



Abbey Primary School Newsletter

September 2026 Medi

Right of the Month

Article 28: Right to an Education

Monday 21st September 2026 / Dydd Llun 21 Medi

Annwyl/Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to the start of the 2026–27 academic year. I hope you and your families enjoyed a relaxing summer break and had the opportunity to spend some quality time together with the beautiful weather we experienced.

It has been fantastic to welcome our pupils back to Abbey and to see the school full of energy and enthusiasm once again. We have been particularly pleased with how positively the pupils have returned and how quickly they have settled into their new classes and routines.

As we begin a new academic year, we are excited about the opportunities ahead. We remain committed to building on the progress we have made together, continuing to develop and improve our school while ensuring that our pupils remain at the heart of everything we do.

The partnership between home and school continues to be incredibly important to us. We greatly value your support, feedback and involvement, and we look forward to working closely with you throughout the year to provide the very best experiences and opportunities for our pupils.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff, governors, pupils and families for their continued commitment to Abbey. It is the strength of our whole school community that makes Abbey such a special place, and I look forward to another positive, productive and successful year together.

Staff Changes

It has been lovely to welcome new members of staff to the school this September, with Miss Isaac and Mrs Spink joining our EYAC team. We are delighted to have them as part of the Abbey community and hope they have enjoyed their first few weeks with us.

We also say a fond farewell to Miss Olivia Deavall, who previously worked with us for two days each week. Miss Deavall has successfully secured a full-time position as a psychologist, which is a wonderful achievement and an exciting next step in her career. We thank her for everything she has contributed during her time at Abbey and wish her every success and happiness for the future.

ClassDojo

ClassDojo continues to be a really valuable communication tool for our school, helping us to share updates, celebrate learning and keep families connected with what is happening at Abbey. Thank you for continuing to engage so positively with the platform.

As we begin the new academic year, we would like to remind everyone of a few important points regarding its use. While ClassDojo is a convenient way to communicate with staff, important or urgent messages should always be communicated directly to the school office by telephone, as staff may not see ClassDojo messages during the school day.

We also ask that parents and carers are mindful that staff are not expected to respond to messages outside of normal working hours. Similarly, wherever possible, staff will avoid sending ClassDojo messages or posts outside of these hours, except where circumstances require it.

Finally, all pupil absences must be reported directly to the school office using the absence voicemail service, rather than through ClassDojo.

INSET Day

We have one INSET Day planned for this term on **Friday 23rd October**. It will be a cluster ALN Training Day for all staff across the cluster which will be held here at Abbey Primary.

School Photos

Colorfoto will be in school on **Tuesday 22nd September** for our annual back to school photograph day.

Punctuality & Attendance

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Our whole-school attendance for the last academic year was **92.9%**, compared with 93% the previous year. While this represents only a very small decrease, we remain committed to improving attendance and ensuring that every pupil benefits from as much time in school as possible.

Punctuality is an essential part of good attendance. If pupils arrive late, they miss valuable learning time and can find it more difficult to settle into the day. If a pupil arrives late to school, they must now be **signed in** and a **reason for their lateness** provided. Similarly, if you collect your child before the end of the school day, you will be required to **sign them out** and provide a **reason for the early collection**. This new procedure will come into effect from **Tuesday 22nd September**.

Attendance is no longer a specific school improvement priority for 2026–27; however, it remains an important area that we will continue to monitor closely. We will work with and support families where attendance becomes a concern.

We fully understand that there will be occasions when pupils are genuinely unwell or need to attend essential medical appointments. However, we ask for your continued support by:

- Avoiding holidays during term time and arranging routine appointments, such as dental and optician appointments, outside school hours, wherever possible.
- Providing the school office with evidence of medical appointments, when requested.
- Informing the school promptly whenever your child is absent, using the school's absence voicemail service.

Every day in school matters. Regular attendance gives children the best opportunity to make progress, maintain friendships and fully participate in school life. Even a relatively small number of missed days can add up over the course of an academic year.

Punctuality is equally important. Arriving late means children miss valuable learning and can disrupt the start of lessons for both themselves and their classmates. Persistent lateness will continue to be monitored and, where necessary, may be referred to our Education Welfare Officer, Ms Tiona Richards.

Families whose attendance was already causing concern at the end of the last academic year should also be aware that, following guidance from our Education Welfare Officer, the attendance process will continue from the stage previously reached and will not automatically restart from the beginning.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your children are in school, on time and ready to learn. Our aim this year is to reverse last year's small decrease and continue working together to improve attendance across Abbey.

School Uniform & P.E. Kits

We would like to remind parents and carers of the importance of pupils wearing the agreed **school uniform** each day. Wearing our uniform helps to create a sense of belonging and pride in our school community, as well as ensuring that pupils are dressed appropriately and consistently for the school day.

Our school uniform can be purchased from **Macron**, using the school uniform section of their website: [here](#).

On **P.E. days**, pupils may come to school wearing their P.E. kit. This should consist of a suitable **T-shirt** (including our Sports Day T-shirts), **black shorts and socks**, and **trainers**. Appropriate footwear is particularly important for safety, and pupils who do not have suitable footwear may be unable to participate fully in the lesson.

P.E. is an important part of our curriculum, and we want every pupil to participate fully. As well as supporting physical health and fitness, P.E. provides valuable opportunities for children to develop **teamwork, communication, resilience and problem-solving skills**, while enjoying being active with their peers.

Thank you for your support in ensuring that pupils come to school appropriately dressed and ready to take part. P.E. days will be communicated via each class's ClassDojo story and from each teacher's **termly newsletter** to parents.

Harvest

As in previous years, we will be collecting donations for a local church and food bank as part of our Harvest celebrations. We kindly ask pupils to bring in items such as tins, packets of dried pasta, and other non-perishable foods for our collection. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Premises

Car Park and Drop-off Zone

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to remind all parents and carers of the importance of **safe and considerate driving and parking** on and around our school site. With a large number of children and families arriving and leaving at similar times, everyone has a part to play in keeping our school community safe.

Please help us by:

- Keeping **yellow zig-zag lines and restricted areas** outside the school gates clear at all times.
- Ensuring that **residents' driveways and access points are not blocked**.
- Observing the **5mph speed limit** at all times when driving on the school premises.
- Using nearby parking areas wherever possible and walking the short distance to school, helping to reduce congestion around the school gates.
- Taking extra care and remaining vigilant for children when entering, leaving or manoeuvring within the school site.

Staff Car Park

Unfortunately, the barrier to the staff car park is currently broken. Please be aware that this does not mean that the car park is open for general parent/carers parking. The staff car park is for staff and parents/carers who have been given specific permission and have an authorised parking pass only.

You may also have noticed the new orange and white bollards that have been installed around the school site. These have been permanently positioned to prevent vehicles from parking in certain areas and to ensure that important access routes and pedestrian areas remain clear and safe.

We kindly ask everyone to respect the bollards and not park in the areas they are designed to protect. Similarly, please continue to observe the restrictions on use of the staff car park while the barrier is out of action.

These arrangements are in place to help us manage the site safely and, most importantly, protect our pupils and families at the busiest times of the school day.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Dogs on School Premises

A reminder that **dogs are not permitted on the school premises**, including during morning drop-off and afternoon collection.

We appreciate that many dogs are much-loved family pets; however, with large numbers of children and families moving around the site, this rule is in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our school community. Some children may also feel anxious or uncomfortable around dogs.

The only exceptions are registered assistance/guide dogs and Boo, our school therapy dog, who visits us on Wednesdays as part of The Baxter Project. We therefore kindly ask that all other dogs remain **outside the school grounds** when dropping off or collecting children.

Bikes and Scooters

We are pleased to see pupils choosing active ways to travel to and from school, and we strongly encourage walking, cycling and scooting as part of a healthy and active lifestyle.

However, for everyone's safety, **bikes and scooters must not be ridden anywhere on the school grounds.** Once pupils enter the school site, they should dismount and walk their bike or scooter safely to the designated bike shelter.

Our school site can be particularly busy at the beginning and end of the day, with many young children and families moving around. This simple rule helps to **reduce the risk of accidents and keep everyone safe.**

Thank you for helping us reinforce this message with your children.

School Field

There may be a slight sense of déjà vu for families who have been with us for some time, as Emroch Landscapes are once again back on our school field carrying out further remedial works.

You will have noticed the fencing and machinery on the field since returning to school. The Local Authority has commissioned Emroch Landscapes to undertake further work in an attempt to rectify the ongoing issues and provide us with a field that our pupils can use and enjoy throughout more of the school year.

Unfortunately, despite the longstanding problems we have experienced with waterlogging, the installation of additional drainage was not authorised by the Local Authority as part of these works. The current work will therefore focus on repairing and improving the condition of the field within the agreed specification.

We share the frustration of our school community that the field has required further attention, particularly as having a safe and usable outdoor space is so important for our pupils. We sincerely hope that this latest work provides a significant and lasting improvement.

We will continue to monitor the field carefully once the work is completed and raise any ongoing concerns with the Local Authority.

Parents'/Carers' Consultations

We have arranged Parental Consultations for **W/B 19th October**. Further information will follow; but please can all parents/carers ensure they attend these important meetings where you get to meet your child's teacher. The meetings will take place in person in the school hall.

Annual Consent Forms

We will be collecting our annual consent form information online again this year and the consent form can be found by clicking this [link](#).

Confirmed dates for your diary

Date	Activity/Event
Tuesday 22 nd September	SCHOOL PHOTOS with Colorfoto
Friday 25 th September	Year 4 football festival at Pure Swansea, Treboeth.
Monday 28 th September	EFL Football Cup at Afan Utd FC

Thursday 1st October	<u>Restart a HEART</u> – Live session (Hall)
Tuesday 6th October	Urdd Football Festival (Y5/6)
Tuesday 6th October	Action for Children workshops (Y5/6)
Thursday 15th October	Urdd Football Festival (Y5/6 Girls)
Friday 16th October	Cluster Netball Festival (Abbey, Coedffranc & Crymlyn) @ Abbey Primary
W/B 19th October	Year 5 swimming all week
Monday 19th October	Harvest Concert
Tuesday 20th October	Action for Children workshops (Y5/6)
Friday 23rd October	CLUSTER INSET DAY
Monday 2nd November	Pupils return after half term
W/B 2nd November	Year 5 swimming all week
Monday 9th November (1:30pm to 3pm)	Managing thoughts and feelings - Parent Workshop (CAMHS InReach)
Monday 16th November	<u>Spectrum Project</u> - Year 2 Workshop
Thursday 26th November	Urdd Mixed Netball Festival
Monday 30th November	<u>Spectrum Project</u> - Year 5 Workshop
Friday 4th December	Year 2 trip to Hope Church (Christmas lesson)
Monday 7th December	CHRISTMAS CONCERT WEEK (dates and times TBC)
Monday 14th December	PTA Christmas Fete (2pm – 5pm)
Tuesday 15th December	Rocky Steady Concert (School Hall)
FRIDAY 18th DECEMBER	End of Autumn Term

Thank you for taking the time to read my first newsletter of the academic year, and for the support you have already shown during the first few weeks of term. Your continued partnership is greatly valued by myself and all of the staff at Abbey.

It has been wonderful to see our pupils settle so positively into the new school year, and we are excited about everything that lies ahead. There is always plenty happening at Abbey, and we look forward to sharing and celebrating the many achievements, experiences and special moments that the year will bring.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our school, our staff and, most importantly, our wonderful children. I look forward to another happy, positive and successful year together at Abbey.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. K. M. Hodder

(Pennaeth/Headteacher)