



Magor Messenger

'Creating Strong Foundations, Developing Curious Minds'



Welcome to the February edition of our Magor Messenger!

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the halfway point of the school year, it is hard to believe how quickly the weeks have gone by. This half term has been a particularly productive and enriching one, and I wanted to take a moment to share some of the developments taking place across the school.

Over the past few weeks, we have been looking closely at how we can build even more authentic learning experiences into our curriculum. Staff have also begun exploring the emerging impact of artificial intelligence in education, considering the ways it may enhance teaching, learning, and future opportunities for our children. This has sparked some exciting professional dialogue that we look forward to developing further.

Alongside our work on teaching and learning, there have been some important improvements to the school environment. This week, we were delighted to welcome a team of volunteers from TSB, who have generously given their time to redecorate our new PS3 resource rooms. Their support has made a huge difference, and we are incredibly grateful for their contribution.

During the half-term break, large areas of the school will also be recarpeted, giving our learning spaces a fresh and welcoming feel. I look forward to sharing photos of these improvements with you when we return.

As we draw this half term to a close, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. I hope you all enjoy a safe, restful, and happy half term, and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 23rd February.

Warmest regards,

Anthony Dixon-Gough

Progression Step 1

Nursery

Nursery have been busy! We've started off our year by being 'penguins' as we were inspired by our story 'Penguin Huddle'. We investigated ice, freezing, melting and the effects of objects in our ice capsule. The children were excited to learn about science and lots of other new things.

For our topic we have looked at the wider community, the children's 'special places' and other places/communities that we might belong to. When looking at diversity we learnt about 'Hanukkah', we made dreidels and ate potato cakes to end our learning; we even shared them with Mr Dixon Gough!

For 'Children's mental health week' we read 'The Colour Monster'. This led us to create our own Nursery emotions book, where we used our faces to help express our feelings and why we sometimes feel that way. Our PE session that week was all about moving our bodies to how we were feeling; we especially liked giving our friends a hug for our 'love' emotion.

The Nursery children enjoyed learning all about the Chinese New Year - Year of the Horse. We performed our own Chinese dragon dance and ended the celebration with a delicious Chinese banquet; we tried lots of different foods.

Lastly, we celebrated Valentine's Day a bit early, where we made a symmetrical heart and a love spoon to take home and share with the people we love.



Dosbarth Mrs John

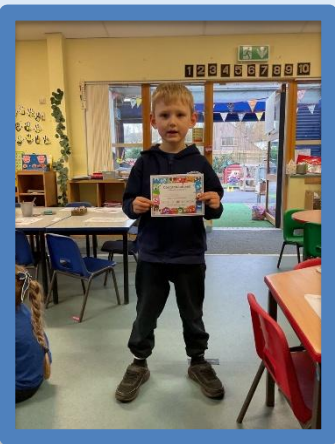
Our class enjoyed learning about life 'Long Ago'. They particularly enjoyed having a new baby visit, finding out how much they have changed, seeing photos of each other as babies whilst trying to guess who was who. Apparently, the grown-ups as babies were particularly funny! We also made a giant pictograph of our birth months! We took photos of each other and converted them to black and white to look like old photos, it was fun. We have listened to stories from long ago and have had fun playing games and making peg dolls. We are also looking forward to celebrating the end of our topic with our grown-ups at an old-time tea party! Reception have also been loving their Muddy Monday Forest School Sessions this half term and the opportunities to explore the site, learning to use simple tools safely and learning how to stay safe around a campfire. Our Muddy Mondays will be taking a break next half term but will hopefully be back after Easter.



Progression Step 2

Dosbarth Mrs Jeffreys

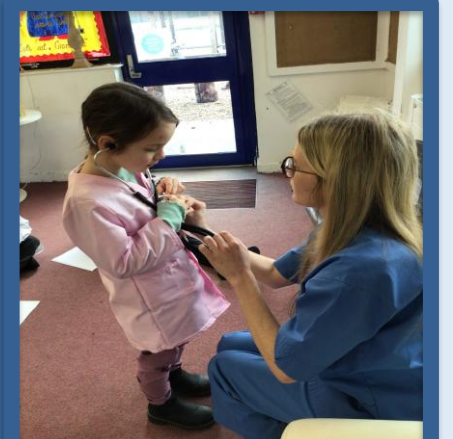
We loved learning about Childhood in the past. We started off learning about old and new when Mrs Jeffreys brought in toys from her childhood plus a one-hundred-year-old dolly. Some of us bought toys that belonged to parents and grandparents to share with the other children. We loved learning how to play old fashioned skipping, elastics and marbles with the help of our Year 6 friends. We finish the term with loose leaf tea and biscuits and porridge just like the children in the Magic Grandad series. In Maths we have worked on doubling and halving, finding the difference between two numbers and general number skills, working on numbers to one hundred. It is great fun persevering with our challenges and earning DOJO points is very exciting.



Dosbarth Mrs Johnson

This half term Dosbarth Mrs Johnson learnt all about the role of a nurse. On their WOW Day they had a visit from Nurse Alice who talked about her work and daily routines. The children asked her questions and were keen to look at the equipment she uses on a daily basis.

They wrote information texts about Betsi Cadwaladr, a very famous nurse who lived in Bala in North Wales, Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. They used their geographical skills to locate where each of these famous nurses travelled from to support and help soldiers in the Crimean War. Following on from this they considered how they can look after their own health. This then led to them investigate the importance of a balanced diet, regular exercise and plenty of sleep.

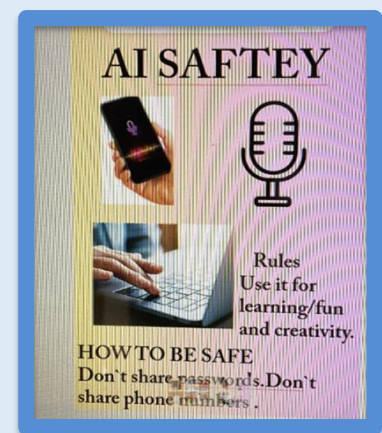
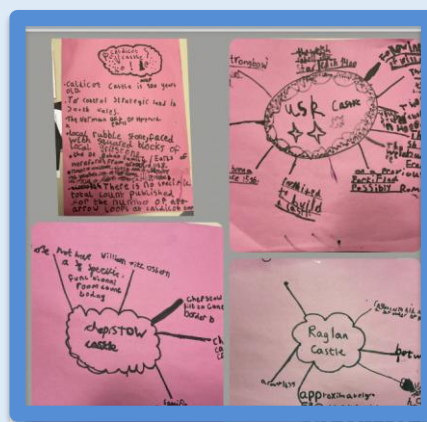


Dosbarth Mrs Clarke / Mrs James

This half term, Dosbarth Mrs Clarke / Mrs James thoroughly enjoyed exploring their topic, *Towers, Tunnels and Turrets*. The children produced an impressive range of authentic and engaging work, including labelling maps of Caldicot and Monmouthshire, completing a research project on Caldicot Castle, and writing a non-chronological report based on their findings. They also learned about the history of the Severn Tunnel and even constructed their own model tunnels. Using Google Earth, the class identified local castles and explored their locations in greater depth.

Across other areas of learning, the children created informative posters on using AI safely as part of Internet Safety Day. In maths, they began investigating fractions, and in RVE they have been developing their understanding of festivals and celebrations across different religions. In PE, the class has been working hard to improve their stamina through perseverance and consistent effort.

We are all very much looking forward to our school trip to Caerleon Roman Museum on Wednesday, 25th February 2026.



Dosbarth Mrs Morgan / Miss Welsh

Dosbarth Mrs Morgan / Miss Welsh enjoyed their topic of 'Tremors' where we have learned all about different types of weather. The children wrote some fabulous poetry on the theme of volcanoes and have been learning about Pompeii and the devastation caused by the eruption of Mount Etna.

Year 3 also enjoyed creating dances on the theme of weather and sketched Hokusai's 'The Great Wave'. In RVE we explored the concept of global citizenship - looking at the story of creation in a range of faiths and sharing ideas of how we can care for God's world.



Dosbarth Miss Burgis

It has been a fun-filled and exciting half term, immersing ourselves in the fascinating world of the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. We explored the impact their arrival had on Wales, compared their daily life in the with life today, and used maps to locate key invasion sites.

In expressive arts, we developed new skills in clay modelling, carefully crafting our own Viking artefacts to trade with one another during our fantastic WOW Day. In maths, we sharpened our understanding of grid coordinates by locating Viking longboats on maps.

During Children's Mental Health Week, we explored the meaning of belonging and reflected thoughtfully on the places where we feel happy and safe.

To celebrate Red, White and Green Day, we used our digital skills to design a birthday card for Mr Urdd using Adobe Express. Half term on a high note, with everyone working incredibly hard to learn and confidently perform in our class assembly, which focused on the value of Courage.



Dosbarth Miss Paul

This term, Dosbarth Miss Paul began their new topic, *Pits and Ponies*, learning about child labour and what life was like for those who worked down in the mines. We especially enjoyed stepping back in time to create our own newspaper reports, as well as producing striking artwork of the mines using coal.

More recently, we designed posters for Children's Mental Health Week, reflecting on the importance of kindness and how small actions can make a big difference.

We explored a range of thoughtful ways to make others feel happy and valued, which led to the creation of our wonderful "Have You Filled a Cup Today?" board – a colourful reminder of how kindness helps everyone feel supported and cared for.



Dosbarth Miss Rourke

We had a busy half term learning all about the Tudor era and how they lived during that period. We travelled through the Tudor family tree and learnt about how the Tudor era became a moment in time, we showed this through our dramatic retellings of the Battle of Bosworth. We also looked at the famous Henry VIII and recognised how his actions affected how the classes lived through the reformation and comparing the lives of the rich and poor through food, houses, clothing and many other things. We also had the chance to work in a Tudor kitchen and test different ingredients to make food that the different classes would have eaten e.g. pottage and apple spiced buns. We also looked at testing our computational thinking skills by testing algorithms and using our knowledge of coding to programme micro: bits into creating different outputs.

Finally, as a class we have shown some great skill in our PE lessons by taking part in gymnastics sessions that involve using the indoor climbing frame to test strength, balance and coordination.



Dosbarth Mrs James

Year 6's half term learning was the Social and Industrial Revolution and what it was like to live in Victorian times. We looked at the many inventions from that era, how they made life easier and how they have developed today. We found out about how the rise of industrialisation led to difficult living conditions and through studying Oliver Twist, we found out about life in the workhouse.

We used our maths skills to calculate profit and loss during a Victorian antiques sale and were horrified to find out about how germs were spread so quickly during this time, before Lister discovered that having clean hands and water was vital to keep away bacteria and infection. We celebrated Martin Luther King Day with our class worship for parents and were lucky enough to have some extra gym sessions with Mrs Cawte.



Pupil Leadership Teams:

Wellbeing Warriors

Our Wellbeing Warriors wrote a presentation on healthy eating and are in the process of planning a whole school incentive to encourage healthy eating at break time.

Ysgol Senedd

This half term school council collated their findings from their survey about class rewards. They have put together a poster with ideas for reaching each goal. Most of the classes are heading towards their 5000 whole class dojo points reward and are really looking forward to choosing what they would like to do!

WAVE Team

Our WAVE team delivered an assembly on our value of truthfulness and evaluated our collective worship.

Young Climate Leaders

Our Young Climate Leaders collaborated together to see what achievements and goals we would like to succeed in for the rest of the year. It has been decided that we will be working towards our Royal Horticultural Society levels. As a group we submitted evidence to support level 1, and we are happy to see we have achieved that level. We received a certificate, new seeds and a gardening book to support us as we work towards level 2.

Diary Dates: Confirmed **2025/2026** dates for your calendar:

Spring Term 2026

HALF TERM - 16th-20th February

Tuesday 24th February - Dosbarth Mrs Clarke / Mrs James class assembly. In the school hall from 9.10am.

Friday 27th February - St. David's Day celebrations - children may come to school dressed in Welsh themed clothing or colours of the Welsh flag.

Thursday 5th March - World Book Day - Pupils to wear school uniform - The PTFA will be providing each child with a book of their choice, and the day will be filled with literacy-rich activities!

Monday 16th March – Mothering Sunday Service – Nursery and Reception children 9.30am, parents welcome.

Tuesday 17th March - Parent Consultation Evening in the school hall. From 3.30pm details, including online dates to follow.

Wednesday 18th March - Parent Consultation Evening in the school hall. From 3.30pm details, including online dates to follow.

Tuesday 24th March - Dosbarth Mrs Morgan / Miss Welsh class assembly. In the school hall from 9.10am.

Thursday 26th March – Easter services at St. Mary's Church - Parents welcome.

Reception to Year 3 at 10.15am,

Year 4 to Year 6 at 11.00am.

Summer Term 2026

Tuesday 14th April - Dosbarth Mrs Johnson class assembly. In the school hall from 9.10am.

Tuesday 28th April- Dosbarth Mrs Jeffreys class assembly. In the school hall from 9.10am.

Tuesday 12th May - Dosbarth Mrs John class assembly. In the school hall from 9.10am.

Tuesday 19th May - Dosbarth Miss Paul class assembly. In the school hall from 9.10am.

Friday 22nd May - Reports to Parents

Monday 1st June - Training Day (School & Nursery closed to all pupils)

Wednesday 3rd June - Sports Day - Children to please come into school in the school PE kit. Please bring a hat and water bottle and come into school wearing sunscreen if appropriate.

9.30-10.30am - Dosbarth Mrs John and Dosbarth Mrs Jeffreys

10.45-11.45am – Dosbarth Mrs Johnson, Dosbarth Mrs Clarke/Mrs James, Dosbarth Mrs Morgan/Miss Welsh

1.30-3.00pm - Dosbarth Miss Burgis, Dosbarth Miss Paul, Dosbarth Miss Rourke, Dosbarth Mrs James.

Wednesday 10th June - Reserve Sports Day in case of poor weather. Timings as above.

Monday 15th June – Eucharist 9.30am school hall. Years 4 to 6 children. Parents Welcome.

Wednesday 24th June - Reception to Year 6 - 'Sharing Our Learning' event, 9.00am-9.40am. Parents/carers to bring children into their classroom via classroom doors from the yard **at drop off** to look at their child's learning in their classroom if they wish. Parents leave via classroom doors as children go to assembly.

Tuesday 7th July - Year 6 Leavers Performance 6.00pm (All pupils to return to school at 5.30pm)

Thursday 9th July - Year 6 Leavers Performance 6.00pm (All pupils to return to school at 5.30pm)

Monday 13th July – Church services at St. Mary's Church - Parents welcome.

Reception to Year 2 at 1.15pm,

Years 3 & 4 at 1.50pm,

Leavers service for Years 5 & 6 at 2.30pm.

Monday 20th July - Training Day (School & Nursery closed to all pupils)

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 'Bluesky' for regular class and school updates!