



INSPIRE CHALLENGE ACHIEVE

Friday 9 January 2026
Dydd Gwener 9 Ionawr 2026

Griffithstown Primary School Gazette

www.griffithstown-primary.co.uk
email: head.griffithstownprimary@torfaen.gov.uk

Monthly Snapshot

Happy New Year

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and managed to find time to relax and enjoy time with family and friends.

Choir

December was a busy month for the school choir. They sang at three events over the Christmas period. The first at St Hilda's where they sang for the tree lighting ceremony, the second was at Fish Pond Park for the local elderly residents and the third was at The Lighthouse Church in Sebastopol. The children were amazing as always and everyone thoroughly enjoyed their performances.



Concerts

Thanks to everyone who came to watch the Christmas concerts in Years 1,2 and 3. I'm sure you will agree, they were superstars! We were also treated to performances from our Rock Steady bands and a musical extravaganza from pupils in Years 4,5 and 6. It was wonderful to see so much talent on show.



Traffic Management

We now have bollards at the end of Florence Place. This means pupils are able to enter school safely without the need to navigate around moving cars. Thank you to everyone for making this a success.

F.O.G.S.

Y6 had an early Christmas present in the form of leavers hoodies - fully funded and organised by Sarah and her team. F.O.G.S. also funded the six buses to the Pantomime at the Congress Theatre. By supporting their fundraising, Secret Rooms and discos to name a couple, you play a key part in this. So, a sincere 'thank you.'

Dazzle For Dementia

Everyone looked amazing in their sequins at the beginning of the month. We were able to send £125.70 to our local charity Age Connect Torfaen.

Christmas Unwrapped

Thanks to Pastor Darran and his team for putting on a fun-packed morning for Year 2 at his church and sharing the true meaning of Christmas.

Up & Coming

- 13.1.26 - Y1 & Y2 Little Wandle meeting 3:45pm
- 15.1.26 - Parents receive progress certificates
- 16.1.26 - INSET 3, school closed to pupils
- 20 & 21.1.26 - Parent/teacher consultations
- 23.1.26 - F.O.G.S. Hot chocolate & doughnuts
- 28.1.26 - Reception Little Wandle meeting 9:10am
- 30.1.26 - Modern Foreign Languages Day

Seren Yr Wythnos

12th, 19th Dec, & 9th Jan.

Mr Pembrey	Keira W, Gracie-May L, Leelah-Rose WP
Miss Thomas	Frankie E, Skye M, Martha B
Mrs Jordan	Isaac B, Jonathan DK, Ellie B
Miss Baxter	Sapphire G, Anya W, Firas A
Mr McDonnell	Harley R, Jozef J, Ella B
Miss Charles	Dev R, Brody M, Lowri R
Mr Blackmore	Kayden R, Elise H, Toby G
Miss Evans	Declan C, Mason L, Emily B
Mrs Hawkesworth	Marcus R, Erin B, Elijah D
Miss Murphy	Amara G, Finn B, Tommy S
Mrs Jones/Ms C-Brown	Freya G, Jack A, Reggie S
Miss Lloyd	Lwcasz T, Ariella T, Isabella R



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Sharing Success Outside School

Llongyfarchiadau!



Charlie (4/5J) has donated her hair to the Little Princess Trust charity who make wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer. She has been growing her hair for the past 2 years to get it long enough to donate! Da iawn Charlie.

Haydn (Y2) has achieved his blue ends on his yellow belt in Taekwondo.



Seren (Y6) has achieved her black ends on red belt in Taekwondo. She is now one grading off a black belt!



Harley (Y1) has recently achieved Nofio 3. She has also received her own Blue Peter badge after submitting a piece of artwork.



Raer competed in another gymnastics competition recently. This time she was placed 4th on beam and 4th in her team with some 'special awards' for her artistry! A tough category with over 100 other competitors!



Success Inside School



Here are the Gold Award winners for the autumn term. All these pupils have promoted the school's expectations and made a difference to our school and/or wider community.



The Housepoint Trophy for the autumn term goes to
PANTEG!



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Book Worms

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Age 3-5

P. Bear prepares for a big New Year's party and his animal friends come to join the fun. With each new guest that arrives, children can count along and enjoy the bright, colourful illustrations. The book is joyful, easy to follow, and full of happy festive spirit. It's perfect for reading together after the Christmas holidays or at the beginning of January. Little readers will love the celebrations and the cheerful way the story welcomes the New Year.

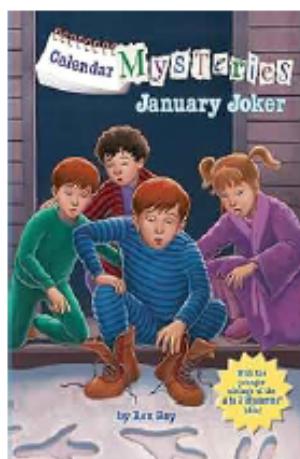


Age 6-8

Squirrel wants to make a New Year's resolution but doesn't know what it should be, so she watches her friends as they choose their goals. Along her journey, she discovers that helping others can be a wonderful thing to aim for, and in the end she finds her own special resolution. The story is heartwarming, easy to read, and encourages young readers to think about kindness and new beginnings in January. With colourful woodland characters and a positive message, it's a perfect book to read at the start of term after the holidays.

Age 9-11

In this first book of the **Calendar Mysteries** series, Bradley Pinto wakes up one January night to strange lights and unusual footprints in the snow. As he and his friends investigate, they uncover clues that lead them into an exciting adventure full of suspense and discovery. The story captures that fresh start feeling of the New Year with puzzles to solve and friends working together. With clear, engaging writing and a fun mystery to unravel, it's perfect for learners aged 9-11 who are ready for a chapter books with seasonal charm.



New Year, New Reads Reading Challenge



Kick off the year by discovering new stories and sharing your thoughts! For this competition:

Pick a book you haven't read yet (it can be fiction or non-fiction). Bonus points if it has a January, winter, or fresh-start theme!

Read it over the next two weeks.

Write a short paragraph (5-6 sentences) telling us:

- What the book was about
- Your favourite part
- How it made you feel
- Why you'd recommend it to someone else.

Optional creative twist: draw a small illustration of your favourite scene or character, or design a "New Year Book Cover" inspired by the story.



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Criw Cymraeg



Croeso i 2026

2026

Shwmae a croeso i 2026! We hope you all had a wonderful Nadolig full of cariad, hwyl a spending time with teulu.



Beth Wnest Ti Dros i Nadolig?

Beth wnest ti yn ystod i Nadolig? We would like to know what kinds of things you did over the Christmas holidays. Below are some simple past tense phrases you could use to tell us all about your Christmas holidays:

Es i... - I went

Ysgrifennais i... - I wrote



Arhosais i... - I stayed

Prynais i... - I bought



Chwaraeais i... - I played

Agorais i... - I opened (e.g. presents)



Bwytais i... - I ate

Cefais i... - I had / I got

Yfais i... - I drank

Cysgais i... - I slept

Gwyliais i... - I watched

Teithiais i... - I travelled

Gwrandewais i... - I listened

Arosais i gartref... - I stayed at home

Darllenais i... - I read



Big Welsh Challenge

Esgrifennu a short paragraph telling us all about what you did over the Christmas holidays. You can complete this on paper, online using something like PowerPoint, or in any creative way you like. Try to use as much Welsh as you can and remember to use the past tense. Once you have finished, give your completed paragraph or presentation to a member of the Criw Cymraeg. Llawer o (lots of) house points are up for grabs for anyone who completes this big Welsh challenge!

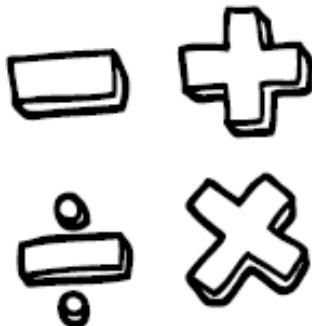


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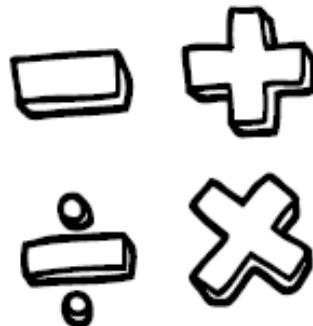
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Maths Minions



Activities to try at home

Older learners January Weather Maths

These are the temperatures for one January week (°C):

-1, 3, 0, -4, 2, -2, 1

Find:
the mean
the median
the mode
the range



How much warmer was the warmest day than the coldest?
Create a line graph to show the temperatures.

Predict the temperature for the next day and explain why.



Mathematician of the Month

Maryam Mirzakhani: The Queen of Shapes

Maryam Mirzakhani (1977 - 2017) was a brilliant mathematician from Iran who loved shapes, patterns, and puzzles. Ever since she was a little girl, she enjoyed solving tricky problems and drawing beautiful designs. Her favourite math was about **geometry**—the study of shapes and spaces—and she found new ways to understand surfaces, like the curves of a donut or a soccer ball!

In 2014, Maryam became the **first woman ever to win the Fields Medal**, the most famous award in mathematics. People called her “the queen of math” because she solved problems that no one else could. She showed the world that imagination and curiosity are just as important as numbers and formulas.

Maryam’s story reminds us that **math is not just about answers—it’s about exploring, playing, and discovering amazing patterns in the world around us.**

12/1/26	67	Why are children obsessed with 67?
26/1/26	26	Number of bones in your foot.

Please look out for the Magic Number videos on Class Dojo. A huge thank you to those who have sent in their activities.

Younger learners Snowy Number Hunt

Skills: Counting, addition, odd/even numbers

Materials: Paper, marker, small objects (cotton balls, coins, buttons)

Instructions:

Write numbers 1–20 on paper “snowflakes” and scatter them around.

Child “catches” snowflakes by picking them up or tossing a cotton ball on them.

Ask them to collect 2–3 snowflakes that add up to a target number (e.g., 10).

Optional: Sort snowflakes into odd and even numbers.



Magic Number

Magic Number