



Together we learn, together we grow.

Friday 2nd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Annwyl Rhieni,

It has been another busy week at Dewstow Primary School. Our after-school clubs started this week, and it has been lovely to see the children becoming involved and trying different activities. A big thank you to all the staff for leading these for the children.

Lockdown Procedure:

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping all pupils safe, we carried out a lockdown practice on Tuesday this week. I am pleased to report that all children responded exceptionally well, following staff instructions calmly and sensibly throughout the procedure. These practices are an important part of our safeguarding arrangements and help ensure that both children and staff know what to do in the unlikely event of an emergency. I would like to congratulate the children for their mature and responsible attitude.

Cymraeg Corner:

At Dewstow, we are proud to promote the Welsh language and help our children develop confidence in speaking and using Welsh every day. Learning Welsh is an important part of our curriculum and helps children gain a deeper appreciation of the culture and heritage of Wales.

Each week, we will share a Welsh phrase or word for families to practise at home. This week's phrase is:

Bore da – *Good morning*

Why not encourage your child to use this phrase at home throughout the week?

Diolch (Thank you) for supporting your child's Welsh language journey. Together, we can help our children become confident, ambitious and proud Welsh speakers.

Term-Time Holidays:

As you will be aware, school attendance is a key factor in supporting children's learning, wellbeing and progress. To ensure consistency with Monmouthshire County Council's Attendance and Engagement Policy, holidays during term time will no longer be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Parents wishing to request leave during term time must submit a request in advance, outlining the exceptional circumstances. Each request will be considered on an individual basis; however, family holidays and trips taken during term time will not normally meet the criteria for authorisation. We appreciate your support in ensuring that children attend school regularly and benefit fully from the learning opportunities available to them.

Attached is the letter from MCC sent to all parents/carers in July 2026.



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Monmouthshire County Council
County Hall, Rhadyr,
USK, NP15 1GA

Tel/Ffôn:
E-Mail/E-bost:
Web/Gwefan: www.monmouthshire.gov.uk
Cofreth: Ffôn Cyt. WM
Ddiwedd: 17th July 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another successful school year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given your child, their school, and the wider Monmouthshire education community.

School attendance remains one of the most important factors in helping children and young people achieve their full potential. Regular attendance supports academic progress, enables children to build strong friendships, develop positive relationships with trusted adults, participate in the full life of their school, and promotes their overall wellbeing and sense of belonging. These principles are reflected throughout Monmouthshire's Attendance and Engagement Policy, which emphasises the importance of partnership between families, schools and the local authority in ensuring that every learner can engage fully in education.

I am pleased to say that, for many learners in Monmouthshire, attendance this year has been good. Across our schools, pupils, families and staff have worked hard to rebuild and strengthen attendance following the challenges experienced in recent years. However, whilst we should celebrate this progress, we know there is still more we can do. Every day in school matters, and even small improvements in attendance can have a significant impact on a child's learning, confidence and future opportunities. The Welsh Government has made improving school attendance a national priority, recognising that attendance is closely linked to educational success, wellbeing, inclusion and life chances. Schools, local authorities and families all have an important role to play in helping children attend regularly and benefit fully from their education. Consistent with this ambition, Monmouthshire remains committed to supporting families and addressing barriers to attendance wherever possible.

We also want to remind parents and carers that holidays should be taken during school holiday periods wherever possible. Every absence from school results in missed learning, and it can be difficult for children to fully catch up on lessons, experiences and social opportunities that have been missed.

From the start of the 2026-27 academic year, Monmouthshire County Council will be preparing for the introduction of the use of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for unauthorised holidays taken during term time where the circumstances do not meet the exceptional criteria set out in our Attendance and Engagement Policy. This approach is designed to promote fairness and consistency across all schools and to reinforce the importance of regular attendance. Schools and the local authority will continue to work constructively with families, and requests will always be considered in line with the established criteria and guidance.

Our intention is to ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, achieve and thrive. We recognise that the vast majority of parents and carers already place great importance on attendance, and we are grateful for your continued support. As we look ahead, we remain committed to working with schools, learners and families to further improve attendance and engagement across Monmouthshire. Together, we can ensure that every child benefits from the opportunities that education provides. In September 2026, I will write to you again to provide further information about attendance expectations, the support available to families, and our collective progress in continuing to improve attendance across the county.

For now, I would like to thank you once again for your support throughout the year and wish you and your family a happy, safe and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Will McLean
Strategic Director, Children, Learning, Skills and Economy
Cyfarwyddwr Strategol, Dysgu, Sgiliau a'r Economi

Toys:

We have noticed an increasing number of children bringing toys, cuddly toys, and other personal items into school. While we understand that children are often keen to share their favourite belongings with friends, these items can sometimes become a distraction to learning, cause disagreements between children, or become lost or damaged. To support a calm and focused learning environment, we kindly ask that children do not bring toys, cuddly toys, or other personal items into school unless specifically requested by their class teacher for a special activity or event. We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a positive learning environment for all children. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Child Sufficiency Assessment – Parent Survey:

The Welsh Government Childcare, Play and Early Years Division and local authorities want to understand the childcare needs of Welsh families, with children aged 0 to 17 years old.

Your views are very important to them and they would like to know more about your experiences of using registered services (i.e. services which are registered with Care Inspectorate Wales) and unregistered childcare (nannies, au pairs and some activity/sports clubs fall into this category, for example). Your views will help inform Welsh Government policies and to help local authorities plan childcare services. Although, local authorities can not guarantee that all requests for childcare provision will be able to be met.

Survey of parents and carers - 2027 Childcare Sufficiency Assessments¹

Flu Vaccinations:

The School Nursing Service will visit the school to offer pupils in Reception to Year 6 a nasal flu spray vaccine on 14/10/2026.

The online consent form and more information can be found here: **E- Consent Form Link²**

Should you have any difficulties accessing the above link, please contact **01633 431685** for further support.

¹<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fmateb.gov.wales%2F%2FNP47J5%2F&data=05|02|WatkinsK155%40monmouthshireschools.wales|3fe3eaaa0df9421ef95a08df1f8e7745|4f3f0e52b734416494091b601d147993|0|0|639264369297988864|Unknown|TWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClldUljoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=gKidR%2FLNixN%2Fgkh4X%2FICtnYDowxZlVcczUGXOGknS10%3D&reserved=0>

²<https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinktr.ee%2Fschoolfluab&data=05|02|DEW.Primary%40monmouthshireschools.wales|d18a465fa2864e97bf9e08df1fa97184|4f3f0e52b734416494091b601d147993|0|0|639264485701577530|Unknown|TWfPbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIsIAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbClldUljoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=f23kv3HAS60925mldgab3BnuuVf1A5zBsqa8dzluyUA%3D&reserved=0>

We encourage all parents/carers to complete a consent form for their child or young person, regardless of whether they wish them to receive the vaccination.

The NHS recommends that your child has a flu vaccination every year.

It's very important to protect your child from flu to make sure they stay as healthy as possible. The best flu vaccine for most children is a nasal spray, however there is a gelatine free/inactivated injectable option available.

To help make sure the vaccine is suitable for your child, and they don't miss out, please take time to read the information and follow the link to complete the electronic consent form as soon as possible, before the planned vaccination date.



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 - Monmouthshire³ for an application form and further information.

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.

³<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/applying-for-a-school-place/>

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

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Admission to Nursery
2027

Derbyniadau Meithrin
2027

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.
Nodyn: os ydych chi byw yn Sir Fynwy rhaid i chi neud cais am le mewn ysgol trwy gongor Sir Fynwy (ac eithio ceisiadau) i ysgolion Annibynnol/Ysgolion Gwerfoddol a gynorthwyir) hyd yn oed os yw'n well gennych i'ch plantyn fynychu ysgol y tu allan i Sir Fynwy.

Ewch i • Visit: monmouthshire.gov.uk/applying-for-a-school-place

Primary & Secondary School Admissions 2027:



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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 Gwethoddol a gynorthwyir) 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



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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 Gwethoddol a gynorthwyir) 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

PTFA Halloween:



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 10am - 12noon
	Introduction to Sleep	Monday 14th September 12:30pm - 14:30pm
	Emotional Regulation	Monday 12th October 10am-12noon
	Preparing and Supporting Through Puberty	Monday 9th November 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/KXfMqk-sL4k>
Supporting Anxiety in Children: <https://youtube.com/nH-YXw4ZWYE>
Introduction to Sleep: <https://youtube.com/YoMQLKSmR28>

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, 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 2026⁴](#)

Thank you for taking part.

Diary Dates:

Additions and/or changes are highlighted.

⁴<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|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIlwLjAuMDAwMCIslAI0iXaW4zMilskFoljoiTWFpbGlldUljoyfQ%3D%3D|0||&sdata=UJZtdUCq2a5%2F%2BtNUSwYHm6oZ0hPgDAI29W5HPYNJYM%3D&reserved=0>

Dates for your diary		
October		
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		Year 6 Library Visit
23/10/2026	PM	Year 5 Swimming
23/10/2026		Break up from school
November		
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		Year 3 Library Visit
13/11/2026	All day	INSET Training Day - School closed to all pupils
17/11/2026	PM	Caldicot School Staff to visit Year 6 - transition work
20/11/2026	PM	Year 5 Swimming
24/11/2026		PTFA Gift Sale
25/11/2026		Year 5 Library Visit
December		
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	Caldicot School Christmas Concert - Year 6 pupils
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		Year 4 Library Visit
18/12/2026		Break up from school

Awards:

Bendigedig to all the children for their commitment to attending school regularly and making the most of every learning opportunity. Last week the attendance was very good across the school.

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 Hot Chocolate Friday!	Attendance
Nursery	Theo-John		72%
Reception	Maev	Theo	97.9% ★
Year 1	Amber	Mel	97.7%
Year 2	Ruby	Ophelia	96.3%
Year 3	Jacob	Luna	96%
Year 4	Harry A	Arabella-Rose	92.3%
Year 5	Tristen	Blake	96.1%
Year 6	Isla	Cohen	95.9%

Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to telephone school on 01291 636360, or email the school dewstowprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk⁵

Yours sincerely

Liz Bain

Headteacher / Pennaeth

⁵<mailto:dewstowprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk>