



Together we learn, together we grow.

Friday 3rd October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Annwyl Rhieni,

We want to share what we have been learning...

Nursery and Reception:

Nursery and Reception have been getting to know each other and the adults in the plaza. We have been talking about what makes us special, drawing self-portraits and creating our families in all different ways. We have also gone bonkers over conkers and have been finding out how creative we can be with conkers, both indoors and outdoors.

Year 1:

In Maths, we have been learning about counting forwards and ordering numbers to 20 and beyond. In Literacy, we have revisited phonic sounds and have been writing about ourselves. In Topic we have been talking about ourselves, families and have been discussing our community around the school. We have visited forest school, learning rules of the forest, how to keep ourselves safe and have been collecting natural objects to make ourselves.

Year 2:

In Year 2, we began our term learning all about ourselves. In Literacy, the children have been learning to use Welsh sentence patterns when speaking. In writing they have been learning to describe their appearance, families, likes and dislikes. In Numeracy, we have been learning about place value and representing hundreds, tens and units in 2- and 3-digit numbers. The children have been learning to name and describe the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We began exploring our 'People Who Help Us' Term Topic by venturing out into our local community. During our walk around the school community, the children captured evidence of shapes and numbers in the environment.

Year 3:

In Maths, we have been revising our 10- and 2-times tables, identifying odd and even values and remembering to place our values in the correct place on number lines. We love singing about times tables, but their favourite song is a shape song. In Literacy, we have been remembering how to talk about ourselves in Welsh, (eyes, hair, age, where we live) and are using a picture book called **Belonging** by Jeannie Baker to build sentences that engage our reader, using adjectives and similes. In Topic, we have been learning about the festival of Rosh Hashanah where apples drizzled in honey are eaten. Using our knife (plastic) skills, and our very own Dewstow apples, we have tried this too! As for the apples that are not good enough for us to eat, we have used them in forest school to create bird feeders, developing the skill of whittling sticks and twigs.

Year 4:

We have had a great start to the new year, making Mr Nicholas, Mrs Jones and Ms Woods very proud with their great attitudes to learning, their hard work and creativity. In Literacy, we've been inspired by the beautifully illustrated book, *The Crown* by Emily Kapff and how we need to look after our planet for the next generation. From that, we've been using comparison sentences, used inference to make us think deeply about the text and developing our sentence writing. For Maths and Numeracy, we've been concentrating on place value and working hard with our times tables using the counting stick. We've created some stunning self-portraits influenced by the artist Julian Opie and then wrote about ourselves yn Cymraeg. We've really enjoyed getting fit and healthy and learning some great skills with Dragons RFC rugby sessions too!

Year 5:

Year 5 have settled well into their new plaza. In Literacy we have begun to read "The Promise", this will help us to develop facts, opinions and beliefs and eventually lead to us to writing a persuasive extended piece of writing. We have also learnt about idioms that we may say and hear in everyday life. In Maths, we have been re-capping on place value work up to 4-digit numbers and beyond, and we are beginning to look at recognising and measuring angles. In our Topic work, we have begun to research into heroes we may encounter in our lives as well as heroes we see in the celebrity world.

Year 6:

In Maths we are comparing and ordering numbers up to 1,000,000 and recognising place values of digits and addition of up to 4 digits including bridging and solving multi step word problems.

In Literacy it is based on our book "The Promise" and we are exploring the features of persuasive language to eventually write an email requesting a garden in the Year 5/6 outdoor area.

Our topic this term is "I'm a celebrity, get me out of here!". We have been researching who our celebrity heroes are and exploring why they are heroes and how their celebrity status can influence others and society. We are looking forward to our Topic Launch day on Tuesday when we come to school dressed as our celebrity hero.

ESTYN:



Dros ddysgwyr, dros Gymru
For learners, for Wales

On Tuesday this week, I received a phone call from ESTYN informing me of a planned Estyn Interim Visit. Two Estyn Inspectors will be visiting school on Wednesday 8th October for the day. They will be going into all classes, where they will talk to the children, and they will talk to staff. Please can you ensure that all children are in school and on time on Wednesday.

School Uniform:

Just a reminder that all the children need to attend school in full school uniform unless they are participating in PE/Games. There is plenty of free school uniform which has been washed at the front of the school. Please take what you need.

Parent Engagement Event – Look at my Learning...



On Wednesday 15th October, at 2.30pm, we invite all parents/carers into the plazas to look at the plazas and view the children's books. The Plaza's look fantastic and are a lovely environment for the children to be in. Please can you save the date in your diaries? We look forward to seeing you.

Behaviour:

We have worked extremely hard over the last few years to improve behaviour across our school, and we have updated our school behaviour policy to reflect this. I understand that some children find transition difficult, when they have a new class and new class teacher. There are a **small minority** of children who are not always ready, respectful and safe, in line with our school Mission. Please can you reinforce this with your child regarding manners, showing respect towards teaching, support staff and lunchtime staff. I would be grateful if we can continue to work in partnership and I thank you for your support.

Please follow this link¹ to view our Behaviour Policy.

Fire Drill:

Last week the whole school participated in a planned Fire Drill. The whole school evacuated calmly, quickly and sensibly. After half term the children/staff will participate in an unplanned Fire Drill.

Panto Trip:

On Thursday 4th December, Reception to Year 6 pupils are invited to attend The Riverfront Theatre in Newport to watch their Pantomime performance of Rapunzel. A letter with all information regarding this trip has been issued on Schoop. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.



¹<https://dewstow-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/policies/>

PTFA Halloween Disco:



Dewstow PTFA
Halloween Disco
SPOOKTACULAR FUN
Thursday 23rd October, 2025
Infants 3pm-4pm
Juniors 4:15- 5:30pm
£2.50 Entry Fee

Refreshments
Tattoos
Novelty
Toys

All marked with this
pumpkin at an additional cost

Infants are welcome to wear their party gear
to school on the day.

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Harvest:

Please bring any donations into school prior to our Harvest Celebrations on Thursday 9th October.

Harvest Appeal

Some of our neighbours could use a little extra help again this Christmas. Will you consider donating some food items this Harvest at your School Assembly?



Caldicot Foodbank

Food items required:
Long Life Milk, Jam, Biscuits, Custard
Tinned Carrots and Potatoes
Other Tins of : Fruit, Tomatoes, Spaghetti
Pasta and Pasta Sauces
also Toilet Rolls, Washing Up Products


Bethany Baptist
CHURCH CALDICOT

Nursery Admissions – September 2026:



Dewstow Primary & Nursery School
"Together we learn, together we grow"



Nursery Admissions Guide - 2026

Applying for September 2026:

If your child was born between **1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023**, you can apply for a 2026 Nursery School place between 4th July 2025 and 12th September 2025.

All information relating to Monmouthshire County Council admissions can be found by scanning this QR code.

Decision letters for September 2026 places will be issued by Monmouthshire County Council on 21st November 2025.

Children born between **1st September 2022 and 31st December 2022** may be offered an early start from January 2026.

Children born between **1st January 2023 and 31st March 2023** may be offered an early start from April 2026.

Children born between **1st April 2023 and 31st August 2023** are not eligible for an early start.

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

- On 21st November 2025 for a January 2026 start
- On 0th March 2026 for an April 2026 start.



How to make a Nursery application?

Parents must complete an application form in order to obtain a nursery place. There is the opportunity to complete an application on-line via the Monmouthshire County Council Citizen Portal. This can be found by scanning this QR code.



If you are having difficulties accessing the Citizen Portal, please contact the School Admissions Team on 01633 646026 or alternatively email access@elearning@monmouthshire.gov.uk. A member of the team will help with any queries.

Dewstow Primary & Nursery School, Woodland View, Caldicot, NP23 4HD. Telephone: 01291 624260

Primary/Secondary Admissions 2026:



Admission to Primary School 2026

Derbyniadau i Ysgolion Gynradd 2026



<p>Primary School</p> <p><u>Application Available</u> 13th November 2025</p> <p>Closing date for applications: 15th January 2026 at 4pm</p> <p>Offer date: 16th April 2026</p>		<p>Ysgol Gynradd</p> <p><u>Pecynnau ar gael:</u> 13th Tachwedd 2025</p> <p>Dyddiad cau ceisiadau: 15th Ionawr 2026 am 4pm</p> <p>Dyddiad cynnig: 16th April 2026</p>
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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 gyngor Sir Fynwy (ac eithrio ceisiadau i ysgolion Annibynnol/Ysgolion Gwirfoddol a gynorthwyf) 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



Admission to Secondary School 2026
Derbyniadau i Ysgolion Uwchradd 2026

monmouthshire
sir fynywi

Secondary School
Application Available
 19th September 2025

Closing date for applications:
 31st October 2025 at 4pm

Offer date:
 2nd March 2026

Ysgol Uwchradd
Pecynnau ar gael:
 19th September 2025

Dyddiad cau ceisiadau:
 31st Hydref 2025 am 4pm

Dyddiad cynnig:
 2nd Mawrth 2026



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 chi byw yn Sir Fynywi rhaid i chi wneud cais am le mewn ysgol trwy gyngor Sir Fynywi (ac eithrio ceisiadau i ysgolion Amlynnol/Ysgolion Gwifodol a gwnorthwyf) hyd yn oed os ydych chi well gennych i'ch plentyn fynychu ysgol y tu allan i Sir Fynywi.

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

Caldicot School Open Evening:




NOSON AGORED
OPEN EVENING
 THURSDAY 16 OCTOBER 2025





If your child is currently in Year 6, we would like to invite you to our **Open Evening** on **Thursday 16th October 2025**.
17:00 - 19:30
 Please book by scanning the QR code below

96% of students achieved 5 A*-C Grades at GCSE in August 2025



REGISTER NOW

Mill Lane, Caldicot, NP26 5XA

www.caldicotschool.com

Information Day - Serenu:



INFORMATION DAY
at
Serenu
Children's Centre

Friday 17th October

Our Family Liaison Service is hosting an Information Day at Serenu Children's Centre

Some of the services attending are

Sparkle	Citizens Advice
GPCN	Adferiad
Slater & Gordon	SNAP Cymru
National Star	Cost of Living Support
ADHD+	Plus Many More

To book a time slot please contact the Family Liaison Service
01633 748013 or
ABB.FamilyLiaisonOfficer@wales.nhs.uk

For more information please email our team of Family Liaison Officers
ABB.FamilyLiaisonOfficer@wales.nhs.uk

GIG Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
sparkle helpu plant arbennig i ddisgleirio helping special children shine

Time Slots :
9:30-11am
11am-12:30pm
1pm-2:30pm








Virtual Workshops:

Please take a look at these online workshops which may be helpful for some of our families. Please be assured that you do not have to have your camera or microphone on you can just listen in.



HELPING HANDS OUTREACH VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS: SEPT-DEC 25



We run monthly workshops on a range of topics including: Exploring Behaviours That Can Challenge, Introduction to Sleep, Supporting Anxiety in Children, Supporting with Transitions, Introduction to Sensory Processing.

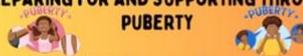
These group workshops are open to any parents/carers of children with additional needs, including families and professionals linked with Serennu, Nevill Hall and Caerphilly Children's Centre. For more information, please speak to the Family Liaison Officer at your local Children's Centre.

The workshops will take place online via a video-call.



MONDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 10AM-12NOON	INTRODUCTION TO SLEEP We will share ideas about how to manage common sleep difficulties in children and young people. Book by Midday on Monday 8th September
MONDAY 6TH OCTOBER 10AM - 12NOON	EXPLORING BEHAVIOURS THAT CAN CHALLENGE We will be sharing ideas behind behaviour support and help you to understand and respond to behaviours that can often challenge. Book by Midday on Monday 29th September
WEDNESDAY 22ND OCTOBER 10AM-12NOON	TRANSITIONS & SEPARATIONS We will share ideas about supporting children and young people with transitions and separations Book by Midday on Wednesday 15th October
MONDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 10AM-12NOON	SUPPORTING ANXIETY IN CHILDREN We will share ideas about how to support children and young people with anxiety and worry. Book by Midday on Monday 27th October
	BOOK A SPACE OR SUBSCRIBE TO OUR MAILING LIST To book a space on one of these workshops, or subscribe to our workshop mailing list for updates on all our future workshops, you can: • Scan the QR code • Click on the QR code • Follow this link https://forms.office.com/e/DfqfWSd0kK

We also run additional workshops that are jointly designed and delivered with our health colleagues in the Children's Centres. These workshops need to be booked using separate QR codes.

WEDNESDAY 3RD DECEMBER 10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON 	PREPARING FOR AND SUPPORTING THROUGH PUBERTY  We are really excited to bring to you a brand new workshop. We have been working on this for some time to following some direct requests from families. It is our pleasure to introduce our 'Preparing For & Supporting Through Puberty' During this workshop we will share ideas and resources related to the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Puberty in the context of children with additional developmental needs• Body Parts & Preparing for Body Changes• Privacy & Consent• Puberty• Masturbation• What this means for you as Parents/Carers To book onto this workshop, please scan or click on the QR code or follow this link: https://forms.office.com/e/kzDF8cejbb
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WEDNESDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON 	SUPPORTING COMMUNICATION A workshop delivered jointly with a Speech and Language Therapist. The workshop aims to help you to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understand how communication develops in children and means of communication• Explore why some children develop communication difficulties• Explore the related challenges that can develop alongside communication difficulties• Think about different means to support your children to communicate To book on this workshop, please scan or click on the QR code or follow this link: https://forms.office.com/e/apyJEJLPTN
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Awards:

Year Group	Seren yr wythnos	Behaviour of the Week Hot Chocolate Friday!	Attendance Cup
Nursery	Ophelia		96.45%
Reception	Rory	Rosie	92.2%
Year 1	Finley	Reggie	94.3% ★
Year 2	Liliana	Faith	91.3%
Year 3	Leo	Ezmay	88.6%
Year 4	Jessica	Theo	94.3% ★
Year 5	Maksym	Amelia	87%
Year 6	Jasmine	Harri	94.2%

Attendance is incredibly important, and the Education Welfare Officer met with me on Monday to discuss individual pupils, whose attendance already falls below 90%. Please can you ensure that your child is in school daily. If they become unwell, please be reassured we will contact you.

I am so pleased to inform you that there are 11 children who have significantly improved their attendance from last year. They all received certificates in Celebration Assembly. A huge well done to those children and families. Please continue to send your child to school every day.

Dates for your diary:

Dates for your diary		
October		
06/10/2025	PM	PC Michael Martin Police with Year 5 and Year 6 Keeping Safe Workshop
08/10/2025	AM	Year 6 Author Event Caldicot School
09/10/2025		Harvest Celebrations
10/10/2025		INSET Training Day School Closed to pupils
14/10/2025	3.15pm	Transition Meeting Gilwern Parent Meeting Year 5/Year 6
15/10/2025	11.00am	Look at my learning ... Nursery AM parents
15/10/2025	PM	Year 5 Library Visit
15/10/2025	2.30pm	Look at my learning ... Reception to Year 6
16/10/2025	AM	Town Council Visit 2 pupils from Y2-Y6
17/10/2025	PM	Year 5 Swimming
21/10/2025		Parent Consultations
22/10/2025		Parent Consultations
22/10/2025		Caldicot Cluster Round Robins
23/10/2025		Halloween Disco
24/10/2025		Flu Immunisation Day
24/10/2025	PM	Year 5 Swimming
24/10/2025		Break up from school
November		
03/11/2025		Pupils return to school
04/11/2025		Pupil Individual Photos
07/11/2025	PM	Year 5 Swimming
11/11/2025		Remembrance Day
12/11/2025	PM	Year 4 Library Visit
14/11/2025	PM	Year 5 Swimming
21/11/2025	PM	Year 5 Swimming
26/11/2025	PM	Year 3 Library Visit
28/11/2025	PM	Year 6 Swimming
December		
04/12/2025	10.00am	Pantomime Riverfront Theatre
08/12/2025	AM	Year 2 to Bethany Baptist Church Christmas Wrapped Up
08/12/2025	6.00pm	Year 6 to Caldicot School Concert
11/12/2025		Christmas Dinner / Christmas Jumper Day
11/12/2025		PTFA Christmas Gift Sale
12/12/2025	PM	Year 6 Swimming
15/12/2025	2.00pm	Year 3/4 Christingle
16/12/2025	10.00am	Year 1/2 Christmas Concert
16/12/2025	2.00pm	PM Nursery/Reception Christmas Concert
17/12/2025	10.00am	AM Nursery/Reception Christmas Concert
17/12/2025	2.00pm	Year 5/6 Christmas Concert
18/12/2025		PTFA Christmas Fayre
19/12/2025	PM	Year 6 Swimming
19/12/2025		Break up from school

Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to telephone school on 01291 636360, or email the school Dew.Primary@monmouthshireschools.wales²

Yours sincerely

Liz Bain

Headteacher / Pennaeth

²<mailto:Dew.Primary@monmouthshireschools.wales>