



INSPIRE
CHALLENGE
ACHIEVE

Griffithstown Primary School Gazette

Friday 3 July 2026

Dydd Gwener 3 Gorffennaf 2026

www.griffithstown-primary.co.uk

email: head.griffithstownprimary@torfaen.gov.uk

Monthly Snapshot

Thanks Nigel!

Nigel Bloomer was in school at the start of the month to take the traditional class photos. We hope you like them. Remember to get your order in by the end of term.

Torfaen Eco Quiz

Congratulations to a group of Y6 pupils who came 3rd in the second round of the Torfaen Champions Eco Quiz. We are so proud of Ava, Seren, Seb, Esmee & Monty. £75 prize for 3rd place winner & £50 for just winning the 1st round!



Y1 Farm Visit

Miss Murphy and Mrs Hawksworth's classes had an amazing day at Meadows Wildlife Park recently, despite the rain. They saw lots of different types of animals, petted rabbits and guinea pigs and saw different reptiles.



Y6 Gilwern O.E.C.

An exhausted, but enthusiastic, group of Y6 pupils, returned from Gilwern after a five day residential trip recently. During the visit, pupils took part in a wide range of challenging outdoor activities, including caving, rock climbing and canoeing, each designed to push them beyond their comfort zones and build resilience. The week was made all the more enjoyable because of the pupils' exemplary behaviour. A huge thank you to Mr Pembrey, Miss Thomas, Mrs Powell and Mrs Jordan who gave up time with their own families. Diolch!



Mini Olympics

Well done to our Mini Olympics squad, who proudly represented the school at George Street Primary. Throughout the day, pupils demonstrated excellent sportsmanship, whether competing against other schools or supporting teammates. Their efforts were rewarded with some medals—an impressive achievement that reflects both their determination and team spirit. Da iawn pawb!



Up & Coming

6th & 7th July - Hearing tests for Reception

8th July - Parent Teacher Consultations on request

8th July - Y2 Samba Festival 2 p.m.

10th July - Nursery Celebration 9:30; 6P & 5/6T trip

13th July - F.O.G.S. Disco during school day

14th July - Y6 Leavers' Disco 5 p.m.

15th July - Y6 Leavers' Assembly 9:30

16th July - Last day for pupils

17th & 20th July - I.N.S.E.T. Days

Seren Yr Wythnos

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th June

Mr Pembrey	Morgan I, Rameen A, Ieuan SH
Miss Thomas	Imogen T, Yassin F, Ethan J
Mrs Jordan	Tristan, Levana, Adrian, Oliver P
Miss Hall	Jacob L, Evelyn L, Harry L, Ellis
Mr McDonnell	Theo T, Nevaeh D, Gabriella, Ella B
Miss Charles	Ian N, Brody M, Isabella W, Tobias
Mr Blackmore	Eva L, Rosie-Mae T, Noah F, Daniel S
Miss Evans	James, Theo, Sienna, Deeanna
Mrs Hawksworth	Floyd, Elijah, Haniya, Paisley
Miss Murphy	Mollie, Archie, Harley, Millie
Mrs Jones/Ms C-Brown	Charlie, Advith, Benjamin L, Miles R
Miss Lloyd	Edith, Luca, Elena-Rae, Charles



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We Won!



We are incredibly proud of all of our Year 3 pupils and how far they came in the Climate Challenge Cymru competition. The children worked so hard to create innovative ideas to help clean the air and tackle pollution in Wales.

To be selected as finalists was an incredible achievement in itself and something every child involved should feel immensely proud of. Reaching the final placed our pupils amongst the very best young innovators in Wales.

We are then absolutely thrilled to share that 3C were awarded 1st place for their design! To be crowned winners against schools from all across Wales is a phenomenal achievement. We could not be prouder of the creativity, determination and teamwork that 3C have shown throughout this project.

Climate Challenge Cymru is inspired by the Earthshot initiative, championed by Prince William, making this a truly special opportunity for our children to be involved in environmental action and innovation.

Da iawn, Year 3! You have been fantastic ambassadors for our school and have shown that young people really can make a difference. Llongyfarchiadau too to Miss Charles & Mr McDonnell.

Sports Days 2026

Unpredictable weather caused significant disruption to this year's Sports Days. The original events, scheduled for the week before half term, were unfortunately cancelled due to persistent rain. Rearranged dates then coincided with an intense heatwave across Wales, creating further challenges for staff and pupils alike.

Determined to ensure the events could still go ahead in some form, staff explored alternative arrangements. While it was disappointing that only Reception pupils were ultimately able to take part, the adapted event proved to be a wonderful occasion. Held under the shade of the trees to ensure safety, pupils from Miss Lloyd's and Mrs Jones/Miss Crane-Brown's classes showcased their developing athletic skills, cheered on enthusiastically by parents and staff.



It was a pleasure to see such enthusiasm and pride, with smiling faces and well-earned stickers marking the occasion. Thank you to everyone who braved the heat to support our youngest learners.

2026 - 2027

This week pupils enjoyed a day with their new class teachers in their new classrooms. Here is an overview of the classroom organisation for 2026 -27:

Nursery: Mrs Nightingale

Reception: Mrs Hawksworth & Mrs Jones/Mrs Crane-Brown

Year 1: Miss Charles & Miss Murphy

Year 2: Mrs Jordan & Miss Evans

Year 3: Miss Lloyd

Year 3/4: Mr McDonnell

Year 4: Mrs Hall

Year 4/5: Mr Blackmore

Year 5/6: Miss Thomas

Year 6: Mr Pembrey



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Sharing Success Outside School Llongyfarchiadau!

Aries (Y2) & Jaxon (Y1)
have completed Nofio 3.



Arlo (Y4) bagged first prize in a competition whilst on rugby tour recently. Just look at the size of that trophy!



It's all go in this household! Halle (Y3) has passed Nofio 6 & Jaxon (Y1) scored 6 goals in a recent football tournament. He also bagged himself man of the match.



Omar has completed his first senior Park Run! That's 5K! Remember to run with an adult if you fancy stepping up a distance.



A great few weeks for Evelyn (Y4.) She's received a medal for representing her club, Cwmbran Netball, at a recent tournament, and an end of season trophy.

She's also passed her Standard 2 Ballet exam where she had a Merit.





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Sharing Success Outside School Llongyfarchiadau!



Millie (Y4) didn't like swimming / dance but she's has been working really hard exercising and walking everyday. Absolutely amazing! Maybe we'll see you at Junior Park Run very soon!

Congratulations to Skye (Y5) who reached the half marathon marker at Junior Park Run recently. The full marathon is in sight!

Mic Morris 2K
See you in the park
12th July @8:45am



Congratulations to Paisley (Y2) on her certificate & trophy awarded at her recent rugby club's presentation.



Dylan (Y6) was awarded with 'Most Improved Player' as his football club's presentation night. Da iawn, Dylan.



Isla took part in a Gymnastics competition in Wiltshire representing her gymnastics club recently. Look at that smile!

Keep moving this summer at junior parkrun!

Don't forget - even though we are approaching the end of term, your local junior parkrun event is still on throughout the summer holidays! If your child hasn't attended, now could be the perfect time to give it a try. junior parkrun is a fun, free, weekly 2k event on Sunday mornings for children aged 4-14 and their family. Register for free and find your local event and keep moving this summer at junior parkrun!

Griff Gazelles

Very proud of these statistics. Can't wait to see how they change over the summer.

Griff Gazelles at Pontypool junior parkrun
29 parkrunners
251 parkruns



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Sharing Success Outside School Llongyfarchiadau!

Rock Steady Music School

Congratulations to all those pupils who have achieved certificates from Trinity College London in a range of skills obtained in band lessons.



Name	Instrument	Year
Adrian	drums	5
Carter	drums	1
Carys	keyboard	6
Dylan	guitar	6
Floyd	drums	1
Gabriella	drums	3
Harry	keyboard	3
Isaac	drums	4
Isla	drums	2
Jaia-Leigh	guitar	4
Jared	guitar	2
Jay	drums	3
Jozef	guitar	3
Lilly	vocals	2
Marley	vocals	2
Monty	keyboard	6
Noah	guitar	2
Oliver	drums	6
Raer	bass	5
Riley	bass	6
Rory	guitar	5
Rudi	drums	6
Samuel	keyboard	2





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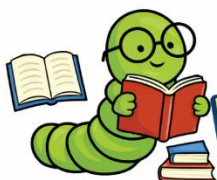
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AR THMA'R HAF



GRIFFITHSTOWN
BookWorms

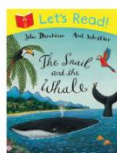


SUMMER THEMED

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

The Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler

Ages 3-5



READ to the BEAT
Summer Reading Challenge

"The Snail and the Whale" is a delightful and heart warming adventure that captures young children's imaginations. The story follows a tiny snail who longs to see the world and embarks on an exciting journey on the tail of a friendly humpback whale. Together, they explore distant lands, sparkling oceans and fascinating wildlife. With its rhythmic rhyming text, stunning illustrations and themes of friendship, courage and helping others, the book keeps children engaged from beginning to end. Plus, it shows children that even the smallest creatures can make a big difference!

The Secret Lake by Karen Inglis

Ages 9-11

"The Secret Lake" is an exciting summer adventure perfect for children aged 9-11. During the summer holidays, siblings Stella and Tom discover a hidden lake that leads them on a mysterious journey through time. Full of friendship, adventure and intrigue, the story keeps readers hooked from start to finish. With its summertime setting and engaging plot, it is an ideal holiday read that encourages curiosity, courage and imagination.



How it works

Welcome to the Summer Reading Challenge! Take part online or at your local library.

Online

At your library

1. Sign up

Click 'Join now' to create your account.

2. Read books

Set your own goal and read anything you like. Add your books to your profile, with a review!

3. Earn digital rewards

Unlock special online badges and a certificate when you reach your Challenge goal!*

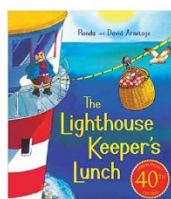
*Physical rewards like medals are only available when taking part at select libraries.

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk>

The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch by Ronda and David Armitage

Ages 6-8

"The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch" is a fun and entertaining seaside story that is perfect for children aged 6-8. Set on the coast during sunny days, the story follows Mr Grinling, a lighthouse keeper whose delicious lunches keep being stolen by hungry seagulls. Full of humour, adventure and clever problem-solving, it is an engaging summer read that encourages discussion about the seaside, holidays and life by the sea.





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PROMOTING



Criw Cymraeg Leading the Way – Let's Speak Welsh Every Day!

ENNILLYDD CYMRAEG YR WYTHNOS

Llongyfarchiadau i Mr McDonnell who is Criw Cymraeg's chosen 'Welsh Winner of the Week'. Your dosbarth has been using llawer o exciting Welsh - asking and answering questions, and even extending - da iawn ti!!



Use Welsh everyday!!

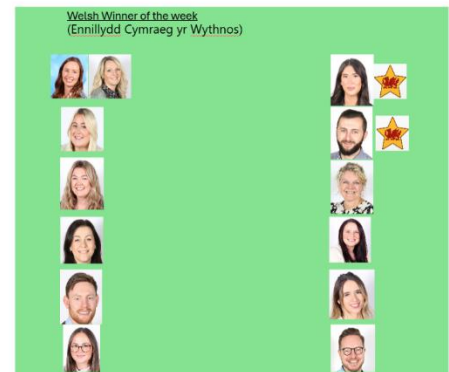


Can you complete our **Big Welsh Summer Challenge**?

Over the summer holidays, try to use **five Welsh words or phrases every day**! You could say **Bore da, Diolch, Os gwelwch yn dda, Sut wyt ti?** or **Hwyl fawr**. Keep a tally of how many times you use Welsh at home, on holiday or when visiting friends and family.

Her Arbennig: Can you teach a Welsh word or phrase to someone who doesn't know any Welsh?

Pob lwc – and remember, every little bit of Welsh counts!



LLONGYFARCHIADAU A PHOB LWC, MISS THOMAS!



This September, Miss Thomas will be beginning a two-term Welsh Sabbatical to further develop her Welsh language skills. During the programme, she will immerse herself in learning and using Welsh every day, helping to build her confidence and fluency. Miss Thomas hopes to bring back a wealth of new ideas, strategies and experiences to support Welsh language development across the school. We are excited to see the positive impact this will have on our Welsh journey. Miss Thomas will return to Griffithstown Primary School in April 2027 – Pob Lwc!



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Maths Minions

My Money Week



This week, our pupils have been immersed in a fantastic range of activities as part of My Money Week, learning valuable life skills while having lots of fun along the way!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our special guests who generously shared their time and expertise with the children. Adam Clarkson, one of our parent governors, visited to talk about his successful painting and decorating business. The children enjoyed learning about running a business, the skills needed for the job, and the importance of hard work and enterprise.

A special thank you also goes to another parent, Michelle Dean, from Lloyds Banking Group, who delivered engaging sessions on budgeting, understanding needs and wants, and making sensible financial choices. The children asked some thoughtful questions and gained a deeper understanding of how money helps us make everyday decisions.

We were also delighted to welcome Money Ready, who delivered highly engaging and interactive workshops for pupils in Years 3-6. Their activities encouraged children to think carefully about saving, spending, and managing money, all in a fun and memorable way. Throughout the week, excitement has been building as children have been busy designing, creating and preparing products for today's highly anticipated Griff-Marketplace. From handmade crafts to innovative creations, our young entrepreneurs have shown incredible creativity and teamwork. We can't wait to see their hard work on display and watch their businesses come to life!

Well done to all of our pupils for embracing My Money Week with such enthusiasm, and thank you once again to our wonderful visitors for helping make the week such a success.



Magic Number

2/7/26	56	The average person's left hand does 56% of the typing.
9/7/26	89	The fastest a person has counted to 1million was 89 days!!!
16/7/26	16	In chess, each player has 16 pieces.

