



Newsletter Autumn Term - Friday 19th September 2025

THE VALUE OF THE MONTH IS ...

RESPECT

INSET Days

19th December 2025

17th July 2026

20th July 2026

There will be one more INSET day announced shortly.

Welcome BACK TO SCHOOL
A Wonderful Start to the School Year

Dear Parents and Carers,
What a truly lovely start we've had to the new school year. The corridors are once again filled with laughter, curiosity, and the joyful energy of children reconnecting with friends and embracing new learning. It's been heartening to see how quickly pupils have settled into their routines, and how confidently our new starters have joined the school community—already showing us their spark and enthusiasm.

Staff have worked hard to create welcoming, purposeful classrooms, and the sense of calm, care and readiness across the school has been a pleasure to witness. We've already seen fantastic teamwork, creative thinking, and thoughtful conversations happening in every corner of the building.

Looking ahead, we're incredibly excited about the year to come. We have rich learning experiences planned, opportunities to deepen our community connections, and a continued focus on wellbeing, inclusion, and pupil voice. Whether it's through outdoor learning, creative projects, or celebrating our diverse school community, we're committed to making this year one of growth, kindness and belonging for every child.

Thank you, as always, for your support and partnership. We're proud to walk this journey with you. As always, our doors are open – come and see us if you have any questions, concerns or positive feedback!

Cofion gorau,
Keri Smith - Headteacher

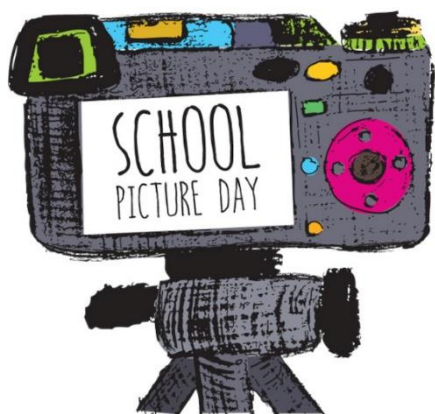
Attendance

The school has recently sent out information on attendance and also FPN's which can be found on the school website, but also has been sent out via GroupEd and is in line with the local authority. Within the policy details how the school can support with attendance and information on Fixed Penalty Notices. If a fixed penalty is issued the amount payable will be £60 if paid within 28 days or £120 if within 42 days.



Healthy Snacks and Lunchboxes As a Healthy School we would like to remind you of the importance of healthy lunchboxes. We would recommend a sandwich/ pasta pot/ crackers/ salad, with a portion of fruit and/or vegetables and a yoghurt. If you would like to add a chocolate biscuit/ treat and a small packet of crisps this is fine.

Please avoid over filling your child's lunchbox, particularly with unhealthy items. A guide to healthy lunchboxes can be found on the school website here (<https://bit.ly/3wNa5Wv>) and also on the Welsh Government website, here: <https://gov.wales/healthy-lunchboxes-leaflet>.



School Photographs

The school photographer will be in school on Monday, 29th and Tuesday 30th of September. Individual photographs will be taken on Monday, 29th of September for (Nursery to Year 2) and Tuesday, 30th of September (Years 3 to 6, Dosbarth Celyn, DRB, HQ1 and HQ2).

As usual, packs are £10 each and there are three varieties of pack to choose. Photographs will be taken during the school day and Nursery children will be brought to the main school building as part of their normal sessions so you don't need to arrive early.



The PFSA there will be holding their Autumn disco on **Thursday, 23rd October**. The times of the disco are Reception to Year 2 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm and Year 3 to Year 6 - 4:45pm to 6:15pm. A GoogleForm will be sent out to Reception to Year 2 parents to fill out to book their child(ren) for the disco. The children from Reception to Year 2 can wear their party clothes to school and will be taken to the hall for the disco. More information will be sent out via GroupEd to all year groups.

Class Updates from the Teachers

Dosbarth Oak - Miss Hall-Stark

We are very pleased to say that Dosbarth Oak are all settling into school life very well indeed! They are making us super proud by trying ever so hard to follow the rules of the classroom and learning how to play cooperatively.

They have been working on developing their independence, their personal and social skills and how to communicate effectively. We are really trying to get to know each other and have started with an 'All About Me' topic. The children have shared lovely facts about themselves and are beginning to appreciate each other's similarities and differences. We have been exploring 'homes' and looking at key places in Cwmbran and wider Wales to help us develop a sense of belonging. We have been talking about the people who can help us in our locality and have been enjoying learning our very first words in the Welsh language and even some full songs!

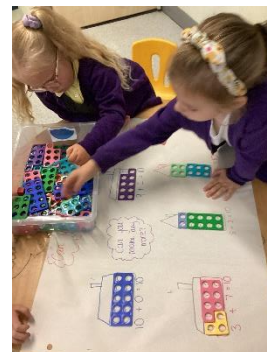


Dosbarth Rowan - Miss Shephard

We have had a fantastic first few weeks. We have settled in brilliantly and I am so proud of each and every one of them. We have been looking at our topic 'Cynefin' where we discussed our families and where we belong. We looked at the story 'A Handful of Buttons' and made our own little button family!

We have been developing our math skills by matching numicon to their numerical value and using PV boards to make teen numbers- Da iawn ti!

We have all made so many new friends and cannot wait to explore what the rest of the term has in store for us!



P.E and Forest school is on Wednesday which the children have called 'Welly Wednesday's'. Please come into school in a PE kit and bring wellies for Forest school.

Dosbarth Beech - Mrs Farr

Summer is a happy memory and the new school year has begun. I am so excited for our year ahead. We have so many fun, authentic learning opportunities planned. September is all about making friends, learning routines, and exploring our place in the world. Most of all, we're building a happy space where everyone feels welcome and ready to learn.

For the next few weeks we are focussing on Cynefin, a sense of belonging. We will be learning all about ourselves, our families and each other. To support this, we kindly ask could you please send in a family photo to place on our Family Wall.

P.E will be on Wednesdays. Forest School is also on Wednesdays; the children have named this 'Welly Wednesday'.



Dosbarth Redwood - Miss Evans

Dosbarth Redwood have settled into the new school year brilliantly, quickly picking up new routines and showing fantastic support for their friends. As part of our Health & Well-being fortnight, we enjoyed learning about Cynefin, where we have been exploring the idea of belonging. In their DCF lesson this week, Dosbarth Redwood worked in pairs to create a Google Slide on how they belong in Wales. They developed their digital skills by adding text, inserting images and adjusting fonts and backgrounds. They then loved sharing their masterpieces with their class and explaining their choices. Da iawn Dosbarth Redwood, I am super proud of your teamwork, effort and resilience so far!



Dosbarth Ash - Mr Ashford

We have been very busy In Dosbarth Ash this week covering place value in Maths, working on our SPAG skills in English and finishing off our health and wellbeing mini topic all about ourselves. We have created a topic page for our exciting new topic Amazing Architecture! The children have also had the chance to go outside and create self-portraits about themselves using natural materials as part of their forest school lessons.

Dosbarth Maple - Mrs Davies

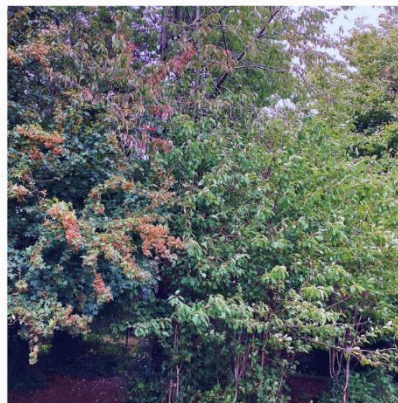
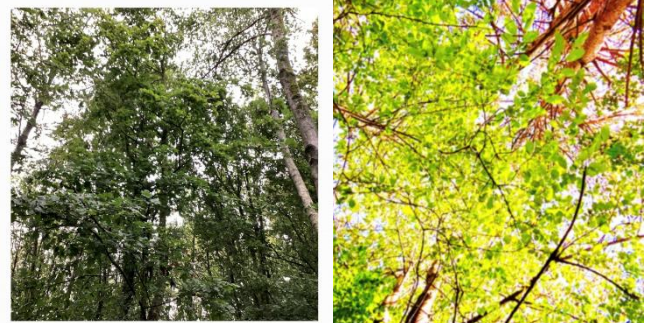
Dosbarth Maple have had a great start to Year 5. We have enjoyed our first 2 swimming lessons, becoming more water confident and showing off our water skills. In English we have started reading the Story of the Welsh Dragon as part of our new topic 'How To Train Your Dragon!' We made predictions about the story and wondered what would happen based on the front cover. In maths we have started looking at place value. We have enjoyed using our resources and games to help us. We've even completed some art work, looking at blending colours to make portraits.

What a fun and exciting start to the year!



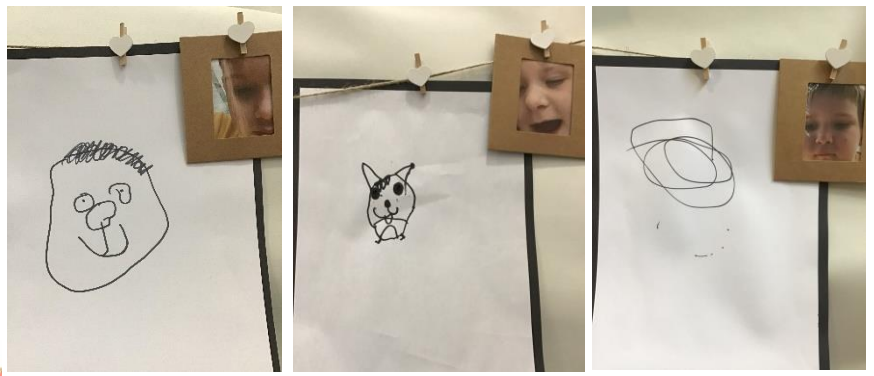
Dosbarth Elder - Mrs Davis-Thomas

What an amazing start to Year 6 we have had in Dosbarth Elder! We found out lots about the Elder Tree that our class is named after and read a wonderful story called, 'What do you see when you look at a tree?'. We have started our Accelerated Reading and our word count is already over 40000 words! We are most proud of our photography project which let us show off our digital and expressive arts skills. Have a look at some of our work, photographing the beautiful trees on the school grounds!



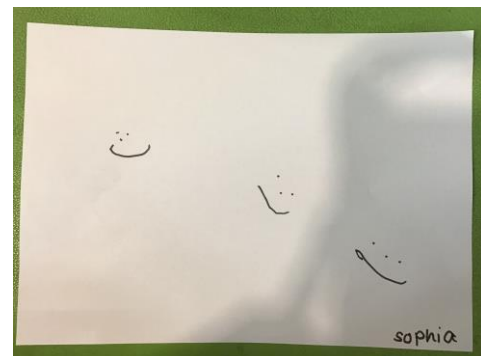
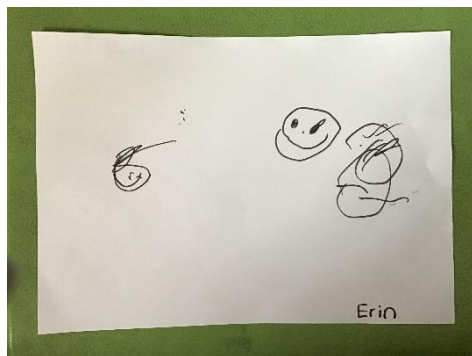
HQ1 - Mrs Martin

Our topic this half term is All About Me. During our first week back in school, we all drew our portraits and took a selfie to display in class. Every half term we'll draw our portrait so we can see how our drawing skills are improving.



Our first-class story was Spot's Birthday Party by Eric Hill. During the week we made Spot a birthday card, counted candles on his cake, made our own hats to wear to his party, baked cupcakes and learned party games. We even had a party to wish him a very happy birthday!

This week our class story is The Family Book by Todd Parr. We've listened to the story, talked about our own family, drawn pictures of the people who live in our house and learned songs about different families.



DRB - Miss Evans

We were so excited to be back in the DRB and to see all our friends again! It's been lovely sharing our holiday stories and hearing what everyone has been up to. We've quickly settled back into our routines and are enjoying our new class book, *The Little Red Hen*. The story has sparked lots of great discussions and activities. We've also discovered a big box, which we've started transforming into a tractor! Everyone has been helping with the design and construction, and we can't wait to show you the finished project in our next newsletter.





Harvest Festival Donations

Like previous years we will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to Eastern Valley food bank to help those in need.

We would be grateful if you could provide any items from the following list and bring them to school the week beginning **Monday, 6th October** to celebrate in our assembly on **Monday, 13th October**.

Donations will still be welcome up until **Thursday, 16th October**. We will have a collection point at the main Reception for you to put your items in.

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|-----------------|--------------|---------------------|---|---------------|----------------|------|
| Instant Mash | Tinned Fruit | Tinned Carrots | Tinned Meat | Angel Delight | Tinned Ravioli | |
| Tinned Potatoes | Rice Pudding | Long Life Milk | Long Life Fruit Juice | Squash | Custard | Soup |
| Tea | Coffee | Pasta/ Curry Sauces | Toiletries – shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste etc | | | |



Dates for your Diary

Please see below some of the upcoming dates for this term.

ANY NEW DATES OR DATE CHANGES ARE ADDED TO THE CALENDAR IN RED.

Date	Event
SEPTEMBER	
22.09.2025	School Clubs recommence
29.09.2025	School Photographs (Nursery to Year 3)
30.09.2025	School Photographs (Year 4 to Year 6, DRB, Dosbarth Celyn, HQ1 and HQ2)
October	
13.10.2025	Harvest Celebrations Please see information above
15.10.2025	Shwmae/ Su'mae Day - children can wear red/ green to school
20.10.2025 to 24.10.2025	Parents Evening Week Days and times for appointments to be shared with you in advance
23.10.2025	Autumn Disco Reception to Year 2 - 3:30pm to 4:30pm Year 3 to Year 6 - 4:45pm to 6:15pm
25.10.2025	END OF HALF TERM
November	
03.11.2025	START of AUTUMN 2 Term
10.11.2025	Odd Socks Day to support Anti-Bullying Week
14.11.2025	Children in Need

Please note dates and times may change, but we will endeavour to give as much advance notice of this.

Please see below dates for **Christmas Concerts**, **Class Assemblies** and **Open Afternoons** over the year.
As above, dates and times may change, but we will endeavour to give as much advance notice of this

Christmas Concert Dates



- Dosnarth Oak Christmas Concert - 11th December @ 9:45am and 1:45pm
- Dosbarth Beech and Dosbarth Rowan Christmas Concert - 15th and 16th December @ 9:45pm
- Dosbarth Chestnut, Dosbarth Willow and Dosbarth Cherry Christmas Concert - 9th December @ 9:45am and @ 1:45pm
- Dosbarth Yew, Dosbarth Redwood, Dosbarth Ash and Dosbarth Hazel Christmas Concert - 8th December @ 1:45pm
- Year 5 and Year 6 Carol Concert - 11th and 12th December @ 1:45pm

Class Assemblies and Open Afternoons Below

- Dosbarth Elder (Mrs Davis-Thomas) and Dosbarth Elm (Mrs Denham) Class Assembly - 27th November @ 2:00pm
- Dosbarth Maple (Mrs Davies) and Dosbarth Walnut (Miss Riley) Class Assembly - 26th March @ 2:00pm
- Dosbarth Hazel (Mrs Yoxall) and Dosbarth Ash (Mr Ashford) Class Assembly - 23rd April @ 2:00pm
- Dosbarth Redwood (Miss Evans) and Dosbarth Yew (Miss Kappas) Class Assembly - 7th May @ 2:00pm
- Dosbarth Chestnut (Mrs Eden), Dosbarth Willow (Mrs Evans) and Dosbarth Cherry (Miss Jones) Class Assembly - 10th July @ 2:00pm
- Dosbarth Oak (Miss Hall-Stark) Class Assembly - 13th July @ 9:45am and @ 1:45pm

Foodbanks in Cwmbran and Torfaen

Please see below a list of the Foodbanks that are available to offer support in Cwmbran.

Victory Church (Cwmbran) is able to offer a range of support to families including money management, counselling, food-bank and youth/children's work as well as a range of recovery programmes for anyone struggling with addictions.

If you require support please don't hesitate to reach out to our Family Liaison Officer who will be able to help you, or point you in the right direction.

Eastern Valley Food Bank Unit 5 Pavilion Industrial Estate Pontnewynydd Pontypool Tel: 01495 760608	Salvation Army Wesley Street Old Cwmbran NP44 3LX Wednesdays 1.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Victory Church Cwmbran Greenforge Way Cwmbran Tel: 01633 867401	Ebenezer Evangelical Church Pontnewydd Cwmbran Tuesdays 1.00 - 4.00 p.m.
Trac 2 Charity Shop and Outreach Offices Shop 2/Church Avenue Pontypool Tel: 01495 764078	CoStar Hwb Fairwater Close Tel: 01633 869227



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:

- *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/kzDF8c9jbb>

**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:



- 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/qpyjEJLPtN>



GIG
Cwmwl
NHS
WALLS

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Aneurin Bevan
University Health Board