



*Together we learn, together we grow.*

Friday 25th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Annwyl Rhieni,

Across the school this week, there has been lots of exciting learning taking place, from writing, problem solving, weaving, cooking, and developing digital skills. It has been wonderful to see the children working together, sharing ideas, listening to each other and developing new skills every day.

## School Health Nurse:

There is a drop-in session for all parents/carers to meet with the school nurse on Wednesday 30th September between 8.30am and 9.30am. Please go to the main Reception entrance and the nurse will be available to speak to you.

## Health & Safety

The health and safety of our children remain a priority. This week we had an unplanned fire alarm at the start of school. The children were very mature and dealt with this well.

Moving forward, should the fire alarm sound again at the start of school, the children in Year 3 to Year 6 need to assemble on the netball court and the children in Nursery to Year 2 need to assemble by the bike shed. All staff will be present to undertake the fire roll.

## Lockdown – Practice:

Next week we will be undertaking a planned lockdown event. It is important that we continue to review all our procedures taking into account even those that are very unlikely to occur. As a part of this process, we have a procedure called 'lockdown'.

I am writing to inform you that we will be **PRACTISING** this procedure one day next week, weather permitting.

### **What is a lockdown and when would this happen?**

A lockdown procedure is a health and safety procedure, very similar to a fire drill, which we conduct every term.

Our lockdown procedure would be used when there is a threat to the safety of our children, staff and visitors in school and when it is safer for everyone to remain in school, rather than to evacuate. The aim of the lockdown is to keep everyone safe by ensuring that they are in a place of safety.

Below are some potential situations where our lockdown procedure may be used:

- A potentially dangerous person or animal on the school site
- A dangerous situation in the local community that could affect school
- A nearby chemical incident
- An incident related to terrorism.

Our procedure

- Emergency services will be called

- All children will be alerted to a lockdown by the lockdown alert. This is via a whistle that is blown consecutively 3 times
- If all children are already in the plazas, they will remain in the plaza
- If children are in the corridors they will return back into the plaza
- If the children are on the field or the playground they will return back into the plazas
- The teachers will re-register the children to ensure that all are present
- Plaza doors will be locked from the inside and all children will not be near windows and doors
- All blinds will be drawn
- All children will be encouraged to remain quiet and calm.

Instructions for Parents/carers in the event of a lockdown:

- All parents/carers will be informed if Dewstow Primary School goes into a lockdown via SCHOOP
- Parents/carers should not attempt to phone school or attend school, as this will hinder the school's efforts to contact and work with emergency services.
- Parents/carers should not discuss the event on social media as this may create panic.

The children will be reminded about our lockdown procedures, and why they are important. We will reassure children that they are safe, and we will emphasise that practising the procedures like this will make sure that the school remains calm and is a safe place to learn.

This is a **PRACTISE** so that in the unlikely event of such a situation, our children and staff are fully prepared.

## Playtimes and Lunchtimes:

We greatly value the strong relationships we have with our families and appreciate the support you give your children and our school community. We would kindly ask parents and family members not to approach the perimeter fencing during playtimes and lunchtimes to speak with children. While we understand that these interactions are well intended, they can be disruptive to children's play, wellbeing and supervision.

If you need to pass on a message or speak to your child during the school day, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us keep all children safe and ensure that break times remain enjoyable and secure for everyone.

## PTFA AGM:



**AGM**  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We are excited to announce that our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on -

**Date: Friday, 2nd October**  
**Time: 9:00 AM**  
**Location: Dewstow School**

Everyone is welcome to attend!

**Our Mission:**  
We exist to bring the communities of school and home closer together because it makes sense for parents to be involved in the life of their chosen school.  
We're here for the simple reason that we want to help provide those little extras to enrich the lives of our children.

**Who We Are:**  
The PTFA is currently run by a very small group of volunteers.  
Our members each have unique personalities and have hobbies such as gardening, watching live sports and shows, mathematical problem solving, wine & culinary interests and family theme park days.  
We enjoy getting together socially, meeting new people, and having fun!  
While we might sound like an abstract group of people, we're parents, carers, friends, and allies - just like you.

**Why Join the PTFA?**  
**Community Building:** Strengthen the connection between home and school.  
**Social Engagement:** Meet new people and engage in fun activities.  
**Support the School:** Help enhance the educational environment for all students.

To continue providing additional resources and wonderful experiences for the children at Dewstow School, we urgently need more volunteers.  
Your participation and support can make a significant difference.

**Join us and make a change!**

PTFA Halloween:

**Dewstow PTFA**

# HALLOWEEN DISCO

**Thursday 15th October**

**Nursery - Year 2**  
3pm - 4pm

**Year 3 - Year 6**  
4.15pm - 5.15pm

The amazing **Jumpin James** in attendance!

**ENTRY £2.50**  
Novelties & Snacks available to purchase

**Free Squash & Fruit Available!**

**No Mobile Phones Allowed**



**DEWSTOW PTFA**

# FREE HALLOWEEN GIVEAWAY

A SELECTION OF HALLOWEEN OUTFITS IN VARIOUS SIZES!

**PUMPKIN CARVING KITS AND BATTERY OPERATED TEALIGHTS**

PLEASE COLLECT BOTH YOUR CARVING KIT AND TEALIGHTS FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

|                                                |                                            |                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>WHERE:</b><br>DEWSTOW SCHOOL MAIN RECEPTION | <b>WHEN:</b><br>FROM MONDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER | <b>TIMES:</b><br>8.45am - 9.15am & 2.45pm - 3.15pm |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|

**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED! DON'T MISS OUT!**



# Aneurin Bevan Virtual Workshops/Information:

## CAN DWR Workshops

We will be continuing our virtual workshops for parents/carers of children with additional needs! Over the coming months, we'll be offering the sessions listed below. To book your place or join our workshop mailing list, simply scan or click the QR code. Sign up to our mailing list to stay up to date with the latest events.

|                                                                                   |                                          |                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
|  | Transitions and Separations              | Monday 10th August<br>10am - 12noon        |
|  | Introduction to Sleep                    | Monday 14th September<br>12:30pm - 14:30pm |
|  | Emotional Regulation                     | Monday 12th October<br>10am-12noon         |
|  | Preparing and Supporting Through Puberty | Monday 9th November<br>10am - 12noon       |



## Recorded Workshops

We are pleased to let you know that you can now access some of our main workshops on YouTube. Links are below.



Exploring Behaviour That Can Challenge: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=KXfMqk-sL4k>  
Supporting Anxiety in Children: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=nH-YXw4ZWYE>  
Introduction to Sleep: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=MoMLKSmR28>

If you view the workshops in this format, please complete the feedback form, (see QR code at the end of the workshop) as we really value your comments as it helps us to adapt our offers and create new opportunities for support.

For more information about us and all that we offer please take a look at our [Padlet](#). You can access the Padlet by scanning the QR code below.

We host all of our toolkits, leaflets and flyers, newsletters and other useful resources and information for families on our Padlet. It is quite accessible and all the resources hosted there are free and easy to download. We hope this will enable families to have much more accessible and relevant information available to them when they need it.



We know that school holidays can be trickier for parents, it's often a time when there is more to juggle and parental self care can take even more of a backseat. With this in mind we wanted to have space to highlight parent wellbeing and some ideas that can be helpful.

Compassion Focused Therapy explains that our brains use three main systems to handle feelings:

Ideally, these systems are balanced, but understandably, stress and challenges can tip the balance. At these times, our **Threat** and **Drive** systems may grow, while our **Soothing** system becomes smaller. It can be helpful to consider what this looks like for you and how you might strengthen your soothing system. One way is by working with the body's physiology to encourage a calmer, more balanced state. An example of this is **Compassionate Imagery**. This is where you picture a safe, warm, and caring scene. If it's helpful you could draw this out or find an actual picture of somewhere you feel is safe, warm and caring. It could be a forest, or a beach, for example.



If you would like to think about self-care more, we also have a Building Resilience toolkit that shares more of these kind of ideas.

## Join Our Parent Participation Panel

K.I.S.S. - Knowledge, Information, Signposting & Support

In Children's Centre Psychology, we value working together as a community. We want to offer you the chance to have a greater voice in our service.

What is K.I.S.S.?

Our Parent Participation Panel provides opportunities to:  
Contribute to service development ~ Help create resources ~ Participate in specific projects

We will be holding a meeting soon for anyone interested in learning more about K.I.S.S. and how you can get involved. We also want to say a big thank you to those who have already reached out, we haven't forgotten you! If you'd like to get involved or learn more, please email us at [ABB.CANDWR@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:ABB.CANDWR@wales.nhs.uk), and someone from the team will contact you to discuss further.

## Upcoming Awareness Days/Weeks

### Down Syndrome Awareness Month

October

An annual event dedicated to raising awareness and celebrating people with Down Syndrome. By sharing information and facts we can help to break down barriers and misinformation and focus on advocacy and inclusion!

### World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day takes place every year on 10th October.

It aims to raise global awareness, fight social stigma and advocate for mental health support. It is a vital reminder as well to parents and carers that their mental health matters just as much as their child's.

## Let's Talk: Monmouthshire Resident Survey 2026:

Monmouthshire County Council is inviting residents to take part in the Let's Talk Resident Survey 2026.

This is your opportunity to share your views on your local area, council services and the issues that matter most to you. Your feedback will help shape future priorities and ensure local voices are heard.

We'd encourage you and all members of your household (who are aged 16+) to share their views, so we have all generations represented. All voices matter.

The survey only takes about 10 minutes to complete and runs until **Friday, 30 October**.

You can complete the survey online through Let's Talk Monmouthshire, or download a paper copy, or pick one up from your local Community Hub, Library, or Leisure Centre.

You can also return completed paper surveys to these locations.

Complete the survey here: [Monmouthshire Resident Survey 2026<sup>1</sup>](#)

Thank you for taking part.

<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.letstalkmonmouthshire.co.uk%2Fresident-survey-2026&data=05|02|WatkinsK155%40monmouthshireschools.wales|5ad00c4d3a9b498f9bcd08df1a4821e0|4f3f0e52b734416494091b601d147993|0|0|639258569287129579|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAUMDAwMCIslAIiOiIeXaW4zMlslkFoljoiTWFpbGlldUljjoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=UJZtdUCq2a5%2F%2BtNUSwYHm6oZ0hPgDAI29W5HPYNJYM%3D&reserved=0>

## Monmouthshire Dads Programme:

### MONMOUTHSHIRE DADS PROJECT

A STRONG FATHER-CHILD RELATIONSHIP CHANGES THEIR LIFE FOR THE BETTER

**BY DADS, FOR DADS**  
Dads get overlooked too often. We're here to change that. From the moment you find out you're expecting, to the school gates and beyond - it's never too early or too late to build that bond. We're here to support you with that.

**SOMEWHERE TO GO**

- Weekly groups across the county, all year round
- Free, no booking required, with a relaxed format - just turn up!
- An all-male space - no mums, no female staff
- Dad-friendly play for children age 0-4
- Meet other dads, pick up tips and good ideas - no pressure to talk
- We even tidy up afterwards - leave when you want

"CONNECTION, NOT PERFECTION"

monmouthshire  
sir llywys

**FEEL BETTER. FATHER BETTER**

- Time with Dads Advisors who are fathers themselves and know the score
- Get help sorting out the practical stuff
- Someone to talk to, whatever's on your mind - without judgement
- Support with the ups & downs of being a dad - however that looks
- Arrange to meet at a time convenient to you

**MEET THE DADS**  
We've got dads with some sleepless nights, some worries, some bad jokes. Whoever you speak to, you'll get the same friendly, practical support - we work as one team.

**GEZ**  
Single dad to a school-age daughter  
Background - Community and careers coaching  
Career - Helping single dads, reading and play  
Dad play - Walking, veggie food, treasure maps  
Message - 07816 168432

**GILES**  
Dad to a school-age daughter  
Background - Healthcare and life coaching  
Career - Helping dads not sweat the small stuff  
Dad play - Road cycling, sewing, games, electronic music  
Message - 07977 817312

**IAIN**  
Dad to two neurodiverse kids  
Background - Health, fitness and wellbeing  
Career - Helping dads feel more connected to their children  
Dad play - Family, football and big bag meals  
Message - 07816 168432

**GET IN TOUCH**  
Whoever you are, and whatever's going on, you're welcome here. Everything we do is free, always.

- Message/WhatsApp or call on any of the numbers above
- Email us: [dads@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:dads@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

We'll help you find the right group, activity or support.

monmouthshire  
sir llywys

# ACTIVE DADS

Experience fun filled sessions for children under 7 and fathers together  
Free for fathers/male carers

## MONMOUTHSHIRE DADS PROJECT

**OUR NEXT SESSION**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
|  | Saturday 1:30 - 2:30 |
|  | 3rd Oct              |
|  | Free Entry           |

Text to book your space

Gez - 07816182432  
Giles - 07977817312

monmouthshire  
sir llywys

## Nursery Admissions September 2027:

If your child was born between 1st September 2023 and 31st August 2024 you can apply for a 2027 nursery school place between **3rd July 2026** and **11th September 2026**.

Please visit Applying for a school place - Monmouthshire<sup>2</sup> for an application form and further information.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/applying-for-a-school-place/>

Children born between **1st September 2023 and 31st December 2023** may be offered an early start from January 2027.

Children born between **1st January 2024 and 31st March 2024** may be offered an early start from April 2027.

Children born between **1st April 2024 and 31st August 2024** are not eligible for an early start.

Decision letters offering an early start, if places are available, will be issued:

- on 20th November 2026 for both September 2027 and for a January 2027 start
- On 5th March 2027 for an April 2027 start

**monmouthshire**  
**sir fynwy**

**Admission to Nursery**  
**2 0 2 7**

**Derbyniadau Meithrin**  
**2 0 2 7**

**Nursery Admissions**  
Application Available  
3rd July 2026  
Closing date for applications:  
11th September 2026 at 5pm  
Offer date: 20th Nov 2026  
(Jan & Sept Intake 2027)  
Offer date: 5th March 2027  
(April 2027 Intake)

**Derbyn Meithrin**  
Pecynnau ar gael:  
3 Gorfennaf 2026  
Dyddiad cau  
ceisiadau:  
11 Medi 2026 am 5pm  
Dyddiad Cynnig: 20 Tachwedd 2026  
(Ionawr a Medi 2027)  
Dyddiad Cynnig: 5 Mawrth 2027  
(Ebrill 2027)

Please note: If you are a Monmouthshire resident, you must apply for your school place through Monmouthshire County Council (excluding applications to voluntary aided/independent schools) even if your preference is for your child to attend a school outside of Monmouthshire.  
Nodwch, os ydych yn byw yn Sir Fynwy rhaid i chi wneud cais am le mewn ysgol trwy gysgor Sir Fynwy (ac eithrio ceisiadau i ysgolion Annibynnol/Ysgolion Gwrfoddol a gynorthwyr) hyd yn oed os yw'n well gennych i'ch plentyn fynychu ysgol y tu allan i Sir Fynwy.

**Ewch i • Visit: [monmouthshire.gov.uk/applying-for-a-school-place](https://monmouthshire.gov.uk/applying-for-a-school-place)**

## Primary & Secondary School Admissions 2027:



monmouthshire  
sir fynwy



**Admission to Primary School 2027**  
**Derbyniadau i Ysgolion Gynradd 2027**

**Primary School**  
Application Available  
13th November 2026  
Closing date for applications:  
15th January 2027 at 4pm  
Offer date:  
16th April 2027

**Ysgol Gynradd**  
Pecynnau ar gael:  
13th Tachwedd 2026  
Dyddiad cau  
ceisiadau:  
15th Ionawr 2027 am 4pm  
Dyddiad cynnig:  
16th April 2027

Please note: if you are a Monmouthshire resident, you must apply for your school place through Monmouthshire County Council (excluding applications to voluntary aided/independent schools) even if your preference is for your child to attend a school outside of Monmouthshire.  
Nodyn: os ydych chi byw yn Sir Fynwy rhaid i chi wneud cais am le mewn ysgol trwy gyngor Sir Fynwy (ac eithrio ceisiadau i ysgolion Annibynnol/Ysgolion Gwerddodol a gwerthwyd) hyd yn oed os ydych chi well gennych i chi plantyn fyfychu ysgol y tu allan i Sir Fynwy.

Ewch i •Visit: [monmouthshire.gov.uk/applying-for-a-school-place](https://monmouthshire.gov.uk/applying-for-a-school-place)



monmouthshire  
sir fynwy

**Admission to Secondary School 2027**  
**Derbyniadau i Ysgolion Uwchradd 2027**

**Secondary School**  
Application Available  
18th September 2026  
Closing date for applications:  
31st October 2026 at 4pm  
Offer date:  
1st March 2027



**Ysgol Uwchradd**  
Pecynnau ar gael:  
18th September 2026  
Dyddiad cau  
ceisiadau:  
31st Hydref 2026 am 4pm  
Dyddiad cynnig:  
1af Mawrth 2027

Please note: if you are a Monmouthshire resident, you must apply for your school place through Monmouthshire County Council (excluding applications to voluntary aided/independent schools) even if your preference is for your child to attend a school outside of Monmouthshire.  
Nodyn: os ydych chi byw yn Sir Fynwy rhaid i chi wneud cais am le mewn ysgol trwy gyngor Sir Fynwy (ac eithrio ceisiadau i ysgolion Annibynnol/Ysgolion Gwerddodol a gwerthwyd) hyd yn oed os ydych chi well gennych i chi plantyn fyfychu ysgol y tu allan i Sir Fynwy.

Ewch i •Visit: [monmouthshire.gov.uk/applying-for-a-school-place](https://monmouthshire.gov.uk/applying-for-a-school-place)

## Awards:

Well done to all the children who have received awards this week. Bendigedig pawb! A very big well done to all classes for their commitment to attending school regularly and making the most of every learning opportunity.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support in ensuring children attend school punctually and ready to learn. Let's keep working together to make every day count!



| Year Group | Seren yr wythnos | Behaviour of the Week<br>Hot Chocolate Friday! | Attendance |
|------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Nursery    | Tobi             |                                                | 88.65%     |
| Reception  | Ophelia          | Lottie                                         | 94.2%      |
| Year 1     | Vlad             | Santino                                        | 98.8% ★    |
| Year 2     | Eli              | Reggie                                         | 91.7%      |
| Year 3     | Faith            | Harvey                                         | 94%        |
| Year 4     | Logan            | Lewis                                          | 88.8%      |
| Year 5     | Lily             | Darcy                                          | 95%        |
| Year 6     | Ophelia          | Braedon                                        | 95%        |

## Diary Dates:

Additions and/or changes are highlighted.

| <b>Dates for your diary</b> |                 |                                                                  |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>September</b>            |                 |                                                                  |
| 18/09/2026                  | PM              | Year 5 Swimming                                                  |
| 23/09/2026                  | AM              | Reception Parent/carer See How They Learn                        |
| 25/09/2026                  | PM              | Year 5 Swimming                                                  |
| 28/09/2026                  |                 | Clubs Commence                                                   |
| 30/09/2026                  | AM              | Reception Parent/carer See How They Learn                        |
| 30/09/2026                  | 8.30am - 9.30am | Drop in all parents/carers<br>School Health Nurse Gemma McDonald |
| <b>October</b>              |                 |                                                                  |
| 02/10/2026                  | 9am             | PTFA Annual General Meeting                                      |
| 02/10/2026                  | PM              | Year 5 Swimming                                                  |
| 07/10/2026                  | AM              | Reception Parent/carer See How They Learn                        |
| 09/10/2026                  | PM              | Year 5 Swimming                                                  |
| 13/10/2026                  | 3.15pm          | Gilwern Parent Meeting Year 5/Year 6                             |
| 14/10/2026                  |                 | Flu Immunisation Day                                             |
| 14/10/2026                  | AM              | Reception Parent/Carers See How They Learn                       |
| 15/10/2026                  | AM              | Harvest Celebrations                                             |
| 15/10/2026                  |                 | PTFA Halloween Disco                                             |
| 16/10/2026                  | PM              | Year 5 Swimming                                                  |
| 19/10/2026                  |                 | Parent Consultations                                             |
| 20/10/2026                  |                 | Parent Consultations                                             |
| 21/10/2026                  |                 | <b>Year 6 Library Visit</b>                                      |
| 23/10/2026                  | PM              | Year 5 Swimming                                                  |
| 23/10/2026                  |                 | Break up from school                                             |
| <b>November</b>             |                 |                                                                  |
| 02/11/2026                  |                 | Pupils return to school                                          |
| 03/11/2026                  |                 | School Photographs                                               |
| 06/11/2026                  | PM              | Year 5 Swimming                                                  |
| 11/11/2026                  |                 | Remembrance Day                                                  |
| 11/11/2026                  |                 | <b>Year 3 Library Visit</b>                                      |
| 13/11/2026                  | All day         | INSET Training Day - School closed to all pupils                 |
| 20/11/2026                  | PM              | Year 5 Swimming                                                  |
| 24/11/2026                  |                 | PTFA Gift Sale                                                   |
| 25/11/2026                  |                 | <b>Year 5 Library Visit</b>                                      |
| <b>December</b>             |                 |                                                                  |
| 01/12/2026                  |                 | PTFA Christmas Fayre                                             |
| 03/12/2026                  |                 | Pantomime Caldicot                                               |
| 07/12/2026                  |                 | Year 2 Christmas Wrapped Up Bethany Baptist Church               |
| 09/12/2026                  |                 | Christmas Dinner / Christmas Jumper Day                          |
| 10/12/2026                  | 6pm             | <b>Caldicot School Christmas Concert - Year 6 pupils</b>         |
| 14/12/2026                  | 2.00pm          | Year 3/4 Christingle                                             |
| 15/12/2026                  | 10.00am         | Year 1/2 Christmas Concert                                       |
| 15/12/2026                  | 2.00pm          | PM Nursery/Reception Christmas Concert                           |
| 16/12/2026                  | 10.00am         | AM Nursery/Reception Christmas Concert                           |
| 16/12/2026                  | 2.00pm          | Year 5/6 Christmas Concert                                       |
| 16/12/2026                  |                 | <b>Year 4 Library Visit</b>                                      |
| 18/12/2026                  |                 | Break up from school                                             |

Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to telephone school on 01291 636360, or email the school [dewstowprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:dewstowprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk)<sup>3</sup>

Yours sincerely

Liz Bain

Headteacher / Pennaeth

---

<sup>3</sup><mailto:dewstowprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk>