



Abbey Primary School Newsletter

October 2026 Hydref

Right of the Month

Article 24: The right to good food and water and to see a doctor if they are ill.

Monday 19th October 2026 / Dydd Llun 19 Hydref

Annwyl / Dear Parents and Carers,

Well...what a start to the Autumn term...three weeks in and an Estyn call. However, I am delighted to share that our Estyn inspection has now come to an end, and we are incredibly proud to say that it has been a huge success!

It has been a wonderful opportunity to showcase everything that makes our school such a special place – our fantastic children, dedicated staff, supportive families and the strong sense of community that runs throughout our school.

Our children have been absolutely amazing throughout the inspection. They have represented our school brilliantly, demonstrating their enthusiasm for learning, excellent attitudes and kindness towards others. We couldn't be prouder of them!

I would also like to say a heartfelt thank you to our incredible staff team, whose hard work, commitment and care for our children shine through every single day.

Finally, thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support and for playing such an important part in our school community.

We look forward to sharing the official inspection report with you once it is published (14/12/2026), but for now, we can all feel incredibly proud of our school and everything we are achieving together.

A fantastic team, wonderful children and a school community to be truly proud of! Thank you all for your continued support.

Diolch, Mr. Richards!!

I have some important news to share with you. After 22 years of dedicated service, Mr Richards, a long-standing and much-loved member of our school community, has made the decision to retire from the teaching profession.

Mr Richards began his teaching career at Mynachlog Nedd Junior School in November 2004 and has been an inspirational and highly respected teacher ever since. Throughout his career, he has made an enormous difference to the lives of



countless children, leaving a lasting impression on generations of pupils and families.

His dedication, kindness, enthusiasm and unwavering commitment to the children and our school have been truly exceptional. Mr Richards has played an invaluable role in shaping our school community, and his contributions over the past 22 years will always be remembered and appreciated.

Whilst we are incredibly sad to see him leave, we are also delighted that he can look forward to a well-deserved retirement. He will be greatly missed by pupils, colleagues, governors and parents alike.

On behalf of the entire school community, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mr Richards for everything he has given to our school. We wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement, filled with wonderful memories and exciting new adventures.

Other Staff Changes

We look forward to welcoming Mrs. Richards back after her maternity leave in November. She will be in Year 5, and we thank Mr. Parton and Mr. Lewis greatly for their hard work.

Mr. Steve Thomas, former deputy head teacher, will be covering Mr. Richards's class until Miss. Bowring returns from her maternity leave in March. Miss. Bowring will be taking the class until the end of the academic year, and as she taught Mr. Richards' class last year and knows the children well, transition will be smooth.

New Parent Governor

Thank you to everyone who took part in the recent Parent Governor ballot. We were fortunate to have four parents stand for election, and following the vote, I am pleased to announce that Mrs Laura Davies has been successfully elected as our new Parent Governor. We look forward to welcoming her to her first governing body meeting next month.

I am also delighted to confirm that our existing Parent Governors, Mrs Jenna Hickman and Mrs Hannah May, have both been re-elected and will continue in their roles. We are grateful for their ongoing commitment and the valuable contributions they make to the work of the Governing Body.

Unfortunately, Mr Paul Davies was not elected on this occasion. Mr Davies will be a significant loss to the Governing Body, and on behalf of both the school and governors, I would like to express our sincere thanks for his commitment, support and service over the past four years. His contribution has been greatly valued, and we have no doubt that we will continue to see him supporting the school through assemblies, events and the wider school community.

Thank you to all candidates for their willingness to serve our school, and to everyone who participated in the voting process. Your engagement and support are greatly appreciated.

INSET Day(s)

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. I have also booked INSET Days for **Monday 4th January 2027** and **Monday 5th April 2027**. That will leave one INSET Day remaining this academic year.

Premises

As you will have seen new fencing has been erected for yours and the pupils' safety. Can I please ask all parents and carers to walk with their children on the **paths** and **avoid walking on the road** and through the car park areas.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO JAMES BROTHERS!

We would like to say a massive thank you to James Brothers for their incredibly generous support in building a fantastic new mud kitchen and developing our outdoor learning areas for our Foundation Learning children.

Their kindness, time and hard work have helped create wonderful spaces where our youngest learners can explore, imagine, create and learn through play!

We are so grateful for their generosity and support in making our outdoor environment even more special for our children.

Children in Need

On **Friday 13th November** we will be raising money for Children in Need. Please send in a small donation with your children for this worthwhile charity. Pupils can wear something CiN related, spotty or just non-uniform. We will be holding a little 'Abbey's Got Talent' contest to celebrate the event for those who wish to showcase their talent.



Christmas Concerts

It is that time of year again and the concert practise will be starting after half term. Please see below a table outlining the dates and times of each concert.

Year Group(s)	Date	Time	Venue
Nursery	Thursday 3 rd December	2:00pm	School hall
Reception to Year 2	Wednesday 2 nd December	2:00pm	School hall
Reception to Year 2	Thursday 3 rd December	9:30am	School hall
Year 3 and Year 4	Monday 30 th November	5:00pm	St. John's Church
Year 3 and Year 4	Tuesday 1 st December	2:00pm	St. John's Church
Year 5 and Year 6	Monday 30 th November	2:00pm	School hall
Year 5 and Year 6	Tuesday 1 st December	5:00pm	School hall

Tickets will be on sale at £2.50 per ticket from **Monday 9th November**. We look forward to welcoming you to the above performances and hope they will be well attended again this year. It is such a special time of year, and we look forward to celebrating with you all.

Christmas Dinner Day & Christmas Jumper Day

We will be celebrating these events on **Thursday 10th December**.

Christmas Party Day

We will be having our Christmas parties on **Wednesday 16th December**. Further details to follow.

Confirmed dates for your diary

Date	Activity/Event
Friday 23 rd October	CLUSTER INSET DAY
Monday 2 nd November	Pupils return after half term
W/B 2 nd November	Year 5 swimming all week (Mr. Richards' Class)
W/B 9 th November	After-School Clubs resume
Monday 9 th November	Road / Seatbelt Safety (Rec to Year 2 classes)
Monday 9 th November (1:30pm to 3pm)	Managing thoughts and feelings - Parent Workshop (CAMHS InReach)
Tuesday 10 th November	Road / Seatbelt Safety (Year 3 – 6)
Wednesday 11 th November	Fire Safety Talks for Year 5 and Year 6
Wednesday 11 th November	Judith Storey Psychologist Parent Workshop (9:30am – 12pm)
Thursday 12 th November	Cluster Football Festival (Y5/6) at Neath Sports Centre
Friday 13 th November	CHILDREN IN NEED (£1 donation)
Monday 16 th November	Spectrum Project - Year 2 Workshop
Wednesday 18 th November	Cluster Football Festival (Y5/6) at Neath Sports Centre (Girls only)
Thursday 26 th November	Urdd Mixed Netball Festival
Monday 30 th November	CHRISTMAS CONCERT WEEK (dates and times in table above)
Monday 30 th November	Spectrum Project - Year 5 Workshop
Friday 4 th December	Year 2 trip to Hope Church (Christmas lesson)
Monday 14 th December	PTA Christmas Fete (2pm – 5pm)
Tuesday 15 th December	Rocky Steady Concert (School Hall)
FRIDAY 18 th DECEMBER	End of Autumn Term
Monday 4 th January	INSET DAY
Tuesday 5 th January	Pupils return after the Christmas holiday

It has been a busy and exciting start to the year at Abbey, particularly with our recent Estyn inspection. I am incredibly proud of our whole school community. Our pupils were a real credit to the school, and the dedication and hard work of our staff truly shone through. Thank you to our parents and carers for your encouragement and support throughout. The inspection was a wonderful opportunity to showcase everything that makes Abbey such a special place.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our school, our staff and, most importantly, our wonderful children. I look forward to building on this positive start as we continue to work together, play together and grow together at Abbey.

Yours faithfully,



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