



# Newsletter April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the Spring term, we are immensely proud of the hard work and progress your children have made over this term. Last week, we carried out a writing scrutiny, where we looked at pupils' writing from Nursery all the way through to Year 6. It was wonderful to see the thought and hard pupils are putting into their writing and the progress they have made since September. It is also fantastic to see the progress children make from early mark making in nursery to the sophisticated pieces of crafted work produced in KS2. A big well done to all of our pupils.

Applying numeracy skills through science and technology is one of our school priorities this year. There have been some great STEM (science, technology engineering and maths) work taking place throughout the school linked to our learning inquiries. For example our younger pupils have been looking at friction and measuring how far a toy car can travel down ramps with differing surfaces. The children collected data on how far the cars travelled and used digital skills to create bar charts, to illustrate distance travelled. Older pupils have carried out a number of investigations linked to their inquiry topic on "Chocolate" (yes it is proving to be a very popular topic!) such as which type of chocolate melts the quickest and which type of material is best for keeping a mug of hot chocolate warm. Pupils in Year 5 & 6 have used Excel spread sheets and Google charts as methods to collect and present their data.

Another great part of this term has been our St David's Day celebration (Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Sant). Our children from reception to Year 6 performed a range of songs, poems and dance to celebrate Welsh Language and culture. They used their Welsh language skills with such confidence. Gwaith ardderchog. Our Criw iaith (language crew) did a wonderful job of welcoming visitors to our assembly and introducing each classes' performance all in Welsh. Diolch Criw iaith.

Please have a look at some of the lovely photographs included in this newsletter, which will you give you further insights into the great STEM work, the children have been involved in this term and also remember to take a look on the class pages on our school website.

Before we break up for Easter I would like to thank the pupils, staff, governors and parents for all of their hard work and enthusiasm. I would also like to thank the many volunteers, who come into school on a regular basis to hear children read, help with sports festivals and to play a part in leading our assemblies. Every person involved in our community plays a big part in making Northop Hall school such a special learning environment.

Best wishes Mrs Lynne Harrison (Headteacher)

**Staffing update** - In February we successfully appointed Mr Tom Schrimshaw as our new Deputy Head Teacher. Mr Scrimshaw will be starting with us in September, however he will be making some visits into school in order to meet pupils, staff and parents over the months ahead. Mr Schrimshaw is currently working at Ysgol Esgob Morgan in St. Asaph.

As part of the Deputy Head recruitment process we had over thirty interested candidates visit our school. Our visitors were so impressed by the hard working attitude, engagement and behaviour of our pupils. They are a real credit to the school and to yourselves as their parent. Our Year 6 pupils acted as our "meet and greet" team on the day of the interview. All of the candidates commented on the confidence and excellent communication skills of our Year 6 pupils. Da iawn.

**Acting Deputy Head Teachers** – Miss Naomi Hughes (Year 6 teacher) and Mrs Sam Latham (Year 1/2 teacher) are sharing the role of acting Deputy Head Teachers until the end of this academic year. They are both incredibly approachable, so please do not hesitate to speak to either of them if you need any advice at any time.

## New Parent Governors

We are delighted to welcome two new parent governors to our Governing Body.

Laura Kent who has three children – one in Year 7 at Mold Alun, one in Year 4 and one in Nursery. Laura is a qualified teacher with 18 years of experience and has worked in schools in England and Wales across the primary age range.

Craig Lorne who also has three children – one in Year 1, one in nursery and a very young baby who is not yet school age! Craig works in the world of engineering.

**Film Club** - Next **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April** we will be holding a special after school film club, where we will be showing the film Ratatouille. If you would like your child to attend please complete the reply slip attached with this letter and send back to - school with payment by Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April. Details of cost and finish time are included in the letter. (Film Club open for pupils from reception to Year 6)

**VE Day celebrations** – We will be marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May by asking all pupils to come to school dressed in 1940s style clothes. Please don't go to any expense, for example the outfit could just be a shirt/waistcoat and pair of shorts or a summer dress/pinafore. If pupils have PE or Forest School on this day please can they either bring their sports clothes in a bag or try to make their sports kit have a 1940s twist! Our Year 5 & 6 pupils will be singing some songs at the village memorial at 11.00a.m and parents are very welcome to come and join the service.

A stay and play event will take place after school on this day and we would really like parents/grandparents to join us for a cup of tea and a cake. And of course to dress up in 1940s style clothes if you wish to! A form will be sent home after the Easter Holiday to complete for those pupils who would like to be involved in the stay and play and to also let us know if parents/grandparents would like to join us. If any parents are able to help to serve teas on this day please email the school office to let us know.

**If you know of any members of the local community who are over the age of 80 and would be happy for us to contact them please can you put us in touch? We would like to find out about their memories from VE day in May 1945.**

## Science and technology around the school



### Science

**Osprey/Year 6** pupils investigating which material is the most effective insulator for a mug of hot chocolate. The pupils recorded their data in excel spread sheets and produced graphs to present their findings.



**Condors/Year 4** – Investigating the amount of sugar in a range of chocolate bars. Accurate reading of the scales was required.



**Owls/Year 3** – have worked with “Wild ground” to find out about endangered newts and what we can do to protect them.

They have also been investigating how long different types of chocolate take to melt. They have recorded and presented their findings using digital skills.



**Woodpecker class (Year1/2)** – investigating how far toy vehicles travel down ramps with different surfaces. The pupils made predictions, took measurements and recorded their data.





**Robins (reception/Year 1)** – have been sorting toys into different categories and recording their findings.

They have also been investigating how far different toys can travel, measuring the distance and recording their results.



**Nursery pupils** worked very hard mixing ingredients for cakes for their special Mother's Day celebration. They observed the changes, which happened during different stages of the baking process.

<b>Dates for the diary</b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Film Club – after school – finishes at 4.50p.m. (cost £4.00) After school club will still be open for any pupils who still need this provision. (pupils in reception to Year 6 welcome)
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Easter Egg Hunt – during the school day. Please send an email to the school if your child can not eat chocolate.
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Generation Rock Concert – Parents of children who attend Generation Rock lessons are invited to a performance at 2.30p.m.
<b>Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Break up for Easter Holidays
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April</b>	INSET day (training for staff)
<b>Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Pupils return to school
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	VE 80 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations Children encouraged to dress up in 1940s style clothes Parents/Grandparents and children invited to stay after school for a cup of tea/piece of cake/ice creams – 3.15 – 4.15p.m. Details to follow after the Easter Holidays.
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Cycle training commences for Year 6 pupils – bicycles and helmets need to be in school for Monday morning please.
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Cricket Wales in school to work with pupils in KS2
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> May</b>	Grandparents' Tea – details to follow
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	Grandparents' Tea – details to follow
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	Mold and Buckley Cross Country Competition – KS2 – on Buckley Common Good idea for pupils to get practising if they would like to be part of the team.
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	Break up for half term
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	Pupils return to school
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b>	Year 6 pupils take part in TATA Kids of Steel mini triathlon – details to follow
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Year 6 leavers' assembly – 10.30a.m.
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	Pupils break up for summer

**Further dates will be published after Easter for the Summer Term**

**Happy Easter to all of our pupils and their families from the team of staff at  
Northrop Hall Primary School**