

Following disappointment for Carmarthenshire primary schools last month with wet weather resulting in the cancellation of the county's championships at the Nantyci United Counties Showground, there was much better news for youngsters further West on Thursday afternoon, 18th October in contrasting elements.

For sporty primary school children, teachers, volunteers and parents across the county of Pembrokeshire, all roads on **Thursday afternoon** led to **Oakwood Theme Park** in Narberth for the 2018 staging of the

Pembrokeshire Primary Schools Cross Country Championships

, which has continued to be organised by members of Pembrokeshire Harriers in partnership with the Sport Pembrokeshire Department. As a focus sport in the Pembrokeshire area in 2018, it's by now one of the biggest and most attended sporting events in the county!

This was the first schools event available for primary school children in the Dyfed district this winter, after the Carmarthenshire championships had to be cancelled in mid September because of poor weather forecasts and conditions leading up to the event. In total contrasting conditions to last weekend, it turned out to be a pleasant sunny and relatively mild afternoon at the Narberth theme park facility and this helped attract hundreds of competitors and spectators alike to the venue.

Under a clear blue sky, the course was situated on the field near to the entrance to the venue overlooking the many attachments and activities on offer for visitors and families at Oakwood Theme Park.

Reflecting on the day's races, Matt Freeman, Active Young People Manager for Sport Pembrokeshire said: ***"The Oakwood Primary School Cross Country is established as the flagship schools event of the Sport Pembrokeshire calendar and Thursday saw a great afternoon of racing for the pupils of Pembrokeshire. The event, run in partnership with Pembrokeshire Harriers was a great chance for children to represent their respective schools supported on by their parents, staff and peers on a testing cross country course staged at Oakwood Theme Park."***

Pembrokeshire Primary Schools XC 2018: Fantastic turnout at West Wales Theme Park

Written by Nathan Jones

Thursday, 18 October 2018 21:10

"From a Sports Development perspective, our attendance is vital as we have a chance to speak to the children and parents about athletics opportunities as a whole in the county."



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Races were open to anyone in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 at primary school age. The course was split into two - year 3 and 4 ran 1 big lap whilst the year 5 and 6 children completed 1 small and 1 big, with the route ideal for families and friends to spectate and support. Despite tough underfoot conditions in some parts following recent rain and a tough hill to climb, it was great to see the children smiling throughout and enjoying the race day atmosphere.

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In its 28th year now, the championships has been led by Pete Freeman who was involved in the very first race in 1990. The race originally was held at Haverfordwest Racecourse, then Haverfordwest Rugby Club before moving in recent years to the fantastic facilities available at Oakwood.

A team of fifteen were out on the course on a chilly morning setting up the course and ensuring that everything was ready to go ahead by the 2pm start. Amongst these were members of Pembrokeshire Harriers and friends who worked tirelessly during the day as well as many other marshals and volunteers.

Race organiser Pete Freeman was pleased with the day's success and attendance. He commented: ***"We were delighted to see so many primary schools in attendance and the children enjoying the event. The fine weather on the day certainly helped and the course was in great condition thanks to the Oakwood Theme Park staff. Our thanks to all the marshals, volunteers, staff and St John Ambulance for making the school championships a big success."***

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West Wales Theme Park XC 2018: A large group of children running a cross-country race on a grassy field.

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