



# 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 end of another successful half term, I find myself reflecting on the first few weeks of 2025. It has been a busy and productive few weeks, and I am incredibly proud of the hard work and dedication shown by both our staff and pupils.

This term, we had the pleasure of welcoming Estyn into our school. Their visit was a valuable opportunity to reflect on our progress, and we are pleased that they recognised the areas for development that we had previously identified. This reaffirms our commitment to continuous improvement and ensuring the best possible educational experiences for our children.

There has been no lull following the visit - our staff continue to work tirelessly to provide the highest standards of teaching and learning. Their unwavering dedication to our school community is truly commendable, and I extend my sincere gratitude to them for their efforts.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to you, our parents and carers, for your ongoing support. Your partnership is invaluable in helping us create a nurturing and ambitious learning environment for our children.

I wish you all a restful half term break and I look forward to seeing you when we return on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

Anthony Dixon-Gough

## Pupil Assessments

This half term, the children have completed the Welsh Government online assessments. Details will follow of how you can access their assessment information.

## 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 new things and that we were learning SCIENCE!

Our topic has been able to cover the wider community and the children have been looking at their 'special places' and other places/communities that we might belong to. As part of looking at diversity we learnt about 'Hanukkah', we made dreidels and ate potato cakes to end our learning...Mr Dixon Gough even joined us!



Next, we celebrated Santes Dwynwen Hapus, where we made a love spoon to take home and share with the people we love. The Nursery children have enjoyed learning all about the Chinese New Year - year of the snake. We made a Chinese dragon and walked around the school wishing everyone 'Kung Hei Fat Choy'. We ended the celebration with a Chinese banquet.



As part of 'Children's mental health week' we have been reading 'The colour monster'. We have also made our very own Nursery emotions book, where we have used our faces to help express our feelings and why we sometimes feel that way.

### Dosbarth Mrs John

Dosbarth Mrs John have really enjoyed their topic of Long Ago. They have particularly enjoyed exploring the discovery boxes, from Chepstow Museum, with their fascinating artefacts from long ago, as well as some of Mrs. Jeffreys' old toys! We have thought about the similarities and differences between now and then too. We have enjoyed listening to music from long ago and thinking about how it makes us feel; been inspired by art works of famous artists from long ago and revisited some old fairy tales. In maths we have been working on our addition and subtraction, as well as making equal groups, sharing and learning to count in 2s and 10s! Ffantasteg!



### Progression Step 2

#### Dosbarth Mrs Jeffreys

We have enjoyed our Humanities topic - Childhood. We have really loved finding out about toys in the past and have been able to play with some of Mrs Jeffreys' treasures, even playing marbles! We know about kitchens and bathrooms in the olden days and we have enjoyed having porridge and real tea from a teapot like 'Magic Grandad' in the past. We have been learning about capacity and counting in 2's, 5' and 10's. We can say our likes and dislikes in Welsh and talk about what we like doing. Arderrchog!!



**Dosbarth Mrs Johnson**

This half term we have been exploring how things have changed over time. We have been finding out how nursing has changed and the huge influence that Florence Nightingale and Betsi Cadwaladr had on the improvement in hospitals and health care. We have had a visitor from a nurse to explain to us all about her job and have been lucky enough to watch a drama produced by a theatre company called, 'Her Story' all about the life of the Welsh nurse Betsi. We are really looking forward to our trip to The Dean Heritage Centre where we will take part in a Victorian workshop, complete the Gruffalo trail and will have the opportunity to explore the artefacts in the museums.



**Dosbarth Mrs Clarke and Mrs Gordon**

We have enjoyed our project 'Towers, tunnels and Turrets' this half term! Particular highlights have been our class visit to Cardiff Castle and our 'Knights and Princesses' Day in school. We enjoyed learning what a typical day living in a castle would look like and had fun designing our own castles! We created our own legends inspired by the legend of Rhita Fawr, the giant vanquished by King Arthur on Mount Snowdon! We are so proud of all the children for the work they completed for our Eisteddfod. We had fun performing our Welsh folk dance 'Y Delyn Newydd' and singing 'Aderyn Melyn'!



### **Dosbarth Mrs Morgan and Miss Welsh**

We have really enjoyed our topic of 'Castle and Kingdoms' this half term which culminated in a visit to Cardiff Castle where they met a real knight! The children loved the trip and enjoyed the visit to the castle which was built on the site of a Roman fort! We have also enjoyed learning about castles in Wales, castle defences and what life was like in medieval times. We decided that we are definitely very lucky to have all our modern comforts! Especially flushing toilets! The children have written newspaper reports about the Battle of Hastings, learnt about clothing in Welsh and enjoyed reading George's Marvellous Medicine too!



### **Progression Step 3**

### **Dosbarth Miss Burgis**

We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the past through our 'Traders or Invaders' topic. As a class we have explored a range of Welsh kings and their roles in defending Wales against invasions. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring Anglo-Saxon and Viking life through a range of research and role play. We have been learning about the importance of artefacts and the role they play in telling us about life in the past. A true highlight was using a range of artistic materials and natural resources to create our own artefacts. This half term we have focused on our wellbeing through partaking in Children's Mental Health Week and a range of sports with Mrs Cawte. We enjoyed immersing ourselves in Welsh culture through completing creative tasks for the Eisteddfod, singing Welsh songs and learning a traditional dawnsio gwerin dance.



### **Dosbarth Mrs Phillips**

We have all enjoyed our topic 'Pits and Ponies' this term. Our topic launched with a 'memorable experience' where we had a wonderful visit from an ex-miner, Andy Marles. The children thoroughly enjoyed hearing about working life in the coal mines of Wales and exploring all the equipment that was used in the coal pits. We have been discovering what life was like for children who worked in the mines and the types of jobs they had to do. We went to Big Pit in Blaenavon for our class trip. We travelled 90 metres underground and had a tour of the tunnels and we realised how cramped and cold it would have been to work there. It was super dark when we turned our helmet lights off and only a little bit spooky! Our assembly was a great success and we enjoyed sharing our wonderful learning experiences to our family and friends.



### Dosbarth Miss Rourke

We have really enjoyed taking part in our 'Roses and Royals' topic this half term. We have learnt about the life of King Henry VIII and explored how the Tudors rose to power through family trees and work on the Battle of Bosworth. We looked at the gruesome side of Tudor Medicine and became fashion designers looking at the clothes they would have worn depending on their social status. We really enjoyed our Tudor cooking day where we completed a blindfold smell test looking at ingredients that were used in the Tudor times and cooked our own poor vs rich meal. Dosbarth Miss Rourke also took part in their own class assembly to parents this half term and they focused on Children's Mental Health Week, they looked at strategies to help keep a positive mental health as well as including drama and singing from the one and only Elvis.



### Dosbarth Mrs James

We have had a busy half term finding out about social and industrial revolution during the Victorian era. We had an amazing visit from Her Story theatre company, who brought the story of Betsi Cadwaladr to life and made some persuasive leaflets to pitch our Victorian inventions to Queen Victoria. She was particularly amused by the flushing toilet! We used digimap software to investigate population migration and the growth of towns and cities and conducted experiments to show the importance of hand hygiene. The pupils wrote their own class assembly based on our school value of compassion, which we performed to parents and carers.



## **Pupil Leadership Teams:**

### **WAVE Team**

This half term our WAVE team have delivered an assembly to teach the rest of the school about the value of Respect. They have also been looking at how we celebrate diversity across the school.

### **Wellbeing Warriors**

Our Wellbeing Warriors have been helping children across the school to think about self-esteem. We shared a video with our classes and talked about how we can 'build each other up' with positivity.

### **Young Climate Leaders**

Our Young Climate Leaders took part in the RSPB Wild Challenge this half term by participating in the Big Bird Watch. They ventured into forest schools and observed which animals they could see around the school grounds. They then shared with their peers what they had done and provided them with worksheets to complete the Big Bird Watch at home.

**Diary Dates:** Confirmed **2024/2025** dates for your calendar:

### **Spring Term Dates**

#### **Monday 24th February - HALF TERM WEEK**

**Thursday 6th March** - World Book Day - pupils to wear school uniform. PTFA will provide every pupil with a free book and the day will be filled with literacy-rich activities.

**Tuesday 11th March** - Dosbarth Miss Burgis Class Assembly, 9.15am in the School Hall, parents and carers welcome

**Tuesday 25th March** - Dosbarth Mrs Morgan / Miss Welsh Class Assembly, 9.15am in the School Hall, parents and carers welcome.

**Tuesday 8th April** - Dosbarth Mrs Gordon / Mrs Clarke Class Assembly, 9.15am in the School Hall, parents and carers welcome.

**Thursday 10th April** - Church Services - 10.15am for Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3 pupils, 11.00am for Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. School uniform to be worn to school please.

**Friday 11th April** - Training Day (School & Nursery closed to all pupils).

### **Summer Term Dates**

**Tuesday 6th May** - Dosbarth Mrs Johnson Class Assembly, 9.15am in the School Hall, parents and carers welcome.

**Tuesday 13th May** - Dosbarth Mrs Jeffreys Class Assembly, 9.15am in the School Hall, parents and carers welcome.

**Tuesday 20th May** - Dosbarth Mrs John Class Assembly, 9.15am in the School Hall, parents and carers welcome.

**Friday 23rd May** - Annual Written Reports out to parents and carers

#### **Monday 26th May - HALF TERM WEEK**

**Monday 2nd June** - Training Day (School & Nursery closed to all pupils).

**Wednesday 18th 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 Gordon/Clarke, Dosbarth Mrs Morgan/Welsh

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

**Monday 23rd June** - Reserve Sports Day; timings as above.

**Tuesday 24th June** - Parent / Teacher consultations - Face to Face. (Online dates to follow)

**Wednesday 25th June** - Parent / Teacher consultations - Face to Face. (Online dates to follow)

**Wednesday 2nd July** - Nursery 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. Parents leave via classroom doors as children go to assembly.

**Monday 21st 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 'X' for regular class and school updates!

*Next Messenger Date: April 2025.*