

FEBRUARY 2026

TROEDYRHIW COMMUNITY PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Thank you to all our parents and carers for your fantastic support with our new homework and reading policy—your involvement makes a real difference, and continuing this partnership will help every child make strong progress. We are also delighted to see improvements in attendance across the school, which has a direct impact on wellbeing, confidence, and learning outcomes. In addition, we are pleased to share that our most recent Estyn visit was very positive, recognising the hard work of our pupils, staff and wider school community.

Included in this newsletter are key events for the remainder of the spring term. If you require any further details, please contact the school office.

Enjoy Fenraury half-term - Mrs Roome (Headteacher)

2.IMPORTANT REMINDERS

School Uniform:

We kindly remind all pupils that they are expected to wear full school uniform every day, including plain black shoes, as this helps us maintain high standards and a strong sense of belonging across the school. We ask that everyone respects and follows this policy. If you need any support with uniform, we're always here to help—recycled items can be requested at any time or picked up when visiting Y Stryd Fawr / Big Bocs Bwyd every Wednesday after school. Thank you for working with us to ensure all pupils meet our expectations.

Jewellery:

A quick reminder that pupils may wear one small stud earring, but all jewellery must be removed for PE for health and safety reasons. If younger pupils cannot remove earrings themselves, please take them out before school. Necklaces and bracelets should not be worn. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

3. HEALTH & SAFETY

"Be wise where you drive—help keep children safe and alive!"

We kindly remind parents and carers not to access Archer Street when dropping off pupils. This creates congestion and poses a safety risk for children walking into school. We are also seeing residents parking on the green pedestrian which reduces space and could block access for emergency vehicles.

We are already working with the local authority and police to address these concerns, and your support is greatly appreciated. You can also help by contacting your local councillors to highlight the issue.

4.SUPPORTING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY:

Y Stryd Fawr (The High Street) is open every Wednesday from 3.20 to 4pm. Come along to access affordable food items and clothing. Community are welcome.

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SAINT DAVID'S DAY & SCHOOL EISTEDDFOD

What is Saint David's Day?

St David's Day, celebrated on 1st March, honours St David, the patron saint of Wales. It is a day to celebrate Welsh culture, language, music, and national pride. People often wear daffodils or leeks—the national symbols of Wales—and take part in activities that highlight Welsh heritage.

How Schools Celebrate with an Eisteddfod

Many schools mark St David's Day by holding an Eisteddfod, a traditional Welsh festival of literature, music, and performance. Pupils take part in a range of creative activities such as singing, reciting poetry, dancing, art competitions, and Welsh language work. This celebration gives children the chance to showcase their talents, learn about Welsh traditions, and enjoy being part of a shared cultural experience.

School Eisteddfod

This year our school Eisteddfod will take place on Monday 2nd March. On this day we ask all pupils to wear **a traditional Welsh costume or something red** - if they have a daffodil or leek too that would be amazing!

Thank you for supporting this event.

Awards and certificates will be presented on this day.



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

Friday 13th - last day of half-term

Monday 16th - Friday 20th - Half-term holiday

Monday 23rd - all pupils return to school

Tuesday 24th - Eisteddfod Judging day (pupils to complete tasks set as homework for half-term)

Tuesday 24th - Year 3 trip

Thursday 26th - Year 4 trip

MARCH:

Monday 2nd - School Eisteddfod

Tuesday 3rd - Year 5 and 6 trip

Wednesday 4th - Year 6 trip

Thursday 5th - World Book Day (fancy dress)

Thursday 5th - Year 4 - Carmel Chapel

Wednesday 11th - Friday 13th - Year 6 residential

Friday 13th - Class Mother's Day / Family Event

Friday 20th - Year 5 - Carmel Chapel

Tuesday 24th - All classes to Carmel Chapel - Easter Service

Friday 27th - last day of term

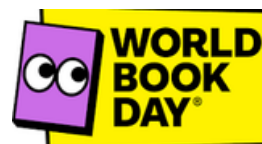
Monday 13th April - pupils return to school

WORLD BOOK DAY - THURSDAY 5TH MARCH

We are looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day**, a special event that encourages children to develop a love of reading and discover new stories. To mark the day, pupils are invited to come to school in fancy dress, and there will be awards for the most original costume ideas.

As part of promoting a love of books, we will also be holding a book swap, giving pupils the chance to exchange a book they have finished with for a new one to enjoy.

Thank you for supporting this fun and creative celebration of reading!



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PLAYGROUND DEVELOPMENT:

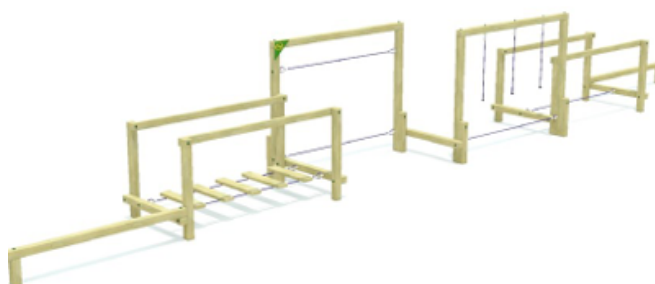
Improving our playgrounds:

A big thank you to all our parents and carers for your wonderful support with our fundraising efforts over the past couple of years. Thanks to your generosity, we are now able to move forward with installing new playground equipment. We are expecting this to be installed Thursday 12th - Friday 13th March.

Once in place, it will bring fantastic benefits to our pupils—enhancing playtimes with more opportunities for active, imaginative play and supporting PE lessons with new ways to build fitness, coordination, and teamwork skills.



Key Stage 2 playground



Foundation Phase playground

For health and safety reasons, we kindly remind families that playground equipment must not be used before or after school.

MINIBUS UPDATE:

We are pleased to share that our new 16-seater school minibus is expected sometime in March. This will make a huge difference to our school by helping us run more trips, support sporting events and activities, and reduce travel costs for both the school and families.

Thank you once again for your fantastic fundraising efforts and generous parental donations, which have helped make this possible.

We had hoped to insure the minibus for wider community use, but due to the conditions set by the charity who have sponsored the majority of the cost, it can only be used for school purposes.

We are still incredibly grateful for this support and look forward to the benefits the minibus will bring to our pupils.



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MOTHER'S DAY / FAMILY EVENT:

To celebrate Mother's Day, we will be holding a special Family Afternoon Event in school on . We recognise that Mother's Day can feel different for every family, so this celebration is open to any parent, carer, or family member who is special to your child.

During the event, adults will join their child for some lovely craft activities and will receive a small treat as a thank-you for all they do. There is no need to register in advance; teachers will send a separate Seesaw message to confirm numbers.

We look forward to welcoming our families for this relaxed and inclusive celebration.



Fruit Shop – Returning After Half Term

We are pleased to let you know that our fruit shop will be returning after half term. Pupils are welcome to bring their own fruit and water for a healthy snack during morning break.

For health and safety reasons, we kindly ask that no grapes or baby tomatoes are brought into school.

Our fruit shop will also be available to all pupils. A selection of fruit can be purchased for 30p in cash. The fruit shop will be located in the Key Stage 2 playground. Enjoying healthy snacks helps boost energy, concentration, and overall wellbeing—perfect for a busy school day!



COMMUNICATION:

A quick reminder that Seesaw and email are our main ways to communicate with families. Our Facebook page is for notifications only and isn't monitored for messages.

Please contact class teachers on Seesaw between 8.30am and 4.30pm, weekdays and term time only. For anything else, please use staff emails or the school office email (office@troedyrhiw.merthyr.sch.uk)

Recently, staff have been receiving messages outside working hours. To protect wellbeing and workload, we kindly ask that messages are kept within the set times. If this continues, we may need to turn off Seesaw messaging, which we would prefer to avoid.

Thank you for your support.

POSITIVE COMMUNICATION - THANK YOU

We would like to thank our parents and carers for the kindness and respect you show towards our staff. While we know that social media is sometimes used to criticise schools or individuals, we are grateful that—to our knowledge—this has not been the case for our school. Hurtful comments online can cause real distress and impact the wellbeing of those involved, so we truly appreciate your support.

We understand that concerns may arise, and we value that our families choose to speak with us directly so we can work together to resolve any issues. Your continued positive and constructive approach helps maintain a supportive school community for everyone.

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INSPECTION REPORT

Our school recently received an inspection visit from Estyn (school inspectorate for Wales). The main purpose was to focus on the progress the school has made towards the recommendation from the core visit in October 2023 and also to look at progress being made towards School Improvement targets. We are extremely proud of the recognition school has received and invite you to read the full report that is available on the Estyn website. A summary is provided below.



Recommendation from previous inspection: Provide opportunities for younger pupils to develop as independent and creative thinkers and learners

- Leaders have developed a coherent whole-school approach that effectively promotes independence and creativity for younger pupils.
- Learning experiences in the younger classes are well matched to pupils' developmental needs. Staff design engaging opportunities that promote exploration, problem-solving, and pupil choice from an early age.
- Learning environments are welcoming, well organised, and purposeful.
- School leaders and staff review practice regularly through observation and professional dialogue
- Younger pupils engage positively in their learning. They make thoughtful choices, work well with others and explain their ideas clearly, demonstrating growing confidence in how they learn.



As the school only had one recommendation, inspectors also explored one of the school improvement targets: Embed oracy strategies to support the development of pupils' writing

- Leaders have established a consistent approach to developing pupils' spoken language. Staff understand this well and focus clearly on developing pupils' communication skills across a range of learning experiences.
- Throughout the school, staff provide frequent opportunities for pupils to reflect on and share their ideas in a variety of contexts. They model effective strategies that enable pupils to express their ideas clearly and listen to and respond respectfully to the views of others.
- Teachers lead purposeful discussions about pupils' reading to deepen understanding.
- Teachers use questioning effectively to check pupils' understanding and deepen learning.
- Staff develop pupils' vocabulary well. They provide opportunities for pupils to practise new language and organise thinking so that pupils can apply this more confidently in writing.