



Magor Messenger

'Creating Strong Foundations, Developing Curious Minds'



Welcome to the March edition of our Magor Messenger!

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of another short but very busy half term we would like to share some of the learning that has taken place. The half term has had a distinctly international feel as we welcomed staff and pupils from schools in Malaga. Some of our Year 5 pupils will be going to Malaga in May for a return visit.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all our volunteers who have given up their time to help with school trips, reading and PTFA events. Without you many of these trips and events would not have taken place.

We are delighted Mrs Widdas is returning to school after Easter following her maternity leave. Mrs Widdas will be working as part of our Year 2 team. After 12 years of service to Magor Primary School, Mrs Cuff is leaving us at the end of this term to pursue a new career. We also say goodbye to Mrs Keyse for a short time as she begins her maternity leave. We would like to wish them both the very best.

And finally...as you know, I am leaving on the 30th April so this is the last time I will contribute to a Magor Messenger! Although I will be back for a few weeks after the Easter break, to ensure a smooth transition to Mrs Gordon and Miss Welsh we welcome Miss Graham as a Year 3 teacher from the beginning of the summer term.

I wish the whole school community every success for the future.

Have a lovely Easter break (don't eat too much chocolate!).

Mrs Hamer

Health and Safety.

Our school car park is always very busy, if you need to drive onto the school site to drop off or collect your child please notify the school office who will arrange for a pass to be issued. Please do not park in front of the school gates at any time. This prevents other vehicles from driving into or out of the car park and poses a hazard for our learners. If you do drive onto site, please do not block the zebra crossings and leave the car park as soon as you have dropped off or collected your child.

We always teach our children about road safety and hope parents would model this when bringing children to and from school. Please support the school to keep your child safe. The hill down to the front door is very steep, we often see children and adults coming down the road, children often running ahead of their adult. Pedestrians must use the pedestrian gate, the crossing point and the steps or ramp. Please hold hands with young children and ensure they walk beside you, using the path along the front of the school when walking to nursery.

Children know they are not to touch the green buttons on doors and gates in school, to ensure a consistent message please do not let them press the gate release button on the pedestrian gate at the top of the drive.

Bins

From the beginning of April, the Welsh Government has introduced new recycling legislation for businesses including schools. We will need to make some changes to ensure we meet our legal duty. If we don't adhere to this there is a possibility the school could be fined. The bigger the bin the more it will cost school. In this time of financial turmoil in schools we want to keep our costs to a minimum and spend our budget on what the children really need - staff and resources. Much of it is what we already do but we need to be better at it and need your support. We are also reinforcing recycling with the children. So what does this mean for school:

- Similar to all schools, all snacks must be fruit or vegetables. Any waste from these will go into our food waste bins that we share with the kitchen.
- Any rubbish from packed lunches will be sent home in lunch boxes.
- Please try to keep packaging to a minimum.

Attendance

In October 2023 Welsh Government issued new guidance to schools on attendance. Good attendance is recognised as 95% and above. The main change to the guidance is that any learner with less than 90% attendance is considered a persistent absentee. Previously it was 80%. For example, 10 days of absence gives an attendance figure of 94.7%.

As such, the Welsh Government will amend the statistical definition of persistent absence to over 10% of sessions.

Our Education Welfare Officer checks individual pupil attendance on a half termly basis, identifies those learners who are falling below the expected 90% and will expect the school to take action. In some circumstances you may be contacted directly by the Education Welfare Officer. Please see the link to the guidance below.

[Belonging, Engaging and Participating](#)

Progression Step 1

Nursery

Nursery began March with their musical composition and celebration of Wales with their handmade instruments on St David's Day. This ended a bendigedig week of Welsh art, exploration and even a Welsh tea. Nursery have also been busily preparing gifts in celebration of their wonderful Mums and have shared their thoughts about them. They have also been getting to grips with some traditional skills of sewing, hammering and clay work.



Dosbarth Mrs John

Reception have continued learning about Wonderful Wales. They have done so well learning a traditional Welsh dance, Jac Y Do; they have re-written a Welsh themed version of We're Going on a Bear Hunt , We're Going on a Dragon Hunt, which they performed brilliantly with their shakers they made, at our Eisteddfod! A highlight for the children was making and eating Welsh cakes on St. David's day. They have also been learning all about Palm Sunday and the Easter story and busy preparing for their assembly. World Book day was a hit and the children loved choosing a new book to take home, thanks to the PTFA and it was so lovely having the Y6s coming down to read the children's favourite books to them.



Progression Step 2

Dosbarth Mrs Jeffreys

We have enjoyed a fabulous trip to The Wild Place Project. It was such fun on the bus and having lunch in the play fort! We loved seeing the bears, zebras, giraffes and cheetahs. We were super proud of our class assembly in front of our grown ups, telling them about the Welsh myths and Legends. We know all about our local area, Wales and the wider world and have enjoyed exploring rhythm and beats in our music project.



Dosbarth Mrs Johnson

We have had a fantastic half term taking part in art, handwriting and story writing competitions ready for the St David's Day Eisteddfod. We have learnt lots of Welsh songs including the National Anthem. We all took part in producing an amazing assembly on Perseverance. Everybody spoke clearly with expression and the singing was outstanding. We have all created music to accompany our dragon poems and thoroughly enjoyed performing. We have given some very thoughtful and constructive evaluations and feedback to each other. We have been exploring and investigating sound and finding out how it travels. We have researched several facts about Alexander Bell and created information texts and had great fun making our own cup and string telephones. We even managed to use Welsh sentences to ask each other questions through our telephone!



Dosbarth Mrs Clarke

We have had a very busy few weeks in Year 2! We have celebrated St David's Day, World book day and we performed our Class Assembly in front of parents and some special visitors from Spain. We have continued with our expressive arts theme and have composed a piece of music to accompany our dragon poems. We made our own musical instruments and investigated how sound travels. We learnt lots of interesting facts about the invention of the telephone and wrote an information text about Alexander Bell. We even made our own telephones! To finish, our expressive arts theme had our own 'Top of the pops party!'



Dosbarth Mrs Morgan and Miss Welsh

Year 3 have been enjoying their sessions with Mrs Cawte. They were fantastic during the dance sessions and showed an amazing sense of rhythm. This was also reflected in the music sessions where they have been developing their composition skills. Year 3 have also been impressing Miss Welsh with their Welsh skills - using the past tense to talk about what they had done during the last school holidays. They also read two Welsh books - Llyfyr Llofion and Dewi Sant. Da iawn dosbarth 3! They have also enjoyed the Eisteddfod activities and their visit to the Museum of Welsh Life at St. Fagan's as part of the Wonderful Wales topic.



Progression Step 3

Dosbarth Miss Burgis

Year 4 have had an exciting half term celebrating everything Welsh! They competed in a range of competitions for the Eisteddfod and enjoyed learning about Welsh Coal Mining Heritage. They have immersed themselves into music and have enjoyed listening to a range of genres, investigating what materials block out sound and producing their own songs. Year 4 have developed their digital literacy skills by creating a digital book retelling the Easter story. They showed great enthusiasm when comparing the landscapes in Wales and Patagonia using Digimaps. Everyone has started to expand their hockey skills through dedicated sessions with Mrs Cawte. Alongside this, the class have engaged in World Book Day, Red Nose Day and a local trip to the Hub and Church. What a fantastic half term!



Dosbarth Mrs Phillips

Year 5 have enjoyed writing newspaper reports in Literacy about a Welsh dragon that turned up in Magor and how Eisteddfods in Wales and Patagonia differ. We spent time sharing books on World Book Day and we created our own book covers on Adobe express. Our rendition of Sospan Fach in the Eisteddfod was sung with 'Hwyl' and we all wrote amazing Welsh poems and stories for our competition entries. We loved our community day where we took part in the Commonwealth service at the church and visited the fantastic new Magor HUB. Diolch yn fawr to Kari and Mike for answering all our questions and letting us

have a tour of the building. Our swimming skills have been developing well at Caldicot Swimming pool this term and we are developing great teamwork in our Commando Joe sessions!



Dosbarth Miss Rourke

Year 5/6 have enjoyed celebrating St David's Day and Eisteddfod this term. They have written lovely poems based on the symbols of Wales and produced great landscape art using pastels that was inspired by Kyffin Williams. They have also become news reporters and used the digital skills to correctly format a newspaper article online based on the journey of the Mimosa. Our Year 6's thoroughly enjoyed their residential trip to Tregoyd and they had shown great bravery and enthusiasm for all activities that they were faced with. Some key basketball skills have been shown this half term in PE, all the children showed great skill when dribbling, attacking and defending.



Dosbarth Mrs James

The highlight of our half term has been the Y6 Residential to PGL Tregoyd House in the Brecon Beacons. Some of our activities were canoeing, abseiling, orienteering, climbing wall, zip wire, aeroball and a very muddy sensory trail! Fears were faced, friendships bonded and wonderful memories made.



World Book Day

A huge thank you to our PTFA who ensured that every child in the school had a book to take home! Thank you for all the organisation this took! Thank you also to anyone that donated books - it was much appreciated!



Pupil Leadership Teams Update

Here is an update from some of our Pupil Leadership Teams:

Criw Cymraeg - This half term, Criw Cymraeg have been busy sharing their 'Brawddeg yr Wythnos' (Sentence of the week) in both Celebration Assemblies in school and online. Follow our school X (Twitter) page to hear Criw Cymraeg help with pronunciation! During the Eisteddfod, Criw cymraeg announced the winner of the Tocyn Clonc competition. After Easter, each class teacher will award a Clonc (Chat) certificate, designed by Holly in Y5, to pupils who are using Welsh in and around school.

Young Climate Leaders – YCL have ordered a poly tunnel for the school. Following a grant secured by Mrs Cadden (Thank you!!) they have purchased further items to enhance our outdoor learning environments, including bird feeders and other gardening equipment.

Senedd Ysgol - Our School Council have led the school's Red Nose Day campaign - organising games and activities for the children to take part in. They have completed the February Monthly Matters for the Children's Commissioner for Wales. They were asked to consider what they would do if they were elected as the new First Minister. They carried out discussions and surveys and uploaded the most popular responses to Rocio Cifuentes.

Wellbeing Warriors - Our Warriors have been promoting healthy eating this half term. As part of the 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' they have been sharing information to help encourage each other to eat more vegetables!

Curriculum Champions - Our Curriculum Champions have launched their research project on Metacognition - looking at how well learners learn in Magor Primary. They have been asking their friends and family at home how they feel they learn best and what worked well for them when they were at school. Their next step is to interview pupils in school, followed by interviewing our school staff! We look forward to hearing what they find out.

Diary Dates: Confirmed **2023/2024** dates for your calendar:

Summer Term Dates

Monday 25th March - Friday 5th April - Easter Holidays

Monday 6th May - Bank Holiday (School closed)

Tuesday 7th May - **Training Day (School Closed)**

W/C 20th May - Pupils in Y2-Y6 to complete online Welsh Government National Assessments in school (Numeracy and Reading. Further details about these assessments for parents and carers can be found here: [Personalised Assessments - Information for Parents and Carers](#))

Wednesday 22nd May - Reception to Year 6 - 'Sharing Our Learning' event at 9am - 9.45am. Parents/carers to bring children into class via classroom doors at drop off to look at their child's learning in their classroom

Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May - Half Term

Monday 3rd June - **Training Day (School Closed)**

Thursday 20th June - Sport's Day: 9.30-10.30am - Dosbarth Mrs John and Dosbarth Mrs Jeffreys. 10.45-11.45am. – Dosbarth Mrs Johnson, Dosbarth Mrs Clarke and Dosbarth Mrs Morgan. 1.30-3.00 pm Dosbarth Miss Burgis, Dosbarth Mrs Phillips, Dosbarth Miss Rourke and Dosbarth Mrs James.

Thursday 27th June - Reserve Sport's Day if needed (times as above)

Friday 5th July - Reports to parents/carers

Monday 8th July 2024 - Y6 Leavers' Church Service St Woolos Cathedral (**pupils only**)

Wednesday 10th July - Year 6 Leavers 6pm-7.30pm (Tickets needed, further information to follow)

Thursday 11th July - Year 6 Leavers (2nd performance) 6pm-7.30pm

Friday 19th July – Last day of the school year

Confirmed Dates 2024/2025

Autumn Term Dates

Monday 2nd September - Training Day (School closed)

Friday 25th October - Training Day (School closed)

Term Dates: [School Times / Terms | Magor CIW Primary School](#)

More dates will be added as the term progresses. You can also check the school website calendar. Don't forget to follow us on 'X' for regular class and school updates!

Next Messenger Date: May 2024