

# Autumn Newsletter

*The River centre 3-16 Learning community*



01495 357714



[www.trc3-16.co.uk](http://www.trc3-16.co.uk)



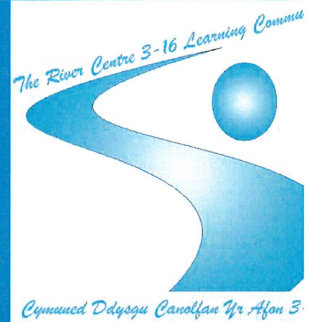
@Rivercentre316



## In this Newsletter:

What has each class been doing this term including:

- Learning about space
- Carving pumpkins
- Various Visits



## Primary Campus

Dukestown Rd,  
Sirhowy,  
Tredegar NP22 3DT

## Secondary/Ty Afon

River Centre 3-16 Learning Community  
Pontygof  
Ebbw Vale  
NP23 5AZ

# Dosbarth Glas:

Themes: It's All in The Mix and Out Of This World

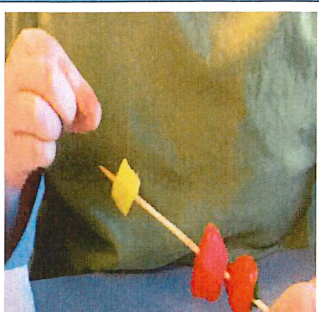
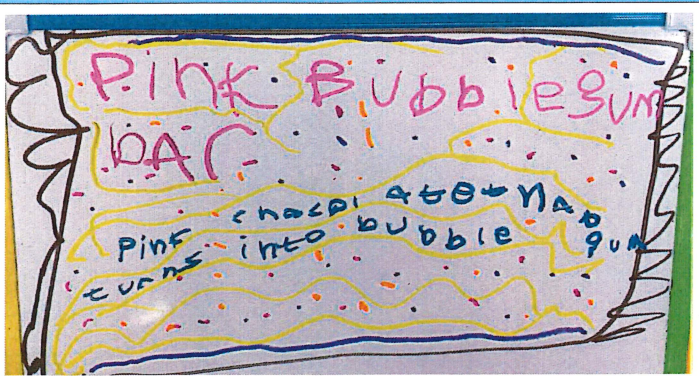
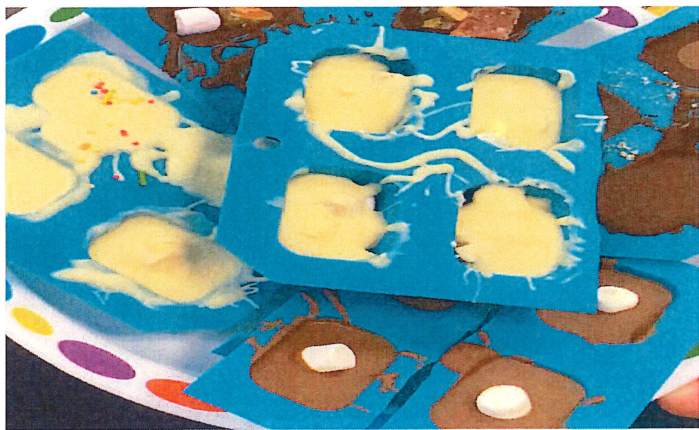
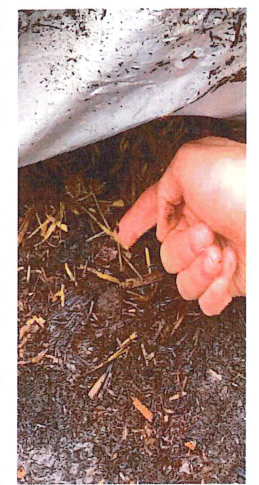
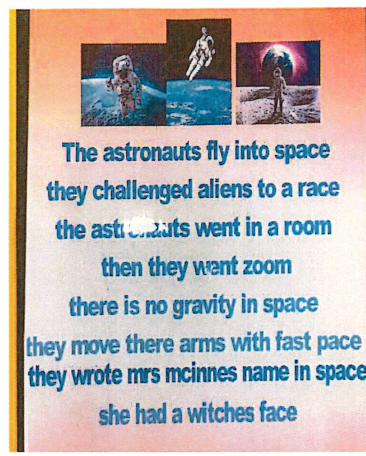
Visits:

National Museum Of Cardiff to visit the space exhibition.

Christmas extravaganza to visit Santa. Children wrote a letter to Santa and received a gift. They decorated biscuits, watched the Polar express and ate popcorn.

Fun activities:

- We wrote space poems.
- We tried space food.
- We ordered the planets



We visited Sirhowy Woodlands to see different wildlife, plants and go on nature walks.

· We designed and carved a pumpkin and had a Halloween party.

· We created a survey and designed our own chocolate bar.

· We tried different foods and made our own chocolate bars.

· We wrote our own instructions and made fruit kebabs.

· We confidently performed in our Christmas concert – The Madivity!

# Dosbarth Coch

What we did this term:

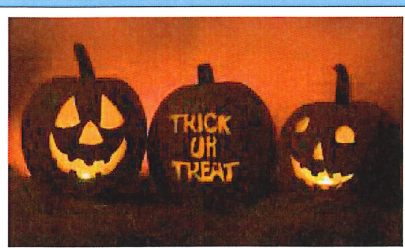
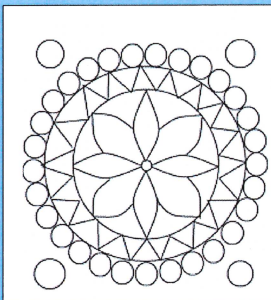
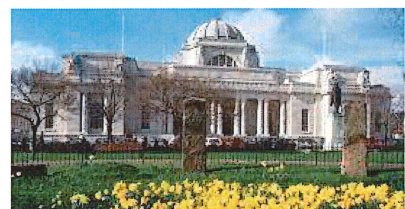
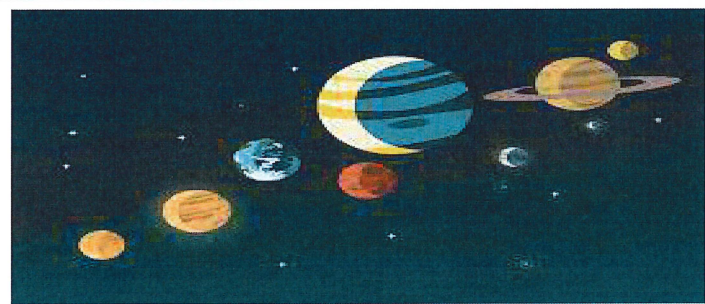
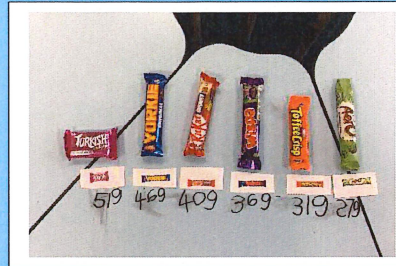
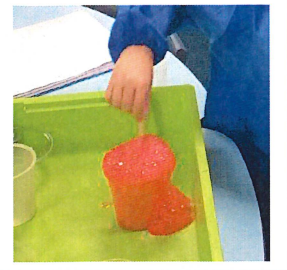
**Themes:** It's All In The Mix and Out Of This World

**Visits:**

National Museum Of Cardiff to visit the space exhibition.  
Christmas extravaganza to visit Santa. Children wrote a letters to Santa and received a gift. They decorated biscuits, watched the Polar express and ate popcorn.

**Fun activities:**

- We ordered the planets of the solar system, painted the sun and created aliens out of playdough.
- We wrote recipes to mix up magic potions.
- We designed and carved a pumpkin and had a Halloween party.
- We ordered the weight of chocolate bars.
- We designed chocolate bar wrappers, melted chocolate and made our own chocolate bars.
- We confidently performed in our Christmas concert – The Madivity!



# Dosbarth Melyn

Since September we have:

- We have learnt about the planets
- We visited Cardiff Museum
- We have developed our throwing skills during Health and Wellbeing sessions
- We have learnt about Halloween around the world
- We have created Rangoli patterns
- We have created a Road Safety Rap
- We made Oatcakes
- We learnt about Mari Lwyd

# Ty Afon:

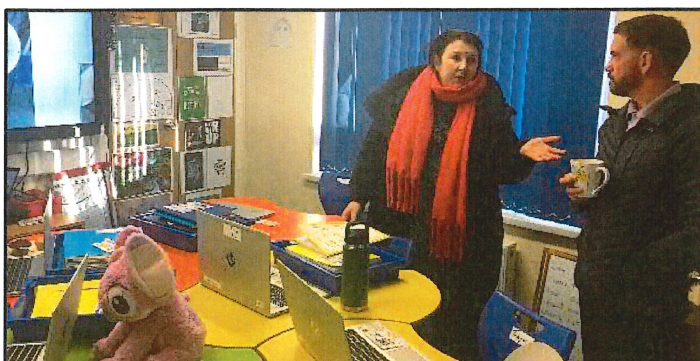
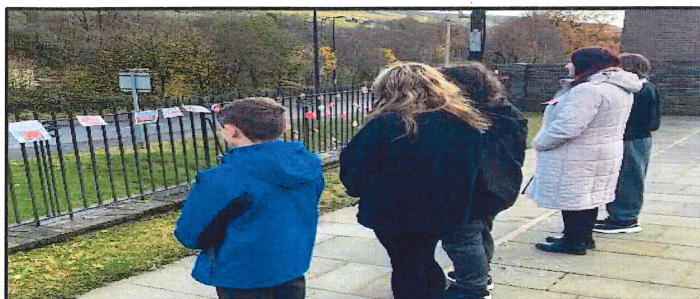
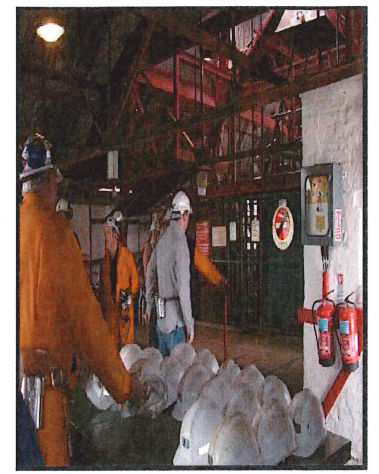
It's been a busy term at Ty Afon with a plethora of activities taking place.

Students in year 11 completed their Oracy Assessment in English Language and their Task Based Assessment in Science which contributes to their final GCSE grades in the summer term.

Students and staff visited the Big Pit Colliery in Blaenavon to explore the formation and extraction of coal, in order to compliment classroom-based learning in Science that focused on how Earth's resources are utilised by man.

The kitchen has been extremely busy over the term with students learning how to make Victoria Sponge Cake, Gingerbread Men, Lemon Curd, Rock Cakes, Chocolate Brownies and Cookies. In addition, they had the opportunity to plan and create healthy meals as part of their Prince's Trust qualification.

Students visited the Careers Fayre in Merthyr where they had an opportunity to talk with colleges and other further education organisations to consider their options for post 16 education. The students had the opportunity to hold a python snake and stroke a skunk when they visited the Animal Rescue stall. They also paid a visit to Coleg Gwent at the Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone in Ebbw Vale where they were able to talk to staff about the various courses on offer and explore the sites facilities.



On the build up to Remembrance Sunday, students created messages and poems and took them to the Cenotaph to pay their respect to all those service personnel that had sacrificed their lives. A moment of reflection was observed by all, and although quite an emotional and sombre experience, it offered students a valuable lesson in the importance of showing respect.

Ty Afon had its inaugural coffee afternoon where parents were invited in to talk with staff and look at their child's work. This was a resounding success with many parents attending to reflect on the progress students are making at Ty Afon.

Students of Ty Afon were invited to celebrate the build up to Christmas by visiting the Primary campus to enjoy the younger students' interpretation of the Nativity. Primary students put on a first-class performance that ended in all members of the audience singing along to some classic Christmas songs, leaving students with a festive feeling as they returned to the Ty Afon campus.

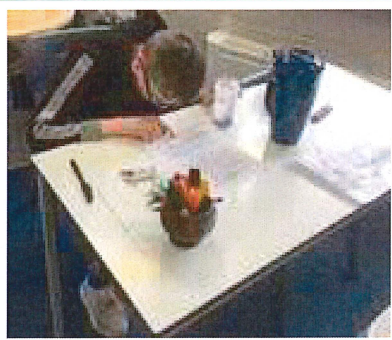
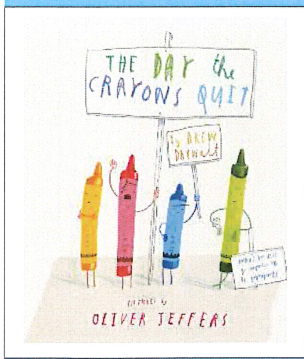
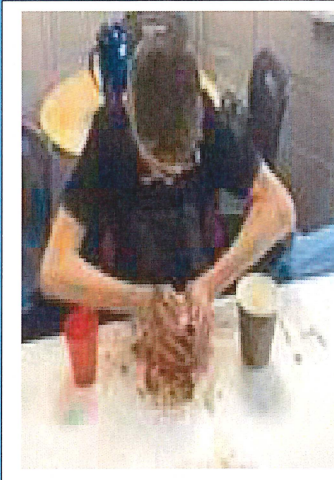
Finally, at the end of a busy term staff cooked Ty Afon students a Christmas lunch with all the trimmings on the Wednesday prior to the Christmas break. Students were part of this process as they were given the onerous task of preparing the vegetables. With a little bit of teamwork, staff and students were treated to a King's banquet and there was a strong feeling of togetherness as everyone sat down and ate together and enjoy the festivities.

# Nurture:

This half term our topic has been "Is it all in the mix?"

We have been reading and following instructions to create cookies, and sausage rolls

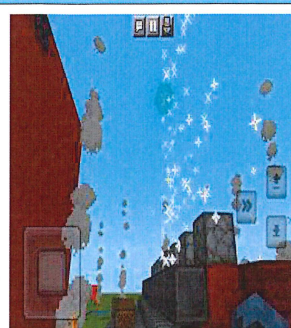
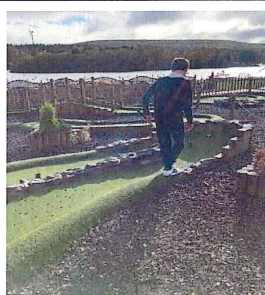
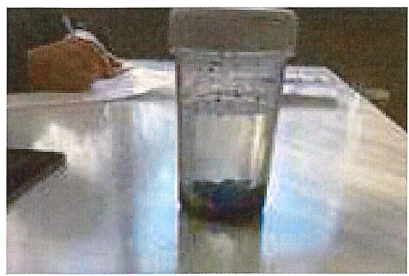
Learning about changing states to read and follow instructions to create a scented and decorative candle for Diwali, the Hindu festival of light.



*Creating wellness jars to manage big emotions based on the story the day the crayons quit.*

*We also had a few trips to Bryn Bach, taking part in a number of outdoor activities.*

*Creating Minecraft firework themed worlds for Bonfire night.*

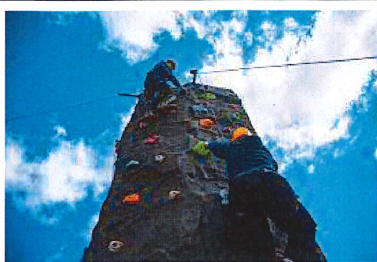
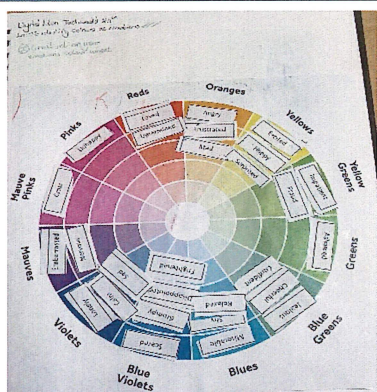
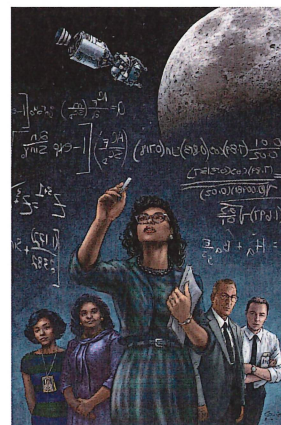


# Year 7:

We started our term with the theme, Is Space the Final Frontier? In this topic we looked at all things space including the planets, the space race and the history of NASA. We learnt about the evolution of rockets through time, created flight timelines, researched facts about all 8 planets and made some fantastic galaxy art.

We did lots of space themed cooking this term including Mars brownies, rock cakes and space pizzas. As a class we decided that Hidden Figures the movie would be the best and most entertaining way to learn and engage with this topic rather than a class novel. A popular choice between pupils and staff! Not only did this teach us lots of important historical information on NASA and the space race, but also provided us with a key insight into the racial and gender equality struggles that occurred in the 60's.

To celebrate Halloween, we had great fun and enjoyment carving pumpkins.



In the second part of the summer term, we changed our topic to, Is it All in the Mix?

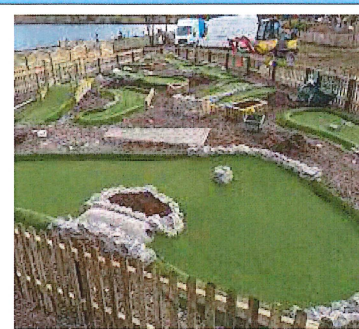
During this topic, pupil voice played a massive part in the direction we took as a class for our learning. We decided that this topic would heavily focus on emotions and how colours represent them. Naturally, the perfect learning stimulus was the movie Inside Out. This formed the bases of our enquiries for the term, as we study why emotions are associated with certain colours? Why do we feel certain emotions? How can we deal with our mixed emotions when we become overwhelmed? We also explored a lot of colour blending and mixing in Expressive Arts, using different mediums, such as, pencils, paints and pastels. Perhaps the most enjoyable activity of this term was making mocktails as part of using our measuring skills in maths.

Throughout this term we have had the privilege to go on an outdoor educational provision with Bryn Bach Park every Thursday. The pupils have absolutely loved taking part in the activities. Which include, rock climbing, bouldering, raft building, paddle boarding, go karting, mini golf and team building exercises. We have learnt some many new skills and hope to continue to work towards are Level 1 accreditation in climbing and paddle sports in the new year!

# Year 8

Year 8 have enjoyed several visits to BrynBach Park where they have participated in go-karting, climbing, mini golf and visits to the driving range to improve golf swings.

Their favourite activities have been the bike trails, where many of them have shown great talent in riding and bike control.



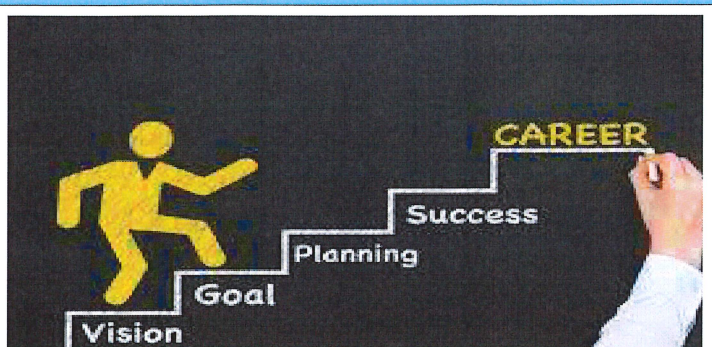
Bush craft has been another experience that the pupils have enjoyed, where they learned to build dens in the wild, survival skills and even toasted marshmallows!



We've begun to look at dreams and aspirations in discussion groups:

What would my perfect job be?

What do I need to achieve that goal?



# Year 10

A few adventures Yr 10 have had since September -

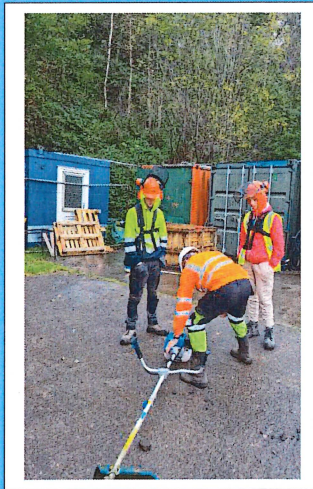
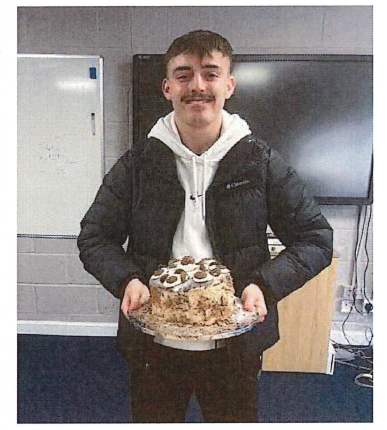
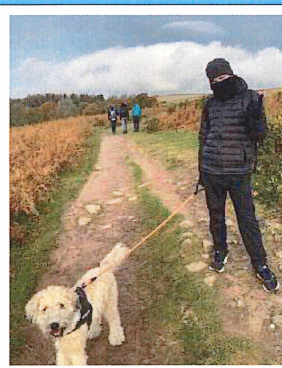
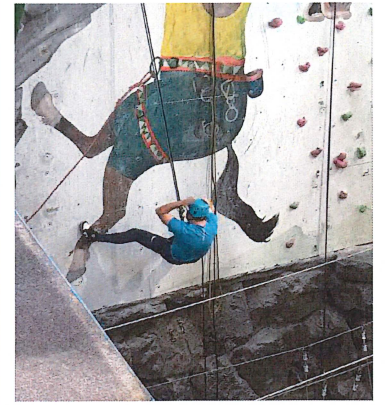
Rock Climbing at Boulders in Cardiff - achieving Level one indoor climbing certificate

Rock Climbing , Abseiling, Rope ladders at Llangorse Activity Centre

Tag Archery , Mountain Biking , Go Karting at Bryn Bach Park

And also Walking up Sugar Loaf mountain with a furry friend.

A pupil made a cake and sold raffle tickets to raise money for Children in Need. £50 was raised! Mr Davies was extremely happy with his win



## ARC

A busy term again at ARC with many pupils working towards qualifications.

Safe & competent in the operation of a petrol brush cutter and strimmer

They also helped a lady in the community with an over grown hedge, making it much safer for her, now she can see past it.