

1st October 2021

Ysgol Gwernymynydd: Class 4 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Class 4, Year 5 & 6. Hopefully a settled year will be ahead of us where the children can enjoy their normal school lives. Considering a difficult previous 18 months around the world, I can see a large number of positives in each and every one of our children. This is a credit to you, as parents, with the work which has been completed at home.

I would also like to welcome a new member of staff, Mrs Jenny Beck. We're extremely lucky to have Mrs Beck with us. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience and we're excited about the new opportunities we can offer the children.

Please find below information about our class and what will be happening during this Autumn Term.

Here are some comments from our children based on their experiences of being back in school this past month.

It's gone quite well being back in school. I've got on well with my friends again. It feels a bit strange to not have to social distance as much. It's easier socialising with others in school than it was to do home schooling. It's better doing work outside than being stuck inside and we didn't do PE at home or Outdoor Learning, so I like doing those.

I'm really enjoying using Mantle of the Expert in our World War 2 topic. I am also enjoying Outdoor Learning and reading Goodnight Mister Tom in English.

Topic:

Our topic for this term is World War 2 and we are reading the text 'Goodnight Mister Tom'. The children may tell you that they have been learning through the Mantle of the Expert, which is a teaching and learning approach where the class adopt an expert point of view within an imaginary scenario. Once we say that we are 'in the Mantle', children work as experts in a team to solve problems. For example, working to plan the evacuation of children from the cities into the countryside during WW2. The 'Mantle' is the range of responsibilities, duties and roles they have as a team of experts. For example, working safely, checking for dangers, planning and preparing, training for rescues, knowing the area, advising others of the benefits. This approach to teaching and learning in our school is developing our curriculum further, ensuring that it is ambitious and based on knowledge and skills that children need for their future. Mantle of the Expert helps to catch the children's imagination and makes learning even more meaningful and exciting.

Maths:

In Maths we will be continuing to use the INSPIRE maths scheme. The initial section of the scheme begins with place value, followed by multiplication and division. Please encourage your child to practice their times tables as well as telling the time and using money. There are a number of websites and Apps for you to use. In school we are regular users of J2Blast which is on Hwb and Topmarks – Math games.

Spelling:

Spellings will be set every week on spelling frame. Initial assessments have been made using the Youngs Spelling Test. Staff will use these results within Spelling Frame in setting targets for your child: <https://spellingframe.co.uk/> .

Children must log into spelling frame twice per week in school to practice their words and take the test. They can practice as many times as they want at home.

Reading:

Your child will read with an adult once per week. They'll read during guided reading sessions or individually. Please encourage your child to bring in their reading record and reading book every day. Children will have an opportunity to change their books once they've completed them and written in their reading records. The children will have opportunities to read both English and Welsh books.

Handwriting:

In school we follow the Nelson handwriting scheme. An example will be sent home next week for you to practice at home.

Homework:

Homework is set on Google Classroom every Friday to be returned by the following Wednesday. This will be a grid of activities. Children are to choose and complete one activity per week. A google Doc and Google Slide will be made available for children to use. If you have difficulties accessing or printing online a paper copy of the grid can be made available with a homework book.

Water bottles and snack:

Children are encouraged to bring filled water bottles to school, these are kept by their names next to the sink in the corridor. Children are encouraged to drink plenty throughout the day. Staff will re fill bottles with water if needed. In order to promote healthy eating in line with Welsh Government guidance we encourage water in the classroom and fruit and veg at snack time.

Outdoor Learning:

Outdoor learning takes place every Monday afternoon (whatever the weather). Please provide your child with a waterproof coat and a change of shoes – we have been lucky with the weather so far! A pair of wellies or old trainers can be brought into school and kept on their pegs. If you have any old wellies your child may have grown out of we would welcome any donations for 'spares'

PE:

PE take place every Friday – Black joggers or black shorts, trainers and a white T-Shirt. Some of the activities we'll complete are Tag Rugby, Dodgeball, Gymnastic/ Dance (children will be barefoot for this activity).

And finally, please keep an eye out for a weekly update from the class every Friday on the Google Classroom stream.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr D Johnson & Mrs J Beck