Together we learn, together we grow.

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Annwyl Rhieni,

As we reach the end of another busy half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. It has been wonderful to spend time looking through the children's books and to see the progress they are making in Literacy, Maths and across the curriculum. I have been particularly impressed by the improvements in presentation and the pride that many pupils are taking in their work. The children have worked incredibly hard

and achieved so much this half term, and they are certainly ready for a well-deserved break. I hope you all enjoy a restful and enjoyable half-term holiday.

Parent Consultations:

Many thanks to all the parents/carers who attended parent consultations this week. If you missed your appointment and would like another one, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Keeping safe:

I would like to kindly remind all families to ensure that their children are wearing helmets when riding bikes or scooters, particularly after school. We've noticed an increasing number of children on the roads around the school premises without helmets, which can be very dangerous. Please take a moment to check that your child is properly equipped and wearing a helmet whenever they are out on their bike or scooter. Your support in keeping our children safe is greatly appreciated.

Individual photos:

These are taking place on Tuesday 3rd November. Please can you ensure that your child is in full school uniform, even if they have PE or Forest School on this day. Thank you.



Community Governors:

We have a vacancy on the Governing Body for a Community Governor.

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



Could You Make a Difference?

We're Looking for Two Community Governors to Join Our Governing Body

Our school is seeking two dedicated Community Governors to join our Governing Body and help shape the future of our children and school community.

What is a Community Governor?

Community Governors are volunteers who bring their experience, skills and enthusiasm to support the strategic leadership of the school. Governors work closely with school leaders to ensure that all children receive the best possible education and opportunities.

You do not need to be an education expert. We welcome individuals from a wide range of backgrounds who are passionate about supporting young people and making a positive difference.

What Does the Role Involve?

As a Community Governor, you will:

- Support and challenge school leaders to ensure high standards
- Help shape the school's vision and future direction
- Monitor school performance and progress
- Ensure resources are used effectively
- Champion the needs and wellbeing of all pupils
- Attend Governing Body meetings throughout the year

We're Looking for People Who:

- Have an interest in education and the local community
- Can work as part of a team
- Are able to listen, ask questions and provide constructive challenge
- Can commit some time to meetings and school visits
- Want to help children achieve their full potential

Why Become a Governor?

Being a governor is a rewarding opportunity to:

- Make a real difference to children's lives
- Develop new skills and experiences
- Work with a committed team of governors and school leaders
- Give something back to your local community

Interested?

If you would like to find out more about becoming a Community Governor, please contact the school office for an informal conversation – 01291 636360 or dew.primary@monmouthshireschools.wales.

Together, we can help every child thrive and succeed

Cymraeg Corner:

Last week's phrase: Bendigedig - Brilliant

This week's phrase is: Da iawn - Very good

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

Ice Creams:

Many thanks to the PTFA for arranging for the ice cream van to visit school - the children and staff enjoyed their treats.

PTFA Odd Socks Day:

To support Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying week and the upcoming PTFA Christmas Fayre we are inviting children to wear odd socks on Monday 16th November and are asking for a voluntary donation of chocolates or a bottle. Any glass bottles or alcohol must be bought to the school office at morning drop off by adults and not bought in by the children please.


DEWSTOW PTFA
ODD SOCK DAY
MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER
WEAR YOUR ODD SOCKS TO SCHOOL
WE NEED:
CHOCOLATES
Quality Street
Celebrations
Maltesers
WE NEED:
BOTTLES
NANO WASH
Donations of chocolates and bottles are voluntary.
Any donations received will be used on our tombola stalls at the Christmas Fayre.
All glass bottles must be handed in at the School Office



Dinner Menu:

Please see attached the **new** dinner menu which will be available from Monday 2nd November, please take some time to review this with your child and book dinners as appropriate. Dinners can be booked up to 8 weeks in advance for ease. The pasta pot flavours are:

- Chicken mayo
- Tuna mayo
- Cheese, sweetcorn & mayo
- Tomato sauce with cheese



Clubs:

After school clubs will start from Monday 2nd November, with the exception of Healthy Heroes which will resume on 9th November.

Welsh Veg in Schools:

We're delighted that our school has been selected to take part in the Welsh Veg in Schools initiative, a Wales-wide programme coordinated by Food Sense Wales that's bringing more organically grown Welsh vegetables into primary school meals across the country.

What Is Welsh Veg in Schools?

This initiative is all about getting fresh, local, organic produce into school lunches. Working with partners and a network of passionate Welsh growers, the programme is helping schools like ours serve up local, organic vegetables as part of our school meals.

Why it matters

By participating, our school is contributing to:

- Improved access to local, organic food for children
- Support for Welsh farmers and growers
- Stronger, more resilient local food systems
- Climate action and increased biodiversity
- Reduced reliance on imported produce

In 2022, only 6% of vegetables bought for the public sector in Wales were sourced locally. This initiative is helping to change that - one plate at a time.

What this means for our School

During the autumn term, our school is receiving seasonal Welsh vegetables like carrots, broccoli, tomatoes, and cucumbers. These will replace conventional produce - at no extra cost - thanks to funding from the Welsh Veg in Schools pilot. Our local authority catering team is working closely with our school kitchen to make the transition.

For more information about Welsh Veg in Schools please visit the relevant pages on the Food Sense Wales [1]website.



Primary & Secondary School Admissions 2027:



[1]https://www.foodsensewales.org.uk/what-we-do/pilot-project-welsh-veg-in-schools/#about


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.
Nodwych, os ydych yn byw yn Sir Fynwy rhaid i chiwneud cais am le mewn ysbol trwy gyngor Sir Fynwy (ac eithrio ceisiadau i ysgolion Annibynnol/Ysgolion Gwirfoddol a gynorthwyir) 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

MonLife Half Term Activities:



Awards:

Bendigedig Year 3 - keep this up!

Year Group	Seren yr wythnos	Behaviour of the Week Hot Chocolate Friday!	Attendance
Nursery	Aden		80%
Reception	Kobe P	Naomi	92.5%
Year 1	Lilia	Maya	96.2%
Year 2	Scarlett	Alfie D	89.3%
Year 3	Isabelle	Ollie	98% ☆
Year 4	Ezmay	Buddy	94%
Year 5	Gethin	Summer	93.2%
Year 6	Braedon/Kingsley	Pippa	94.5%

Diary Dates:

Additions and/or changes are highlighted.

Dates for your diary		
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**
16/11/2026		**Odd Socks Day – voluntary chocolate/bottle donations**
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
02/12/2026	**10-12noon**	**Year 3 Gwent Music Celebration Concert at Caldicot Leisure Centre**
03/12/2026		Pantomime at School
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

October Half Term:

We look forward to seeing the children return to school on Monday 2nd November at 8.50am.

Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to telephone school on 01291 636360, or email the school dewstowprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk[2]

Have a wonderful half term break!

Yours sincerely

Liz Bain

Headteacher / Pennaeth

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