



# Abbey Primary School Newsletter

## January 2026 Rhagfyr

### **Right of the Month**

*Article 25: Children who do not live with their families should be checked on to make sure they are ok.*

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026 / Dydd Gwener 21 Ionawr

Annwyl/Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Blwyddyn Newydd Dda**

Happy New Year to you all. It has been lovely to welcome you all back after the Christmas period, even though we had a slightly unexpected, delayed start. Thank you for your understanding and patience regarding the closure of the school on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. The decision was not taken lightly, but the safety of all pupils, staff and parents was my main concern and we were not able to guarantee that.

The children have settled back into the routines of the school pleasingly and new staff and pupils have transitioned successfully. Numbers are growing and we look forward to a productive term.

### **Staffing update**

It has been lovely to welcome Mr. Farley into Year 6. He is now Curriculum Lead at the school and has settled in brilliantly to life at Abbey.

It has also been great to welcome Mr. Parton into Year 5. He has had a period of transition alongside Mrs. Richards, who has gone on maternity leave. We wish her well and hope that her baby boy arrives safely. Good luck, Mrs. Richards!

### **Premises**

A polite reminder about some of our car parking rules:

- There is a speed limit of 5mph on site.
- Do not park on double-yellow lines.
- Please do not block the barriers.
- The new car park area has a drop-off zone, so please do **NOT** park there during the morning period. You **CAN** park there during the afternoon, as no children are getting dropped off.

### **Mid-Year Reports**

Our Annual Report to Parents will be written this term by our teachers and distributed to parents/carers on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March**. The mid-year reports have been very well received and provide you with a detailed report of how well your child is doing and what their next steps are. These reports take teachers considerable time, so please do read them and if you have any questions/queries, please do not hesitate to communicate these with the class teachers.

It would be greatly appreciated if you click the Parent Survey link on the report to provide feedback. All comments are gratefully received and it is also lovely to receive the positive ones too...it makes a big difference to the teachers and all staff.

## The Baxter Project

We are delighted to announce a link with The Baxter Project. For more information visit our website [here](#) and scroll down to the bottom of the page. The Baxter Project will be working with identified pupils predominantly in Years 5/6 on a two-week rolling programme every Wednesday. The therapy dog comes with a fully qualified therapist, who will support our identified pupils.



## Information for Parents & Carers

### Wellbeing Dogs in School

Your child's school is working with The Baxter Project, an award-winning early intervention supporting children's emotional wellbeing. As part of this work, a wellbeing dog may be present on site during the school day.

Our dogs role is to support trained practitioners by helping create a calm, low-pressure environment where children feel safe and more able to talk.

Interaction is always optional.

For reassurance, the wellbeing dog is behaviour-assessed, temperament-checked, fully insured, and always supervised by a trained, DBS-checked practitioner. Our dogs are never left unattended, do not roam freely, and are managed away from busy areas.

Hand hygiene is encouraged after any interaction.



### Allergies, fears, or concerns about dogs

We understand that some children may have allergies, fears, or phobias around dogs. These are fully respected. If needed, we will put sensible measures in place such as maintaining distance using controlled routes, adjusting movement times, ensuring no direct contact, or keeping the dog out of sight.

No child is ever required to engage with the dog, and exposure can be completely avoided.



### What we ask from parents

To help us plan safely and prevent issues, please inform the school if your child has:

- A dog allergy
- A fear or phobia of dogs
- Any other relevant needs

This allows us to put sensible measures in place from the outset.



### In summary

- The wellbeing dog is calm, carefully managed, and always supervised by a trained practitioner
- Children are never required to interact, and engagement is always optional
- Allergies, fears, and phobias are fully respected and appropriate measures are put in place
- Safety, hygiene, safeguarding, and the wellbeing of all pupils remain our absolute priority at all times

**The Baxter Project**  
Positive change through Positive Engagement



For more information please visit [www.thebaxterproject.com](http://www.thebaxterproject.com)

**Confirmed dates for your diary**

Date	Activity/Event
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> January	After-school clubs start
W/B 19 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	YEAR 6 SWIMMING BLOCK - Year 6F.
W/B 26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> January	YEAR 6 SWIMMING BLOCK - Year 6T
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	Choir taking part in the Local Authority's Holocaust Memorial Service (6pm)
Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Fri 6 <sup>th</sup> & Mon 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Bigfoot Film Making with Ministries
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Toileting Workshop for Parents/Carers (9:15am – 11am) – speak to Miss. Jarvis our Family Engagement Officer if interested.
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day
Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> & Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Silent Disco for whole school with Menter Iaith
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
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	WORLD BOOK DAY (dress up as your favourite character)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March (2:30pm)	Caffi Cynefin (Parents/Carers are invited in to view pupils' work from Years 3 – 6).
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 5/6 Football Squad to play league games at Gnoll Primary (Consent forms will be issued)
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 and prosperous 2026.

Yours faithfully,



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