Enterprise project**. We had lots of fun recognising coins and notes, counting money and working out how much things cost.

To help us practise our new skills, we set up our own **class shop**. We took turns being customers and shopkeepers, bought items and counted out the correct amounts of money. This helped us learn how money is used in everyday life.

As part of our enterprise challenge, we wanted to raise money for our class. We went on an **apple hunt around our local community** and collected apples that had been kindly shared with us. We then used the apples to make tasty **apple crumble**, which we sold to raise money. This helped us learn where food comes from and how people can earn money by selling products.

We also designed and made our own **pencil cases**. We carefully planned our ideas, created our products and then sold them as part of our enterprise project. We learned that running a business takes teamwork, planning and good decision-making.

🌳🦊 Our Woodland Adventures Inspired by *The Last Wolf* 🦊🌳



We have loved reading the story ***The Last Wolf*** as part of our literature focus and, just like Little Red, we went on our own woodland adventures to explore the outdoors.

During our nature walks, we looked carefully at all the amazing things around us. We listened to the sounds of the woodland, felt different textures and discovered lots of interesting sights. We collected exciting describing words such as **rustling leaves**, **towering trees**, **twisting branches** and **golden sunlight** to help make our writing more interesting. We used our woodland journals to jot down adjectives and we were able to even use these adjectives to form a class poem reminding us of the loveliness the outdoors.

Using our ideas from the woodland, we wrote our own poems and used our words to paint pictures for our readers. We tried hard to describe the beauty and magic of nature.

As we explored, we also thought about how special our woodland area is and how we could make it even better. We worked together to share ideas and then wrote a persuasive letter to **Mrs R-M**, explaining why outdoor learning is important to us and suggesting ways to improve our woodland for both children and wildlife. We furthered our learning by writing to our school Senedd and offered them ideas on how we could improve our school grounds – watch this space!

Our woodland adventures helped us become better speakers, listeners and writers. We discovered that nature is a wonderful place to learn, explore and find inspiration. Just like Little Red, we learned that there is always something exciting waiting to be discovered outdoors! 🌿🍂📝🐺✨

🏰📕 Becoming Digital Historians and Dragon Designers! 🐉



This term, we have been learning all about **Caerphilly Castle** and developing our **digital skills**. Using laptops, we worked together to research facts about the castle, create posters and make videos to share what we had learned. We practised typing, choosing pictures and presenting our work for others to enjoy.

As we learned about castles, kings and knights, we used our imaginations to design and create our own dragons. We thought carefully about what our dragons would look like, where they would live and what special powers they might have. We also focused on the Welsh Princes and could begin to tell you about some of the prominent Welsh Princes.

Through this project, we developed lots of important skills. We learned how to use technology, work as a team, think creatively and solve problems. Most importantly, we discovered that mistakes help us learn and that, with determination and a positive attitude, we can achieve amazing things.

🎨 Exploring Tapestry and Clay ✨



This term, we have been exploring **tapestry and clay** to help extend our knowledge of Welsh history. We have looked at Welsh textiles and we also linked our learning to the ‘Bayeux Tapestry’ and began to understand that tapestry was a form of telling a story – we are going to create our own ‘Penclawdd Tapestry’ and have it on display just like the famous one!

We used colourful wool and felt to create our own woven patterns and pictures. We carefully threaded the wool through the holes and followed different designs, helping us to improve our fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Sometimes it was tricky, but we showed great perseverance and kept trying until we were happy with our work.

We also explored **clay**, using our hands to pinch, roll, shape and mould it into imaginative creations. We made our own clay dragons and we uses inspiration from our trip to Caerphilly Castle and also from the book ‘Tell Me a Dragon…’ We used our imagination to tell the special powers that our dragons have!

Throughout these activities, we shared our ideas, made choices about the materials we used and talked about our artwork with our friends. We learned that everyone can be creative in their own unique way.