



## Monthly News May 2021

*Despite the rain this month we've seen the usual amount of learning outside and although we're not currently undertaking off-site visits and limiting visitors, the children are as busy every day and levels of engagement and wellbeing are as strong as they ever were. We've seen two themed weeks this half term and we've managed to adapt and rearrange many of the activities in our usual annual plan of events. It's timely for me to remind and share with you that, despite the appearance and what I hope doesn't become 'vigilance fatigue,' our school is not operating 'as normal' and that the guidance issues by the Welsh Government when schools reopened in February is still the working guidance that we and all schools still have to work to. Mixing, separation, distancing & mask wearing requirements have not changed but thanks to the outstanding efforts of our team here, we know that children are thriving and making some really good progress... because they tell us that. Thank you again for all the support you give us in complying with our arrangements and saying thank you to individuals - it really makes the world of difference.*

**Steve King**  
Headteacher

### COVID TEXT - Really important

If at any time during term time, weekends or holiday your child receives a positive COVID test, it's really important that you tell us straight away so that we can quickly assess which families we need to contact to keep them safe. Please do this by emailing [thedellcovid5@hwbcymru.net](mailto:thedellcovid5@hwbcymru.net) which is constantly monitored.

### New Governors

This half term we have welcomed two new parents onto our governing body following an election. Governing bodies consist of individuals elected or appointed from the local community, local authority, staff and parent bodies. This is to ensure that a range of viewpoints and skillsets are represented in overseeing and assuring the strategic direction and leadership of the school. Welcome Hayley Miles and Kelly Clarke. There will be another parent election in the next school year when another position becomes available.

### Parent & Carers' Survey

Thank you to parents and carers who completed our recent Parents' Survey. We always read every reply and produce a report which you can read [here](#). We also copy every comment into the report, providing a brief response and grouping into themes. Any themes that appear more than a few times will form priorities in our School Development Plan for the following year. We do this with our pupil and governing body surveys too to ensure that each year, the views of all parties are listened to and responded to. We address the staff survey also but not in the same way.

### Digital Passport

Hwb is the national online learning account for all learners and teachers in Wales. Children in Years 3-6 (Key Stage 2) have received their digital passport which gives them the information they need to access their personal Hwb account. They will access this account in school but can also do so and access the full Office

365 suite of software as well as many other online tools at home. If your child misplaces their passport, please contact their classteacher.

### New Curriculum for Wales

Most parents by now will know that a new curriculum will become statutory in September 2022 in all schools across Wales. All governments update their 'national' curriculum every few years but, I have to explain to you that this revised curriculum is quite different in that, for the first time in Wales, rather than the curriculum comprising of an updated list of prescribed content, schools will have autonomy to create a curriculum that meets the needs of their children in their local area for now and their future. In most aspects of life, a one size fits all approach never suits everyone and often excludes, marginalises or is detrimental to some. In recent years we've looked into where our children live, what their daily lives are like, what gaps we can fill, what aspirations they and their families have. Thus every school's curriculum will be different and bespoke but still guided by and sitting within various national learning & assessment frameworks. At The Dell we're making really good progress to being ready for the statutory implementation next autumn and this has involved much working with other schools as well as internally. Active, engaging, real-life learning is not new at our school and our work on wellbeing and listening to children (& other 'stakeholders') has been recognised across the region. You can find out more about the new Curriculum for Wales [here](#).

### Sports Day

As with a number of events this year, we have had to make changes to Sports Day. We wanted to afford the children the opportunity to compete and to do so with other children, safely distanced and separated so that they can be cheered on and enjoy participation as well as competition and success. Unfortunately we are not able to accommodate parents on Sports Day this year. For parents of older children, we will be producing a Summer Production as well as Year 6 Leavers' Assembly but again with much regret, we will not be able to invite parents to attend this year.

### Catch up

Since the school reopened in September we have received funding to provide additional support for children identified by their teacher as needing it. We have used this funding to provide additional hours to an existing Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Mrs Bringhurst, and she has been using this time to support children in Key Stage 2, in small groups over four mornings each week. In Foundation Phase this support looks a little different and is provided by Mrs Llewellyn on a similar basis. Teachers feel that children in general are in a good position and continue to make pleasing progress despite the disruption over the last 14 months.

### IT Equipment

Over the past six months we have received our share of funding as part of the Welsh Government's Ed Tech project. This has seen a significant increase in the number of devices we have been able to

provide for the children in learning as well as secure storage for them. We'll see a further wave of funding shortly which is all designed to ensure that schools have the capacity to deliver the national Digital Competency Framework. Again, another lifeline that we would have struggled to come close to through delegated funding.

### Windfall funding

In March we heard about some unexpected but very welcome funding from Welsh Government. This was a one-off announcement and we have used it to fund a few projects around school which will significantly improve aspects of our outdoor provision. This includes extending our classroom canopies and improving literacy & numeracy resources. We will also not be asking parents to make voluntary contributions for the remainder of the school year.

### Social Media

We've had an incident recently where somebody not connected with our school has gained access to a closed, parent administered school related Facebook group using fraudulent information. When joining the group did not meet their intentions, they left. The individual was admitted in good faith by a very supportive parent. There's clearly a lot of benefit for parents of being part of an informal network with others to share information and clarify misapprehensions and as a school we have no desire to stop, control or censor that. But talking with one of the year group parent administrators, it does appear there's a good opportunity here for all the administrators to work with us to make this experience even more valuable and safer for all. I'm really grateful for the willingness to take this forward and look forward to working with various parents on this issue next half term but in the interim, please be mindful of others on social media platforms which are associated with but not operated by the school.

## Calendar

This year we have plotted our usual calendar of events but most will look a little different. We will let you know ahead of time what activities and events that involve parents will look like. At present, although national guidance states that we can, we will not be arranging any off-site trips and we will not be welcoming most visitors to the school to work with and meet the children (except in special circumstances).

31 May- 4 Jun - HALF TERM

7 Jun - INSET DAY

8-9 Jun - Reception Vision & Growth Screening

8 Jun - Year 5 'Compass for Life' Workshop with Floyd Woodrow MBE DCM

9 Jun - Year 6 'Compass for Life' Workshop with Floyd Woodrow MBE DCM

17 Jun - Sports Day (in school event)

24 Jun - Reserve Sports Day

25 Jun - Year 6 Forest School

28 Jun - Languages & Literacy Week

2 Jul - Annual Pupil Reports Go Home

9 Jul - Pupil Progress Reports go Home

12-16 Jul - Sharing Week (via SeeSaw)

12 Jul - Winning House Reward

12&13 Jul - Year 6 Outdoor Team Building Day

13 Jul - Move Up Morning

15 Jul - Year 6 Leavers' Assembly - 9.30am

15 Jul - Year 6 leavers' Picnic

16 Jul - Last day of Summer Term

19 Jul - INSET Day

20 Jul - INSET Day

### SUMMER HOLIDAY

2 Sep - INSET DAY

3 Sep - INSET DAY

6 Sep - School reopens for Autumn Term

27 Sep - European Day of Languages Events

28 Sep - Year 6 to STEAM Museum

29 Sep - Individual School Photos

25-29 Oct - HALF TERM

1 Nov - INSET Day

9/10 Nov - KNEX Workshop - Year 6

17 Dec - Last day of Autumn Term

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY



## SPEAK TO YOUR SCHOOL NURSE

Your School Nurse is available for you to talk about anything that worries you about your health.

Call 07500 124243 to arrange a virtual attend anywhere session

Sessions available on:  
 Monday - 9 - 2.30  
 Tuesday - 9 - 12  
 Wednesday - 9 - 12  
 Thursday - 9 - 2.30

SCAN WITH A SMART PHONE TO GET IN TOUCH

- ✓ Healthy eating and lifestyle
- ✓ Emotional wellbeing and mental health
- ✓ Weight support
- ✓ Alcohol and smoking support
- ✓ Sexual health and relationships

**Talk to us privately**  
 We would only pass on your information to protect you or someone else from serious harm. We would talk about this with you first.

GIG CYMRU NHS WALES | Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

SILVER

SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH AWARD

Health and Wellbeing This Month

First school in Wales!

Year 3 took part in our sponsored Race for Life which raised £1587!



Our KS2 playground has been transformed by our tyre gardens & wildflower beds



## Parent Survey – Summer 2021

I believe that my child has good learning experiences

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- Don't Know

41  
35  
0  
0  
1



Agreement = 99% (Nearly All)

Creative playtimes in Key Stage 2



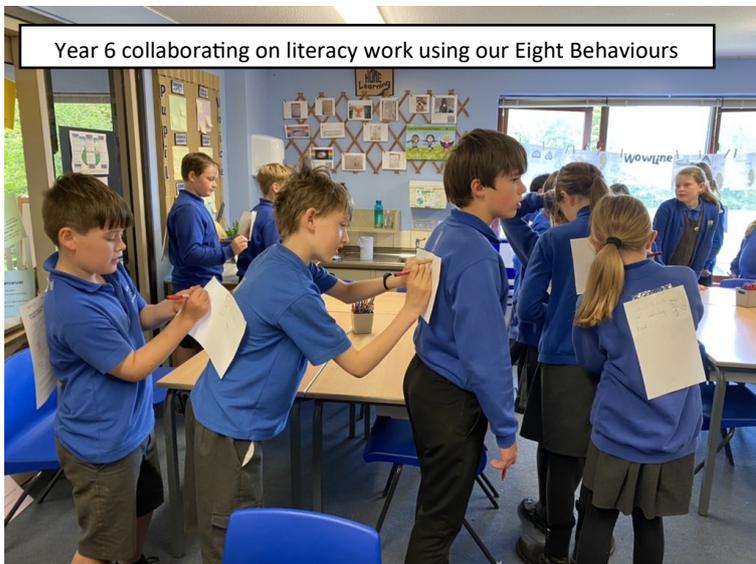
Year 6 love Friday rugby development session with Mr Dunbar from Chepstow School



Year 5 creating art for Chepstow Art Festival



Year 6 collaborating on literacy work using our Eight Behaviours



Playtimes are great!



Year 4 explored what affects the size of craters



Year 6 enjoyed their drama lesson with Luca Goddard from Chepstow School



We're sure nobody thinks our children sit indoors at desks all day...but just in case...

Year 5 have been creating art in the unique style of Arnulf Erich Stegmann



One of our fantastic Year 4 pupils has raised over £400 for local charities since Christmas! Here's him presenting a cheque to the Severn Area Search & rescue Association!





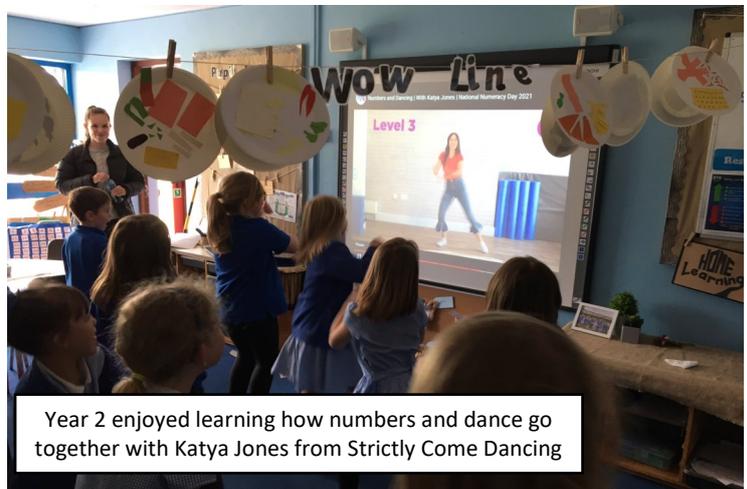
Year 5 learned about the inequalities of accessing fresh, safe drinking water around the world



Year 3 enjoyed learning about 'Coming to England' from Baroness Floella Benjamin



Our School Council's work has continued through the year and recently saw them judging the Local Hero competition



Year 2 enjoyed learning how numbers and dance go together with Katya Jones from Strictly Come Dancing



Year 6 worked with colleagues in Monmouthshire's MonConnect team on making difficult decisions



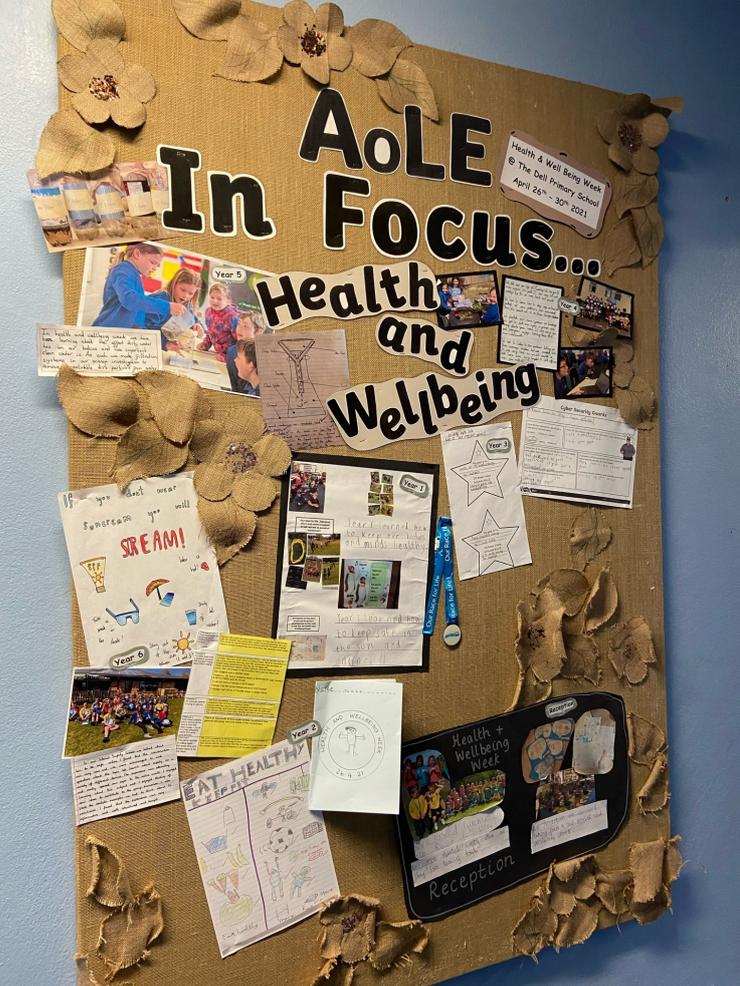
Year 5 enjoyed finding out about learning pathways at Chepstow School



Learning to practise mindfulness in reception



Thank you for helping us raise £1587 for Race for Life!



We just liked this photo!

**Monmouthshire Family Support Services**  
 Monmouthshire's fantastic support agency, which helps families with advice and signposting. Help-lines are available Monday to Friday between 10am and 3pm .  
 Call - 01633 644152 / 07970166975  
 For Info [CLICK HERE](#)  
 To watch an info video [CLICK HERE](#)

There's loads more info on our website  
[www.dell.monmouthshire.sch.uk](http://www.dell.monmouthshire.sch.uk)

**YOUNG MINDS**  
 Support for children (AND Parents) at  
[www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)