

Ysgol Bro Carmel  
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### What's been happening in school?

As always, a busy couple of weeks at school! We have seen more sporting events take place with the Brownlee Triathlon in Mold for our Y5/6 pupils, as well as the Panathlon Kurling competition in Deeside! The foundation phase had a really exciting trip to the Blue Planet Aquarium too—a wonderful day and a fantastic experience, especially as we have been looking at environmental topics in school this term. We have also had the RNLI visit school, teaching us all about water safety too! In other news, we have been accepted as one of the Tesco Stronger Starts candidates for our Sensory Room redevelopment, as well as having our allotment redevelopment take place following a successful grant application with Keep Wales Tidy! Our new friend Huw has been in school redeveloping the area, helped out by our gardening club and eco-team too. Furthermore, we've had a grant from the Thomas Howell Educational Fund, which was given to us to use on reading books. Consequently, we've been able to purchase new phonics books for our youngest children, as well as set aside an amount for an updated reading spine for our older pupils, too. Please see overleaf to see what we have been able to purchase so far! In other news, a huge llongyfarchiadau and bendigedig to four of our Year 4 pupils, who have been selected as finalists in the Climate Challenge Cymru competition! The pupils in Year 4 worked in teams to produce a piece of work all about climate change, and out of all the schools in Wales who participated, and the hundreds of entries, one of our Year 4 teams has been selected as a finalist! The children in the finalists group, led by Mr Richardson, will be heading down to Cardiff to meet with the other finalists. It promises to be an exciting and amazing day, although the 6am train will be a very sleepy start for everyone attending! Thank you to Mr Richardson, Mrs Evans and Mrs Jones for supporting the children in their projects and for sourcing this amazing opportunity.



Last but not least, our KS2 children have been busy making props, learning dances, rehearsing lines and getting into character for our KS2 production of Star Wars: The Umpire Strikes Back, which will be taking place in a couple of weeks! Never a dull moment at Carmel!

### National College Newsletter

Attached is a newsletter from the National College—this newsletter is released on Wednesdays and contains really useful information for parents and schools. This edition focusses on Emojis. Emojis are often used as a coded language that young people use to express identity, humour and emotion. Without context, they can easily be misunderstood by adults, leading to confusion or missed signals. Some emojis may even mask risky behaviours or emotional struggles.

## Little Wandle Letters and Sounds

From September, Ysgol Bro Carmel will be adopting the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics scheme. Little Wandle is based on the Letters and Sounds guidance, which is the phonics progression we have been using for a number of years at the school. The primary benefit is that it ties closely to Letters and Sounds, which we currently use at school. Little Wandle has a low-cost subscription model, although this is balanced out by a high-cost start-up investment which schools need to make. We have been fortunate to receive a grant from the Thomas Howell Foundation, which has been given to school on the agreement that it will be spent on early reading. This has meant that we have been able to invest in the books and resources, without a cost to school. The Little Wandle package will allow our staff to teach with updated, phonically-aligned books, which befits the dedicated and talented staff team we have at Ysgol Bro Carmel.

We're teaching every child to read with Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised  
A complete SSP validated by the Department for Education



We will host a parent information evening in September, for parents wishing to find out more about reading development and how phonics is taught. In the meantime, there is a dedicated parent section on the Little Wandle website (<https://www.littlewandle.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>) and we will also update our website with parent information once we are fully set up.

### Diary Dates:

Please see below for a brief overview of key dates for the next two weeks.

*Every Monday —drum teacher in school*

*Every Tuesday—P Cornets lessons with Y3 / Dosbarth Llyn Celyn*

*Every Tuesday —piano teacher in school*

*Every Wednesday—guitar teacher in school*

*Every Wednesday—Well-Fed mobile shop—8.45—9.30*

*Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th June—Y6 Cycling course*

*Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th June—Y5 and Y4 Stop Motion animation workshop with Bigfoot Arts Education*

*Wednesday 18th June—KS2 trip to Drayton Manor*

*Monday 23rd June—Y1&2 at the Jambori*

*Monday 23rd June—Star Warts dress rehearsal*

*Tuesday 24th June and Wednesday 25th June—Star Warts Performances @ 18:00*

*Wednesday 25th June—Year 4 Finalists of Climate Challenge Cymru visiting Cardiff!*

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Martell'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mr M. Martell  
Headteacher / Pennaeth

# What Parents & Educators Need to Know about EMOJIS

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Emojis are more than playful expressions — they form a fast-evolving digital language that many adults struggle to decode. For young people, this 'secret code' is central to how they communicate identity, humour and emotions. With over 5 billion emojis sent daily on Facebook Messenger alone, understanding these symbols is key to engaging meaningfully with digital youth.

### GENERATIONAL MISCOMMUNICATION

An emoji like 👍 (thumbs up emoji) might seem friendly to adults, but teens often interpret it as sarcastic or passive-aggressive. These differing interpretations can create confusion or unintended tension in cross-generational conversations.

### SHIELDING BULLYING OR PEER PRESSURE

When embedded in emojis, mean-spirited jokes or exclusionary language can fly under the radar. Terms like 'mid' or 'delulu' may seem harmless, but they can be used to undermine peers in subtle ways.

### RAPIDLY SHIFTING MEANINGS

Emoji meanings can change overnight. A person standing emoji (👤) once signified awkwardness but might now be repurposed for something entirely different. This ever-changing lexicon can leave adults in the dark and young people vulnerable to misunderstanding or misuse.

### MASKING DISTRESS OR HARM

Some emojis are used to discreetly signal troubling behaviours. For instance, 🍃 (falling leaves emoji) or 💊 (pill emoji) might suggest drug use, while 🌿 (wilted flower emoji) could hint at emotional struggles. Such usage can obscure serious issues, making them harder for trusted adults to detect.

### NORMALISING RISKY BEHAVIOURS

Emojis can make harmful actions seem light-hearted or fashionable. Strings like 🔥👤🍷 (fire + 'wooly' face + pill emojis) may appear humorous but can reference partying, intoxication or dangerous challenges, which might otherwise raise red flags.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### LEARN THE LINGO

Stay updated with emoji trends and definitions using resources like emojiopedia.org or Urban Dictionary. Knowing current meanings builds confidence when engaging with young people and helps spot potential concerns early.

### ASK, DON'T ASSUME

Approach unfamiliar emojis with curiosity rather than suspicion. A light-hearted "What does 🍷 (juice box emoji) mean these days?" can open conversation and show that you respect their knowledge.

### CREATE SAFE SPACES FOR DISCUSSION

Encourage casual chats about emojis, online slang, memes, or social media trends. Showing interest without judgement reassures young people that they can talk about their digital world openly and safely.

### PRIORITISE TRUST OVER SURVEILLANCE

While parental controls and monitoring tools can be useful, emotional safety matters most. Be someone children and young people feel they can come to — not just someone who's watching them.

## EMOJI CHEAT SHEET - The following slang terms and emojis are some common examples - please be aware this isn't an exhaustive list.

### COMMON EMOJIS:

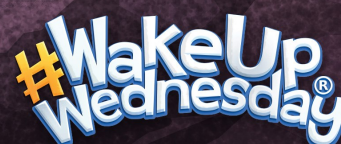
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 😄 (Clown face) Foolishness or clowning around | 🙄 (Pleading face) Over-affectionate or 'simping'                       |
| 😏 (Cold face) Cool, stylish or ruthless       | 👁️ (Eyes) Watching drama unfold  |
| 😍 (Hot face) Intense attraction or excitement | 🐐 (Goat) Greatest of all time (G.O.A.T.)                               |
| 😐 (Moai) Stone-faced, unbothered              | 💅 (Nails) Confidence, sassiness, or indifference                       |
| 👑 (Crown) 'Slaying', as in doing great        | 🚩 (Triangular flag) Red flag; a warning sign about someone's behaviour |

### POTENTIALLY CONCERNING EMOJIS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 🍌 (Ear of corn) Slang for pornography (avoids censorship algorithms) | 🌿 (Wilted flower) Often used to convey emotional struggle or sadness      |
| ❄️ (Snowflake, snowman, snow cloud) Can symbolise cocaine            | 🐍 (Snake) Can represent betrayal or being 'two-faced'                     |
| 🗝️ (Key, lying face) Related to cocaine use                          | 🔫 (Water pistol) Sometimes used to reference violence or self-harm        |
| 🍃 (Falling leaves, herb, maple leaf) Can symbolise cannabis          | ⚠️ (Warning) Used to emphasise drama, threats or emotional turmoil        |
| 💊 (Pill) May reference drug use or prescription misuse               | 🍜 (Steaming bowl) Refers to nudes ('noods' is an abbreviation of noodles) |

### Meet Our Expert

Keith Broni is a globally renowned emoji expert and the Editor in Chief of emojiopedia.org, the world's number one emoji resource. He has an MSc in Business Psychology from University College London and an MBA from Quantic School of Business and Technology.



The National College®



# YBC Wellbeing Goal Summer 2



Go to the park!

## Be Active!



Being active everyday can make you feel happier, give you more energy, improve your concentration and helps you stay strong and healthy.



Ride your bike!

Go for a walk with your family



Dance to your favourite song!

Do some gardening!



Our wellbeing goal for this half term is 'Be Active!' There are many benefits of physical exercise. Being active everyday can make you feel happier, give you more energy, improve your concentration and helps you stay strong and healthy. Our Happiness Heroes will be working alongside Mrs Metcalfe, our MH&W lead, to raise awareness of the wellbeing goals.

NEWSFLASH! Our Sensory Room redevelopment project has been chosen as one of the Tesco Stronger Starts candidates - Tell your friends, family and community to Vote for Us!



# VOTE FOR US!

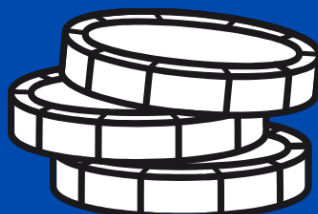
Our Sensory Room redevelopment project has been chosen as one of the **Tesco Stronger Starts** candidates - the project with the highest number of votes across will receive £1,500!



★ **Tesco Holywell Superstore**  
★ **Tesco Flint Express**



Voting will commence in store from the first week in July 2025 until the end of September 2025!



**Stronger TESCO Starts**  
Every little helps

We have been working with Huw at Keep Wales Tidy to remove our old planters, rebuild new ones and start our YBC allotment project! Well done everyone!



Dosbarth Llyn Brenig are having a lovely time at the Blue Planet Aquarium!





Our first set of 6 x 140 new phonics books from the Thomas Howell Educational Fund grant! More books on the way!

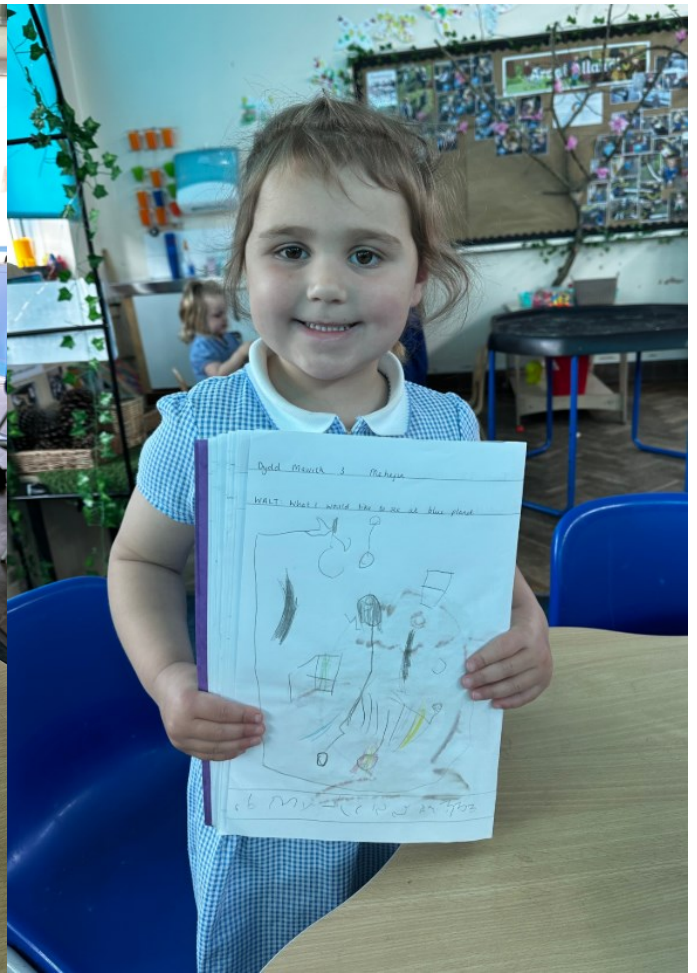


We used unitising to practise understanding the value of money.



We used unitising to understand the value of money.

This week Dosbarth Llyn Alwen have been learning unitising to understand the value of money and also recognising different coins. Da iawn pawb!



The children in Dosbarth Meithrin are very excited to be visiting Blue Planet on Thursday. Today the children drew a picture of the sea creature they are most excited to see.



Preparations for the junior performance are underway as Dosbarth Llyn Y Fan Fach have been creating some scenery and props!



PIC•COLLAGE

Dosbarth Llyn Elsi spent the afternoon exploring Carmel woods, learning to identify different types of trees and drawing the layers of the woodland.



Blwyddyn 5 a 6 had a wonderful time at the Brownlee Foundation Triathlon this morning, where they swam, cycled and ran. Thank you for a well organised event as always.

Dosbarth Llyn Celyn have been practising their dances for the junior performance of Star Warts!





Well done to our athletics team, and a special well done to our event winners from today's Flint, Holywell & Deeside Athletics Competition!

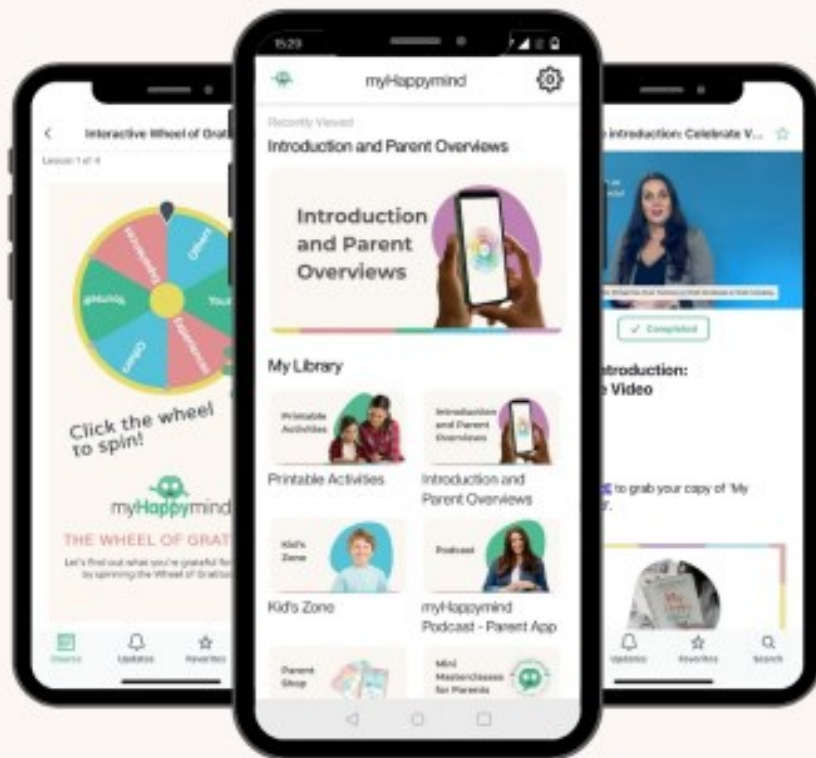


Dosbarth Dinas used their digital skills to send excellent persuasive emails about a brand new holiday destination!



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