



# ARCHDEACON JOHN LEWIS NEWSLETTER

‘Strength through knowledge and faith.’

**Friday 17th January 2025**

**Attendance: 92%**

Our week started with a celebration of Holy Communion with Rev Mark Broadway. Rev Mark told us all about baptism and read the Gospel story of when Jesus was baptised. Over the years we have welcomed children in Year 5 and 6 to communion following First Communion Preparation. Rev Mark is keen to run these preparation sessions in school, over the next few weeks, in time for our March 24th School Communion. A letter with more information has been sent to parents of children in Year 5 and 6.

On Tuesday we welcomed the ‘Open the book’ team. Rev Roger, the parishioners from the team and three of our Year 6 children brought drama to the story of The Epiphany. We are so proud of our children taking on these roles and often with little time to prepare before performing.

Our school has also formed a partnership with the SHINE team from CWM Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. This will help us to enhance our whole-school approach to emotional and mental health. Support, training and education will be provided for teachers and parents. Please contact me if you would like some more information on this programme.

“Taking care of me’ A self-guide programme for parents’ and “Taking Care of Me’ A SELF-CARE GUIDE: HELPING ME TO BE HAPPY & HEALTHY’ are available on our website here:

<https://www.ajlprimary.co.uk/school-policies/elsa-and-nurture>



## A Reminder About Uniform & PE Kit

Please refer to our School Uniform Policy which is available [here](#). We would like to remind parents that false nails, makeup and jewellery (other than a pair of stud earrings & a watch) are not to be worn to school.

Please provide your child with a drawstring kit bag for their PE kit so that kit may be kept in school at all times. This will allow flexibility over the timing of PE/outdoor games due to timetable clashes with special events and/or inclement weather on scheduled PE/outdoor games days.

- Plain dark joggers/leggings
- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain dark sweatshirt/jacket for outdoor PE (no hoodies please)
- Trainers/black daps

A separate PE kit is not required for children in Nursery.

PE Kits will be sent home periodically for washing.

**Mrs L Forster**

Acting Headteacher



**Keep in Touch:**

[www.ajlprimary.co.uk](http://www.ajlprimary.co.uk) | 01656 815520 | [admin@archdeaconjohnlewisps.bridgend.cymru](mailto:admin@archdeaconjohnlewisps.bridgend.cymru) | Message us using the School Gateway app



Have you downloaded the School Gateway app? This is our primary form of communication with parents & carers (and helps us stay eco-friendly too by not sending home lots of letters!)



**This is a snapshot of our current parent sign up stats - we'd love for them to be higher so that no-one is missing important information!**

It is essential that all parents have the app downloaded (it's free!) and are logged in with push notifications enabled. If you're having trouble getting the app to work, please contact the school office.

In addition to School Gateway, each class has their own Seesaw page where teachers can share class specific updates and photos of the class learning journeys. If you don't have the link for your child's Seesaw, please ask their class teacher.



Please be mindful when messaging either of the apps that on the whole they are only monitored during school hours, and class teachers are not always able to reply while they are teaching.

For any urgent enquiries, please contact the school office via email or telephone. Pupil absence should always be reported to the office by email/phone/voicemail/gateway app - not by Seesaw.

There is also a wealth of information, as well as a whole school calendar, on our school website:



[www.ajlprimary.co.uk](http://www.ajlprimary.co.uk)

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Nursery and Reception have been super busy this week! They have enjoyed Cosmic Kids Yoga, construction and ice painting.

If you'd like to try Cosmic Kids Yoga at home visit:  
<https://cosmickids.com/>



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Mrs Hodges' class thoroughly enjoyed their Ukulele session this week. They have also been focusing on the numbers 17, 18 and 19.



Learning how to hold a Ukulele correctly and using our thumb to strum. 14.01.25



PIC•COLLAGE

Keep in Touch:

# MIGHTY METALS

Mrs Bowen's class enjoyed a visit to the Spar Park on Monday to investigate and explore all the different types of metals.

I think it's clear to see they had a huge amount of fun while learning!

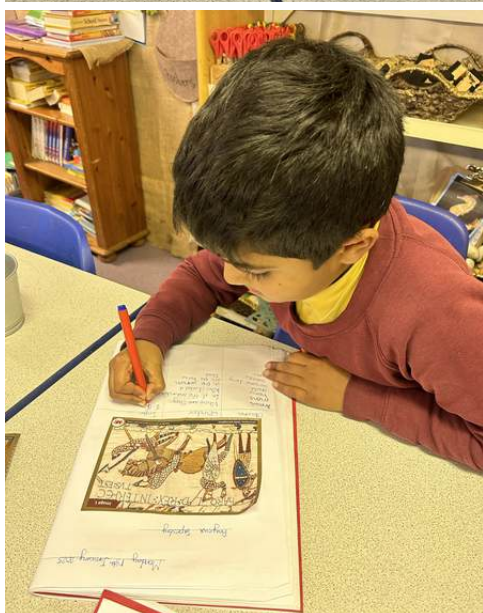


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Miss Conlon's class have been studying the Bayeux Tapestry.

The children were taking sample sections of the tapestry and learning how to infer. They all found this fascinating!



It was great to get outside and practise our Netball skills too!



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Rueben, Hannah and David (Miss Doran's class) helped the Open the Book (OTB) with their retelling of the Epiphany, when the kings visited Jesus. The OTB Team were very impressed with their acting and expression as they read their lines to the whole school.



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## Upcoming Events

**SAVE THE DATE**

- Friday 31st January: Miss Conlon's class Messy Coffee
- Tuesday 11th February: Nursery & Reception St David's Day Photos
- Friday 14th February: Deadline for Reception (Sept 2025) applications
- Monday 17th February: Eucharist, 9:15am. All welcome!
- Friday 21st February: INSET Day 4 of 6
- Monday 24th February - Friday 28th February: Half Term
- Wednesday 5th March & Thursday 6th March: Parents' Evenings
- Friday 7th March: Mrs Bowen's class Messy Coffee
- Monday 3rd March - Friday 7th March: Swimming (Year 4 and Year 5)
- Monday 10th March - Friday 14th March: Swimming (Year 4 and Year 6)



**ADDYSG CYMRU**  
EDUCATION WALES  
cenhadaeth ein cenedl | our national mission

**Uywodraeth Cymru**  
Welsh Government

**Need help with school costs?**  
Check if your child is eligible  
and claim what's yours.



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EDUCATION WALES  
cenhadaeth ein cenedl | our national mission

**Uywodraeth Cymru**  
Welsh Government

Check your child's eligibility to  
get up to **£200 for School  
Essentials** and **extra funding**  
for your school.

## Please Keep Us Updated!

Please ensure that your details are kept up to date with the school office. It is essential that we hold up to date address details, phone numbers and email addresses for all parents/carers and emergency contacts.

Any updates to personal information can be submitted on the Gateway app or by email to [admin@archdeaconjohnlewisps.bridgend.cymru](mailto:admin@archdeaconjohnlewisps.bridgend.cymru)



**Keep in Touch:**

# ECO SCHOOLS HOME CHALLENGE

Next week we will be taking part in the RSPB garden big bird watch! Over the next week we are inviting you to send us snaps of any bird that you see!

Send your snaps to  
[admin@archdeaconjohnlewisps.bridgend.cymru](mailto:admin@archdeaconjohnlewisps.bridgend.cymru)

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# Road Safety

**The safety of pupils and their families is of paramount importance. Please can we remind parents to drive carefully on school grounds, particularly around the busy drop off and pick up times.**

There are five important steps that parents can take to protect children in and around vehicles.

## 1. Choose your car carefully

If you are buying a car, choose one ranked as highly as possible for safety and with the lowest emissions.

All modern cars will have seat belts; however, you can also check out the number of air bags in a car, and the protection they provide to different parts of people's bodies in different seats in different types of crashes (frontal, side or rear)

## 2. Fit and use child restraints, always

Keep using a child seat appropriate for your child's size until they're 150cm tall, even if your child complains they are "too old" to have one. Help your child to understand that their seat is special – it helps keep them safe.

On every journey, always check that all children in your car are correctly restrained before setting off, and children know the importance of not fiddling with their straps or undoing them during the journey.

## 3. Slow and shhh!

It's really simple, but so many parents drive a little bit too fast, or talk on phones while driving, risking the safety of their family and other people outside the vehicle too. It's because parents are often in a rush and have busy lives.

We must all put safety first instead. Speed is a number one killer. The faster we drive, the less time we have to react and stop in time.

Distraction from talking on a phone, either hand-held or hands-free, also causes deaths and injuries

## 4. Don't drive children all the way to school

Ideally, no child should be driven to school. There should be safe pavements and segregated cycle paths to enable them to walk or cycle to school safely.

If you do drive your children to school, for example because school is some distance away and there is no accessible public transport, then one contribution you can make to safety and the planet is to walk part of the way.

Try to find a way to park safely some distance from the school and walk the rest. This keeps traffic away from the school gates and crossing places that children routinely use. It also helps your children be healthier and spend more time with you and their friends while walking to and from school.

## 5. Remember children are in the car

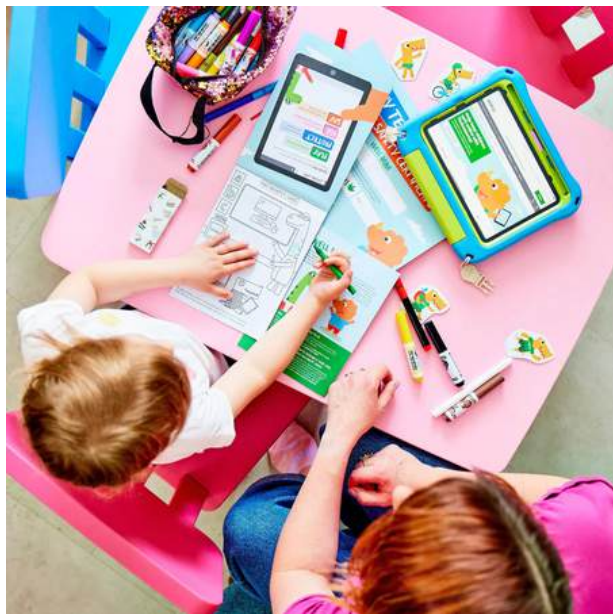
Never leave children alone in vehicles.



[www.brake.org.uk/get-involved/take-action/mybrake/knowledge-centre/advice-for-parents-and-families/in-your-car](http://www.brake.org.uk/get-involved/take-action/mybrake/knowledge-centre/advice-for-parents-and-families/in-your-car)

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The **NSPCC Techosaurus Activity Pack** helps to make conversations about staying safe online as easy as possible. With a colouring in activity, dot-to-dot and maze game, you can help create a safer online experience for your child.

Each pack includes

- Four Techosaurus activities designed to teach children about online safety,
- An Online Safety Family agreement to complete together
- A digital certificate to celebrate your little one's completion of the training
- A parent's guide to the activities, and how to talk about staying safe online

# WELLBEING Online



- Have regular conversations with your child
- Give children the chance to talk about what they're experiencing online, what apps and sites they use and who they're talking to.
- Talking regularly, like you would about their day at school, will help your child feel relaxed and mean that when they do have any worries, they're more likely to come and speak to you.
- Remind them that it isn't just you that they can talk to – another trusted adult or a Childline counsellor might be easier sometimes.
- When children communicate online, misunderstandings can lead to disagreements or arguments. Encourage your child to look at the Childline website, which has lots of useful advice articles

**Keep in Touch:**



## FREE SESSIONS: EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION

Funded sessions for parents and professionals about extreme narratives, ideologies, radicalisation methods, protective measures and Prevent.

### What to expect:

- Introduction and explanation of terms 'extremism', 'radicalisation' and 'terrorism'
- Exploration of youth-centric vulnerabilities in relation to extremism
- Introduction to local and emerging trends and digital techniques used by radicalisers
- Skills workshop on media literacy for youth protection
- Useful tips and tricks for online safety and young people
- Discussion and activities throughout the session
- Q+A

### Workshop Information:



Free to sign up



Flexibility on session length, time and group size



Sessions to be run in person by a DBS-holding member of staff from Shout Out UK

#### Contact to enquire:

[Chloe@Shoutoutuk.org](mailto:Chloe@Shoutoutuk.org)

OR

[Gary.black@rctcbc.gov.uk](mailto:Gary.black@rctcbc.gov.uk)