



Summer Newsletter 2023



It has been an absolute honour and a privilege stepping up as Acting Head of School for the past three years. Together we have moved the school forward and built on our visions and values to ensure that Park Lane holds pupils at the centre, ensuring all that we do is for the individual.

I am proud of the whole staffing team who have co-constructed our own unique curriculum which focusses on what matters to our pupils, and am proud to report that as a result our pupils have experienced a wealth of wonderful experiences making them more ambitious, capable, creative, ethical, healthy and confident valued members of society.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parents and carers for the on-going support over the years, it has been a pleasure getting to know all of the new parents, as well as our more familiar parents on a deeper level. I'd also like to thank Kay Morgan for her years of hard work as Chair of Governors. Diolch yn fawr!

Earlier this term the governing body successfully interviewed and appointed a new Head Teacher, Mr Simon Type, who will begin his new role in September. I'm very much looking forward to working with Simon and I wish him the best for the future.

All that's left to say is, have a happy, safe summer and I shall look forward to welcoming everyone back on Thursday, September 7th, 2023.

Diane Llewellyn

Achievements



Pupils have had successful and motivational **Duke of Edinburgh** experiences throughout the year thanks to our dedicated DofE staff Donna and Jordan. Pupils have worked towards gaining their silver and Gold awards and participated in hikes to improve their physical skills volunteer work and expeditions to improve their skills including cooking outdoors. Congratulations to everyone for stepping up to the challenges and working as a team. Congratulations! Llongyfarchiadau!



As a school we achieved our Bronze award for our successful use of Welsh in the school. Our Criw Cymraeg have worked hard to promote and monitor Welsh throughout the year. It was a delight to attend a formal ceremony in Cardiff earlier this term with members of the Criw Cymraeg, to pick up yet another certificate!! Llongyfarchiadau i bawb!





Local Community



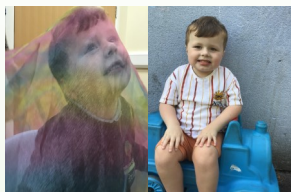
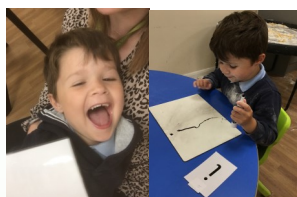
Diolch yn fawr!

We are very fortunate as a school to have so much support from a range of individuals, companies and charities who go above and beyond to support us as a school.





Dosbarth Cwtch



*Time is flying quickly, and you are growing fast,
I cant believe this term has gone and now is in
the past.*

*We've had so many lovely times, with fun along
the way,*

*Your smile has always cheered me up on each
and every day.*

*So remember you're fantastic, a little shining
star,*

*go forward and be yourself, just perfect as you
are!*



The Cwtch has been very busy this term, exploring a range of topics such as 'dinosaurs, animals and watch me grow' and 'water in Wales'. We have had the opportunity to explore these topics through sensory sessions and in focused sessions in class and throughout the school. We have also accessed sessions from external agencies too, working hard to build our confidence with movement and balance with our physio team. The children love these sessions and their confidence has grown massively since the start of the term.

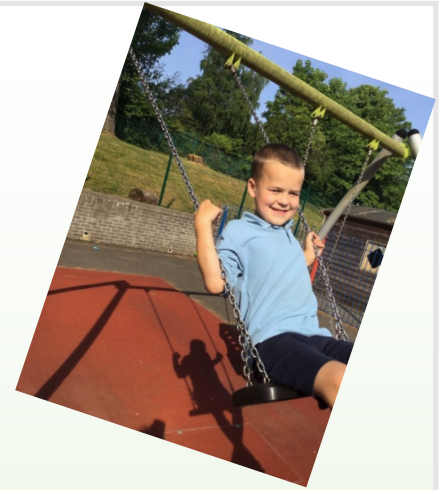
We have had so many WOW moments since the children started in The Cwtch in February. From beginning to use the first stage of PECS, children finding their voices and saying new words, being able to make choices out of a range of different pictures/symbols and exploring a higher range of resources and activities!

It has been an absolute pleasure to support your children through the beginning of their journey at Park Lane and as a team we are so proud of all the progress they have made and watching them learn and grow so far has been an absolute privilege. Each and every one of them is an absolute credit to you and I look forward to seeing more of that progress in September!

Have a fabulous and safe summer,

Leigha, Leah and Amy

Dosbarth Hafan Bach



Dosbarth Hafan Bach has had an amazing year, we have focused on building relationships with both pupils and staff. We have achieved this through 1:1 sessions, choice making and play. The pupils have each progressed when playing with each other and toys, turn taking and playing appropriately.

Through our topics this year, 'Watch us Grow', 'People who help and Inspire us' and 'Water in Wales', we have experienced a range of sessions to develop our skills and understanding of the world around us. Our favourite topic was 'People Who Help and Inspire Us', we all loved exploring paint and various resources using the UV lights. The sensory story was a huge success with all the pupils.

We have loved exploring the outside space and using the equipment. Hydrotherapy and rebound has been a welcome return, helping develop our physical and communication skills.

We have worked so hard in reaching our individual targets and achievements, we are all so proud of the pupils in Hafan Bach



Dosbarth Hafan

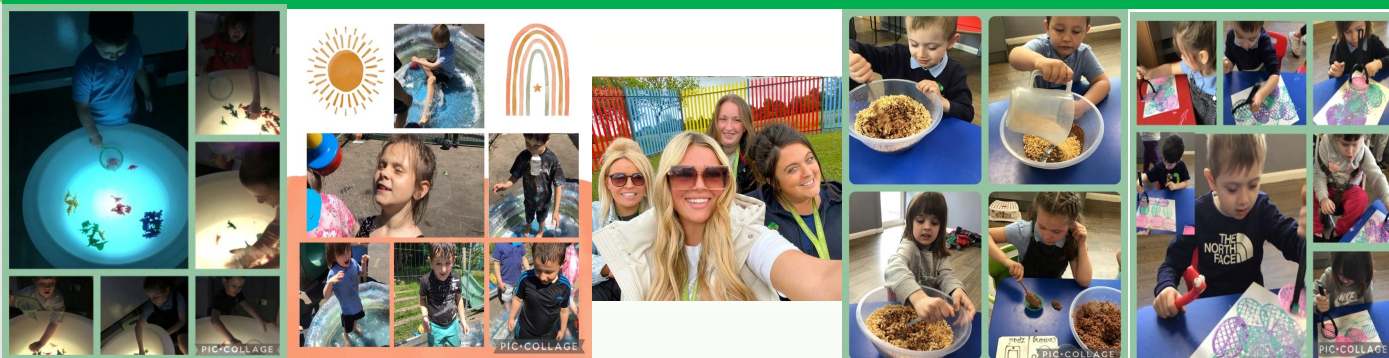


This year Dosbarth Hafan have been visiting the community and working on their life skills. We have been to Asda shopping, looking at what aisle number they have to go to for certain items and also to Bryn Bach Parc, to look at how much rubbish is in parks (we did sneak into the park). We have been cooking things such as pizza, toasties and cakes. We have had to follow instructions to cook these items. We have also participated in interventions such as hydrotherapy and rebound where we have had targets to achieve and we have smashed them. This year our favourite topic was 'Dinosaurs animals watch them grow' and learning all about the different animals and where they live. Most importantly we have made sure that we have had a lot of FUN!!!





Dosbarth Gwenyn



Dosbarth Gwenyn



The days are short, the time moves fast
Memories and laughter that will always last.



Your children have grown, and progressed too,

No longer needing help with their shoe.

Looking back how far we've come,

It's been an amazing journey supporting your daughter / son.

By Hannah

Dosbarth Gwenyn have had an extremely busy academic year exploring a range of topics, starting with all about me in autumn, moving onto dinosaurs, animals and watch me grow in the spring term, and finishing the summer term with water in Wales. We have had the opportunity to experience these topics through sensory sessions, enrichment days and focussed sessions in class and around the school. We have embraced sessions from external agencies too, working hard to develop and build our confidence with movement, balance and co-ordination working alongside the physio team.

The children have responded positively to exploring different concepts and cultures through a skills-based curriculum and sensory exploration – especially exploring our senses during Sensology sessions! It has been a pleasure to watch each child's confidence grow academically and to support them in this success. One moment that particularly stood out for us was teaching the purpose of communication, and requesting items using symbols through 1:1 PECS sessions – WOW!

The splashpad has been this term's highlight and sharing that experience alongside the parents too. It was a fantastic opportunity for the children to socialise outside of the school environment and share those interactions with their peers, teachers and family alike. We would like to express our thanks to all families involved that supported that trip to create lasting memories for your child!

It has been a pleasure to support your child through their individual journey and successes this year and as a staff team we are filled with pride and honoured to have been part of that journey. There have been many moments this year in Dosbarth Gwenyn that have taken us by surprise, and shown us that progress can present in such a spectrum of ways – from being able to know and represent the values of numbers to 100 to becoming aware of others around us!

We would like to take this opportunity to personally thank you for your continued support throughout this academic year, we would like to wish you all a wonderful summer holidays and for the children returning to Dosbarth Gwenyn, we look forward to welcoming you back in September, and the children moving to new classes we would like to wish you well on your next chapter and journey in a new class.

From Hannah, Tia, Cara and Beth

Dosbarth Jac Do



This Year in Dosbarth Jac Do we have been learning about different animals and water in Wales. We learned about where all the different animals lived.



During the water in Wales theme we filled lots of different containers with water to see which were full, half full and empty. We also looked to see which things would float and which things would sink.



Some of Dosbarth Jac Do have also been lucky enough to go horse riding. The children have really enjoyed their time with the horses and they especially loved the fun day which took place in July.



All the children have been taking part in P.E sessions with the physios. They have loved the obstacle courses in the hall.



We also as a class do the daily mile everyday even if its raining it takes place in the yard, We were also very lucky to win the daily mile award this year. Well done Dosbarth Jac Do.





Dosbarth Wiwer



Dosbarth Wiwer have had a very busy year!

We have loved the topics this year exploring People who Inspire Us, Animals, Dinosaurs Watch it Grow and Water in Wales.

As a class we have enjoyed our daily walk a mile and sensory circuits with the Physio team. Some of our pupils have worked really hard in Rebound and Hydro sessions.



We had visits from the Fire Service, Life Guards and birds of prey handlers to learn about their jobs. We also enjoyed a visit from a lady from Uganda where we had the opportunity to experience some music, dance and even to say hello in Ugandan.

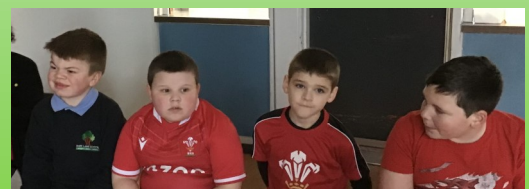
The children participated in sports day where they did races, parachute games, boccia and water races; I think they enjoyed the water race the best.



We have listened and enjoyed sensory stories of the Little rain drop the Tiny seed and Snail and the whale.



We are so proud of the success of our pupils this year,
da iawn Dosbarth Wiwer!



Dosbarth Robin Goch



Robin Goch have had a busy year! Rebound and Hydrotherapy starting back has been amazing and they have all enjoyed the opportunity to get back on the trampoline/ in the pool. These interventions help them to not only develop their physical skills but increase the opportunities for interaction with adults and developing our communication skills.



As you can see from the photos we all love being outside and exploring the school grounds. We love to use the swing and slide and access play opportunities in the outside area.



Through our topics this year, 'Watch us Grow', 'People who help and Inspire us' and 'Water in Wales' we have experienced sensory stories, music sessions to develop our skills and understanding of the world around us!

We have all worked so hard to achieve our personal targets!

A successful year all round!





Dosbarth Pili Pala



This year Pili Pala have done some brilliant work on their physical skills! One of our pupils has built her confidence walking and now loves to walk around exploring inside and outside the school. One has done some excellent work on his target and is now able to step up and down independently and two of our pupils have trialled and made fantastic progress with new walkers.

We have loved getting back into the hydrotherapy pool and on the trampoline for Rebound sessions this year. We have also enjoyed lots of time out on the mats practicing moving in lots of different ways and worked closely with the physio team to improve our skills.



Dosbarth Carw



Dosbarth Carw have grown so much this year and have made some great memories together!

Through our topics this year, 'Watch us Grow', 'People who help and Inspire us' and 'Water in Wales' we have learnt about our world through exploratory play, music, and our senses.



Attention autism is our favourite part of the day and all of us have made excellent progress with our attention skills and sitting within the group.



In Dosbarth Carw we like to move – we dance, we jump, we climb and we run! We were so excited to win an award from the physiotherapy team as we were the class who 'moves the most'.



We have all worked really hard on developing our communication and independent skills. We are learning and growing every day.

Dosbarth Gwdihw



Dosbarth Gwdihw

have had a fantastic year together. We have worked really hard and had some lovely sensory experiences throughout the year.

We have loved accessing hydrotherapy, rebound and physiotherapy sessions this year and have enjoyed a visit to Aberdare Park.

Our favourite topic this year has been people who help and inspire us—we got to explore UV lights and paint and investigate the world through sensory props and lovely songs.

We have been able to work towards meeting our individual targets, celebrating our achievements



Dosbarth Cwningen



We have had a really busy year!

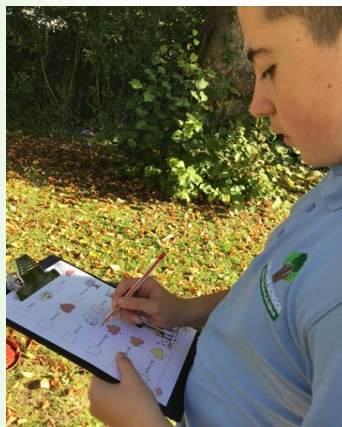
In February we all took part with all our friends in the musical extravaganza in Nant Garw which was awesome!

We have enjoyed learning about lots of different pets and animals from across the world. We made a 'pet shop' in our class and have used this to learn about pets and money, as well as having fun being the shop keeper and customer.

We really enjoyed listening to Gangsta Granny and The Worlds Worst Pets by David Walliams. We have learned about lots of different people like Frida Kahlo, Greta Thunberg and our favourite Archimedes.

We have had visits from some amazing characters such as Pudsey Bear, Father Christmas and Easter Bunny. We have also had visits from the Fire Service, Life Guards and birds of prey handlers to learn about their jobs and have visited the supermarket to learn about how they work too!

We have enjoyed getting active by accessing the pool and Cwm Cycling. We have loved our daily 'walk a mile' and practicing our balancing and climbing skills with the physio teams sensory circuits.





Dosbarth Draenog

We have been so busy in Dosbarth Draenog this year! The Year 10 and 11 pupils have worked really hard in their OCR accredited courses in Reading Skills, Time, Using IT for Creative Purposes and Making a Simple Meal. We have loved the topics this year exploring People who Inspire Us, Animals, Dinosaurs Watch it Grow and Water in Wales.

We have been developing our life skills, practising how to make ourselves breakfast, drinks and simple meals. Learning how to wash dishes, dry them and put them away in the cupboards and drawers has also been an important skill to learn.

We have loved visiting different places in our community. To keep us healthy we have regularly visited Sobells Sports Centre to go swimming and Cwm Cycling. At Aberdare Park, Tesco and Pughs Garden Centre, we have been able to use money to buy items such as ice cream or drinks. We even got to buy new fish for the class!

At school we have enjoyed our daily walk a mile and sensory circuits with the Physio team. Some of our pupils have worked really hard in Rebound and Hydro sessions. We love cooking and have made some lovely things this year, especially our endangered animal cupcakes! We have enjoyed improving our school garden area. We cleared and planted an aware and we regularly look after those plants, checking for weeds and watering them. This term we have thought about our linked school in Uganda, after looking at photos and listening to their letters read aloud we have written our own to send to them.

We are so proud of everyone's achievements this year, da iawn Dosbarth Draenog!

Have a wonderful, fun and safe summer holidays!





Dosbarth Cadno



Dosbarth Cadno have had a very busy year. The pupils have worked really hard on OCR accreditation in Healthy Living, Communication, ICT, Numeracy and Personal Skills coursework. Hopefully we will have our qualification certificates before the end of term.

This year some of our Post 16 class have been visiting the Sobell Leisure Centre to visit the gym as part of their Healthy Living coursework activities. What a fantastic experience this has been using all the equipment. As the year grew, so did the confidence of all the pupils who attended. As well as visiting the gym, some of our pupils have accessed work experience at Cwm Cycling. Pupils were given the opportunity to answer the telephone, check the track, check the bikes and equipment to make sure they were safe, wash the bikes and they also tried the bikes out for themselves. Many thanks to Suzie Hopkins for allowing our pupils to experience this.

Our Year 14's who will be leaving school this year have enjoyed transition visits to Coleg y Cymoedd in Aberdare and Nant Garw. We have met up with pupils from Maesgwyn School who will also be attending college in the forthcoming academic year, as well as meeting students and staff from the college.

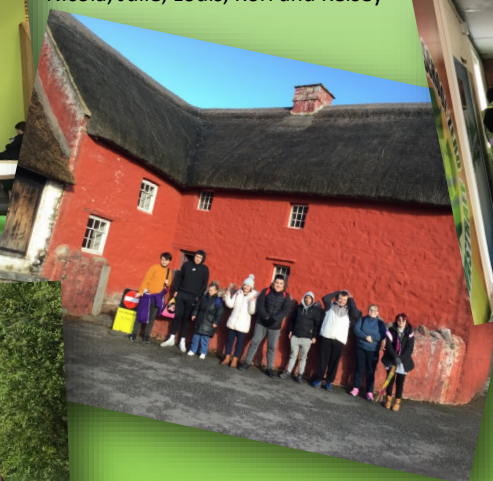
YEPs have delivered workshops on Internet Safety, Relationships and Careers. We hope to continue our partnership with them next year. They even brought the YEPs van into school, where our pupils were able to participate in activities.

Ben Thomas from RCT travel training has been into school to work with our class. He has taught the pupils how to cross the road safely and he will hopefully work with individual pupils in the future, on how to use public transport.

We have had lots of trips and visits out including St. Fagan's Museum, Maesnewynydd Garden Centre, Bryn Pica Educational centre, Dare Valley Country Park, and most recently we enjoyed a superb class trip to Oakwood Theme Park. All the pupils thoroughly enjoyed, we have quite a few dare devils in the class, but please note 'Nicola does not do rides!'

Good luck to all those pupils who will be leaving to go on to pastures new, I hope that you continue to strive to do your best and that all your hopes and dreams come true.

Have a fabulous and safe summer,
Nicola, Julie, Louis, Kori and Kelsey





Other Info



School Term dates

Term	From	To
Autumn 2023	Monday, September 4 2023	Friday, October 27 2023
Half Term	Monday, October 30 2023	Friday, November 3 2023
Autumn 2023	Monday, November 6 2023	Friday, December 22 2023
Christmas Holidays	Monday, December 25 2023	Friday, January 5 2024
Spring 2024	Monday, January 8 2024	Friday, February 9 2024
Half Term	Monday, February 12 2024	Friday, February 16 2024
Spring 2024	Monday, February 19 2024	Friday, March 22 2024
Easter Holidays	Monday, March 25 2024	Friday, April 5 2024
Summer 2024	Monday, April 8 2024	Friday, May 24 2024
Half Term	Monday, May 27 2024	Friday, May 31 2024
Summer 2024	Monday, June 3 2024	Monday, July 22 2024

Mon 4 Sept 2023 and *Monday 22 July 2024 will be designated INSET days for **all** LEA Maintained Schools. The remaining three INSET days to be taken will be at the discretion of each individual school following appropriate consultation with staff. ***It is intended that this INSET Day will either be taken on Mon 22 July 2024 or at an alternative time for example in the form of twilight sessions.**

All that is left to say is have a lovely



break and we'll see on the 7th September 2023.

Diane & Staff

