



Castle Park Primary School

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Headteacher – Mrs H Wadsworth

February 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Although the rain hasn't let up and the skies have been stubbornly grey this winter, it's always sunny inside Castle Park and this newsletter is a real testament to this. Every day is busy and filled with inspiring opportunities for our pupils.

A big shout out needs to go to Mrs Hutchinson who has really braved the elements this half term, determined to get our children in the outdoors, moving and connecting with nature, even on the coldest and wettest of days. The addition of Forest School to our curriculum has had a big impact on our children who really look forward to their time outside. Thank you for putting up with the muddy clothes!

As you'll see as well, Mrs Punshon has been working hard on developing our Welsh language teaching and opportunities for all. Several staff, including me, are attending weekly Welsh language lessons to ensure we are the best possible role models for our children. We are already looking forward to the Eisteddfod which will be a great opportunity to celebrate our Welsh language and culture.

Our building improvements have continued, although at a slower pace for now. Apple Tree class has had a beautiful sensory room fitted. Our lift has been installed, meaning that our hall is now fully accessible. Hedging has been planted along the playground fencing which will, in time, provide us with more security and screening from the footpath. Next we will be installing new blinds in all of our windows and new toilets for yellow zone (Year 2 and Year 3) and upstairs in blue zone (Year 4 and Year 5) will go in over the summer holidays. We do have some challenges with water run off from the banks around the school which, in this heavy rain, has caused water and mud to pool on the paths which can become very slippery. We are working with the council to find solutions for this and have already had the drains cleared to try and help too. It's important to us that you continue to be able to drop and collect your children from their classrooms and have daily contact with classroom staff, so while we are working on this, please do take care moving around the school site.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter which is positively bursting with information about what our children have been learning and enjoying at school this term.

With best wishes,

Mrs Wadsworth

Reception update:

Cherry Tree Class have had a busy half term learning about our big question 'How do British birds and animals survive during the Winter?' We started with the story 'Owl Babies' and had a visit from some real owls. The children enjoyed observing feathers and created beautiful observational drawings of them. We took part in the RSPB 'Big Schools Bird Watch' looking for different birds in our school grounds. We made bird feeders to help the birds to have food in the winter. We have been learning about nests and creating cosy animal homes during our Forest School sessions. We have enjoyed celebrating our Welsh culture on Welsh music day and St Dwynwen's day this term. We ended by making a video all about our learning which we have shared with you on Seesw.



Year 1 update:

Willow Class started this half term with a walk in the local area to begin our topic 'On our Doorstep'. We looked at the different shops, buildings, houses and vehicles we could see to help us answer the question 'How do people live, work and travel in Caldicot?'. We have been talking about the different types of homes we have in Caldicot and the children worked together to make their own bungalows, houses and flats, discussing what they look like and comparing them. We have discussed what other buildings we have in Caldicot and got creative making our own street with chosen buildings and labelling it in Welsh. We have had a great time at Forest School taking part in the RSPB 'Big Schools Bird Watch'; building our own nests and making bird feeders, we also enjoyed making dens! In maths we have been measuring height and weight using standard and non-standard units and using mathematical vocabulary to compare the size and weight of objects. In literacy we have been reading the story 'Supermarket Zoo', writing shopping lists and creating some brilliant stories about a visit to a supermarket of our choice to buy our favourite animals. We look forward to continuing our topic next term when we will be taking part in a vehicle survey near the school and looking at different types of transport that we have in Caldicot.



Year 2 update:

Year 2 has had a fantastic start to 2026 with our new topic, "Over and Under," where we've been exploring how bridges like the Severn Bridge connect us to the rest of the UK. We were surprised to discover that the Severn crossing is actually made up of four structures and even researched the world's longest bridge in China! A highlight of the term was welcoming structural engineer Ian Wise to our classroom; he taught us technical vocabulary and the "secret" of why triangles are such a strong shape for building. Putting this into practice, the children worked in groups to design and build their own bridges using card and fasteners, testing them with weights to see if they would hold. Our creativity continued in literacy as we wrote our own wintery tales inspired by the story *Snowball*, and in PE, we have been busy perfecting our Welsh dancing in preparation for our upcoming Eisteddfod performance. The children have enjoyed working with year 6 on a seed planting calendar and using biodegradable pots to grow their own cress.



Year 3 Update:

Year 3 have continued exploring our topic '*What makes Wales so special?*' The children worked collaboratively to build their own castles. They also worked collaboratively to research facts about a Welsh castle and wrote their own fact files. In literacy, we have been reading *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. The children have really enjoyed exploring the story. To link with our learning, they wrote a fact file about barn owls. In maths, we have been doubling and halving numbers using the diamond method. In PE, the children have taken part in cricket lessons, where they have been practising their batting, bowling and fielding skills. They have shown fantastic teamwork and enthusiasm. Beech class also participated in an online Welsh quiz arranged by the Museum of Wales, as well as a Kahoot quiz to celebrate Dydd Miwsig Cymru. We listened to Welsh songs and answered questions about what we heard. Year 3 have continued their Forest School sessions which they thoroughly enjoy and look forward to each week. Well done Year 3 for your continued hard work!



Y4/5 Hazel Class update:

Both Hazel and Holly classes were enthusiastic about their topic of this half term: *What on Earth is Happening?* They participated in a quiz about rivers, mountains, volcanoes and similar, with an emphasis on how they affect Wales and the wider world. Hazel class completed a 'rainbow' weaving activity to consider this natural phenomenon and the class working supportively was a pleasure to see. Hazel class also participated in an online Welsh quiz arranged by the Museum of Wales (Amgueddfa Cymru), as well as a Kahoot quiz to celebrate Dydd Miwsig Cymru (13th February). We listened to a selection of Welsh songs through the medium of Welsh, and although very much a challenge, it stimulated all our senses. The children have had two online sessions via Adobe Express - one was in connection with St Dwynwen, the equivalent of St Valentine and the other was in connection with Children's Mental Health Week, whereby they used editing skills to create a well-being sense of safety and belonging (cynefin) - as posted on Seesaw. Furthermore, the class participated in an anti-racism workshop and created some very powerful posters.



Hazel class has had seven sessions of Forest Schools to enhance their outdoor learning abilities, and are currently undertaking swimming lessons at Caldicot Leisure Centre. We will continue with Forest Schools at the end of April. Similar to Y6, the class had four cricket sessions to develop their skills of bowling, batting and team building activities and the class enjoyed the expertise from the providers, Cricket Wales. After half term, on a Wednesday afternoon, the class will again have PE lessons and will wear PE kit on that day regardless (lessons will be fortnightly - pupil voice has yet to determine which sporting skills they would like to develop). Our careers visit from Allen Lloyd, a local photographer (see Y6 for further details), has inspired a love of nature - and a challenge has been set for the class to take their own photographs of nature. Watch this space - or should we say, watch this gallery!

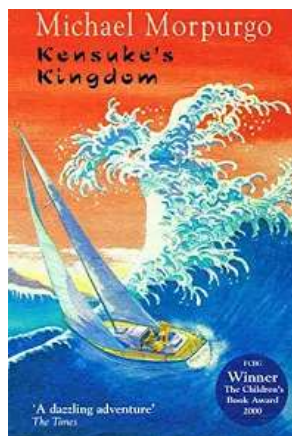
In literacy, we have been reading Michael Morpurgo's *Kensuke's Kingdom*, about a boy who survives being washed ashore on an island and forms an unexpected friendship with a reclusive Japanese survivor. In numeracy, we are currently looking at ways to add and subtract numbers, including those with decimals. Enjoy the half term and we look forward to seeing the children back after a refreshing half term. *Mwynhau!*

What is Dydd Miwsig Cymru?

Dydd Miwsig Cymru - Welsh Language Music Day - takes place on Friday 13 February 2026, and it's a celebration of the vibrant world of Welsh language music. From timeless folk traditions to cutting-edge electronica, indie anthems to hip hop beats, Welsh music reflects a living language and a thriving creative culture.

Why not join the celebrations with your school? Listening to Welsh language music is a great tool for learning both in and out of the classroom, and can be an opportunity for parents who don't speak Welsh to get closer to their child's Welsh language world in a fun and accessible way. Miwsig is for everyone.

Below are some ideas on how to get involved and how your school community can take miwsig home with them.



Y4/5 Holly Class update:


Both Holly and Hazel classes were enthusiastic about their topic of this half term: *What on Earth is Happening?* They participated in a quiz about rivers, mountains, volcanoes and similar, with an emphasis on how they affect Wales and the wider world. Holly class also participated in a Kahoot quiz to celebrate Dydd Miwsig Cymru (13th February). We listened to a selection of Welsh songs through the medium of Welsh, and although very much a challenge, we thoroughly enjoyed it! Furthermore, the class participated in an anti-racism workshop and created some very powerful posters. Holly class has also enjoyed four online French sessions, learning some basic phrases and lots of songs and dances!

In literacy we have been reading '*Kensuke's Kingdom*' and have written balanced arguments, newspaper reports and letters to send in a bottle from the desert island! The class is enjoying this book and we will continue to read it after half term. I wonder if Michael will ever make it home?

Holly class have had a fantastic time swimming and are now resuming their forest school activities on a Tuesday afternoon! Cricket Wales also came in and delivered four sessions, where the class developed their bowling, batting

and team building skills. Our half termly career visit from Allen Lloyd, a local photographer (see Y6 for further details), has inspired a love of nature - and a challenge has been set for the class to take their own photographs of nature. I look forward to seeing all their creative photography skills and seeing who Allen Lloyd will choose as a winner next term!



Vocabulary		 un 1 deux 2 trois 3 quatre 4 cinq 5 six 6 sept 7 huit 8 neuf 9 dix 10 onze 11 douze 12
Je m'appelle...	My name is...	
J'habite...	I live...	
Où habite tu?	Where do you live?	
J'ai ___ ans	I'm ___ years old	
Oui!	Yes!	
Non!	No!	



Year 6 update:

Dosbarth Oak have had an interesting first half term learning about their big question, 'What are natural phenomena and how do they affect Wales and the wider world?' They have developed their understanding of how Volcanoes are formed and where volcanoes are located across the World. They will be continuing with this theme during the second half of the Spring Term. In literacy the pupils have been reading Michael Morpurgo's 'Running Wild' and have been responding to his literature through writing a Diary Entry and a Newspaper Report. In Maths we have been strengthening our place value and number skills in our daily warm ups and have focused on decimals, ratio and Area and angles during our main maths sessions.

This term the pupils were visited by Allen Lloyd who talked about his career as local Secondary School teacher but more importantly his ambition for Photography. The pupils engaged in seeing photographs he had taken of nature and were introduced to 'the rule of 3' in photography. He concluded his talk by setting the pupils a challenge to take an interesting photograph of something in nature. We look forward to seeing all their creative photography skills and seeing who Allen Lloyd will choose as a winner next term.

It has also been a busy first half term for the pupils during their PE sessions. They have taken part in a block of 4 week cricket sessions, during which they developed many of the skills needed for cricket, alongside some team building games. They have also continued with their fortnightly Rugby sessions, lead by Matt from Dragons Rugby.

Apple Tree Class

Apple tree class had an interesting and exciting half term learning about the Gruffalo's Child text and the winter season.

We explored the story of the Gruffalo's Child using sensory resources such as sound buttons for the animals, a fan for the wind and glittery white snow. The children especially liked the part of the story where the wind was blowing and it was snowing! They talked about what they knew about the characters in the story and took part in retelling the story using the sensory resources for themselves.

In our garden, we imagined that it was snowing, dressed up for the snowy weather and threw paper snowballs. We made mini bird feeder pizzas and have watched the birds enjoy their tasty treats! We have also enjoyed spending time in our new sensory arch way.

As part of our learning about the Gruffalo's Child, we created pieces of art in different ways. We printed with our hands, took digital photos and used paper craft.

An exciting resource was added to SRB in January, our sensory room and soft play corridor was installed! This is a fantastic resource for the children and one that they have been making excellent use of.



Criw Cymraeg

Our dedicated Welsh crew, Criw Cymraeg, have been busy preparing for the upcoming Eisteddfod to celebrate St David's Day (Dydd Gŵyl Dewi) on 2nd March 2026. They are building up their presentation skills, by running the majority of the Welsh assemblies (currently every three weeks).

Our phrase of the moment is currently: **Ble rwyd ti'n byw? Dw i'n byw yn** (answers vary from Caldicot, Cil-y-Coed and similar, to **fflat, byngalo, tŷ, carafán...**) **gyda** (with) **mam, dad, mamgu, tadcu, brawd, chwaer...** (family members).

The school is working its way towards the Silver Language Charter Award (Siarter Iaith Cymraeg) and has put up its targets in the entrance hall, as well as in the main hall. With the recent *Dydd Miwsig Cymru* online quiz, some classes participated - thus meeting some of the criteria for Target 7 *Enrichment activities (to develop learners' use*

and enjoyment of Welsh). Criw Cymraeg is leading Target 5, *Welsh in assemblies*, as seen in the images below.



Gwobr Arian : Targed 5

Welsh in assemblies



<p>'Criw Cymraeg' are responsible for leading the majority of the Welsh weekly assembly.</p> <p>A weekly Welsh assembly continues to be held and all relevant staff attend.</p> <p>Headteacher and teaching staff greet and use basic Welsh commands during every assembly.</p> <p>'Criw Cymraeg' introduce and lead the Welsh prayer using basic Welsh phrases in the weekly Welsh assembly.</p> <p>'Criw Cymraeg' introduce and lead Welsh hymns and songs using basic Welsh phrases in the weekly Welsh assembly.</p>	<p>'Criw Cymraeg' greet pupils and staff and Welsh music is played whilst children as they enter or exit the weekly Welsh assembly.</p> <p>'Criw Cymraeg' introduce the phrase of the week in the weekly Welsh assembly and model how it can be used across the school.</p> <p>'Criw Cymraeg' hand out Welsh rewards in weekly Welsh assembly.</p> <p>Many year groups take it in turn to showcase short dramas, role plays, storytelling during the weekly Welsh assembly.</p>
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Gwobr Arian : Targed 7

Enrichment activities



<p>The school annually takes part in the local area Eisteddfod/Urdd Eisteddfod.</p> <p>The school organises Welsh trips to e.g. Llangrannog, Caerdydd, Glan-Llyn, Sain Ffagan etc to develop pupils' use and enjoyment of Welsh.</p> <p>The school takes part in external sporting activities and are encouraged to use Welsh e.g. Urdd sport activities, cluster sports.</p> <p>The school regularly invites Welsh speakers into the school.</p> <p>The school runs a Welsh club or a club which incorporates Welsh during lunchtime or after school.</p>	<p>The school organises an annual school eisteddfod where all singing, recitation/role play scenarios and homework competitions are through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The school supports and encourages pupils to become members of the Urdd and promotes membership benefits.</p> <p>'Criw Cymraeg' continues to organise events to celebrate 'Dydd Gwyl Dewi', 'Diwrnod Shumae', Welsh Wow Week etc.</p> <p>There is an emphasis on Welsh when creating and selling products for enterprise activities e.g. bilingual Christmas cards, calendars, decorated cakes, decorations etc.</p>
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Coming up next term:

St David's Day (Monday 2nd March):

Children may wear red, white or green clothing (Welsh colours), this may include a Wales team kit or they may wear traditional Welsh costume .

World Book Day (Thursday 5th March)

Children may dress up as a book character or wear their pyjamas and bring a bed time story.

Easter Bonnet Parade (Friday 27th March)

Children are invited to make and wear an Easter bonnet on this day. Parents are welcome to come and watch the children as they parade around the school field at 2pm. If it rains, we will parade inside school but parents will not attend.

Dates for your Diary:

- Monday 16th Feb - Friday 20th Feb Half Term
- Monday 2nd March - St David's Day
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
- Friday 27th March - Easter Bonnet Parade

Training Days

Friday 1st May

Monday 20th July