



Newsletter



Ysgol Padarn Sant

St. Padarn's School

Autumn Term 2014



What have we been working on this term?

➤ Improve pupils' Numeracy and ICT skills

Our standards in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and mathematics have been plotted on a new tracking tool called 'Incerts'. We get a 'tick in the box' for all the skills we can currently apply confidently and it then sets us a new target so that we can continually develop our skills.



All our classes have been working from a new Maths scheme of work this term. This scheme offers us new learning experiences and gives us plenty of opportunities to develop our problem solving skills.

We have had lots of new resources this term, including an additional 10 ipads paid for by our amazing PTA, interactive numeracy resources and plenty of practical resources to help us develop our number work in and out of class.

➤ How do we know that we're getting better?



Mr Leggett, the school's governors, teachers and representatives from Ceredigion Local Authority all look at our work regularly, watch our teachers' teaching and monitor the effectiveness of whole school planning. We agree with everyone named above

that our skills are improving. Mr Leggett says that the data held on ICT and numeracy shows an upward trend this term across the whole school.

➤ Improve pupils' standards of Welsh

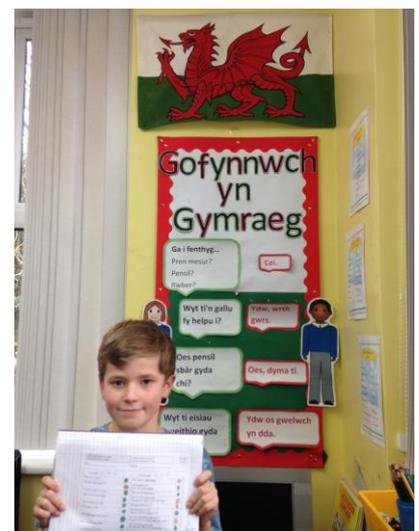


In addition to our fantastic staff, we have visits twice a week from Welsh peripatetic teachers who support the development of Welsh as a second language across the school. In September, we all had to do a 'boring test' to see how good our oral Welsh skills were. At the end of December, we did it again, and this proved that we have all improved our Welsh skills since September. We don't think it's so boring any more..... because we know we're getting better!!!

We develop our spoken language daily and progress along what we call the 'Daily Dos continuum'. This continuum tells us what language we should be using confidently every day from the Reception Class all the way up to Year 6. In addition to this, the scheme of work that we follow places an emphasis on oral work across the school, but also gives us plenty of opportunities to develop our reading and writing work too.

➤ How do we know that we're getting better?

Since our oral skills baseline was plotted in September, we have been re-assessed. This proved that we have all developed our skills well during the autumn term. Our teacher assessments and Incerts data also proves that we are making good progress. The monitoring process looks carefully at our books, and this process proves that the standard of our Welsh is improving.



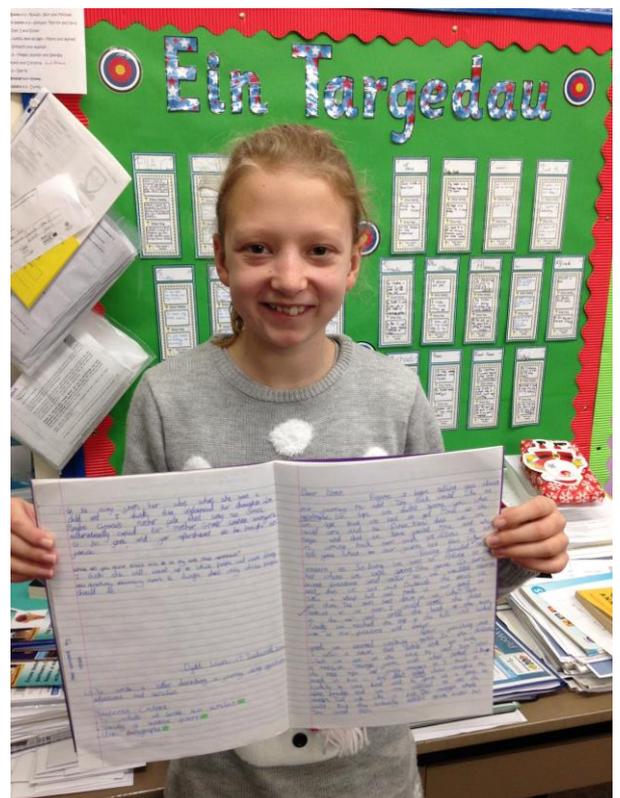
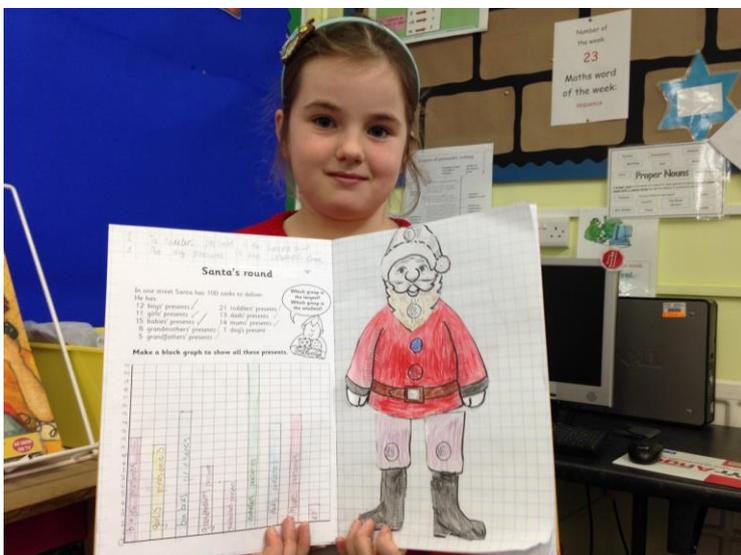
- *Improve the planning of lessons, particularly by providing more opportunities for pupils to write and use their own ideas*

Our teachers use a new online system called Cwmpawd. This is a planning tool where our teachers record their lesson planning. It also tracks the Literacy and Numeracy skills we cover across each curriculum subject and helps to ensure that we all have plenty of opportunities to practice and develop our written and numerical work. In addition, we now have topic based projects from a scheme called 'Corner Stones' which gives us challenge where we can apply our skills and understanding.

Teachers' lesson plans are scrutinised regularly by the Headteacher, Local Authority representatives and Chair of Governors.

- *How do we know that we're getting better?*

Our Chair of Governors says that through the monitoring process, teachers are set targets to improve aspects of planning. This ensures that every pupil is catered for appropriately and that the learning experiences are interesting and differentiated.



- *Improve the quality of teaching, particularly improving the challenge given to more able pupils*

Our teachers have established close working links with our Local Authority's advisory teacher's service. They regularly work together, visit school to help out where they can, and help develop the provision and learning experiences provided at St. Padarn's.

These are our targets. When we get 4 leaves, we get a 'Seren Aur' (Golden Star)... followed by a new target!



- *How do we know that we're getting better?*

All the evidence we need is in our work books! The reports created from lesson observations, book scrutiny and subject monitoring all indicate that there has been an improvement in the quality of teaching.



Here is our targets tree. We want to 'stamp' our leaves 3 times to show we've met our targets. We stick our leaves into our books once we've met our targets. Then...we have new targets!

- *Develop the strategic roles of the school's management team and governing body to support the effective improvement systems implemented by the Headteacher*

Mr Leggett says that the main aim for this term was to establish and implement a robust monitoring programme focussing on raising pupil standards. After one term, this programme is working well and is leading to whole school improvement.

The Chair of Governors has worked closely with the Headteacher this term and has helped further develop these new improvement systems. Our curriculum leaders have been released to monitor their areas of responsibility, who then create a written report on the standards within that area. Recommendations are then agreed with the Headteacher and addressed accordingly. All of this helps ensure a continuous cycle of improvement.

Many of our Governors have taken on new responsibilities this term and have been actively involved in everything that happens at St. Padarn's. They have also attended Local Authority training sessions to ensure that they are better equipped to challenge the school on its standards. There are still some roles that need to be created and developed, which will be a focus for the spring term.

- *How do we know that we're getting better?*

Mr Leggett keeps a folder of evidence which outlines everybody's roles and responsibilities, and everything each member of the team has done in support of raising standards. This folder holds all the key evidence that indicates that pupil standards are improving.

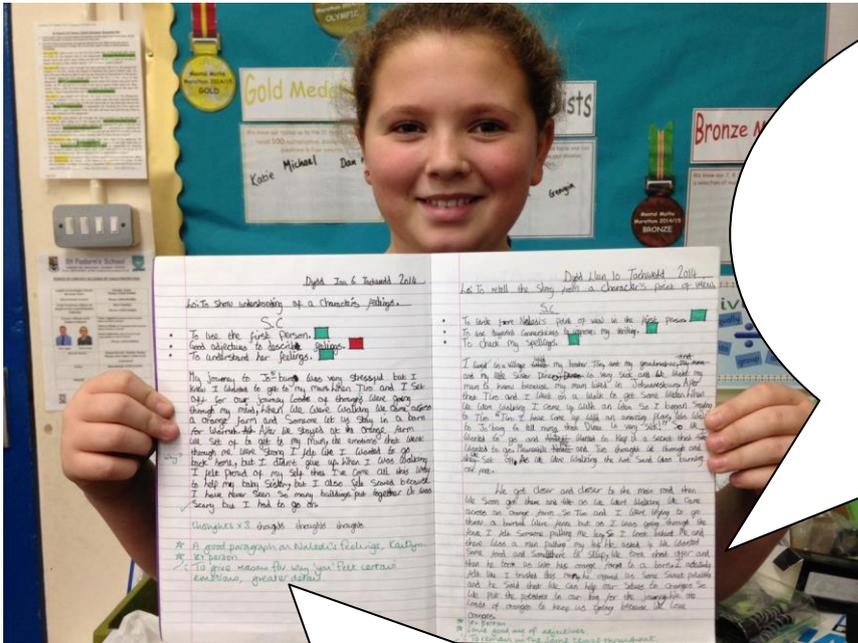
After our Governors visit school, they produce a written report that states; the purpose of their visit, what they have observed, key issues arising and action required. This ensures that all matters concerning school are brought to the attention of the full Governing Body.



We're revising our personal targets to see how we've got on. We highlight our targets 'green' for fully met, 'amber' for nearly there' and 'red' for not yet!

This is our targets wall. We're aiming for 'Bullseye'!

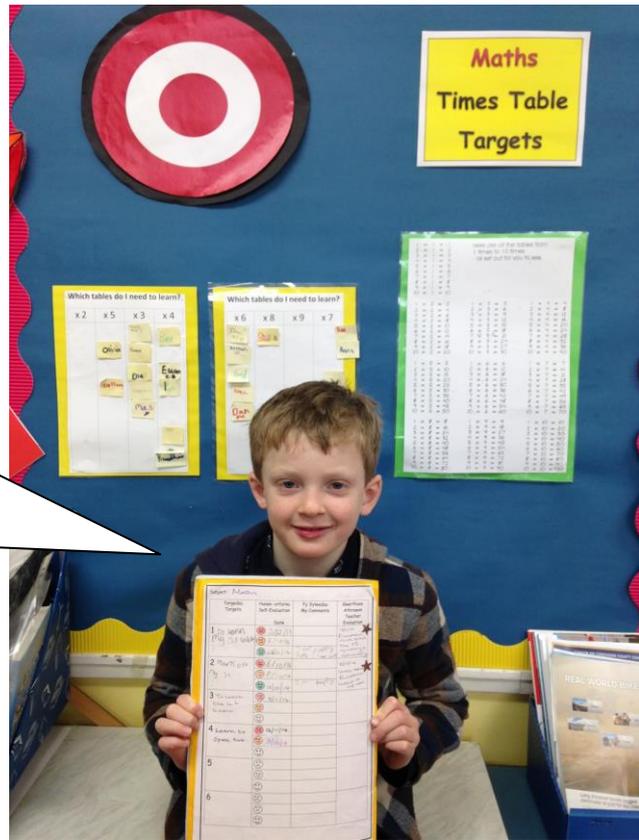


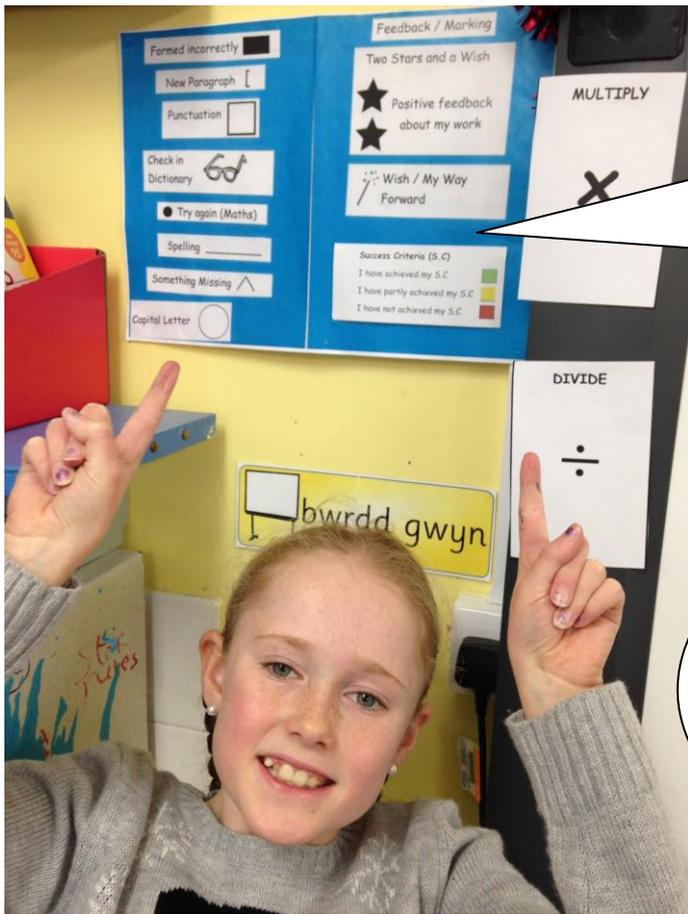


I've set myself challenging 'success criteria'. These are targets / things that I need to include in my work to ensure that it's my best work

My teacher has given me feedback using the '2 stars and a wish' strategy. This means two positive things about it and a way forward to improve my work. I've 'RAG' (Red, Amber, Green) my Success Criteria to show whether or not I've met my targets (Green is good!)

The feedback I receive from my teacher is fed in to my personal targets sheet. This is how I know what I need to do to get better





This is our marking / feedback policy. This helps us identify areas we need to improve in our work

My work has been 'peer assessed'. This means I've discussed my work with a friend who has suggested ways I can further develop some aspects of it



Religious Education

The RE Inspectors praised our school for the good standards in RE and our behaviour in the classroom and on the playground. They said that we participated fully in school life and in global partnerships.

We really enjoy our RE lessons in school and were interested to speak to the RE inspector about our learning.

We're getting more involved in preparing and presenting assemblies and collective worship. Recently, Mrs Brophy's class wrote all of their school assembly and Mrs Slater's class wrote play scripts to perform in front of the whole school about Our Lady.

We're very pleased to have more books and resources to use in our lessons, which have kindly been bought by the Parish for us. Our teachers are also encouraging us to write longer pieces of writing in our RE books and Fr. Neil is a regular visitor to school to see what we're doing.

