



Learn, Live, Believe

*St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School
Ysgol Gynradd Gatholig Santes Bernadette
We are a Christ centred community reaching out to
others. We learn, grow and celebrate together.*

Weekly Newsletter

17th Ionawr 2025



Today we said goodbye to Mrs Power who is due to have her baby in two weeks' time. She leaves us with all our prayers and very best wishes and we look forward to seeing the new member of her family, later in the year.

Certificates were given out to all the children who had in our Autumn term followed our Jesuit Pupil Profile Virtues of being Curious and Active and Intentional and Prophetic.

Congratulations go to:

Year grp	Curious and Active	Intentional and Prophetic
Nursery	Emilio and Michelle	Kemal and Elodie
Reception	George and Corey	Sophia R and Jacob
Year 1	Sylvie and Billie	Lara and Adam
Year 2	Ravi and Anton	Petra and Alex
Year 3	Ella and Sam	Joel and Valentina
Year 4	Lucia and Esme	Daniel and Serena
Year 5	Kuzi and Pearl	Leo and Theo
Year 6	Olly and Sofia	Lolly and Seb



This term remember we are trying to make the world a better place by following the virtues:

Grateful and Generous

Events coming up in January 2025 at St Bernadette's

Year Grp	Event	Time
Y1/2	Prayer Service	9:15am
Whole school	Catholic Church Jubilee Launch Day for Schools	Assembly am
Whole school	Launch day for National Theatre Wales workshops	Assembly pm
Nursery	Immersion day Chinese New Year	

First Holy Communion in St Philip Evans Church

sphilipevans.co.uk/holy-communion

Applications for the next cycles of First Holy Communion are now available.

All sessions are for children & their parents will be held in the church.



Courses will run Tuesday Evenings from 6 to 7 pm, every Tuesday starting on 21st January to 18th February 2025.

First Reconciliation is on Tuesday 25th February.

The First Holy Communion Masses will take place the weekend of 1st or 2nd March 2025.

These courses are for those children in Years 3 – 6.

Application forms are available from Deacon Steve or Fr Keith after any Mass.

Please note: Completed forms should be returned to Teresa in the parish office. You may post the form through the presbytery letterbox and the form will be collected from there.

If you have any questions, please talk to Deacon Steve or Fr Keith after Mass or contact Teresa in the Parish Office.

Telephone: 029 2073 1061 or Email: secretary@sphilipevans.co.uk

Meithrin

In our outdoor learning in Nursery this week, we looked at people who help us. We had to find them and talk about how they help us.
We found people around the school that help us.

Mrs The cook who makes our lunch.

James " I can't wait for school food"

The ladies in the office, who answer the phone and speak to the parents.

Sophie B" They do lots of hard work on the computer.

Mrs Williams, who looks after the whole school and makes sure we are safe.

Aria " Mrs Williams is nice"



Stars of the week: Shanelle & Seren



Shanelle has settled in really well into nursery life and is making lots of new friends. She is enjoying our mark making table and our role play area.

Seren is making new friends in the morning and is working hard on her pencil grip and numbers.



There's a very good chance you've heard of Fortnite, but what exactly is it? And why is it so popular amongst young people? Fortnite is an online multiplayer "battle royale" game developed by Epic Games, and is playable on Playstation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC and mobiles. It gained popularity in late 2017 and has since become the biggest game in the world, thanks to its rapid and engaging gameplay. As with most games, Fortnite itself is a highly enjoyable and safe experience, but it pays to be vigilant, as the safety is not water tight.

AGE RECOMMENDATION
13+



What parents need to know about FORTNITE BATTLE ROYALE



BATTLE ROYALE

Battle Royale games have become very popular over the last couple of years, and most tend to follow a very similar setup. Taking Fortnite as an example, 100 players drop into a map, loot buildings for weapons and armour and attempt to beat all the other players to be crowned victor at the end. If you've ever seen the Hunger Games movies, you'll have an idea of what this entails. Each game can take up to 20 minutes (assuming you last to the end) and can be restarted relatively quickly once 100 free players have been found.



IS FORTNITE ADDICTIVE?

Fortnite is at the forefront of gaming addiction discussions because it is so popular with young people. But whether it actually contributes to gaming addiction is up for debate. WHO (World Health Organisation) have classified gaming as a legitimate addiction, but this is not solely a concern with Fortnite. Signs of addiction can include irritability when not playing, lying about the amount of time played and a preoccupation with thoughts of the next gaming session. Realistically, it must be down to parents and carers to recognise these symptoms and act accordingly if they think they are developing.



FREE TO PLAY... OR IS IT?

While Fortnite is technically free to play (in that you can download and play it without paying) it does come with the caveat that spending money on things like skins and emotes in-game is heavily pushed to players. The currency used in-game is called 'V-Bucks' and can be bought with real money through the game's online store. It's worth remembering that these purchases are absolutely not necessary, are cosmetic only and that V-Bucks can be earned in-game with enough play time.



SEASONAL UPDATES

Every 10 weeks or so Fortnite is updated with a new season. This essentially adds new things like skins and emotes to the game, while also sometimes changing up the game map in interesting ways. These seasons are free to everybody and don't require additional money to play, though battle passes for each season can be bought with V-Bucks. A battle pass will typically allow a player to earn experience faster and gain fun in-game items by completing a host of daily challenges.



CROSSPLAY IS AVAILABLE

One of the wonderful things about Fortnite is that it can be played cross-platform. This means that no matter what platform a person plays on (PC, PlayStation 4, Xbox One etc) they can play with friends who own the game on a different platform. To do this, an Epic Games account must first be created online (which is free) and then linked with your platform account. Doing this removes the age-old boundary of not being able to play together because you don't have the same console and opens up a whole new world of playing online with friends.



IS FORTNITE VIOLENT?

Fortnite has been rated by the ESRB (Entertainment Software Ratings Board) as 'teen', as it contains cartoon violence and the weapons and acts depicted in the game are some way removed from their real life inspirations. Characters don't draw blood when shot and instead of dying, they are simply beamed up off the map. Naturally, players younger than the recommended age limit will want to play the game and that should be at the discretion of parents and carers.



Top Tips For Parents



BUYING V-BUCKS

As mentioned, Fortnite does contain in-game purchases and microtransactions in the form of V-Bucks which can be bought with real money. If you do decide to let your young one spend money in the game, be sure to delete your card information afterwards as it can be very easy to purchase more items at the press of a few buttons. It's important to set a limit on any purchases (as mentioned they are absolutely not necessary to play the game) and a suggestion would be capping the spending at around £50 - this is the normal retail price of a game.



GAMING WITH STRANGERS

Fortnite Battle Royale is an online game, and as such, there is a chance that young children could come into contact with strangers who are randomly placed into their groups in a game. It's difficult to predict what another person might say or do in a game, so it's a good idea for friends playing together, to be grouped together. The only real countermeasure to interacting with strangers offered by Fortnite is to turn off all mic communications, which can be done in the game's settings. Using outside chat apps, like Skype or Discord while playing, is a great way to make sure you know who you're talking to and that nobody else is listening in.



LIMIT TIME, BUT BE FLEXIBLE

A game of Fortnite can last up to 20 minutes, so be flexible when it's time to put it away. The approach of 'one more game' as opposed to '10 more minutes' will stop any complaints that a match is still ongoing. Better still, play with your child and take it in turns; that way you're helping control the time played and can keep an eye on what they're experiencing.



TALK TO OTHER PARENTS / CARERS

If you're concerned about play time or spending money in the game, talk to other parents and carers of your child's friends. If you approach as a collective, it will be easier to know when their friends are online and you don't have to worry about who they're playing with. It can also help curb expectations on spending money on battle passes and skins if you stick together.



CAN DEVELOP SOME IMPORTANT SKILLS

It's often overlooked just how good gaming can be for young people. Fortnite encourages team play, quick and complex problem solving and communication; that's not to mention the lightning fast reflexes gamers can develop. While taking breaks to do other activities is of course important, there are benefits to screen time which might not be immediately obvious.



PLAY THE GAME YOURSELF

There's no substitute for sitting down and playing the game yourself to learn all about it. Fortnite is available for free on almost anything you can imagine, even your smartphone, so there's never been a better time to get involved and see what all the fuss is about. You never know, you might even be able to impress your children when you show them your impressive Victory Royale tally!

Meet our expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 5 years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the current gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



<https://www.theguardian.com/games/2018/mar/07/fortnite-battle-royale-parents-guide-video-game-multiplayer-shooter>, <https://www.psychguides.com/behavioral-disorders/video-game-addiction/>, <https://www.polygon.com/2018/3/23/17146848/cross-platform-crossplay-ps4-xbox-pc-switch-ios-mobile-enable-friends-compatible-matchmaking#70IE7d>, <https://www.esrb.org/ratings/34948/Fortnite/>

www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety

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Derbyn

Welsh food tasting and cooking

This week we have been learning about food that is Welsh and food that comes from Wales. We have been very busy cooking bara brith, cawl and Welsh rarebit. We enjoyed tasting the food that we have made in addition to tasting Welsh cakes and toast made with bread and butter that has been made in Wales.



Stars of the week:



Aaliyah - has really impressed us with how she has been such a wonderful friend to the children in the class. She has a very kind and caring nature and has been going over and above to help other children.

Leonardo - has impressed us with how hard he has been trying to develop his letter and number formation. During our morning input he has been working hard to develop the formation of 'smiley writing'

Blwydynn 1

On Tuesday, Bl 1 set off on our community walk. We were making observations about how accessible our school is for everyone. Do we have: ramps? Clear markings? Safety features for entering school?

We stopped to think about whether we would be able to cross the road safely if we were hard of hearing. We looked for safe ways to cross the road and were glad to see that there were many safe routes for all to take.



"The lights flash bright on those big circles so everyone can see them when crossing the road." - Benji

"The floor is bumpy by the road, so you know when to stop if you are blind." - Ralph

"If you are in a pram you can go up the hill and not the steps." - Amelia

"There is yellow paint on the pond steps, so you can see the steps if it is dark." - Isla H

As we were walking back into school, we spotted something UNBELIEVABLE! There, nestled away in the twigs and branches was a very mysterious looking egg! We could not believe it! We were very excited

and felt so lucky to have found it. Beneath the egg was a scroll. The scroll was from Jess the Dragon Keeper and she has asked for our help. Jess has asked us to take good care of the egg until she returns from her adventures. We also found a magical book that shares so many fascinating facts and descriptions of Dragons. We could not wait to read it!



Watch this space for further updates...



Star of the Week: Israel - Israel has impressed us immensely with his positive attitude to learning and his engagement during the school day. His confidence has grown so much and he is always putting his hand up to answer and ask questions. Fantasteg!

Blwydynn 2

This week our Year 2 pupils have been researching living and non-living things as part of our Science lessons. We had to really think about what makes something living or non-living. We shared our ideas with each other and came up with this list.

"Living things can breathe in and out." Aria

"Living things can move in their surroundings." Joshua

"Living things must eat and drink to survive." Lorenzo

"Living things sleep to rest their brain." Kiyah

"Living things have babies." Tommy

"Living things make waste from their food and drink and need to go to toilet." Treasure

Living things die." Anton

"Non-living things do not eat, grow, breathe, move and reproduce." Ravi

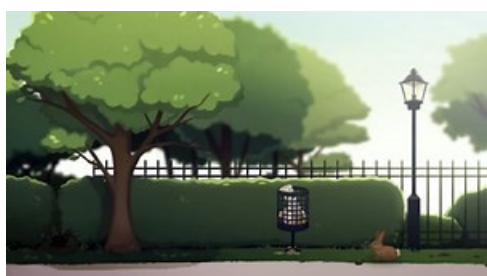
"They do not have senses." Lucas

We had to sort a set of pictures into two sets - living and non living. Then we had to explain to each group why we made that choice.

We also used the following link to help us when we first started our research.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zfhfn9q>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkmR6tURgQA>



Dead, living and non-living - BBC Bitesize

Learn about dead, living and non-living things with this Year 2 Bitesize Science guide.

www.bbc.co.uk



Stars of the week: Harri. He has been working so hard to answer questions during teaching. Harri is gaining in confidence when sharing his own ideas within a group. He is working very hard on correct letter formation and the general presentation of his written work. Well done Harri.

Blwyddyn 3

This week in BL3 we have continued to explore the story of the Red and White Dragon. We have used our literacy skills to create our very own dragon description. We included similes and metaphors in our writing!

In numeracy we have been working in groups to problem solve. We have applied our multiplication and division knowledge to solve a range of questions. We used our flexible partitioning to help us divide and multiply larger numbers.

In our topic, we have been looking at the stories of the Mabinogion. We used a timeline to order the stories in chronological order. We are looking forward to creating our very own dragons next week.



Seren yr Wythnos: This week in BL3 our star of the week is Oakley. He has tried exceptionally hard with his reading this week. Keep it up! We are so proud of you.

Blwyddyn 4

Year 4 worked as history detectives this week as part of our new topic 'Castles and kingdoms. We looked at some sections of the Bayeux tapestry, the tapestry depicts the events leading up to the Norman conquest of England and includes scenes of the Battle of Hastings in 1066. We worked in pairs to be history detectives, picking up clues about the battle by looking closely at the pictures.



Star of the Week: Xavier



Xavier has been an excellent role model to his peers this week. Xavier works well within groups, allowing others time to speak and sharing his thoughts with the group. Xavier has been working to the best of his ability in all areas of his learning. Da iawn Xavier, keep it up!

Blwyddyn 5



"Our task was to put the 10 commandments in order from most to least important. We worked in groups to decide together what the order should be" Harri

"It was very hard to decide because they are all very important and we all had different opinions" Olly

"I think the most important commandment is definitely love God more than anyone else" Maya
 "I think the most important is always tell the truth" Leila

"I think it's don't hurt anyone because it's wrong to hurt anyone or anything in God's world" Leo

"I think the most important is always put God first because if you put God first, great things shall be added to you" Pearl

"I agree because if you put God first, you are obeying every single commandment." Ethan

"Jesus told us to Love God more than anything else and to love your neighbour as God loves you" Warren



PIC-COLLAGE

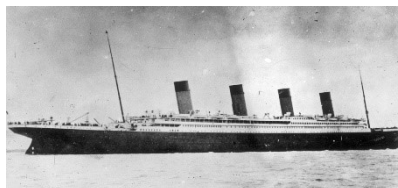


Seren yr wythnos this week is: Pearl who has been working extremely hard and has shown great confidence in not only her work but also her contributions in class. Pearl has been a role model and leader in class discussions and debates. Da iawn Pearl!

Blwyddyn 6

Bl 6 have been finishing their Frozen Kingdom theme this week through their writing, research and creativity.

They have examined the newspaper articles from 1912 and have been research journalists. Finding out facts around the Titanic's sinking and knowing the features of a newspaper article, the children have written their own newspaper reports.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is



Commissioned to build their own version of the Titanic, using the cabins that they had built during their parental engagement afternoon, Year 6 built their own Titanic. They enjoyed putting together the cabins and including the features of the original ship.



Star of the week: Ralph for his very good journalist skills and newspaper writing.



Seren Yr Wythnos

Nursery - Shanelle & Seren
Reception—Aaliyah & Leonardo

Year 1— Israel

Year 2— Harri

Year 3— Oakley

Year 4— Xavier

Year 5— Pearl

Year 6— Ralph



Have you claimed all the support you can get with school costs?

The Welsh Government offers support with Free School Meals and School Essentials such as uniform, kit and stationery.

Even if your child already receives Universal Primary Free School Meals, more help could be available!

If eligible, you could get:

- ✓ **up to £200** per child for School Essentials
- ✓ **extra funding** for your school

Search: **Get Help with School Costs**

