



Ysgol Gynradd Knelston

'Dream, Believe, Achieve Together'

Newyddion - Friday 19th December



Annwyl Parents / Carers,

As we wrap up our final week of term, it's wonderful to look back on all the joy, laughter, and special moments we've shared this Christmas season. With Christmas less than a week away, the excitement around school has been magical!

We hope you have enjoyed joining in the festivities with us—whether singing along at the carol service, browsing treasures at the Christmas market, enjoying trips, or dancing the night away at the PTA fundraiser and school discos! Seeing the children so happy and full of festive cheer has been an absolute delight, and we hope these memories will stay with them long after the holidays.

A huge thank you for your support throughout the year. It has been such a joy to watch the children grow, learn, and shine in so many ways. We can't wait to welcome them back in the new year for more adventures, achievements, and fun-filled days together.

Wishing you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, filled with love, laughter, and plenty of festive magic!

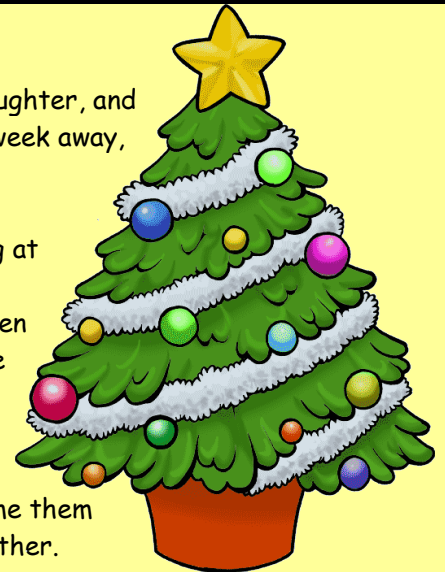
With warmest festive cheer,

Dymuniadau gorau,

J G Paynter



Merry
Christmas



UNCRC Right of the Month

School Aim of the Month



Article 14:

The right to follow your own religion



"All different, all equal"

Patrwm y Pythefnos - Welsh Patterns to share at home:



Oes ... gyda ti?

Have you got ... ?

Nag oes, does dim ... gyda fi. _____.

No, I haven't got _____



We are looking for children who can use these patterns (and others) in school.

Christmas Carol Concert - A Magical Celebration!

What a magical evening it was! We feel this year's Christmas Carol Concert was a huge success, creating a truly memorable festive experience for everyone. The pupils' performances were wonderful, the atmosphere was full of cheer, and it was a delight to see so many smiling faces in the audience.

We hope you agree and enjoyed the concert as much as we did! A heartfelt thank you to all the families who attended and supported the event - your presence made it even more special. We've received some lovely feedback, and it's clear that the concert brought joy and festive spirit to everyone involved. Congratulations to all our talented pupils for making this celebration so unforgettable!



PTA Christmas Fundraiser - A Night to Remember!



A huge thank you to all our families who joined us for the PTA Christmas Fundraiser at the beautiful Oxwich Bay Hotel. It was a truly brilliant evening, full of laughter, festive cheer, and some unforgettable dance moves, all wrapped up in a wonderful sense of community spirit.

We would also like to say a very special thank you to Mr and Mrs Williams for so kindly allowing us to host the event at such a stunning venue. The setting was absolutely perfect, the food was delicious, and the drinks were flowing!

We are delighted to share that just over an incredible £3000 was raised. We are endlessly grateful to our amazing PTA for organising such a fantastic event — their hard work and dedication mean so much to our school, and quite simply, we couldn't run the school in the way we do without them.

Thank you to everyone who supported the fundraiser and helped make it such a special evening. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, and we're already looking forward to doing it all again next year!

Our Choir Spreads Festive Cheer at Swansea Christmas Market



Last Friday, our talented choir, made up of pupils from Years 2-6, brought festive cheer to Swansea's Carollers Cabin at the Christmas Market. Under the wonderful direction of Mr Smith, who accompanied them on his ukulele, the children performed a range of Christmas songs and hymns for the public.

We were thrilled to see so many parents and family members there supporting the children. Their wonderful singing attracted a large crowd, and the children were absolutely amazing — confident, joyful, and full of festive spirit.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for sharing their talents and spreading such happiness to the community. It was a truly memorable experience and a wonderful way to celebrate the festive season together!

Team Wales! Commonwealth Athlete!

Last week, our pupils in Years 2-6 were thrilled to welcome Will Bishop, a Team Wales Commonwealth athlete, to a special assembly.

Will is an extraordinary para-athlete in wheelchair basketball and athletics, who has represented both Wales and Great Britain, winning medals at the Commonwealth Youth Games and the FISU World University Games. During the assembly, he shared his journey, inspiring our children with stories of determination, resilience, and achieving goals against all odds.

Later, Will led a short sports session with our Year 5 and 6 pupils, giving them the chance to learn directly from an elite athlete. It was a truly motivational experience, leaving our children encouraged to challenge themselves, stay determined, and believe in what they can achieve.



Welsh Government School Essentials Grant - Don't Miss Out!

Did you know you could receive up to £200 to help cover the cost of essential school items?

This includes uniforms, shoes, coats, school bags, and even support for school activities. This funding is available through the Welsh Government's School Essentials Grant and is designed to help families with the costs of sending children to school.

To access this grant, you'll need to register for Universal Primary Free School Meals. Please note: this is different from the free school meals your child may already be receiving.

Why Register?

- ✓ Up to £200 per child to help with school essentials
- ✓ Additional funding for our school - every registration helps us support all pupils better
- ✓ No impact on other benefits - signing up won't affect any other support you receive
- ✓ Quick and easy to apply

Even if your child already receives free school meals, registering is still important to unlock this extra support.

Important: During January, the number of children and families registered is recorded, and this figure has a direct impact on our school's budget share for next year. Registering after this period will not benefit our school, so if you think you may be entitled, please register as soon as possible.

By registering, you're not only helping your own child but also contributing to additional funding that benefits the whole school community. Don't miss this opportunity to make the start of the school year easier and stress-free - register today!



Claim up to **£200** of additional support for **School Essentials** if your child is eligible for **Free School Meals**.



INSET 5th January 2026 & afterschool clubs

Just a quick reminder that **Monday, 5th January**, will be an **INSET day**, and children will return to school on **Tuesday, 6th January**.

Please note that afterschool clubs won't start until the second week back, **12th January 2026**.

INSET Day

A Fond Farewell and an Exciting Return!

Today we say a big thank you and goodbye to Mr De Kerckhove, who has been covering our Year 5/6 class since the end of September. He has been absolutely brilliant — fitting in seamlessly, building fantastic relationships with both the children and staff, supporting them so wonderfully. We are so grateful for everything he has done and will be very sad to see him go. We wish him all the best as he starts his exciting new role at Ponybrenin Primary School — they are lucky to have him!



At the same time, we are absolutely delighted to welcome back the other Mr D, Mr Donovan! You may have already spotted him around school over the past week, and we are excited for him to return to his full duties in January. We have truly missed him while he's been away, and it will be wonderful to have him back with the children and staff. He is looking forward to reconnecting with everyone, deeply appreciates all your kind words and support during his absence, and is eager to continue the fantastic work in Year 5/6, building on the strong foundations already in place and helping every child thrive.

A Magical End to the Term!

What a fantastic way to finish the year! Our final week of term was overflowing with festive cheer, laughter, and unforgettable memories — the children had an absolute ball!



Highlights included:

- **Whole-school visit to the church** with Vicar Peter: The children loved taking part in festive activities and exploring the church, creating a truly memorable start to the week.
- **Years 2-6 trip to the Taliesin Theatre** to watch *Home Alone 2*: A brilliant outing filled with laughter, excitement, and plenty of holiday spirit — the pupils were absolutely amazing throughout the performance.
- **Nursery & Year 1 morning at Oxwich Bay Hotel with Santa**: Cookies, milk, story time, and a visit from Santa himself made this a magical experience for our youngest pupils, who were full of joy and wonder. A huge thank you to **Mr and Mrs Williams** for kindly allowing us to visit Santa at the hotel — your generosity helped make this event special.
- **Christmas Dinner Day**: A delicious and festive celebration that brought the whole school together — the smiles, laughter, and Christmas cheer were simply wonderful! A huge thankyou to Sarah for preparing such a delicious feast!
- **PTA Christmas Disco**: The perfect end to the week! The children danced, laughed, and celebrated together, creating memories that will last a lifetime.



We are so proud of all our pupils for making the week so special. Seeing everyone come together to enjoy the festive season was heart-warming. A huge thank you to all our families for your support — you helped make it such a magical and memorable week!

Please check out Class Dojo and our Instagram page to see photos and highlights from this festive week — there are so many wonderful moments to enjoy!



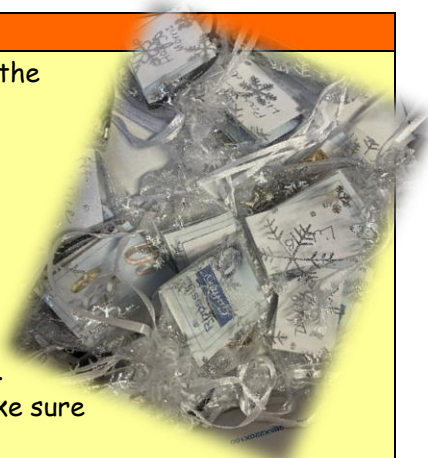
Here's to a joyful holiday and a Happy New Year for everyone!

Friday Enrichment Programme - A Huge Success!

Our enrichment programme this term has been a fantastic success, giving the children the chance to experience a wide variety of activities and learn new skills. One standout session was jewellery making with Mr and Mrs Campbell-Kelly from Rhosilli Gallery. The children worked incredibly hard and produced some truly amazing pieces, including key rings, necklaces, and even earrings!

Mr Campbell-Kelly came into school this morning to present the children with their crafts, and it was wonderful to see the pride and excitement on their faces. The children will be bringing their creations home, so make sure to have a look — you'll see just how fantastic they are!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Mr and Mrs Campbell-Kelly for providing this brilliant experience. This is yet another example of how our amazing school community helps to enhance our children's experiences.



Another standout enrichment activity this term was our visit to the Horton Lifeboat Station with Mr Tongue. The children learned so much about the vital work of the lifeboat crews, as well as the fascinating history of the Horton and Port Eynon lifeboat stations. It was a fantastic opportunity to bring learning to life and deepen the children's understanding of our local community and its heritage.



Mr Tongue was incredible with the children, sharing his knowledge with enthusiasm and making the visit both educational and exciting. We truly appreciate the time and effort he put in each week — including the moment he amazed everyone by breaking his own record for putting on all his kit in under a minute!



Both the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed the experience, and it was another brilliant example of how our enrichment programme helps create meaningful, memorable learning opportunities for our pupils.

If you run a business or have a particular skill that you think could be suitable for our enrichment programme, and you can spare some Friday afternoons, we would love to hear from you!

Afterschool club start back 12th January 2026.

We're delighted to confirm that afterschool clubs will resume in the second week of January (12th). Here are the key updates:

Afterschool Care: Our Monday and Tuesday Afterschool Care Club will continue to run for Reception to Year 6 pupils.

Wednesday Clubs: Both Expressive Arts and LEGO Club will carry on as usual.

Thursday Club: Attendance has been lower than expected, so we will run the Thursday club for two weeks after the restart and then review its future. We'll keep you updated on any changes.

Football on Mondays: A big thank you to Steve and Simon, who have kindly agreed to continue running the football club on Mondays.

Due to lower-than-expected participation, our clubs have been operating at a loss. To ensure they can continue, we need to make a small increase to membership fees. Please be assured this is not about making a profit—our goal is simply to keep the clubs running for the benefit of all our children and families.

The new fees will be:

Extra-curricular clubs: £2.50 → £3 per session

Afterschool childcare provision: £7 → £9 per session

Siblings: £5 → £7 per session

We truly appreciate your understanding and continued support, which helps us maintain these important activities. Together, we can keep our clubs thriving for the benefit of all our children and families.

All dates up until February half term are now live on IPay and you are able to book in advance.



Finally...

As always, if you have queries, compliments, complaints, concerns or issues you would like to discuss please speak to a member of staff. If family or friends help with school runs, we'd love for you to share the weekly newsletter with them. Please also make sure we have your updated contact details so we can stay connected!

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Dymuniadau gorau,

J G Paynter

Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Please follow the link below to our school webpage: <https://www.knelstonprimary.co.uk/academicyear2025-2026>

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