

ARCHDEACON JOHN LEWIS NEWSLETTER

'Strength through knowledge and faith.'

Friday 3rd October 2025

Attendance: 92%

We have had another busy week with a number of enriching experiences and learning opportunities for our pupils.

Pupils in Year 6 took part in their first transition event at Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School. A particularly inspiring moment came when former pupils shared their experiences of starting at the school, offered advice and answered questions. The children then took part in ICT and music activities before concluding the event with some squash and biscuits.

Mr Howells, Headteacher at Archbishop McGrath, has sent me a message to say that the Year 6 pupils were 'absolutely outstanding ambassadors to our school'. We are so proud of you.

In today's digital world, it's more important than ever to understand how to stay safe online. The children in Years 4, 5 and 6 took part in an online safety workshop and we also held a parents' workshop in the evening. Some very important messages were shared in both workshops and we will shortly send out this information to you. Please talk to your child about the workshop and how you can implement some of that learning at home.

Last Wednesday, the Year 1/2 class had the opportunity to visit the dinosaurs at The National Museum of Wales. They took part in a 'Sounds of dinosaurs' workshop, built dinosaur nests and looked at fossils. An amazing fun educational time was had by all. It was a fantastic way to bring learning to life and spark curiosity outside the classroom.

Scroll down for some more information about what the Healthy School Ambassadors have bought using the funds raised from the sponsored sports challenge last year.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs L Forster

Acting Headteacher

Keep in Touch:

www.ajlprimary.co.uk | 01656 815520 | admin@archdeaconjohnlewisps.bridgend.cymru | Message us using the School Gateway app

Safeguarding and Child Protection information can be found here: <https://www.ajlprimary.co.uk/whos-who/safeguarding-and-child-protection>

Upcoming Events

- **Tuesday 7th October:** Individual pupil portrait photos
- **Friday 17th October:** Messy Church (Mrs Bowen's class)
- **Friday 17th October:** Wear something red for 'Show Racism the Red Card'
- **Wednesday 22nd October:** Flu Vaccines (R - Y6). More info to be sent out soon
- **Thursday 23rd October:** PTA Pumpkin Pop Party - see poster below for more info
- **Friday 24th October:** INSET Day 2
- **Monday 27th - Friday 31st October:** Half Term
- **Thursday 6th November:** Mrs Bowen's class trip to St Fagans
- **Friday 7th November:** Coffi a Sqrws/Coffee and Chat, 2:30pm in the hall
- **Monday 10th November:** Applications for Reception September 2026 open
- **Friday 21st November:** Messy Church (Miss Conlon's class)
- **Friday 28th November:** Eucharist, 9:15am. All welcome

Welsh Sentences of the Week

Please practice these at home with your child(ren):

- Sut mae'r tywydd heddiw?
- Sut oedd y tywydd ddoe?
- Sut fydd y tywydd yfory?



M	T	W
27°	21°	11°

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



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Diolch from the Healthy Schools Ambassadors!

With the money raised from last year's sponsored sports challenge we have purchased the following for the wellbeing area in every class:

- Yoto player and headphones
- Weighted plushie sloths
- Bean bags
- Playdoh sets
- Resources to make calm down jars





ARCHDEACON JOHN LEWIS PTA

Pumpkin Pop Party

Thursday 23rd October

£1.50 per child

(please purchase your ticket on the Gateway app)

- **Nursery to Year 1 - 5:15pm to 6:00pm**
(parents please accompany your child)
- **Year 2 to Year 6 - 6:15pm to 7:15pm**

Refreshments and light up wands available to buy on the night! *(cash only)*





your PGL adventure

when

14.06.26 - 17.06.26

where

Liddington

for further details please see...

**A letter for parents has
been sent home.**

We are really excited to be planning our Y5/6 residential trip to PGL Liddington!

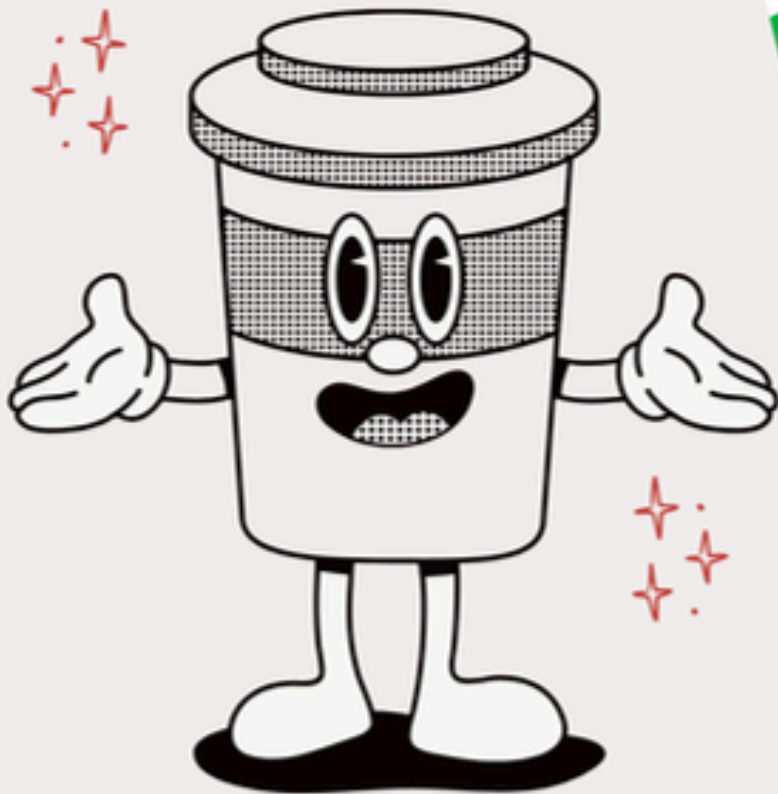
A letter has been sent home with more information but if you have any queries please contact the school office, or speak to Miss Conlon/Miss Evans-Jones.

Deposits must be paid by **Monday 20th October** and are strictly non-refundable. Once we have collected the deposits, we will be able to advise on the cost of the bus and set up monthly interim payments for the trip.

Please also complete and return the PGL consent form as soon as possible. Diolch!

Coffi a Sqwrs Coffee and Chat

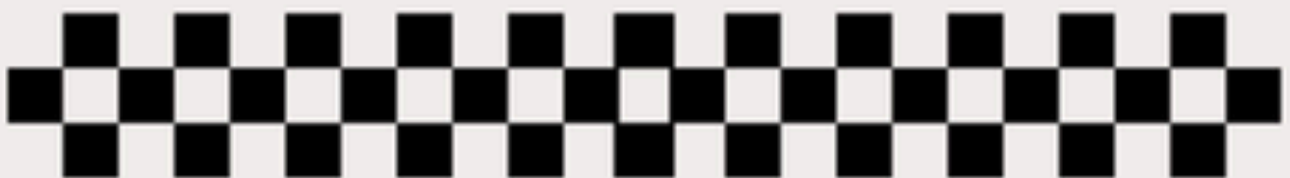
All money raised will go towards buying Welsh mascots for Criw Cymreig.



Dydd Gwener 7fed Tachwedd, 2:30pm, yn y neuadd
Friday 7th November, 2:30pm, in the hall



FAIRTRADE



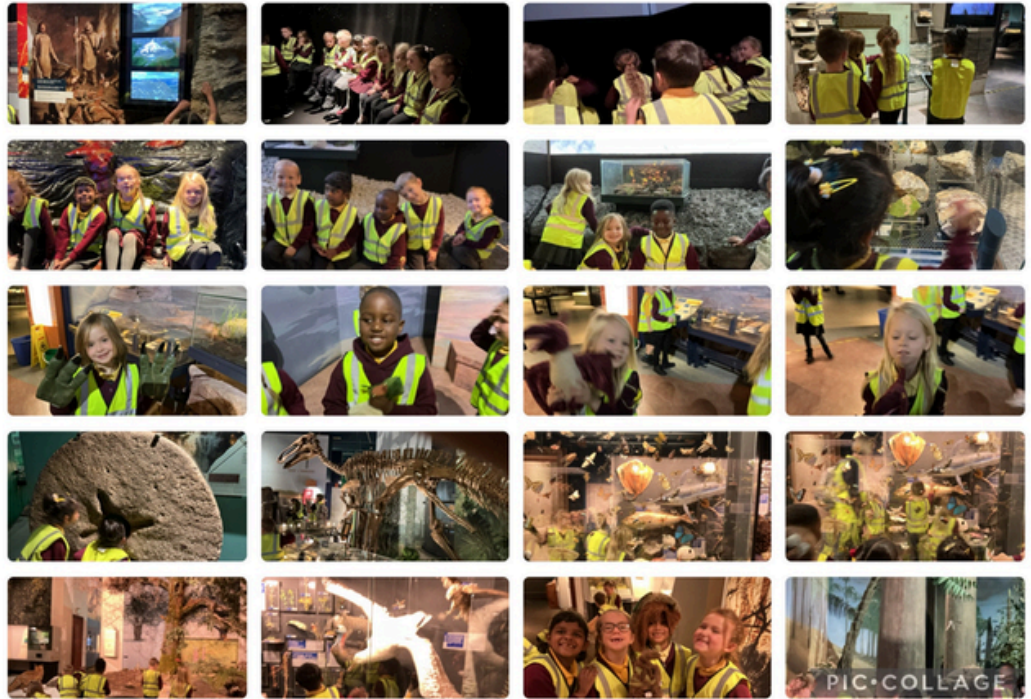


We had a brilliant time on our trip to the museum!

We explored the dinosaurs and animals in the museum and learned lots in our dinosaur workshop.

We built dino nests and held dinosaur teeth, claws and poo!

We loved the dinosaur story and joined in roaring and stamping our feet.



ROAR

A special visitor; an education officer for the Houses of Parliament paid us a visit to tell us all about the work they do there.



Live lesson time with WWF on forests.



School Admissions

We would like to share with parents further information and essential dates/deadlines regarding school admissions.

Our admission policy can be found on our website here:

<https://www.ajlprimary.co.uk/admissions>

Further information regarding school admissions can be found on the BCBC website here:

<https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/schools-and-education/school-admissions/>

It is important to note that you must complete an application for a full-time Nursery place, as there is no automatic right to a place in September 2027, even if your child is due to start attending in a part-time Nursery class in either January 2027 or April 2027.

The same goes for Reception places - parents must submit an application for a Reception place as there is no automatic admission even if your child currently attends as a Full-time Nursery pupil.

Additionally, there is no automatic admission to any secondary school, regardless of the primary or junior school that a child currently attends. Therefore an application must be made by parents, adhering strictly to the advertised deadlines.

On the next few pages you will see the admission deadlines that are specific to our school and Archbishop McGrath. These are not always the same as other schools in BCBC so please check the BCBC website carefully if you're looking to apply to a comprehensive other than ABMG.

Should you have any questions or queries regarding admissions, please contact the school office and we will be happy to advise.

The timetable for nursery admissions is not governed by the School Admissions Code 2013. The governor's expected timetable for processing applications for nursery admissions for 2026-2027 is as follows:

Full-time Nursery class admissions - pupils born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023, starting in a Full-time Nursery class in September 2026:

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	Monday 5 January 2026 at 10:00am
Closing date for receipt of applications by the school	Friday 3 April, 2026 at 4:00pm
Notification to applicants of offer or refusal of places (the 'offer date')	By 29 May 2026

Part-time Nursery class admissions - pupils born between 1 September 2023 and 31 December 2023, starting in a Part-time Nursery class in January 2027:

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	Monday 5 January 2026 at 10:00am
Closing date for receipt of applications by the school	Friday 28 August 2026 at 4:00pm
Notification to applicants of offer or refusal of places	By 30 October 2026

Part-time Nursery class admissions - pupils born between 1 January 2024 and 31 March 2024, starting in a Part-Time Nursery class in April 2027:

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	Monday 5 January 2026 10:00am
Closing date for receipt of applications by the school	Friday 28 August 2026 at 4:00pm
Notification to applicants of offer or refusal of places	By 30 October 2026

Reception admissions - for children born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, entering a Reception class in September 2026

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	Monday, 10 November 2025 at 10:00am
Closing date for receipt of applications by the school	Friday, 13 February 2026 at 4:00pm
Notification to applicants of offer or refusal of places (the 'offer date')	Thursday, 16 April 2026
Closing date for parents/carers to submit an appeal	Thursday, 14 May 2026 at 4:00pm

Archbishop McGrath Catholic High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Archesgob McGrath



11th September 2025

Dear Parent/Carer,

We are delighted to invite you and your child to our Year 6 Open Evening on **Tuesday, October 7th, starting at 4:30pm.**

The evening will begin with a welcome in the main hall from key staff and some of our wonderful pupils. From there, you will have the opportunity to explore our classrooms, meet our dedicated teachers and students, and experience the excellent facilities and vibrant learning environment that Archbishop McGrath offers.

Each year, we receive more applications than we have places available in Year 7. This year, we received over 190 applications for just 145 places—a reflection, we believe, of the outstanding opportunities and care we provide for our pupils.

If you would like to apply for a place, please complete our online application form using the link:

<https://forms.gle/1VxQGcwnEoQZ3wPd6>

You can also find more information about our school on our website: www.archbishopmg.co.uk

We very much look forward to welcoming you and your child on October 7th.

Yours sincerely,

Ashley Howells

Headteacher

**Deadline for Year 7 ABMG applications:
Friday 19th December 2025, 9am**

Year 7 Applications for Other Secondary Schools in BCBC

For children born between 1 September 2014 and 31 August 2015, transferring from junior/primary school (Year 6) to secondary school (Year 7) in September 2026, the timing of the admission round is as follows:

Action	Date
Opening date for submission of applications	10am on Monday, 13 October 2025
Closing date for receipt of applications by the local authority	4pm on Friday, 16 January 2026

It is important that schools advise parents that an application for a Year 7 place **must be submitted**. Additionally, that there is no automatic admission to any | secondary school, regardless of the primary or junior school that a child currently attends.



YOU'RE INVITED

HARVEST FAIRE

SAT. 18 OCT.

FREE
ENTRY

10AM - 4PM

- CRAFT STALLS
- HARVEST LUNCHES PORK PIE/ CHEESE
- CAKES AND SAVOURIES
- TEA AND REAL COFFEE
- CHUTNEYS AND JAMS
- CARDS
- TOMBOLA AND MANY OTHER STALLS
- CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES



St Teilo's Church, Merthyr Mawr

In aid of our toilet project





Reading together
Darllen gyda'n gilydd

Beth yw Bookbridge Pontllyfrau?

Cyfes o sesiynau ar-lein i rannu syniadau ac awgrymiadau ar sut i fwynhau llyfrau Cymraeg a dwyieithog gyda'ch plant.

Pwy sy'n gallu ymuno?

Rhieni di-Gymraeg, rhieni sy'n dysgu Cymraeg, a'r rhai sydd eisiau magu eu plant gyda'r iaith.

Beth fydd yn digwydd yn y sesiynau?

- Darllen enghreifftiol
- Awgrymiadau ymarferol
- Trafod cynnwys llyfrau
- Cyfle i rannu profiadau

Pryd?

Bydd y sesiynau'n dechrau 7 Hydref 2025 7.30-8.30yh.

Cysylltu:

E-bost: post@rhag.cymru
Rhif Ffôn: 07970 304219

What is Bookbridge Pontllyfrau?

A series of online sessions to share ideas and tips on how to enjoy Welsh and bilingual books with your children.

Who can join?

Non-Welsh-speaking parents, parents who are learning Welsh, and those who want to raise their children with the language.

What will happen in the sessions?

- Example reading
- Practical tips
- Discussing book content
- An opportunity to share experiences

When?

The sessions will start 7 October 2025 7.30-8.30pm.

Contact:

Email: post@rhag.cymru
Telephone: 07970 304219

Archebwch yma



Book here



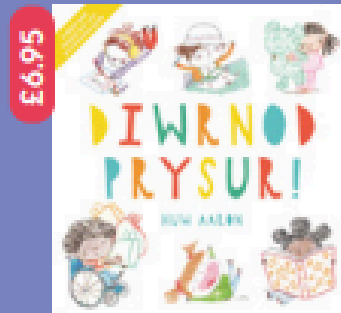
£3.95

9781800993587
Geiriau Cyntaf
Cywion Bach
Y Lolfa



£6.99

9781804164259
Croeso, anifeiliaid bach
y fferm! / Welcome,
Little Farm Animals
Small World Creations



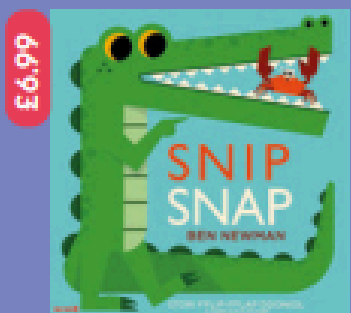
£6.95

9781845279295
Diwrnod Prysur
Huw Aaron



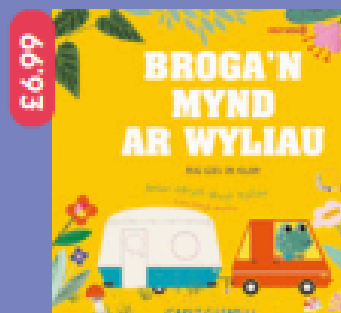
£7.99

9781801065221
O Na, Noa: Y Parc /
Uh-Oh, Noa: The Park
Chris Chatterton



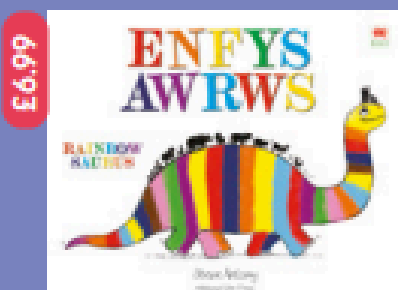
£6.99

9781784231668
Snip-Snap
Ben Newman



£6.99

9781784231798
Broga'n Mynd ar Wyliau,
Frog Goes on Holiday
Carly Gledhill



£6.99

9781804163658
Enfysawrws /
Rainbowsaurus
Steve Antony



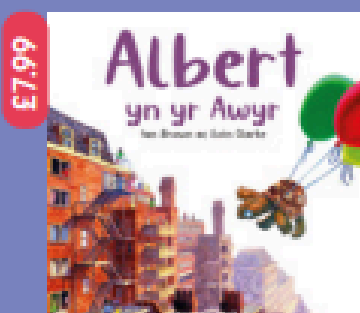
£4.99

9781784619534
Shwshaswyn
Nia Jewell a
Sian Angharad



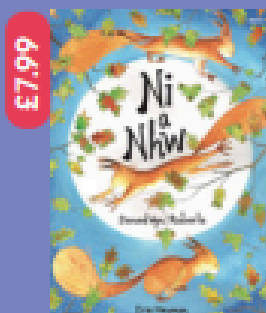
£4.99

9781801062374
Cyfres Cae Berllan:
Gwersylla / Camping Out
Heather Amery



£7.99

9781802581720
Albert yn yr Awyr
Ian Brown



£7.99

9781801063371
Ni a Nhw
Sioned Wyn Roberts



£7.99

9781800996106
Ysgol Arswyd
Catrin Angharad

FOOTBALL CAMPS

OCTOBER HALF TERM

BRIDGEND

MONDAY - THURSDAY
27TH - 30TH OF OCTOBER

8:30-4:30PM

EARLY BOOKING
DISCOUNT
£17.50 per day
if booked before
October 13th 2025
£20 Per day If
booked after
13/10/25

ARCHDEACON
JOHN LEWIS
SCHOOL
BRACKLA



Sibling
Discount
Available



Boys & Girls
aged: 5-11years
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

WEAR
RED
DAY 25

SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD

FRIDAY
17TH OCT

#WRD25

REGISTER NOW AT: [THEREDCARD.ORG/WEARREDDAY](https://theredcard.org/wearredday)

OR SCAN THE QR CODE =



SHOW
RACISM
THE
RED
CARD

CHANGE HEARTS
CHANGE MINDS
CHANGE THE WORLD