

# Abbey Primary School Newsletter

February 2026 Chwefror

## **Right of the Month**

Article 16: The right to have privacy

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026 / Dydd Iau 12 Chwefror

Annwyl/Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the half-term break, I would like to once again thank you for your continued support. Our staff are currently preparing mid-year reports, which will be shared with parents and carers via Class Dojo as a PDF on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 3:30pm**.

I hope you find the reports informative and helpful, providing a clear overview of your child's progress, what they are able to do, and the next steps for the remainder of the academic year. Strong partnership between home and school is vital in ensuring every child receives the very best education, enabling them to thrive and develop within a happy, safe and secure environment.

### **Congratulations**

Huge congratulations to Miss. Penny who has had a beautiful baby girl called Elodie and Mrs. Richards who has had a gorgeous baby boy called Aster. Both families are doing really well, and we can't wait to officially meet both babies.

### **Holocaust Memorial Evening**

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, I was once again extremely proud of our choir of 25 pupils who sang at the Neath Port Talbot Holocaust Memorial Evening in the Great Hall, Swansea University.

This Holocaust Memorial Event marked the 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp complex, and the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the genocide in Bosnia.

The theme for Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) 2026, '**Bridging Generations**', is a call-to-action. A reminder that the responsibility of remembrance doesn't end with the survivors - it lives on through their children, their grandchildren and through all of us. This theme encourages us all to engage actively with the past - to listen, to learn and to carry those lessons forward. By doing so, we build a bridge between memory and action, between history and hope for the future.

The choir were a credit to the school and their families. Huge thanks to Mrs. Richards who organised the choir prior to her maternity leave, and Mr. Parton who has taken on the role since joining and covering Mrs. Richards. The choir sang beautifully and gave a wonderful rendition of 'A Million Dream' from The Greatest Showman

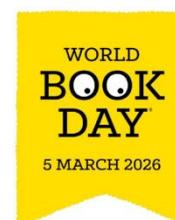
### **Welsh Week Celebrations (W/B 23<sup>rd</sup> February)**

We are looking forward to our Welsh Week celebrations week beginning **23<sup>rd</sup> February** and there will be an **Eisteddfod on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February**. Pupils can come in during the week in their house colour t-shirts from Monday to Thursday and then traditional Welsh costume or red/white/green on the Friday.

There is also a Welsh home project competition and there will be lots of activities during the week. Parents/carers will then be invited in to have a coffee and Welsh cake during our Caffi Cynefin on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> (Rec to Year 2) and Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March (Year 3 to Year 6) from 2pm – 3pm.**

### World Book Day

We will be celebrating [World Book Day](#) on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March.**



Due to the cost-of-living crisis, we **do not** expect pupils to dress up as their favourite character (unless you have a costume they would like to wear), but they can come in pyjamas and bring their favourite book.

### National Year of Reading 2026

The National Year of Reading 2026 is the biggest campaign in a generation designed to help more people (re)discover the joy of reading and make it part of their everyday lives.

Reading expands our world and sharpens our minds, yet fewer people are making time to read. A Department for Education initiative, in collaboration with the [National Literacy Trust](#), the campaign aims to tackle the profound decline in reading enjoyment in the UK and reconnect people of all ages with reading as a relevant and immediately rewarding activity.

The campaign is being backed by [Welsh Government](#) and asks the nation to [Go All In](#) on their passions and interests for 2026 and discover how reading can unlock the things they already love – be that music, football, baking, family-time, sci-fi, or ... anything.

To support this campaign, we would like to hold a **'Book swap'** where adults and children can bring in books they have read and would like to swap for new literature which fires the imagination. This book swap will take place during our Caffi Cynefin and if any families would like to donate books for the book swap, please send them in after half term. Further information will be provided.

### Attendance

Attendance and punctuality are a school priority, and I was delighted with our January attendance of 95.62%. Our whole school target is 93.5% and we are slightly below that currently. Please ensure you send your children into school every day and on time. We want to improve punctuality and support pupils to improve their attendance. These are the current year group stats:

| School        | Year    | All Pupils | Boys  | Girls | Y1    | Y2    | Y3    | Y4    | Y5    | Y6    |
|---------------|---------|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Abbey Primary | 2025/26 | 93.05      | 93.43 | 92.61 | 93.26 | 92.86 | 93.34 | 95.01 | 91.23 | 92.55 |

Our boys are bucking the Welsh trend and have better attendance than our girls. Our Year 4 pupils have excellent attendance with over 95%. We need all other year group to improve towards the school target and beyond.

| Year    | Sept   | Oct    | Nov    | Dec    | Jan    | Feb    | Mar    | Apr    | May    | June   | July   | Total  |
|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 2018/19 | 96.19% | 95.06% | 93.81% | 91.63% | 93.60% | 93.59% | 95.26% | 93.50% | 94.78% | 93.23% | 93.26% | 94.08% |
| 2021/22 | 92.61% | 92.12% | 91.25% | 87.76% | 85.84% | 91.96% | 91.91% | 91.63% | 89.68% | 90.30% | 86.91% | 90.23% |
| 2022/23 | 93.87% | 90.94% | 91.63% | 83.68% | 91.44% | 89.99% | 91.44% | 94.10% | 90.99% | 91.24% | 90.94% | 90.87% |
| 2023/24 | 92.72% | 92.85% | 93.07% | 91.69% | 93.61% | 93.07% | 92.29% | 93.12% | 91.00% | 90.09% | 90.75% | 92.22% |
| 2024/25 | 94.81% | 93.28% | 92.34% | 89.75% | 94.34% | 94.01% | 93.86% | 94.80% | 90.39% | 91.53% | 94.16% | 93.00% |
| 2025/26 | 94.04% | 93.70% | 92.42% | 88.65% | 95.62% |        |        |        |        |        |        | 93.05% |

Our pre-pandemic attendance was over 94% and this is our aim to get up near that figure again.

Confirmed dates for your diary

| Date   | Activity/Event  |
|--|---|
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February   | END OF HALF TERM  |
| Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February – HALF TERM |   |
| Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February   | All pupils return after half term   |
| W/B 23 <sup>rd</sup> February  | WELSH WEEK  |
| Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February  | Year 3/4 football squad to play in a festival against cluster schools at Neath Sports Centre (Consent forms will be issued)                         |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March   | WORLD BOOK DAY (dress up as your favourite character or cwch up with a book in your pjs)  |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> & Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March (2pm)               | Caffi Cynefin - Parents/Carers are invited in for a coffee and Welsh cake<br>Foundation (Rec – Year 2 on Wed)<br>Juniors (Year 3 – Year 6 on Thurs) |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March  | Year 5/6 football leagues matches at Gnoll Primary.   |
| W/B - Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March  | Scholastic Book Fair (more info to follow)  |
| Wed 18 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> March                                | Year 6 residential to Manor Adventure   |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> March  | Year 5 Football Festival (Consent forms to follow)  |
| Tues 24 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> March                               | Fluoride varnish (Nursery to Year 2)  |
| Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March  | World Maths Day (Parents/Carers invited to visit classrooms) – more information to follow   |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March  | END OF SPRING TERM  |
| EASTER HOLIDAYS – Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March to Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> April |   |
| Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April  | INSET DAY   |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April   | Pupils return after Easter holidays   |

Thank you for taking the time to read my newsletter. I hope you find the information both helpful and informative.

I would like to wish you all a very happy half term and I look forward to seeing you all back in school on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Yours faithfully,



Mr. K. M. Hodder  
(Pennaeth/Headteacher)