



Annwyl Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely Easter break. The children have returned with a bang and have settled straight back into school life with energy, enthusiasm and big smiles all round!

Can you believe we are now in the final term of the school year? It's set to be another busy and exciting one!

It's been a really busy and exciting start to the term. Our Year 5/6 pupils enjoyed their residential to Llain before Easter, and this week our Year 3/4 children headed off to St Madoc's Centre for their own fantastic residential adventure.

The weather hasn't been on our side this week, but it hasn't dampened anyone's spirits and the children have still thrown themselves into everything with great enthusiasm!

We're also really pleased to share some wonderful news - our Estyn report was published this week. Please see below for more details. We are incredibly proud of what it says about our school, our pupils, our staff and our wider community.

You may also have noticed our new Orchard sign has now been installed at the back of the school, marking where last term some of our pupils planted an orchard with Mrs Attwell. A huge thank you to Mrs Attwell for all her help in organising this. We are really pleased with our fantastic new sign and are excited to see our orchard grow and bloom in the years to come.




Thank you, as always, for your continued support - it's going to be another brilliant term ahead!

Please see ClassDojo and our Instagram page for photos from our trips and classroom activities – there's lots to see and share!

J G Paynter

UNCRC Right of the Month

School Aim of the Month



Article 24: The right to food and water



'Learn'

Patrwm y Pythefnos - Welsh Patterns to share at home:



Sut oedd y tywydd ddoe?

How was the weather yesterday?

Roedd hi'n ... ddoe.

It was ... yesterday.



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

Celebrating What Makes Knelston Special - Estyn Report

We are absolutely delighted and proud to share the outcome of our recent Estyn inspection, which celebrates the many strengths of our school and the incredible dedication of our staff, pupils, governors, families, and wider community.

The inspection team describes our school as a warm, welcoming and inclusive community where pupils are very well supported in both their learning and personal development. They highlight the excellent relationships across the school, pupils' positive behaviour, and the consistently high levels of care and support for all learners.

We are especially proud that Estyn identified **two "Spotlights"** in our practice. These celebrate areas of highly effective provision that are recognised as examples of excellent practice across Wales.

Our Spotlights are:

- **Strengthening oracy through purposeful modelling and rich speaking opportunities**

Across the school, staff provide a wide range of engaging learning experiences that develop pupils' speaking and listening skills exceptionally well. Adults consistently use high-quality questioning and model ambitious language, enabling pupils to express their ideas clearly and confidently across the curriculum. Carefully planned opportunities, including drama and role-play, allow pupils to rehearse, refine, and extend their oracy skills in meaningful and enjoyable contexts. As a result, pupils' oracy is a real strength of the school, with most pupils speaking thoughtfully, sharing ideas clearly, and responding to others with care and respect.

- **Strengthening pupils' progress and engagement in mathematics through flexible groupings and targeted support**

Staff have developed a highly effective approach to mathematics through the creation of *Knelston Nests*, which provide flexible groupings and well-targeted support tailored to pupils' needs. Teachers use assessment skilfully to ensure appropriate challenge for all learners, and strong collaboration alongside effective professional learning supports consistency across the school. As a result, most pupils make strong progress in mathematics, respond positively to feedback, and show confident, enthusiastic attitudes when tackling challenges.

The report also celebrates the excellent progress pupils make across the school—particularly in reading and writing—and highlights their enthusiasm, positivity, and genuine enjoyment of learning. It recognises the outstanding provision for pupils with additional learning needs, ensuring all learners are fully included, supported, and able to thrive. Leadership and governance are also praised for their clear vision, strong direction, and unwavering commitment to continuous improvement.

As is usual with inspection reports, a small number of recommendations are made to support ongoing development. We are very pleased to share that we received **just one recommendation**, which reflects the extremely positive overall picture of the school. This focuses on further developing opportunities for pupils to apply their skills more independently across the curriculum—an area we are already excited to continue strengthening.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to those parents and carers who attended the parent meeting on the Monday of the inspection. Your presence, support, and kind words were incredibly appreciated, and it was genuinely uplifting to hear such positive and thoughtful feedback. It was wonderful to hear how much the hard work of our staff and pupils is recognised and valued by our families—we are truly grateful for this strong partnership.

As I have said before, many schools talk about being "at the heart of their community" — it is a phrase that is often used. But at Knelston, this is exactly what we are, and that shone through so clearly during the inspection. It is something you can feel the moment you walk up the driveway and through our front door, and we are so proud that this was recognised so strongly by the inspection team.

Please find attached a summary of the report for parents below. The full Estyn report is also available via the link below or on the school Website: <https://www.knelstonprimary.co.uk/>

<https://estyn.gov.wales/app/uploads/2026/04/Inspection-report-Knelston-Primary-School-2026.pdf>

We are incredibly proud of what this report reflects about our school community. It celebrates the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm and kindness of our pupils, and the strong partnership we share with you all.

We look forward to building on this success together and continuing to ensure the very best for every child.

Primary Partners - The Greatest Showman at Swansea Grand Theatre

We are really excited to be taking part in this year's Primary Partners performance at Swansea Grand Theatre on **Monday 8th June**, where some of our pupils will be performing *The Greatest Showman*.

Rehearsals are well underway and the children are already working incredibly hard to learn their parts and prepare for what promises to be a fantastic show. This is a brilliant opportunity for pupils to take part in a large-scale performance and to watch and learn alongside other schools.

✍ Tickets are now on sale and are priced at £8. They are selling quickly, so we would encourage parents and carers to book early to secure the best seats.

Tickets can be purchased via Swansea Grand Theatre:

☎ 01792 475715

🌐 www.swanseagrand.co.uk

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for the effort and enthusiasm they are putting in, and we can't wait to see them shine on stage!

Year 3/4 Enjoy Fantastic Residential at St Madoc's Centre

Our Year 3/4 pupils had a fantastic time on their residential trip to St Madoc's Centre, taking part in a wide range of exciting activities and showing brilliant enthusiasm, resilience and teamwork throughout. For many children, it was their first time away from home, and they were an absolute credit to the school.

A huge thank you to Mrs Porter and Mrs Pitson for giving up their time to take the children and for their care, support and encouragement throughout the trip.



Swimming Sessions have started

We are delighted to share that our Year 5/6 pupils went on their first swimming session today at Penyrheol Swimming Pool, as part of a six-week block of lessons. These sessions will help pupils develop important swimming skills, water confidence and vital water safety awareness.

Following May half term, our Year 3/4 pupils will have their own block of swimming lessons, giving all children in Years 3-6 the opportunity to take part in this valuable experience.

The programme is a fantastic opportunity for our children, particularly as we are so lucky to live and learn on the coast where these life skills are so important.

These sessions have been generously funded by the Bowen Richards Trust in Rhossili, and we would like to extend a huge thank you to them for supporting this valuable experience for our pupils.

School Closure - Polling Day & INSET

Inset Day

Just a reminder that the school has been selected to be used as a polling station for the Senedd Election on **Thursday 7th May**. As a result, the school will be **closed to all pupils and staff on this day**.

In order to help families with childcare arrangements and to support attendance, we have decided to schedule an **INSET day on Friday 8th May**. This decision has been made in consultation with, and agreed by, the Governing Body, who were keen to ensure that any disruption caused by the polling day closure was managed in the most supportive way possible for our families and the wider school community.

In previous years, when the school has been closed for polling day, many pupils did not attend on the following Friday. By placing an INSET day on this date, we hope to support families with planning and avoid unnecessary disruption to attendance. We recognise that some families may also wish to make the most of the long weekend.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

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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Report summary for parents and carers on Knelston Primary School

Date of inspection: 09/02/2026

Summary

Knelston Primary School is a happy, inclusive and caring community where pupils feel safe, valued and welcome. A consistent focus on well-being and strong, positive relationships between staff, pupils and families successfully supports pupils' social and emotional development. Nearly all pupils behave well and show positive attitudes to learning. They are caring and respectful and support each other thoughtfully.

Leadership has successfully developed a vision for collaboration and continuous improvement. Effective self-evaluation processes and a commitment to professional learning for all staff support valuable improvements in pupils' learning and well-being.

Teachers work well together to plan purposeful and engaging activities and a curriculum that develops most pupils' knowledge, skills and understanding progressively. They make good use of the outdoors and local community to enrich learning. Most teachers use questioning well to extend pupils' learning. They provide purposeful feedback to support pupils to improve their work. Support staff make a strong contribution to the quality of teaching and learning across the school.

A consistent whole school approach to the planning and teaching of oracy, reading and mathematics supports most pupils to make strong progress in their learning. Pupils' oracy skills are a notable strength, and flexible learning groups for mathematics ensure good challenge and support for pupils. However, opportunities for pupils to apply their writing and numeracy skills independently across the curriculum are underdeveloped.

Most pupils make good progress in developing their Welsh language skills, and provision to support pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) is strong. Although pupils value the contribution they make to school improvement and the wider community through a range of pupil voice groups, a tendency for adults to over direct this work limits opportunities for them to develop leadership skills.

The governing body works successfully with leaders, staff, pupils, and parents to support ongoing improvement.

Recommendations and next steps

We have made one recommendation to help the school continue to improve:

R1 Increase opportunities for pupils to apply their writing and numeracy skills across the curriculum independently

The school will draw up an action plan to address the recommendations from the inspection.

Full Report

If you would like to read more about Estyn's evaluation of the school, please follow this link to the [full report](#).

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