Humanities AoLE report - Spring Term 2024

STF

Our main humanities focus this term has been our Cynefin project. Through this project we have become very curios about our locality and wales. We visited St. Teilos church, and the community café. This made us think about other café's within the community and we decided to go for a visit to Tesco café. During our café visit we were able to communicate our likes and dislikes as well as general opinions on the café and the food we chose. We also used Choose it Maker ot communicate our likes, dislikes and opinions when we returned to school.

We also celebrated Easter, we did a range of Easter crafts and learnt about the importance of Easter through stories and discussions. This helped us to develop our ability to understand the beliefs of others and why certain events and days are celebrated.

Nursery

The Spring Term focused on our Welsh Heritage as we celebrated St Dwynwen's Day and St David's Day. Our Cynefin Topic was Swansea Community Farm so we enjoyed many farm related activities! The children started the topic by "writing" letters to the farm and sharing their questions. We loved celebrating and presenting all of our lovely learning with the rest of the school community in the hall.

Reception

For our cynefin project Reception focussed on the heart of our comminty; St Teilo's Church. We learned all about it's history, what the church does and how it has and continues to support the people in our community. We compared it to other churches and talked about similarities and differences. We focussed on the community cwtch café and spent time working with the STF classes to create our own café to help the people in our school. We also discovered that our very own Mrs Meredith got married in St.Teilo's. We learned all about the wedding ceremony and what happens and why. We planned a wedding and designed some beautiful outfits.

Year 1

Humanities played a significant role in our spring term, it was the driver of our 'Cynefin' topic. This topic served rich and purposeful opportunities that gave insight to the history and heritage of our local area, with a particular focus on Caereithin Cross.

Throughout our topic, pupils embarked on a journey of discovery, uncovering insights into the origins of local shops and businesses, as well as the history of the Lerwell family. Through engaging lessons and immersive activities, students gained a deeper appreciation for the historical significance of these establishments and their enduring impact on our community.

We took several trips to Caereithin Cross, where pupils provided firsthand experiences, allowing them to interact with their surroundings and inquire about the history and unique features of our local area, this helped with deepening their knowledge and creating their own quiz on wordwall. Alongside our Cynefin topic, we also looked at the story of Easter; enriching their understanding of cultural and religious traditions.

Year 2

Year 2 loved their focus on The River Tawe for our whole school Cynefin. 'Cynefin' is a Welsh term defined by Curriculum for Wales as *'the place where we feel we belong, where the people and landscape around us are familiar, and the sights and sounds are reassuringly recognisable.'*

Humanities played a fundamental role in our learning this term. The River Tawe sparked lots of curious questions which ranged from 'Where does it begin and how long is the river?' 'What are the bridges used for? 'and 'Where does the water come from?' From this we used Google maps to look at Llyn y Fan Fawr where were learnt about the Welsh myth and legend, we tracked the river from the lake through to the marina. We explored maps and the different parts of a river.

When we looked at the history of the Tawe, we discovered the ways in which it was used in the past for industry and how there was a white rock ferry that helped people cross the river. We looked at different photos and compared them. When comparing two photos, we could see that nature had reclaimed the land and they looked very different. We had an enjoyable ride on the Copper Jack and learnt about Swansea's history with copper too.

When looking at the impact we were having on our landscape and through the book *The Blue Giant* written by a Swansea born author and illustrator, pupils were concerned with water pollution. They wrote persuasive letters to the council and also participated in litter picking on our trip. We sorted the materials and deposited them in the recycle bins down the marina. On our trip we had photos of the different features around us which we had to identify and match. We discussed how things looked different. The children noticed there were more residential housing and water sports happening now in comparison to before which was more industry. Our trip also took us to the Waterfront museum where we looked at the old ships and nautical devices which are all mostly electronic.

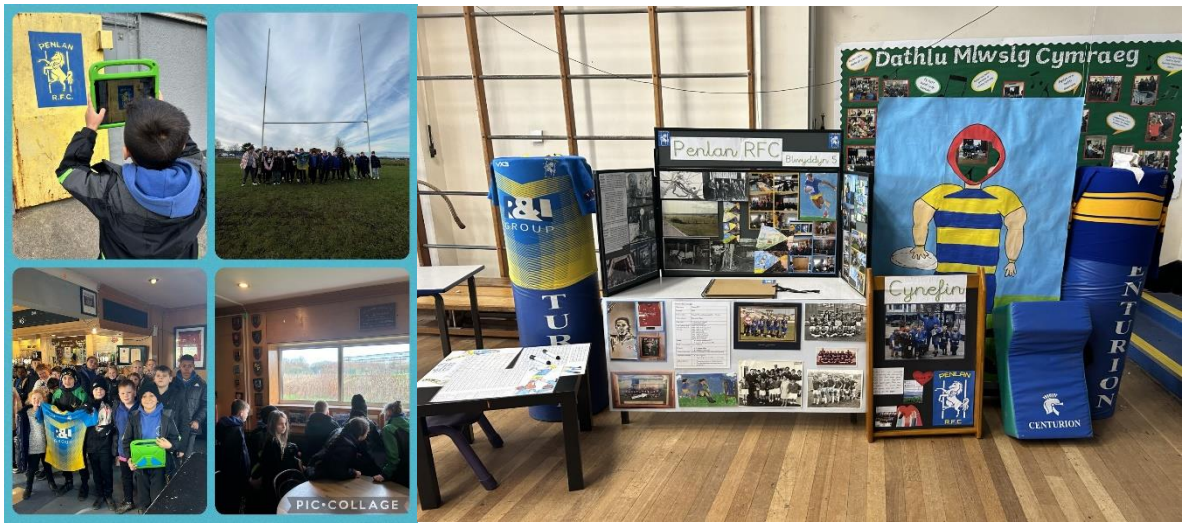
During the showcase, the pupils did extemely well in showing what they had learnt and showed much more confidence than before. We were awarded best overall display showing a cross curricular approach and best use of the Humanities which the class should be very proud of.

Year 3

During the Spring Term the focus for our Humanities area of learning and experience (AOLE) was Penllergaer Woods. The whole school participated in a Cynefin project, exploring areas in the local community to the school. Year 3 chose Penllergaer Woods to focus on in their Cynefin project and explored the rich history on our doorstep. The children went on a trip to Penllergaer Woods where they read about the history of the Llywelyn Family. The children walked through the woods to find the different historical sights of the Llywelyn family. Following this we had two Victorian days where the children had the opportunity to travel back in time to the Victorian period of the Llywelyn family. The children dressed in period clothing, saluted to Queen Victoria during registration and participated in Victorian activities including yard games and singing traditional songs.

Another area the children explored was the effects of deforestation. The children expressed their concern that trees were being cut down all over the world and lead a discussion to learn more about the subject. As a class, the children posed questions about deforestation such as What would happen if all the trees were cut down? And What would happen to the wildlife without the trees? The children created mind maps in groups and used their research skills to answer the questions. The children fed back the information they found in their groups to the class and gave each other feedback on the information they gathered. Following this, the children researched and had rich discussions on how they could have a positive impact on the environment and how they could be a part of preventative measures against deforestation. Overall, the pupils had new-found knowledge and understand of the detrimental effects of deforestation on the environment and our planet.

Year 5



Year 5 fully embraced the Cynefin Project this term. 'Cynefin' is a Welsh term defined by Curriculum for Wales as 'the place where we feel we belong, where the people and landscape

around us are familiar, and the sights and sounds are reassuringly recognisable.' As part of the project the class looked at local rugby club, Penlan RFC.
Pupils recognised the different ways in which the past is represented and how some different places change over time. They started to suggest reasons for important, historical events. Pupils were enthralled with the Mynydd Newydd colliery, showing brilliant interest researching the history of a place they know well, showing **curiosity about the world, its past, present and future.** The class enjoyed multiple locality walks to Mynydd Newydd fields, the rugby club and Raven hill park. During the walks the class took recycling bags and collected litter on their journey. Recycling the litter correctly in each bag, demonstrating that they are becoming **informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity.**
Pupils visited the club and asked questions to the head of the juniors and club comity members. Along with research online pupils created detailed fact files, identifying how the club started, the year it was founded, famous players, links to the community and charities as well as the club's ambitions.
Pupils looked at inclusion in sport and society and loved seeing how a rugby club is more than just rugby with research and discussions on how the club effects the community with helping young people and charity work.
Away from the Cynefin project, pupils used their knowledge of the Christian story of Easter by summarising the story, learning that human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.

Year 6

Cynefin – Y6 explored 'Portmead' as their area. Children looked at the history of the school, we made links with Governor's during this topic and Mathew Davies brought a drone in for children to explore Ariel views of the school which children then used to compare to the past. Children learnt when the school opened and saw real life artefacts from the past dating back as far as 1960. Children thoroughly enjoyed the showcase to parents.