



Newyddion - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Annwyl Parents / Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed some special moments with family and friends. Although the holidays may now feel like a distant memory, it's been lovely to see the children back in school, ready to kick off the new term with enthusiasm and big smiles.

Our staff have been busy preparing for an exciting 'Topic Launch Week' to ignite the children's curiosity and creativity. We can't wait to see them dive into this new learning adventure, and you'll find more details about it below.

With the cold weather still with us, please ensure the children are dressed appropriately with warm coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to stay snug during outdoor play.

We're excited to continue working with you all in this new year, building on the wonderful partnership we share as we support the children to learn, grow, and thrive. Thank you for your continued support—we're looking forward to a fantastic term ahead!

*J G Paynter*

UNCRC Right of the Month

School Aim of the Month



Article 12:

The right to be the best you can be.



"Be the best you can be"  
"Gwnewch eich gorau glas"

Patrwm y Pythefnos - Welsh Patterns to share at home:



Pa fis ydy hi?

What month is it?

Mis ...

Month ...



We are looking for children who can use these patterns (and others) in school.

Drop off and pick up

Thank you so much for your support with the recent changes to our drop-off and pick-up routines. We're happy to see that these adjustments are already making things safer for everyone. Your help has made a big difference in reducing risks and keeping the children safe. We really appreciate your understanding and teamwork as we work together to keep our school community safe and happy!

A reminder of changes:

**Breakfast Club:** Breakfast club will run from 8.40am - 8.55am. Unfortunately children arriving before or after these times will not be accepted in to club.

**Foundation Phase (Nur - Y2):** Parents and children should enter through the main yard gate where Mr. Paynter stands each morning. Walk through the front yard, go around the back of the school, and into the second yard. A staff member will meet you at the blue gate by the Foundation Phase building. Can we kindly ask parents not to go through the blue gate. Nursery children should be picked up from the school office at 11.45am. Reception to Year 2 children will be collected from the same place as their drop-off at 3.30pm.

**Junior Children (Y3 - Y6):** Children will enter through the main yard gate where Mr. Paynter stands each morning and remain on the front yard as usual. Pick-up—children will be collected from their classrooms as usual at 3.30pm.

Thank you for your continued support.





### Topic Launch week

Next week, we'll be launching our exciting new topic: SENSES! The children will experience a range of fun activities designed to spark their imagination and encourage them to start thinking about how they'd like to influence their own learning. Please take a look at the poster at the bottom of the newsletter for more information. We can't wait to see where this journey takes them!

### Attendance and Punctuality

As we step into the Spring term, we're looking forward to all the opportunities and experiences ahead for our pupils.

Following a recent meeting with our Education Welfare Officer, we are pleased to share that they were very impressed with Knelston's efforts in improving attendance and punctuality last academic year. In recognition of this, we have been encouraged to increase our attendance target from **93%** to **95%**, starting this month.

We know that regular school attendance is closely linked to a child's ability to reach their full potential, and arriving late to school can have a negative impact on their learning. We're here to support families in ensuring children are in school every day and on time, while also understanding the challenges of the morning rush. Of course, we don't want children coming to school when they're unwell, but we'd love to work with you to reduce absences on days when they could or should be here and to keep late arrivals after **9:15 am** to a minimum.

To help us reach this new goal and maintain the high standards we set last year, we need your help and kindly ask all parents to ensure the following:

**Arriving on Time:** Please make sure your child arrives at school on time each day. Any arrivals after **9:15am** are considered late. If you know you'll be exceptionally late, please call ahead to let the school know.

**Notifying us of Holidays:** If you plan to take your child out of school for a holiday, please notify us as soon as possible by completing a holiday request form. Forms are available from the office or can be downloaded online at: **Knelston Primary Key Documents**. Please be aware that under the direction of the local authority, we are not allowed to authorise any holidays during term time. Also as a school, we have a legal obligation to ensure the welfare of your child, so we simply need to know where they'll be and why.

**Appointments:** If your child needs to miss school for a doctor's or dentist appointment, please inform the office as soon as possible by phone, voicemail, or email. We encourage all appointments to be scheduled outside of school hours whenever possible, though we understand this may not always be feasible.

**Illness:** If your child is unwell, please inform the office by phone, voicemail, or email as soon as you know they'll need to stay home. It's helpful to keep us updated on how they're doing and when they're likely to return.

We'll be issuing attendance letters for last term shortly. These letters are designed to keep you informed about your child's attendance and highlight any patterns that may need attention. By working together, we can ensure every child gets the most out of their learning opportunities.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need support, please don't hesitate to get in touch—we are always here to help.



## Friends of Knelston PTA -Thankyou



On behalf of Friends of Knelston PTA, we wanted to extend a huge thank you for all your incredible support throughout the Autumn Term. Thanks to your generosity and participation, we were able to raise a significant amount of funds through events like the Christmas Concerts, fetes, and discos. These efforts will directly benefit our children by providing valuable opportunities and resources to enhance their learning experiences and overall school life.

Your involvement, whether through attending events, volunteering your time, or donating, makes a real difference and helps create a vibrant school community. We're excited for what's ahead and grateful for your continued support as we work together to give our children the best opportunities possible. Thank you once again, and we look forward to an even more successful term ahead.

## After school clubs

We are excited to announce that our after-school clubs will be starting next week offering a range of fun and enriching activities for all our children. See the table below.



Day	Club	Year groups & staff	Pick up point
Monday	Lego	Y2 Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6 with Mrs Latham	Front Yard
Monday	Games club	Rec Y1 with Mrs Furneaux & Mrs Harry	Main entrance
Tuesday	Football	Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6 with Mr Donovan	Front Yard
Wednesday	Sports / games	Y3 Y4 Y5 Y6 with Mrs Blakemore	Front Yard

The clubs will change each term, giving children the chance to try new activities and explore different interests. The clubs will begin at **3:30pm and finish at 4:30pm**. We kindly ask that children are collected promptly at the end of the session. To help cover the cost of additional resources and staffing, we request a £2 donation per session, operating on a pay-as-you-go basis. This contribution is purely to cover costs and not for profit.

Please find the consent forms and payment methods available on your Squid app.

A massive thank you to our dedicated staff for generously giving up their time to run these clubs and provide these fantastic opportunities for our children.

## The children's highlights of the week! Wythnos yma!

### Mrs Osborn's class REC/Y1/Y2

- ✓ Christmas news
- ✓ Senses walk around school
- ✓ Adding Ed
- ✓ Subtraction in maths

### Mrs Porter's class Y3/4

- ✓ Properties of 2D and 3D shapes
- ✓ Persuasive letter
- ✓ Story of Beegu - welcoming new people

### Mr Donovan's class Y5/6

- ✓ Science-learning all about the heart
- ✓ 1<sup>st</sup> person diary in Welsh
- ✓ Properties of 3D shapes
- ✓ No Outsiders story

## Finally...

As always, if you have queries, compliments, complaints, concerns or issues you would like to discuss please speak to a member of staff. If family or friends help with school runs, we'd love for you to share the weekly newsletter with them. Please also make sure we have your updated contact details so we can stay connected!

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Dymuniadau gorau,

*J G Paynter*

Headteacher



## Dates for your Diary

Date	Activity	Additional Information
06.01.2025	<b>INSET</b>	
07.01.2025	Children's first Day back	
13.01.2025	Topic launch week	
14.01.2025	Whole school trip to PerrisWood	
16.01.2025	Whole school trip to Gower Heritage	

**INSET DAYS:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025, Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025, Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2025

**WEEKLY EVENTS:** Basil the Burns reading dog. Mr Smith - Music

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# TOPIC LAUNCH WEEK SENSES!

**MONDAY**

**SOUTH WALES FIRE SERVICE TO DISCUSS HOW TO USE OUR SENSES IN AN EMERGENCY SITUATION**

**TUESDAY**

**FALCONRY DISPLAY SESSION AT PERRISWOOD STUDYING THE MOVEMENT AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ANIMALS**

**WEDNESDAY**

**SCHOOL BASED DAY INCLUDING TASTE AND TOUCH AND OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**

**THURSDAY**

**ART SENSORY WORKSHOP CREATING CERAMIC TILES FOR NEW SCHOOL BASED SENSORY DISPLAY AT HERITAGE CENTRE**

**FRIDAY**

**MUSIC DAY ALL ABOUT SOUND WITH MR SMITH!**

