



EPIC

Engaging

Practical

Independent

Challenging

Curriculum

'Learning to thrive in a constantly changing world'



Designing our Curriculum...The Process

The Curriculum for Wales

The world is continuously changing, and we need new ideas and creative use of technology. To address these challenges, the Welsh Government wants to make sure your child has the knowledge, skills and educational experiences they'll need to make the most of life.

The curriculum is designed for all children. It will support your child with creative lessons with real-life meaning. It will suit their needs and help them reach their full potential. The world is more connected nowadays, so what they learn is more connected too. Knowledge is really important, and they will also be given the skills and experiences they need for a fast-changing world. So in summary, Curriculum for Wales is a statutory framework for all schools in Wales. Since September 2022, schools have been required to design their own curriculum in line with Curriculum for Wales because every school is different, and a school's curriculum must meet the needs of THEIR pupils.



Our EPIC Curriculum at The Dell

Staff have listened to children, parents and governors, added their own ideas and created a curriculum that will meet the needs, aspirations and interests of our pupils which will allow all to progress towards the Four Purposes. Our curriculum is designed to be Engaging, Practical, develop Independence and be Challenging.

Our Curriculum = every experience, activity and opportunity, designed and by default, that a child has from the time they step through the front gate of our school. It's the totality of the culture and interactions experienced daily and over time.



Designing our Curriculum...The Process

Stage 1 – What's Important?

Through discussions with all stakeholders (pupils, staff, parents and governors,) we determined what was important for all of our learners at The Dell. It reflects our context and values and gave us an understanding of what the curriculum, and school life, needs to be.

Stage 2 – Seeking Ideas

Following the discussion with stakeholders, we began by identifying areas of development within the school. Staff visit cluster and cross cluster schools, both similar and different, to gain an understanding of different approaches to curriculum design. The 4 Core Purposes and 12 Pedagogical Principles were examined, discussed and understood by all members of staff through professional learning.

Stage 3 – Trialling and Refining

Different teaching and learning strategies were trialled throughout the school, with the vision of having complete progression from Reception to Year 6.

Stage 4 – Learner Offer

Through the trial process, we listened to learners to develop a key set of learning opportunities that all pupils will experience throughout the academic year in each year group. Through cluster work and the use of the descriptions of learning, the curriculum was developed to ensure a wide range of experiences, knowledge and skills.

Stage 5 – Pedagogy

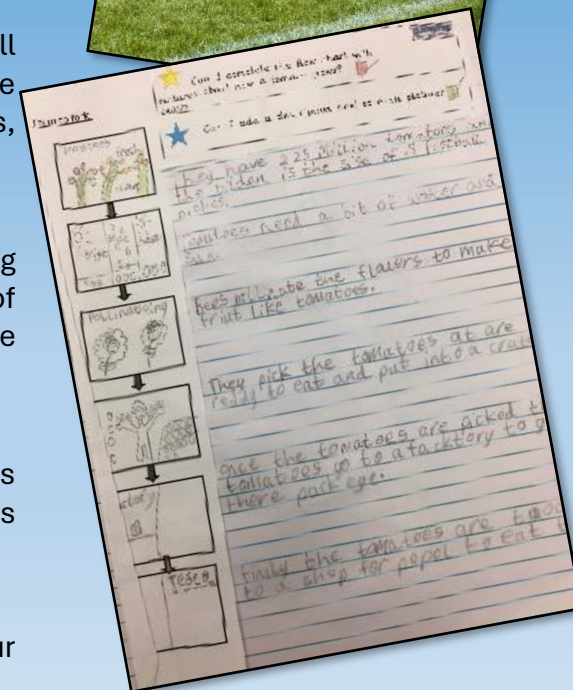
Through staff discussion, listening to learners and professional development, the pedagogy and learning throughout the school now has a consistent, and progressive, approach. The previous 'boundaries' of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 have been removed ensuring consistent progress throughout the school.

Stage 6 - Assessment and Progress

We are developing an assessment strategy, which supports and challenges every learner. The school has developed their own assessment and progress procedures, in line with the Curriculum for Wales guidance.

Stage 7 – Reflection, Improvement and Refinement

Each pupil takes part in the decisions about what they would like to learn about, referencing the Four Purposes. Staff review our curriculum offer termly and evaluate the process.

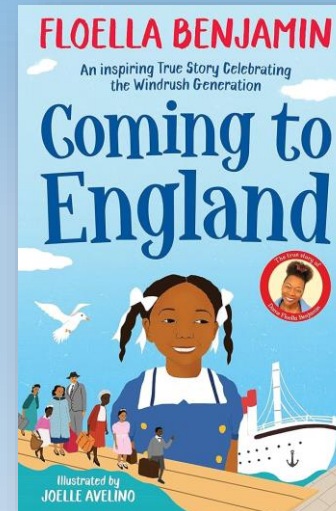
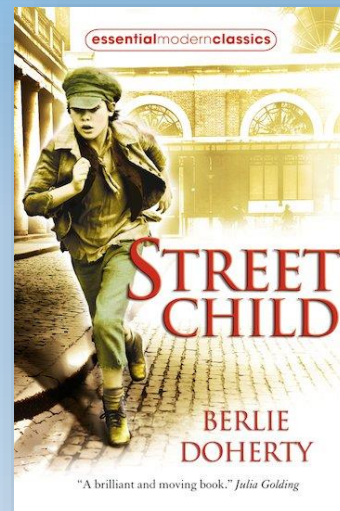
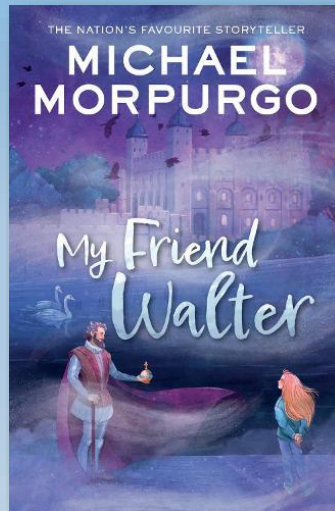
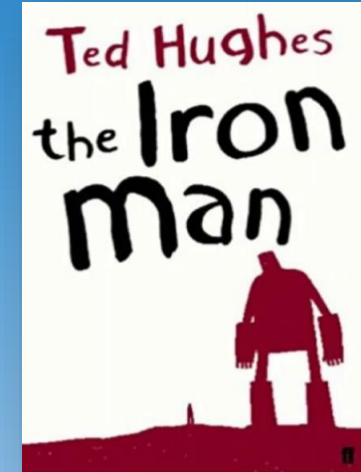
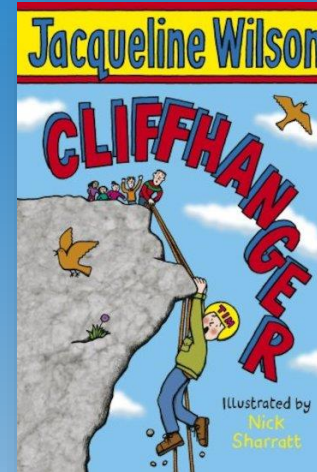
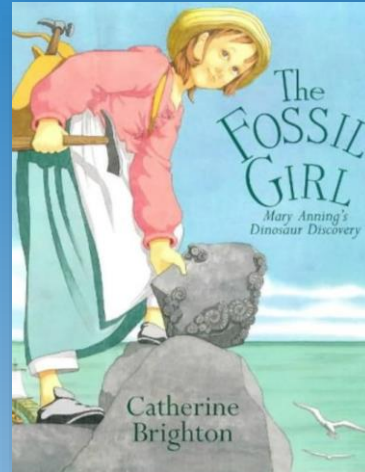
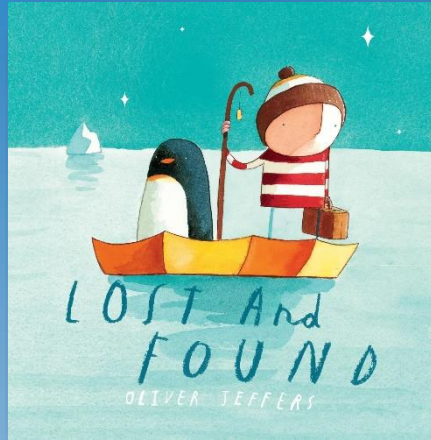


Our Taught Curriculum Framework

Our EPIC curriculum is driven by our core texts. Each term, each year group works with a text, a physical book, which is the basis for learning and skills development across the curriculum. Teachers have selected age appropriately challenging texts from well-known authors, in a variety of genres which means that all children will experience and read 21 high quality texts over their seven years at The Dell.



**Be kind
Be your best**



Pupil Voice

(Taken from HT Working Lunches & Pupils Surveys)

- Preparing children for the future
- Making learning fun and interesting
- Teachers being kind to children and helping them to do their best
- A place where people are kind to each other
- Where everyone can be experts in maths and English and get good skills
- I'd like it where older children helped and looked after younger children
- Where people can reach their potential
- Learning indoors and not too much sitting down and listening
- Happy memories for when I grow up and look back to my childhood
- A school where we are all proud and help each other
- Where there's a balance of sport and things for people who aren't sporty



Our Shared Vision

A caring, happy school where every child is highly and equally valued as an individual.

Where passionate staff support and do what's needed to help each child thrive and where active learning is engaging, relevant and takes place indoors, outdoors and in the local community.



**Be kind
Be your best**

Staff Voice

(Taken from INSET Activities)

- To prepare pupils for 'real life' and continue their learning (lifelong learning)
- For each child to reach their potential in a safe & secure environment
- To engender a love of learning for life
- To prepare children for their future through an exciting childhood
- Through a huge variety of experiences and opportunities we aspire to develop a passion for learning & the ability to learn
- To create independent learners who engage in varied areas of learning & creativity
- A place to feel safe to explore
- A school that has one aim: achievement (learning, hobbies, social skills & life)
- A school that equips children with curiosity, skills & understanding & that allows them to live enjoyable, fulfilled lives.

Parent Voice

(Taken from Parent Forums)

- A school where children achieve the highest levels in reading, writing & maths
- Where every child is noticed and pushed to be amazing
- Where teachers like and enjoy working with each child not just favourites
- I think the school is already exactly what I always wanted for my children
- Where children learn fairness, respect and how to really care for others
- Where children can express their feelings without fear
- To systematically find out what each child is good at, celebrate it and to get even better at it.
- To keep children safe physically and emotionally.
- To prepare children for their future while helping them love being a kid!

Governor Voice

(Taken from 'All About Learning' activity)

- Focussing on learning, always remembering what we're here for -A school which looks for its weaknesses and turns each into a strength
- Where children feel safe and happy and genuinely learn from mistakes
- A place where staff love working in and are therefore self-driven
- Learning is sacrosanct and paramount; everything else is secondary -A school where teachers are free to teach and have clarity of what is expected of them
- Where standards are upheld and learning and children are at the heart of every decision and improvement
- Where children and their views are valued and they are kept safe
- Where staff have access to high quality continued development and support

Respect

Love

Happiness

Independence

Friendliness

Politeness

Trust

Courage

Our Shared Vision and Values

A caring, happy school where every child is equally valued as an individual. Where passionate staff support and help each child to thrive and where active learning is engaging, relevant and takes place indoors, outdoors and in the local community.



First school
in Wales!
(Oct 2020)



Trust

Politeness

Friendliness

Independence

Love

Happiness

Respect

Courage



Our Eight School Behaviours

Our School Behaviours form and shape our every day at The Dell. Everyone at our school models, develops and lives by them every day. Through a comprehensive process of teamwork and consultation with every child in the school as well as staff, parents and governors, the School Council produced the following behaviours and definitions which shape and define us.

Happiness

Happiness is when you brighten someone's day, maybe just by smiling, playing or having fun with them. It also means feeling good about yourself and the way you are. Happiness is infectious and spreads easily. We must understand the power we each have to make other people happy (and sad).

Love

In our school we show love by giving a positive hand if someone needs help, encouraging people to be fair and thinking about others before ourselves. Love means valuing each other and showing others that you care about them.

Respect

Respect is a key element of our school. It includes every person being treated in a fair way. We care for every child and adult and for every piece of school equipment. While we try to respect people and things, we also understand that the way we act shapes how people think of us and that our actions can win us greater respect.

Trust

We show trust by believing, relying on others and keeping promises. Being trusted is a great honour and privilege. We must make sure that we don't break that trust because we want to know that when we put our trust and faith in others, they won't let us down.

Courage

In our school we show courage by trying new things, taking part in new activities and opportunities and being ourselves. Being courageous can be scary and daunting but it can also be exciting and empowering. We understand that the right choices are often not the same as the easy choices.

Politeness

Politeness is when a person is well mannered and respectful to others. We feel a little happier and more smiley when others are polite to us. It shows they care about us. In the same way when we are polite to others, we share this positive energy and people think good of us.

Independence

Independence is when you have the confidence to stick to your ideas, learn from your mistakes and listen to others. It's also about being comfortable with doing things your own way but still listening to others. It means believing in yourself and having a true picture of your strengths while always being willing to do things better.

Friendliness

Friendliness means being welcoming and kind to others. It means listening to other people and sharing ideas, time and kindness. Being friendly shows that we are confident in ourselves and shows that we know we have the ability and power to brighten someone else's day and change how they feel. It's a strength to be able to be friendly to all people, even those we are not close to.

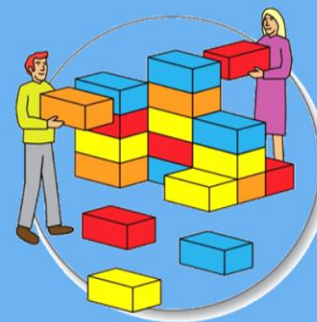


FOUR Purposes: All our pupils will be...



Ambitious, Capable Learners

...ready to learn throughout their lives



Enterprising, Creative Contributors

...ready to play a full part in life and the world

EPIC



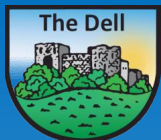
Healthy, Confident Individuals

...ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society



Ethical, Informed Citizens

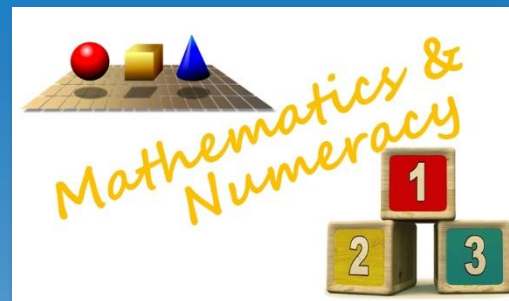
...ready to be citizens of Wales and the world



SIX Areas of Learning and Experience



In Languages, Literacy and Communication, all children will learn about languages. They'll understand and use Welsh, English and other languages. They'll study & create literature, and communicate in spoken, written or visual ways. This could include poetry, drama and film.



In Mathematics & Numeracy, all children will develop their understanding of numbers and use symbols in maths. They'll explore shapes and measurement & learn about statistics and probability.



Health and Well-being is about looking after their physical and mental health including emotional well-being. They'll learn about healthy eating and how to make good decisions, deal with influences and develop healthy relationships.



In Expressive Arts, all children will explore art, dance, drama, film and digital media and music to develop their creative, artistic and performance skills.



In Humanities all children will learn about the world, society and events in the past & present. They'll explore the challenges and opportunities that face us, and what ethical action we can take to safeguard the world and its people in the future.



In Science and Technology all children will learn about biology, chemistry, physics, computer science and design and technology. They'll learn about design & engineering, living things, matter, forces and energy, & how computers work.



THREE Cross Curricular Responsibilities

- Literacy (Literacy & Numeracy Framework)
- Numeracy (Literacy & Numeracy Framework)
- Digital Competence (digital Competency Framework)



EPIC

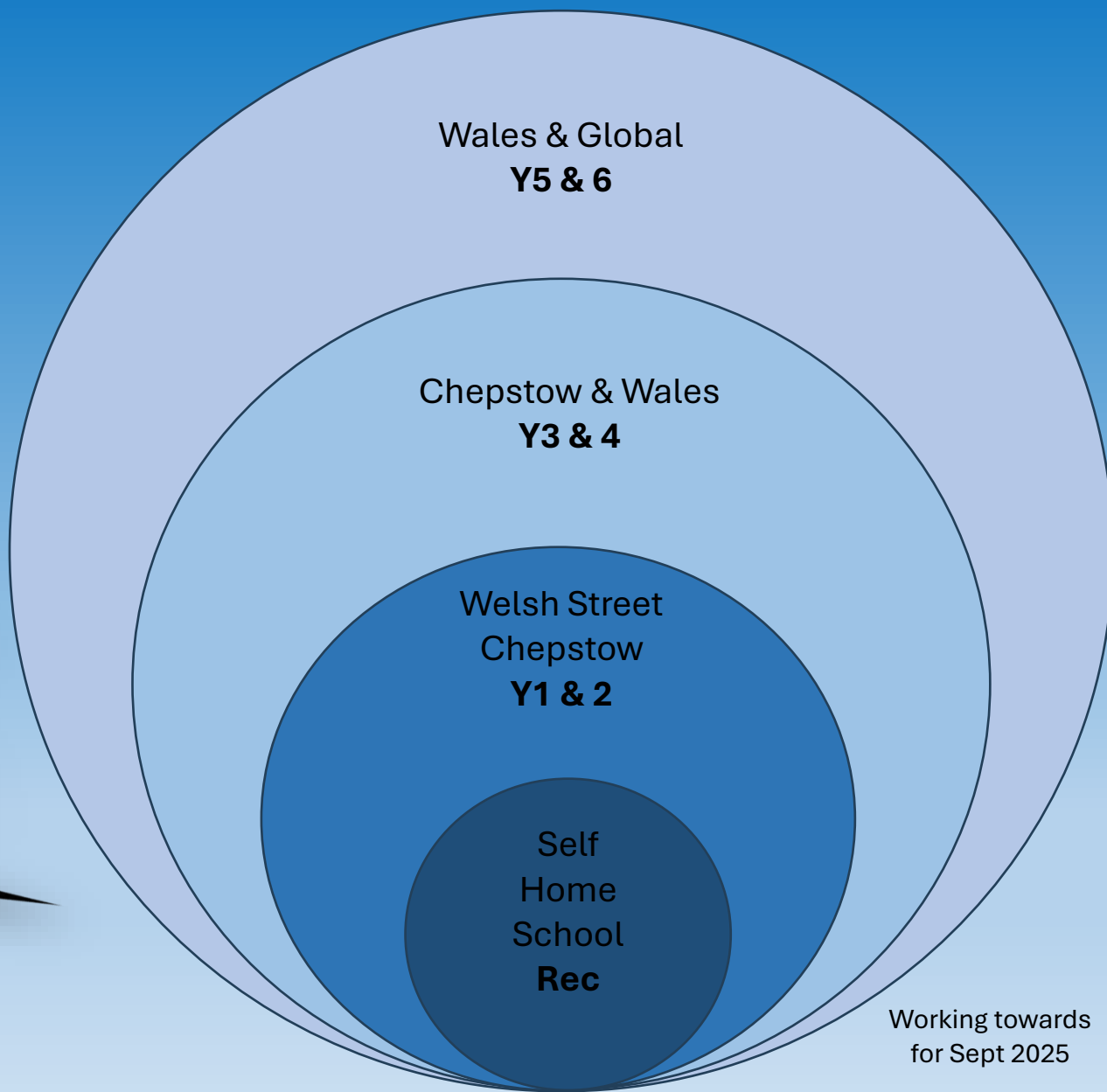
Cross Cutting Themes

- Relationships & Sexuality Education Code (RSE)
- Religion, Values, Ethics (RVE)
- Human Rights/The Rights of the Child
- Diversity
- Careers and Work-Related Experiences
- Local, national and international contexts





Locations...learning about the world we know



EPIC

Working towards
for Sept 2025

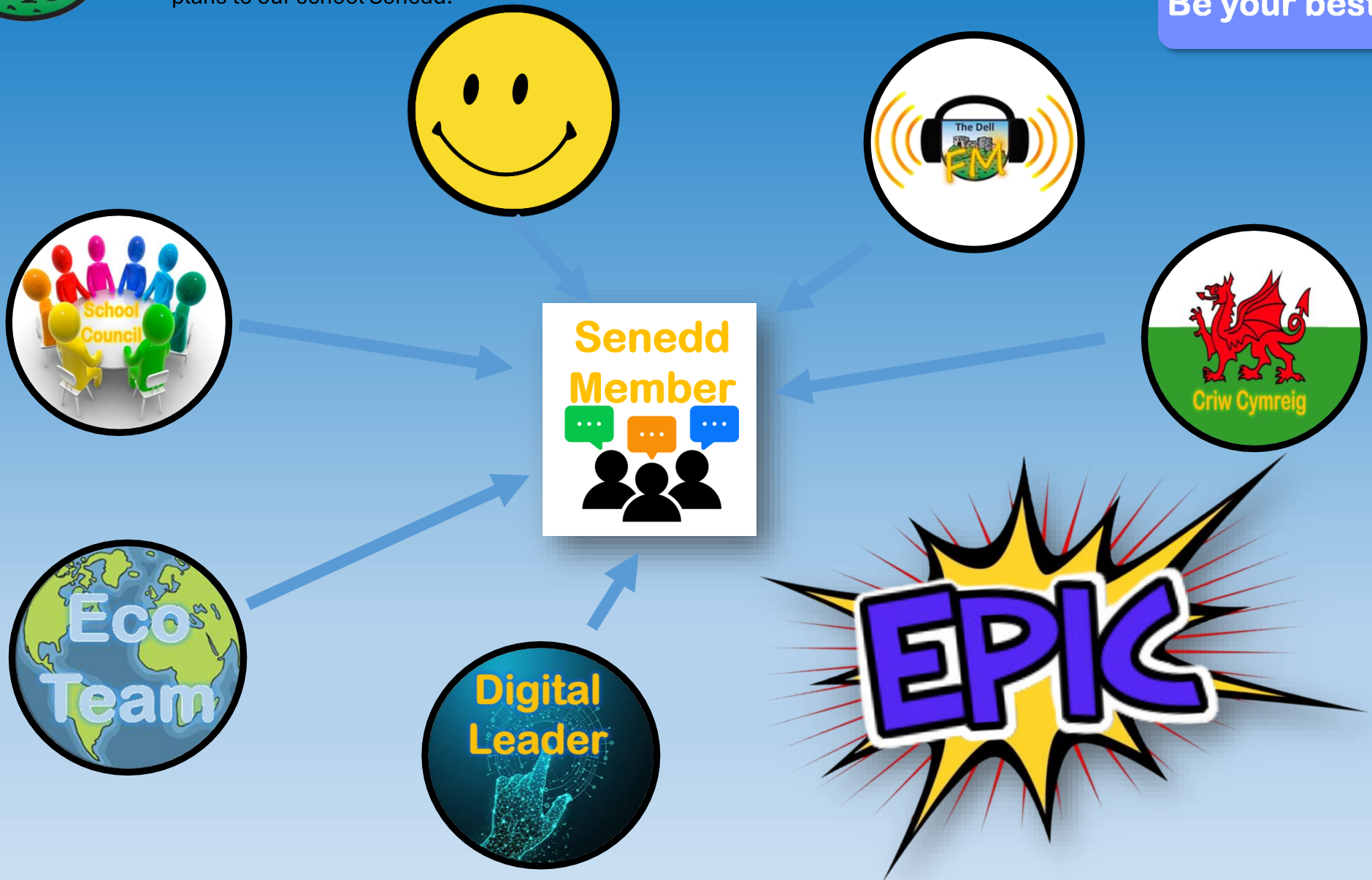


Pupils as Leaders

Teaching children to be leaders and to make things better is a key part of our school curriculum. Every half term, our pupil leadership teams present updates on their action plans to our school Senedd.



Be kind
Be your best





Practical, Hands On, Engaging Learning Through...

Through the reflection process and through listening to our learners, we aim to offer a rich and varied curriculum with opportunities within our local area and further afield. These form part of our termly 'offer' to pupils to be weaved into our curriculum through our termly learning themes.

- ✓ **Core texts** – Our termly themes are based on 'core texts' which each year group work on as the core of their learning in literacy. These texts are chosen for their level of challenge and provide a balance of genres and writing styles across the school.
- ✓ **Authentic/real life/ outdoor learning experiences** – throughout the learning theme, it is vital that the children experience authentic learning activities and, wherever possible, we use the outdoors to develop those experiences.
- ✓ **Creative/Drama experiences** – from listening to our learners, it was clear that the pupils wanted more creative and drama experiences within their curriculum and so learning themes now incorporate these on a regular basis.
- ✓ **Learning goal** – having a goal aligns with our belief that authentic learning engages and our termly goal allow pupils to work towards that termly goal.
- ✓ **Visit / trip** – learning is always enhanced by visits, whether they be in our local community or further afield.
- ✓ **Community link / visit** – our school is at the heart of our community, and it is vitally important that learning reaches out to our community.
- ✓ **STEM project** – problem solving, collaboration and creativity is developed through our termly STEM project, linked to our learning themes.
- ✓ **E-safety focus** – the cross-curricular theme of the Digital Competency Framework is supported through our focus on e-safety and being good digital citizens.
- ✓ **Areas of improvement** – every term, we celebrate successes and also cast a critical eye over the previous term and set improvements and how to get it better.



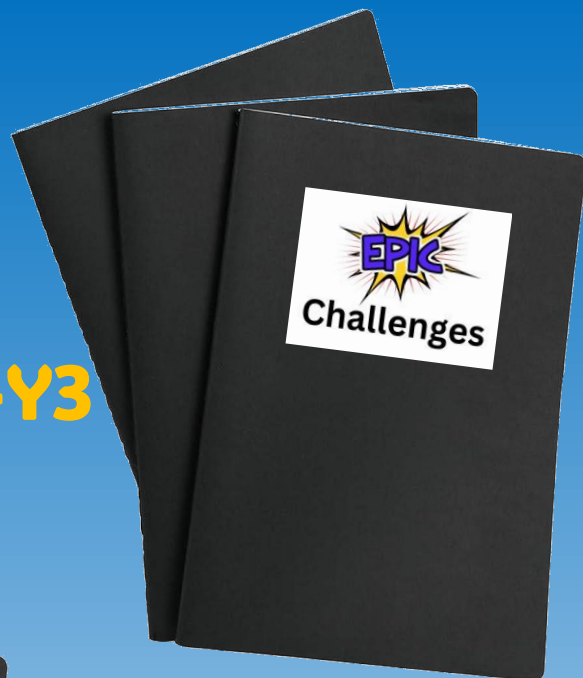
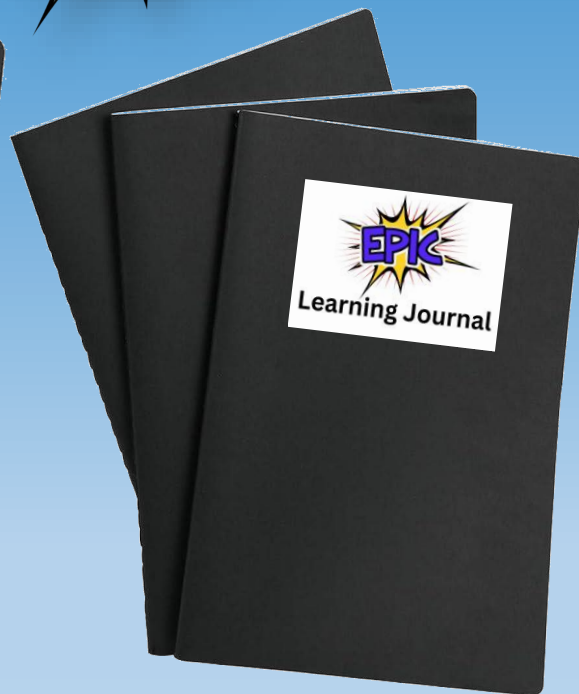
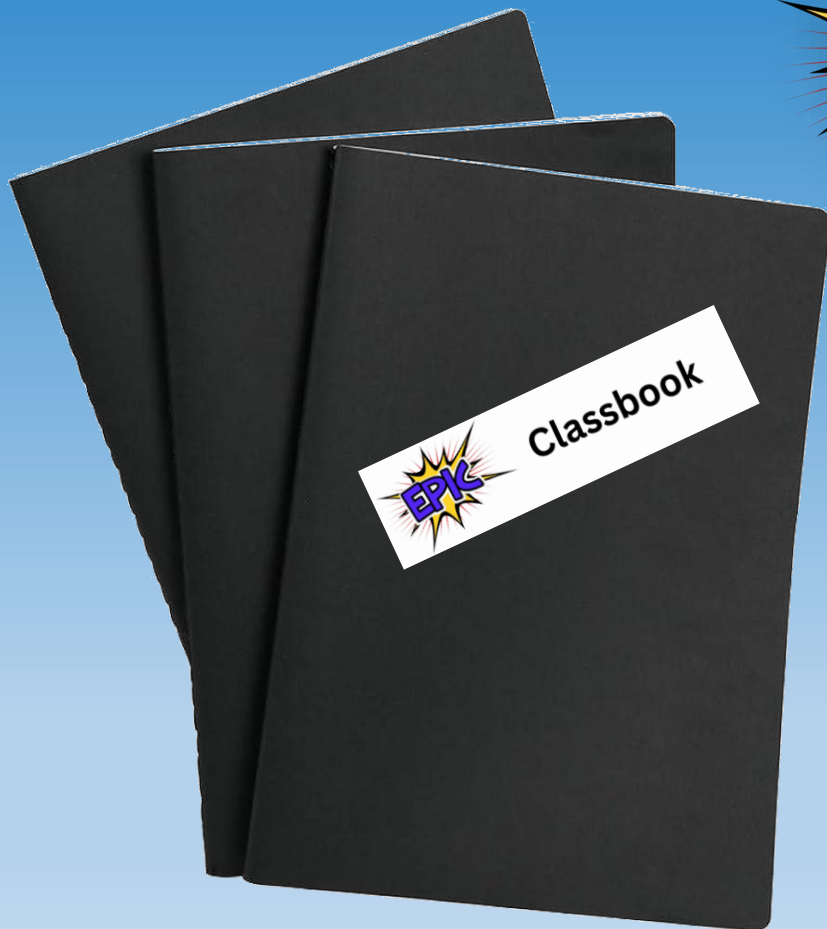


EPIC Learning

Our Classbook records collective learning experiences, all pupils record learning in their Learning Journal. Reception – Year 3 undertake EPIC challenges while Years 4-6 undertake EPIC Projects.



Rec-Y3



Y4-6