Together we learn, together we grow.

Friday 9th October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Annwyl Rhieni,

One of the highlights of my week is spending time in classrooms and looking through children's books. This week, I was delighted to see the good progress being made in literacy across the school. Children are becoming increasingly confident writers, with clear evidence of developing vocabulary, sentence structure and creativity. It was also lovely to see examples of Welsh writing in pupils' books, demonstrating how children are growing in

confidence when using the Welsh language. I am sure you will enjoy seeing the books at Parent Consultations.

Look at My Learning:

This event is taking place on Tuesday 13th October at 2.30pm for all children and families in Nursery to Year 6. Please make every effort to come into school to be with your child and look at their learning. The children really love their families to come into school.

Gilwern Meeting:

This is taking place on Tuesday 13th October in the school hall at 3.15pm for all Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. Staff will be sharing information regarding the trip and there will be a pack for every child/family to take away with them.

Harvest Celebration Loaf Donation:

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we are hoping to display a special Harvest loaf during our assembly. If any parent/carer or family member would be willing to donate or make a Harvest-themed loaf for the occasion, we would be extremely grateful. This would help make our celebration even more special and provide a wonderful focal point for the children as we reflect on the importance of gratitude, community and helping others. If you are able to help, please contact the school office. Thank you for your continued support.

Harvest:

We will be holding our Harvest Festival on Thursday 15th October 2026. Pastor Jon Linforth will be attending school on this day to deliver our Assembly on Harvest. The children have decided that they would like to make a collection for the Caldicot Food Bank as part of the celebration. They provide support by providing food and furniture to those in need in the local area. All donations from the list below will be passed on:

Jam

Biscuits

Long Life Milk

Custard

Tinned Ham

Tins of Peas, sweetcorn, carrots, potatoes

Rice and Pasta

Cereals

Pasta Sauce

Squash

Jelly's

Bars of Soap

Men and women's deodorant

Children are welcome to start bringing donations into school from Monday. Thank you for all your support regarding Harvest.

Reception Open Day:

On Friday 16th and Tuesday 20th October there are Reception Open Days, for prospective parents/cares who would like their child to attend Reception. If you know of anyone who is looking for a Reception place, please share this information. They are welcome to attend school and have a look around the Reception class and the school.





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 Link**[1]

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

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.

[1]https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https:%2F%2Flinktr.ee%2Fschoolfluab&data=05|02|DEW.Primary%40monmouthshireschools.wales|d18a465fa2864e97bf9e08df1fa97184|4f3f0e52b734416494091b601d147993|0|0|639264485701577530|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D|0|||&sdata=f23kv3HAS60925mIDgab3BnuuVf1A5zBsqa8dzIuyUA%3D&reserved=0

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.



School Dinners:

Please can all parents/carers order the correct dinner for your child. There are a growing number of children who are refusing to eat their lunch as they do not like what has been ordered for them. This is causing the children to become distressed and not eat their food. All children must eat at lunchtime. Please have weekly discussions with your child regarding what food they would like to eat at lunchtime. Thank you for your support with this.

Family Liaison Officer:

Since joining us in September, our Family Liaison Officer has already begun supporting children and families across the school community. We recognise that family life can be busy and occasionally challenging, and sometimes it can be helpful to talk things through with someone. Whether you have concerns about your child's wellbeing, attendance, friendships, behaviour, or any other matter affecting family life, our Family Liaison Officer is here to help. Please remember that support is available and we encourage any parent or carer who would like advice, guidance or simply someone to listen to, to please make contact. Together, we can ensure every child is happy, safe and able to thrive.

Pantomime:

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we will not be taking the children to The Core for the Pantomime. We will be having a Pantomime in school this year. Further details will follow in due course.

Halloween Disco:

Please send your child to the disco in flat shoes and no heels. Please note that all children must be collected from the school hall. NO child will be allowed to walk home unaccompanied. Nursery to Year 2 is 3-4pm and Year 3 to Year 6 is 4:15-5:15pm, please ensure children are collected promptly at the end of the discos. Thank you for your support.





Community Governors:

We have vacancies on the Governing Body for two Community Governors.

School governors hold an integral role within the educational framework, contributing not just to policy but to the very essence of educational quality. These volunteers are pivotal in shaping the overall strategic direction of schools, overseeing their educational and financial performance. Their role is to ensure that every child in the school receives the best possible education, while maintaining the integrity of educational standards within a well-structured governance framework.

If you know of anyone, please can you ask them to contact the main Reception office and speak to Mrs Godbold or Mrs Watkins.

Cymraeg Corner:

Last week's phrase: Bore da – *Good morning*

This week's phrase is:

Hwyl Fawr – *Goodbye*

Please can you support your child in learning this phrase throughout the week. Diolch yn fawr.

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 Assessments[2]

How Healthy Screen Time Supports Every Baby and Child to Have The Best Start in Life:

I have attached two pdf documents that our families may find useful.

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[3] 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.

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

---

[2]https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https:%2F%2Fymateb.gov.wales%2Fs%2FPN47J5%2F&data=05|02|WatkinsK155%40monmouthshireschools.wales|3fe3eaaa0df9421ef95a08df1f8e7745|4f3f0e52b734416494091b601d147993|0|0|639264369297988864|Unknown|TWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D|0|||&sdata=gKidR%2FLNIxN%2Fgkh4X%2FICtnYDowxZlVcczUGXOGknS10%3D&reserved=0

[3]https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/applying-for-a-school-place/

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



Primary & Secondary School Admissions 2027:





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://youtu.be/KXfMqk-sL4k
Supporting Anxiety in Children: https://youtu.be/nH-YXw4ZWYE
Introduction to Sleep: https://youtu.be/YoM9LKSmR28

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, its 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 its 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 palce 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

Awards:

A Big Well Done to Reception! A huge congratulations to all of our Reception children and their families for achieving an excellent attendance figure of **97.5%** this week. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the commitment and support shown by parents/carers in ensuring children attend school regularly and on time.

Excellent attendance helps children build positive routines, develop friendships, and make the most of every learning opportunity. We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and dedication shown by our Reception class.

Keep going Reception! You are setting a wonderful example and we look forward to seeing your attendance remain outstanding throughout the term. Well done, everyone!

Year Group	Seren yr wythnos	Behaviour of the Week Hot Chocolate Friday!	Attendance
Nursery	Orla		92%
Reception	Noel	Hunter	97.5% ☆
Year 1	Harper	Esme	90.8%
Year 2	William	Ebony	90.3%
Year 3	Ollie	Mikady	95.6%
Year 4	Hollie	AJ	88.1%
Year 5	Alfie	Jessica	94.6%
Year 6	Pippa	Amelia	92.3%

Diary Dates:

Additions and/or changes are highlighted.

Dates for your diary		
October		
13/10/2026	2:30pm	Look at My Learning – all years – parent event
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
16/10/2026	9am-4pm	Reception Open Day
17/11/2026	PM	Caldicot School Staff to visit Year 6 - transition work
19/10/2026		Parent Consultations
20/10/2026		Parent Consultations
20/10/2026	9am-4pm	Reception Open Day
21/10/2026		Year 6 Library Visit
21/10/2026	2:30pm	Reading workshop for Reception parents/carers
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
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

Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to telephone school on 01291 636360, or email the school dewstowprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk[4]

Yours sincerely

Liz Bain

Headteacher / Pennaeth

[4] mailto:dewstowprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk