

NANT CELYN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter Autumn Term - Friday 5th December 2025
THE VALUE OF THE MONTH IS ...
HUMILITY

INSET Days

19th December 2025 17th July 2026 20th July 2026

There will be one more INSET day announced shortly.

'Stars in Our Schools' Award

On Friday, 28th of November the whole of Nant Celyn came together as UNISON Cymru regional secretary Jess Turner and school support staff forum chair Sara Allen presented the 'Stars in Our Schools' award to Miss Goodland at a special assembly.

Miss Goodland's work as family liaison officer helps children and families feel supported, welcomed and understood. Miss Goodland, was chosen from entries from across the whole of Wales with parents commenting on the nomination forms how much her kindness and dedication meant to them.

Here are some photos from Friday's celebration. A huge well done to Miss Goodland and to every school support worker in Nant Celyn and across Wales who makes a difference every single day.



Thank You and Good Luck

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Richards, Senior School Support Officer, who will be leaving us next week to take up a new role at Abersychan Comprehensive. Although she has only been with us a short time, her dedication, daily positivity, and unfailing help to parents, staff, and pupils have made a significant impact. She will be greatly missed by all, and we wish her every success in her new position.

Christmas Concert Dates

- Dosbarth Oak Christmas Craft-a-Long - Invites have already been sent out to Nursery parents with time slots.
Wednesday 10th December 9:10-10:10am and 10:20-11:20am
12:40-1:40pm and 1:50-2:50pm
Thursday 11th December 9:10-10:10am and 10:20-11:20am
12:40-1:40pm and 1:50-2:50pm
- Dosbarth Beech and Dosbarth Rowan Christmas Concert - 15th and 16th December @ 9:45am
- Dosbarth Chestnut, Dosbarth Willow and Dosbarth Cherry Christmas Concert - 9th December @ 9:45am and @ 1:45pm
- Dosbarth Yew, Dosbarth Redwood, Dosbarth Ash and Dosbarth Hazel Christmas Concert - 8th December @ 10:00am and @1:45pm
- Dosbarth Walnut, Dosbarth Maple, Dosbarth Elm and Dosbarth Elder Carol Concert - 11th and 12th December @ 1:45pm



Class Updates from the Teachers

Dosbarth Willow - Mrs Evans

Dosbarth Willow really have been getting into the Christmas spirit this week! We have been working hard to plan, prepare and sell our chocolate at the Christmas fete. We worked hard on posters to advertise the event and we worked together to count the profit that we made - a whopping £28.50p! We have been wrapping presents, decorating the tree and a naughty elf has arrived in class to cause mischief for our teachers! On top of allllllllllll of this, we have been working our socks off to put together a fantastic Christmas concert for you all next week. We cannot wait for you to see the 'Jingle bell bash!'.



Dosbarth Cherry - Miss Jones

Dosbarth Cherry have had a busy and exciting week planning and preparing for our stall at the Christmas fête. After voting on our favourite idea and recording our results in a tally chart, Christmas chocolates were declared the winner. As we have been learning all about melting and freezing, we knew exactly how to create the perfect festive shapes. With the help of our teachers, we melted the chocolate and poured it into Christmas moulds before bagging up our finished treats. When the big day arrived, our stall was a great success and we almost sold out! Today, we used our maths skills to calculate that we made £28.50 in total. After subtracting the £7.00 spent on ingredients, we discovered that we made a fantastic £21.50 profit. It's been a wonderful week of showing our excellent enterprising skills.



Dosbarth Yew - Miss Kapas

What a wonderfully busy few weeks we've had in Dosbarth Yew! We've been diving into our brand-new topic, Melting Mayhem, and the children have created some truly beautiful topic pages to kickstart our learning. As part of our RSE focus, we explored what it means to be a good friend. We talked about the things that can hurt a friendship and, most importantly, how we can sort problems out together. The children shared thoughtful ideas and showed great maturity.

We have been practising very hard for our Christingle performance and cannot wait to share it with you soon. We also began planning our Enterprise project for the school fete. After voting on the games, we'd like to run, we worked out how much to charge so that we can make a profit towards our Christmas party afternoon. Lots of brilliant mathematical thinking and teamwork on show!

Excitement has also filled the classroom with the arrival of our cheeky elves, Buddy and Legolas! Keep an eye out for daily updates about their festive mischief.

To finish our busy week, we enjoyed a fantastic beanbag challenge session in PE, which the children absolutely loved. A great end to a week!

Well done, Dosbarth Yew—da iawn pawb!



Dosbarth Hazel

Dosbarth Hazel have been super busy preparing for this week's Christmas Fair! We decided that decorated biscuits would be a popular item to sell. We created mood boards by researching ideas. We then investigated the prices of the items at several different supermarkets to find the most and least expensive places to buy our ingredients. Finally, we made our biscuits and created posters to advertise our biscuit sale. If you were lucky enough to buy one, we hope you enjoyed it!

We are really looking forward to seeing you at our Christmas performances on Monday 8th December at 9.45am and 1.45pm. Don't forget your Christmas jumpers if you have one!



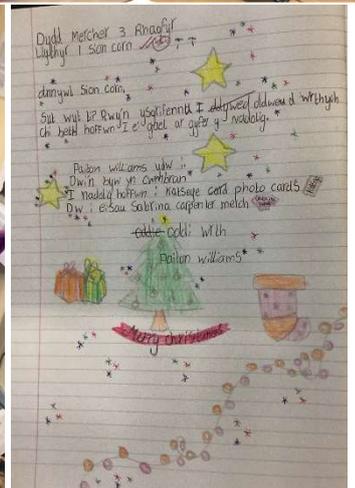
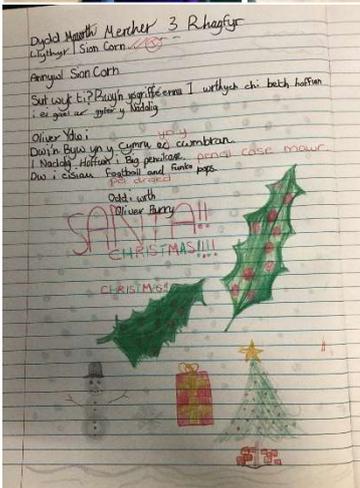
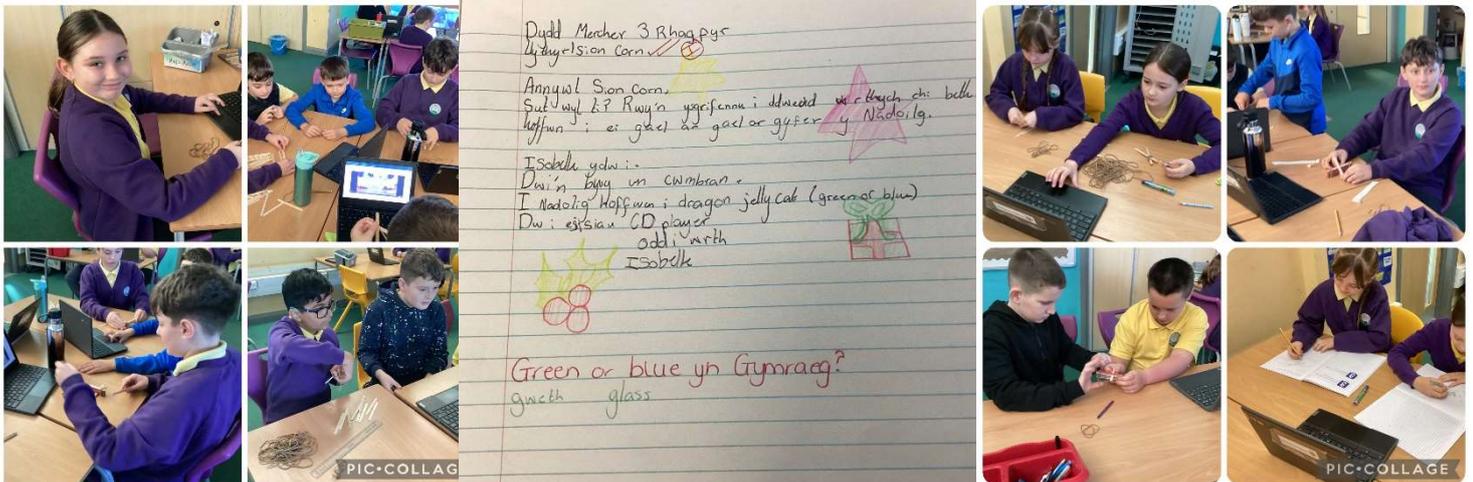
Dosbarth Walnut - Miss Riley

This week in Dosbarth Walnut we have done lots of expressive arts. We learnt how to draw in 3D and used this to help design our Christmas enterprise ornaments. We then made our ornaments from salt dough and decorated them. We loved selling them at the fete.



Dosbarth Elm - Mrs Denham

Dosbarth Elm have enjoyed a wonderfully busy few weeks! We've stepped into the shoes of real engineers by building our own catapults and testing our hypotheses to discover which projectiles could travel the furthest. Everyone showed brilliant teamwork, problem-solving, and plenty of enthusiasm during our investigations. We've also been getting into the festive spirit by using our growing Welsh knowledge to write our Christmas wishes to Santa—yn Gymraeg! Alongside this, we've been hard at work creating our fantastic Christmas enterprise products, showing creativity and entrepreneurial skills.



DRB - Miss Evans

What a busy few weeks we've had!

We started by catching the bus into town to take part in a Panathlon event at Bowlplex. Everyone had an amazing time, and our mixed DRB and ASD team did brilliantly, securing an impressive 2nd place!

In celebration of this year's Deaflympics, we explored the different events and the countries that have hosted them. To mark the opening, we invited our friends from the deaf bases at Cogan and Coed Glas to join us for our very own *Destination Deaflympics*. It was a truly lovely day, and it was wonderful to reconnect with friends from other bases.

As part of Nursery Rhyme Week, we've been enjoying some of our favourite rhymes—especially jumping off logs like little speckled frogs! And today, we're off to watch a signed pantomime performance of *Rapunzel*. We're all very excited!



HQ2 - Miss Williams

The last few weeks have been full of excitement in HQ2 as the children explored space! They learnt about where we live in the universe and discovered different planets. A highlight was our science experiment making fizzy planets, which the children loved listening to the fizz. In cooking, they continued the theme by creating moon rice cakes. We've also begun getting into the Christmas spirit, with the children helping to decorate the classroom and make it feel festive. We're looking forward to more Christmas fun as we head into the final weeks of term.



Heddlu Bach Update

This week Heddlu Bach had the lovely opportunity to visit Hollylodge care home. They enjoyed making some Christmas crafts with the residents and having a good socialise. The children were extremely kind and caring. A big thank you to Miss Goodland and Miss Taylor for taking us.



Dates for your Diary

Please see below some of the upcoming dates for this term. To ensure that you always know what is going on and any date changes, please check the online school calendar by clicking here

[ONLINE SCHOOL CALENDAR](#)

DATES IN THE NEWSLETTER MAY CHANGE AND WILL NOT BE REFLECTED UNTIL THE NEW NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED.

Date	Event
December	
Week Beginning 08.12.2025	Last Week of After School Clubs
08.12.2025	Dosbarth Yew, Dosbarth Redwood, Dosbarth Ash and Dosbarth Hazel Christmas Concert - 8 th December @ 10:00am and @1:45pm
09.12.2025	Dosbarth Chestnut, Dosbarth Willow and Dosbarth Cherry Christmas Concert - 9 th December @ 9:45am and @ 1:45pm
10.12.2025	Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day There will be no pasta bar or jacket potato lunch option on this day. Children are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers on this day.
10.12.2025	Dosbarth Oak Christmas Craft-a-Long Please see your invites that have already been sent home for your timeslot. Morning Nursery 9:10am - 10:10am and 10:20am - 11:20am Afternoon Nursery 12:40pm - 1:40pm and 1:50pm - 2:50pm

11.12.2025	Santa Visit to Greenmeadow Community Farm Reception to Year 2 - Please book using Civica Pay.
11.12.2025	Dosbarth Oak Christmas Craft-a-Long Please see your invites that have already been sent home for your timeslot. Morning Nursery 9:10am - 10:10am and 10:20am - 11:20am Afternoon Nursery 12:40pm - 1:40pm and 1:50pm - 2:50pm
11.12.2025	Dosbarth Walnut, Dosbarth Maple, Dosbarth Elm and Dosbarth Elder Carol Concert @ 1:45pm
12.12.2025	Dosbarth Walnut, Dosbarth Maple, Dosbarth Elm and Dosbarth Elder Carol Concert @ 1:45pm
Week Beginning 15.12.2025	No After School Clubs
15.12.2025	Dosbarth Beech and Dosbarth Rowan Christmas Concert @ 9:45am
16.12.2025	Dosbarth Beech and Dosbarth Rowan Christmas Concert @ 9:45am
18.12.2025	Panto - Congress Theatre for Year 3 to Year 6 pupils (incl.HQ2)
18.12.2025	End of Autumn Term for Pupils
19.12.2025	INSET DAY - SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
January 2026	
05.01.2026	SCHOOL REOPENS FOR SPRING TERM

Please note dates and times may change, but we will endeavour to give as much advance notice of this.

Class Assemblies and Open Afternoons Below

- Dosbarth Maple (Mrs Davies) and Dosbarth Walnut (Miss Riley) Class Assembly - 26th March @ 2:00pm
- Dosbarth Hazel (Mrs Yoxall) and Dosbarth Ash (Mr Ashford) Class Assembly - 23rd April @ 2:00pm
- Dosbarth Redwood (Miss Evans) and Dosbarth Yew (Miss Kapas) Class Assembly - 7th May @ 2:00pm
- Dosbarth Chestnut (Mrs Eden), Dosbarth Willow (Mrs Evans) and Dosbarth Cherry (Miss Jones) Class Assembly - 10th July @ 2:00pm
- Dosbarth Oak (Miss Hall-Stark) Class Assembly - 13th July @ 9:45am and @ 1:45pm

Foodbanks in Cwmbran and Torfaen

Please see below a list of the Foodbanks that are available to offer support in Cwmbran.

Victory Church (Cwmbran) is able to offer a range of support to families including money management, counselling, food-bank and youth/children's work as well as a range of recovery programmes for anyone struggling with addictions.

If you require support, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Family Liaison Officer who will be able to help you, or point you in the right direction.

Eastern Valley Food Bank Unit 5 Pavilion Industrial Estate Pontnewynydd Pontypool Tel: 01495 760608	Salvation Army Wesley Street Old Cwmbran NP44 3LX Wednesdays 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Victory Church Cwmbran Greenforge Way Cwmbran Tel: 01633 867401	Ebenezer Evangelical Church Pontnewydd Cwmbran Tuesdays 1.00 - 4.00 p.m.
Trac 2 Charity Shop and Outreach Offices Shop 2/Church Avenue Pontypool Tel: 01495 764078	CoStar Hwb Fairwater Close Tel: 01633 869227

Staying Safe with New Devices at Christmas

Many children may be having a new device for Christmas. Please see some advice on how to help keep children safe but still enjoy their new digital gifts safely and responsibly.

The 12 Online Safety Tips of Christmas FOR CHILDREN WITH NEW DEVICES

Christmas is almost upon us once again, and soon some lucky children will be excitedly tearing the wrapping off a new mobile phone, tablet or games console. For some of them, it will be the first time they've owned a device that connects them to the online world. Even for older children, a new device means new corners of the digital landscape to explore – and, unfortunately, new risks to be aware of.

We've put together our top tips so that you can guide your young ones in enjoying their new digital gifts safely and responsibly throughout the year to come. Merry Christmas!

- 1. ALWAYS SET A PASSWORD**
If your child's new device has a password protection feature, use it! It'll help to keep their private information safe and will deny others access to their device without permission. Your children's passwords should be something memorable to them – but something which other people can't guess (it's also a good idea for parents to write it down in case it gets forgotten!).
- 2. SET UP 'PARENTAL CONTROLS'**
This really is an essential when your child gets a new device, so they're protected from the outset. Most phones, tablets and consoles allow you to customise their settings to determine which games your child can play, how they can communicate (and who with), what content they can access and so on. It will give you peace of mind that they can't inadvertently do something they shouldn't.
- 3. PAY ATTENTION TO AGE RATINGS**
One of the first things children want to do with any new device is play games and explore apps. Before they download anything or install a new console game, check its age rating. Many popular games and apps have content that's not suitable for younger ages. The safest long-term solution is to adjust the device's settings so they can only download and use games and apps appropriate for their age.
- 4. KEEP NUMBERS AND DEVICES PRIVATE**
Make sure your child understands that they should never share their phone number with someone they don't know or accept a friend request from them. They should also appreciate that it's a good idea to mainly keep their device out of sight, never lend it to a stranger, and never put it down somewhere that other people could steal it or take it to use without asking.
- 5. HAVE 'THE MONEY CONVERSATION'**
Before your children start using their new device in earnest, talk to them about in-app purchases and other ways that money might be spent through their device. Once they understand, you might want to agree on a spending limit and reassure them that they can come to you if they're uncertain, or if they have made a purchase by accident.
- 6. DISCOURAGE DEVICE DEPENDENCY**
Of course, children who've just got a new device will naturally want to spend as much time on it as possible. But whether they're zapping bad guys, watching videos or connecting with friends, it's easy for them to get attached very quickly. Gently remind them that having family time, going outdoors and getting some exercise are still fun, too. And the device will be there when they get back.
- 7. EXPLAIN SECURE WIFI NETWORKS**
Your home WiFi is protected by a password that only your family knows, whereas public networks (like those found in coffee shops, for example) can be accessed by anyone. It's important that your child grasps this difference because, if they're using a portable device on an unsecured network, then a hacker could access their personal information without them even knowing.
- 8. LIMIT SCREEN TIME**
Using a device for too long, especially just before bed, can interfere with a child's sleep quality and reduce their concentration and overall enthusiasm. It might be helpful to agree on certain times of day when they don't use their device. Most devices' settings let you specify a screen-time limit, helping your child to stay fresh and focused in order to perform well at school.
- 9. ONLY PAIR WITH KNOWN BLUETOOTH DEVICES**
Your child may want to connect to another device via Bluetooth, so they can listen to music wirelessly or share pictures and videos with nearby friends. But if they use Bluetooth to link with a device that they don't know, they're at risk of a stranger being able to see their personal information or having someone transmit a virus onto their device.
- 10. TURN LOCATION SETTINGS OFF**
It's safest to disable the device's location services (if it's a portable device) so your child doesn't inadvertently make other people aware of where they are. You can usually do this via the device's privacy control settings. Turning location settings off not only means your child's whereabouts can't be tracked by others, it also significantly extends battery life.
- 11. STAY AWARE OF THE SURROUNDINGS**
It's quite common to see adults not looking where they're going while engrossed in their phone. Children are even more easily distracted. In some cases, children have been hit by cars or cyclists because they were staring at their device and lost track of where they were. Remind your child that screens and walking don't mix. If they need to use their device, they should stop in a safe place first.
- 12. BE THERE IF THEY NEED TO TALK**
Even when you've made a device as secure as you can, there's still a possibility of your child seeing something that bothers them, or someone they don't know attempting to contact them. If this happens, listen to their concerns, empathise and reassure them. Once they've explained what happened, you can decide if you should take further action like blocking or reporting another user.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SETTING UP APPS, GAMES AND SOFTWARE

Millions of new phones, tablets, laptops and games consoles will be nestling under Christmas trees this year. However, even if parents and carers have gone to the trouble of setting up these new devices and enabling the safety features, there are still potential hazards in the apps, games and software that children will want to install and use. Knowing what to look for and discussing those risks with your child may help avoid any nasty surprises this Christmas. Here are our top tips for ensuring that unwrapping this year's presents doesn't unleash any unexpected dangers.

TAKE NOTE OF AGE RATINGS

Back when most games were bought in shops, checking the age rating was easy: it was on the front of the box. Now that most games are downloaded, it's tougher – but not impossible. All reputable download stores show a game's age rating at the point of purchase, and you can check the suitability of a specific title your child wants to play at videostandards.org.uk/RatingBoard/games.

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'FREE' ISN'T ALWAYS FREE

The games market has changed radically in recent years. Many titles are free to download, but then tempt players to pay for cosmetic items (as in Fortnite) or to unlock additional content. There can be huge peer pressure for children to pay for these items. Agree a budget for in-game purchases before the game is downloaded, and make sure children can't authorise in-game purchases by themselves.

DISABLE IN-APP PURCHASING

It's not wise to leave children with devices that can make in-app purchases without your permission. Ideally, set up computers, consoles and phones so child accounts need an adult's authorisation to buy anything. On shared devices (like iPads, which don't allow user accounts), check the settings to ensure that in-app purchasing requires the account holder's password, fingerprint or face ID.

APPS ARE AGE RATED, TOO

Like games, apps in the major stores have age ratings, too – so you can see in advance whether an app's appropriate for your child. Additionally, phones' parental control settings allow you to set age limits, preventing young ones from downloading unsuitable apps themselves. These ratings aren't infallible, however: we've seen TV apps featuring adult shows with an age rating of 3, for example.

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CONSIDER STORAGE

Most apps and games will tell you in the online store how much space they need on a device. Check this carefully – especially with games, which can run into hundreds of megabytes and beyond. If you don't have enough free storage on a device to run the game or app, you won't get a refund from the store. You can normally check a device's available storage space through the settings menu.

WATCH OUT FOR IMITATORS

Even in the official stores, untrustworthy rogue apps can slip through the net. Common tricks are apps or games that have a slightly different name to the genuine article (Fortnight rather than Fortnite, for instance) or use logos which deliberately look very similar to the official app. To avoid downloading these imitations, read the app's description and check who the publisher is listed as.

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LEGAL APPS THAT BREAK THE LAW

There are many apps that are perfectly legal but enable illegal activity – streaming apps which let people watch football matches, say, without paying for Sky or BT Sport. Prosecution for using such apps is rare, but they can lead to risky behaviour like viewing rogue streams on sites teeming with malicious links. Watch for children installing unusual apps with 'TV', 'stream' or 'sport' in the name.

IN-APP REGISTRATION

It's common for apps and games to ask users to register: entering personal details like email address, date of birth and other information you might not want your child to divulge. Ask them to get your permission before giving any personal info to an app – and consider using your details rather than the child's, so they're not targeted by marketing spam or put at risk of having their data stolen.

STAY UPDATED

Most games and apps are subject to regular updates, which not only offer new content and features but also provide critical security improvements. Children tend to ignore such updates – usually because they don't understand why they're important, or they simply want to get straight on with gaming. Check your child's devices periodically to make sure these updates are being installed.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as the *Sunday Times*, *Which?*, *PC Pro* and *Computeractive*. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on *Newsnight*, *Radio 5 Live* and *ITV News at Ten*. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues.



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