

Palmerston Primary School

Head Teacher's Newsletter

'Together we will succeed'



Attendance:

Spring 1 - 90%

News this half term:

This half term may have been quite short, but we have managed to pack in so much and have lots to celebrate. The first piece of amazing news is about our wonderful Mrs Hopkin. In the New Year's Honours list Mrs Hopkin was awarded the **British Empire Medal** for her outstanding work with children with Additional Learning Needs. It is typical of her modest nature that Mrs Hopkin did not want a fuss, so I thought I would quietly mention it in my newsletter. The next thing to celebrate is our new outdoor dining area - '**The Smart Space**'. The name was chosen to recognise another amazing member of staff, our cook Tracey Smart.

A huge thank-you to the **Big Fresh Company** for their generous financial donations and to several of our families who paid for the picnic benches. As they say, all good things come in threes and we are incredibly proud to announce that we have recently been awarded the bronze **Siarter Iaith Award**. An accolade that celebrates the progress we have made in our whole school journey in developing the Welsh language throughout our school community.



The New Year started with an amazing assembly from our **Year 3's** and fittingly ends with our **Year 1's** St Dwynwen's Day spectacular. It is always wonderful to welcome parents and the wider community into the school, so keep an eye out for next term's **Online Safety Workshop** and the next batch of '**Cooking with Tracey**' sessions. If you have any suggestions on future parental sessions or can offer any expertise please let us know. Our **Year 1's** also enjoyed a trip to Cardiff and **Year 5** have been busy swimming for the last 3 weeks. It was so lovely to receive messages from several members of the public who commented on the children's exemplary behaviour. I know there are many more trips planned for the Summer term.

Access

Attitude

Achievement

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We love welcoming visitors into school. In the last few weeks the children have experienced a **Taekwondo** session and several classes immersed themselves in a drumming workshop led by the brilliant **Children's Musical Adventure**. This leads me on to another piece of fantastic news. The school has been awarded a grant from the Arts Council for Wales to become a **Lead Creative School**, so we will continue on our musical journey. Another new initiative includes a lunchtime chess club - a fantastic idea that was organised by our Head Boy.

Every class topic this term has had a Welsh and Humanities focus. There has been so much wonderful learning. For example, **Year 4's** have been busy organising their own Eisteddfod and **Year 5's** created their own mood music using percussion. Mrs Hawkins our Business Manager delivered an excellent lesson to our **Year 6's** about finance and how to use a spreadsheet to keep on top of the budget. At the other end of the school our wonderful Nursery children enjoyed a trip to **'The Academy'** in Barry. Our **Reception** children have been tasting different Welsh foods and learnt a traditional folk dance and **Year 1** have been sharpening their German language skills. **Year 2** and **Year 3** have been busy embracing **Forest School** and all the benefits working outside brings. I know the teachers have many more exciting activities already planned for the next half term.



I would like to finish my newsletter with more good news. After the half term break **Year 1** and **2** will return to find a new covered outdoor area. A huge thank you to **'Bakelite'** for their generous financial donation that has made this possible and a massive thank you to all of our families for your ongoing support. Have a happy and restful half term.

Rights Respecting Article

Article 6 – You have the right to life, to grow up and reach your full potential



Value of the Month

February – Gratitude and kindness
March – Confidence and ambition



Dates for the diary:

Fluoride Varnish (Nursery to Year 2) - 23rd February
Barry Male Voice Choir - 28th February
Eisteddfod - 1st March
School Photos - 5th March
World Book Day - 7th March
Year 6 Manor Adventure - 13th to 15th March
Red Nose Day - 15th March
Pupil progress meetings - 18th March
Cake Day - 21st March
Year 4 Assembly - 21st March
Half term - w/c 25th March
Inset Day - 14th June & 22nd July

Access Attitude Achievement

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