



PENDARRREN HOUSE NEWSLETTER

No. 29 May 2018

www.pendarren.org

News

It has been a busy term here at Pendarren with lots of visiting schools and four seasons' worth of weather! Spring felt like it was arriving, with daffodils coming up and everything turning green, but then we had heavy snow at the end of February and start of March which caused two schools to rush home. There are lambs in all the fields now, blossom on the trees and the snow has gone from the hills, at last. We even had a mini heatwave over the bank holiday weekend!



Friends of Pendarren

Thanks to the generosity and continued support of the Friends group, we continue to subsidise evening visits from our resident storyteller, Daniel Morden, provide cameras and DVDs for pupils to take home pictures from their stay, supply the greenhouse and garden with seeds and growbags to enable pupils to learn about where their food comes from, refresh and update the displays around Pendarren and provide new games for the Common Room and grounds. We have brand new displays in the Annexe and a themed series of pictures in the House and have also set up a bird feeding station on the lawn and a rockpool aquarium in the hall...look out for them next time you visit!

Gardening

In the greenhouse and garden, several schools have been planting vegetables which are now beginning to come up. This year's seed potatoes have been entered into the national schools' Grow Your Own Potatoes competition...watch this space for results!

A huge thank you goes to Ray Floyd of St Francis de Sales RC Junior school who sent us some interesting varieties of spare seed potatoes and vegetable seeds.

John Muir Award

We are offering the John Muir Environmental Discovery Award to all of our schools at no additional cost. The award encourages children to engage with, enjoy and care for wild places. Please indicate on your activity booking form whether you would like to incorporate this into your stay; each child will receive a certificate which will be delivered to school.

Website updates

The website has recently been redeveloped with new features to make it more user-friendly. We have updated our information about what we do:

Pendarren House has been delivering high quality outdoor education courses to schools and other organisations for over 45 years. The personal development and environmental themed courses are delivered by qualified and experienced teachers of outdoor education in a friendly and homely setting. Courses help develop attributes such as confidence, self esteem, responsibility and independence, raising an awareness of self and others to improve the ability of an individual to work as a member of a team and allowing each individual to develop towards their potential. To deliver these courses, Pendarren makes full use of its location and groups have the opportunity to explore and undertake challenges in the natural environment of the Brecon Beacons, which includes rock faces, caves, rivers, waterfalls, mountains, forests and the beaches and cliffs of the Gower. In addition to these natural resources the 16 acre site includes a climbing and abseil tower, high and low ropes courses, orienteering courses and many other on-site activities.

Please also see the website for reviews and surveys that provide evidence of the benefits that outdoor education can bring to young people.

Daniel Morden Workshop - The Children's Bookshow

Our resident storyteller, Daniel, will be giving a performance and running workshops in London as part of The Children's Bookshow - pupils involved will get a free copy of his wonderful book, *Secret Tales from Wales*.

For more information and to book tickets, please contact Liz Neville (see right) or visit: www.thechildrensbookshow.com

Bookings

We are currently taking bookings for 2018-2019. Final offers, with prices, should have been received by the time you read this and information on how to confirm your booking via the Traded Services portal will have been included with this final offer. Transport costs are yet to be decided; you will be kept updated about this.

General Data Protection Regulation 2018

In compliance with the new GDPR, if we hold a personal email address for you, we will shortly be sending an email asking permission to continue sending you updates from Pendarren. Thank you for your continued support.

The Children's Bookshow

Join us for this wonderful children's literature event with...

Daniel Morden



Venue:	The Old Vic, London, SE1 8NB
Date:	Friday, 2nd November 2018
Time:	11am
Duration:	Approx. 1 hour
Age range:	Years 5 and 6
Tickets:	£5 per child, teachers FREE

Daniel Morden has travelled all over the world as a professional storyteller, bringing to life the stories and tales that have helped us make sense of our world through the ages. His new collection of traditional stories, *Secret Tales from Wales*, are tales of enchantment, mystery and danger, where ordinary people triumph through their own bravery and native wit.

Join us for a morning of riveting storytelling by one of the Bookshow's best-loved performers.

Free in-school workshops

Book now and you could claim one of our 4 free in-school workshops with Daniel Morden.

Each child participating in a workshop receives a free book to keep.



Book tickets for this event and receive two free books for your classroom!



Get in touch with Liz Neville to book tickets for this event:

liz.bookshow@gmail.com
07866 311486

OUR VISITORS

Campsbourne School 8th-12th January 2018

It was nice having a breath of fresh air for once, instead of car fumes. Lawrie

Pendarren helped me to learn more about myself, my friends and my teachers. It was such a great experience. Anon

Pendarren has helped me to grow as a person and achieve things that I was afraid of and never, ever, ever thought that I could do. Lottie

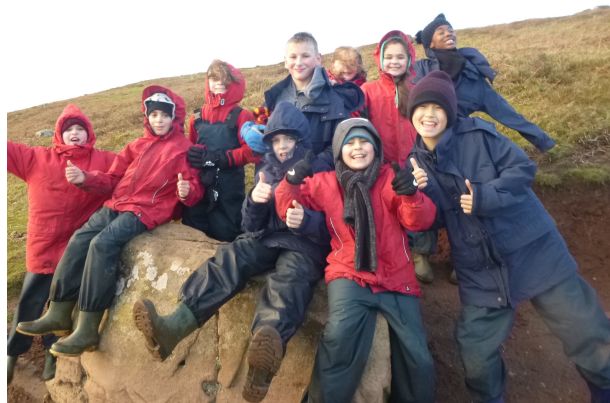
Pendarren was a great chance to learn and develop independence. We learnt things we could never develop at school. Oscar

We got to know our teachers much better than in a classroom and I also got to bond with some of my class friends that I didn't play with before. Amber

This was a trip I will never forget. The experience was amazing. Niamh



St Aidan's VC Primary School 15th-19th January 2018



Working in a team well is a good feeling. Once you learn that skill, you will end up with happiness in your life. Knowing that you have helped someone is the best feeling in the world. Izzy

I learned alot about how anyone including me can do anything they want to do if they try. Aleema

It was a wonderful experience and the best part was our dorms, we got to hangout together and know each over a bit more. Ruby

You learn that you can do stuff that you didn't know you could do before. Angus

I wish the staff could control the weather! Will (Yes Will, so do we!!! MC)

St Mary's CE Primary School 22nd-26th January 2018

Pendarren has been life changing. It proved to me that I can do more things if I just try. Shannon

I learned to be independent and be determined in everything I do, even if it's difficult. Tiannah

Pendarren has taught me things about myself that I would have never know otherwise. I conquered my fears and reached goals that I believed were impossible. I'm more confident because of these past few days and my friends helped me all the way. Dantae



If you have doubt in yourself you'll have problems so if you believe in yourself you can achieve anything, even the hardest things in life. I did things I didn't even dream of. Ria-René

Being here has made me realise that I can do things on my own that at home I would normally have my mum or dad do. It has also made me feel much more independent as these past five days I had to believe in myself aswell as other people. Akira

St Gildas' RC Junior School
29th January-2nd February 2018

I got wet, muddy and wet socks but I don't care because I had fun. Biba

I am writing to tell you how terrific the trip was and how much it helped me find some independence inside myself. Alice

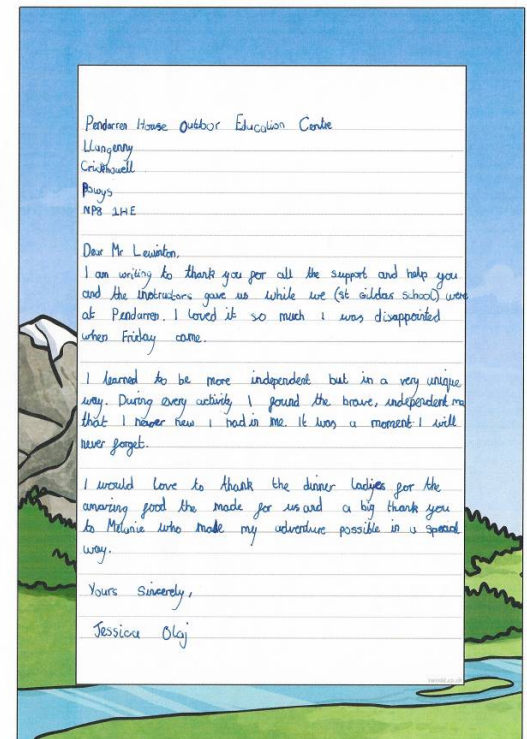
It helped me become more independent. (It also taught me how to make my bed!) Brady

During my Pendarren experience, I learnt that I'm a good leader but I also got to know my friends better. Liamara

I did things that I did not know that I could do. Melain

It was the most amazing experience I've had in my life and it made me a lot more independent. Louie

I learned to face my fears, I tried new food and I've gone to the beach for the first time which was fantastic. Mariam



Highgate Primary School
5th-9th February 2018



I loved every bit of Pendarren it taught me how to be responsible and it's so much FUN! Kura

I think Pendarren is an amazing experience because it felt like a training to be an adult. Viggo

I learned to do things I didn't think I was capable of Zelinda

It was really fun to get away from school and talk to the teachers like they were normal people! Lola

I learnt how to do things by myself and to help other people to do things. I learnt how to work in a team and co-operate. Olalla

I learnt that you don't always have to be a leader and you should sometimes step down and let other people try it. Toby

I learnt new things, I learned how to look after myself and most importantly, I learnt how to work in a team. I am really sad to be leaving one of the best experiences of my lifetime. Eve

Pendarren has helped me to know that learning is found anywhere, not only in a classroom. Ethan

St Francis de Sales RC Junior School
19th-23rd February 2018

I'm most proud of myself for climbing up the mountain even though I thought I was going to die. Jessica

This experience helped me to learn more life skills. Katie

Pendarren was the best experience I have ever had. Jarrod

I felt that going to Pendarren has changed me mentally and physically so I would recommend going to Pendarren if you're an adventurer and are looking for new challenges. Scott

My favourite activity was going to the river study; I got really wet because I rolled, slid, dunked my head and showered in the water. Eryka



St Paul's RC Primary & Stamford Hill Primary School
26th Feb-1st March 2018



St Paul's had a very exciting week here, participating in climbing, mountain walking, canoeing, river study, a visit to Big Pit coal mining museum and several snowball fights!

Stamford Hill had an exciting snowy week at Pendarren, taking part in a mountain walk, canoeing, snowman building, high ropes and a visit to Big Pit.

Temperatures dropped to -9° so everyone wrapped up warm in fleeces, hats and gloves. Sadly, both groups had to leave early due to heavy snow and poor driving conditions.

Devonshire Hill Primary School
6th-9th March 2018

Exciting, enjoyable, educational. These 3 words can hardly describe how GREAT Pendarren is! I learnt how to be independent and comfortable in my own skin. Arshelle

I think that Pendarren was a great time and a lovely experience. I really enjoyed it and i hope to come here again. thank you for this amazing opportunity and I hope my children will come. Freddie

I loved my time here at Pendarren. I got to be with my friends, get to know my teachers better and do things I never thought I would do all in one week. I learned that it's OK to be scared and that all that matters is that you had a go. Muhana



I've learned to trust my friends and work better with them, I can do things I couldn't do before. Eren

I loved how Pendarren gives you a opportunity to do things independently as a child. Nazli

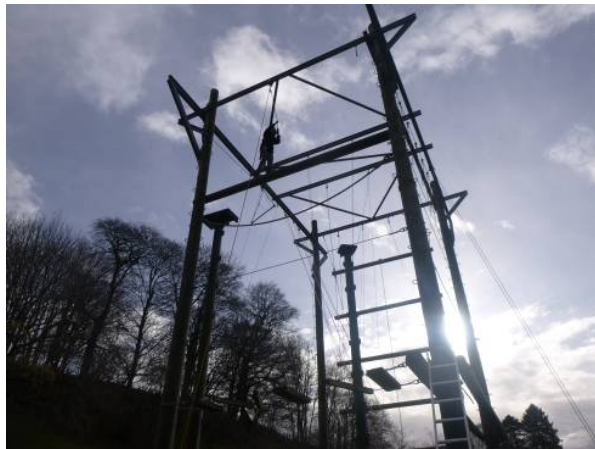
Thank you so much for allowing us to stay in such a beautiful place. Dilara

Pendarren is the absolute BEST. I tried and did so many things I knew I was never going to do in life. It is such a great experience. THANK YOU PENDARREN! Charline

St Ann's CE Primary School

12th-16th March 2018

My favourite activity was mountain walking because it taught me not to give up and keep trying showing resilience, perseverance and determination. I also loved caving because I already knew a few things about rivers that helped me to understand more interesting things. Cai



I have loved my stay at Pendarren House because I got to know my class mates more and conquered some of my biggest fears. I also made new friends and memories I will cherish forever. Priscilla

I had a wonderful time climbing the mountain, helping each other while doing what you needed to do at the same time. Luke

From my amazing experience in Wales I learnt to be more responsible and independent with my things such as my clothes and my shoes. In addition, my favourite activity was climbing because it was about believing in others and not giving up on yourself. Jonathan

I loved rock climbing because I learnt how to trust my friends and others that I haven't worked with. Shavaan

Pendarren house was a fun, exciting and amazing trip. I learnt about my fears and boundaries which pushed me to my limits, made me persevere and be determined to do new things. Tariq

North Harringay Primary School

19th-23rd March 2018

Pendarren was a life changing experience. It was so much fun to work as a team and make friends with new people. I did things that I never thought I would never do before. THANK YOU PENDARREN! Soul

Pendarren has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. I got to spend more time with my friends and the activities were very challenging, most of them had teamwork involved which made me trust my friends even more than before. Kristijan

I have learned that you should trust your friends and respect other people, because then respect will come back to you. Ryan



I learnt that you do not need an adult for every single thing you do. Rebeca

I learnt that even if you're scared of something, sometimes if you just do and be brave it can be very fun.

Adrian

And finally....

Mrs Quarcoopome-Harper, a teacher at St. Ann's CE Primary School, wrote this letter to us after her visit to Pendarren in March:

"I first came to Pendarren House during the Easter break of 1981 to attend the teachers' course (in those days you needed to have completed this in order to accompany a school party). Since then I have been back regularly with year 6 pupils from three different schools; this is my last trip!

Our favourite time of year is March because we see the effect their stay has on their drive to become more successful in their education, not only towards the National Tests but beyond and into the Secondary journey.

Many of the activities have changed or developed over the years but the one constant is the Pendarren Experience - there is nothing to compare to it! The children are given opportunities of a lifetime which enable them to create memories of a lifetime too. They grow emotionally, socially and academically over their stay; guided by instructors that are professional in their knowledge and understanding of the needs of city children. The staff quickly get to know individual personalities and they are encouraged to challenge themselves in ways they have never dreamed of, work together and play together, support each other and become closer as a year group."



Table Mountain (above Pendarren House)