

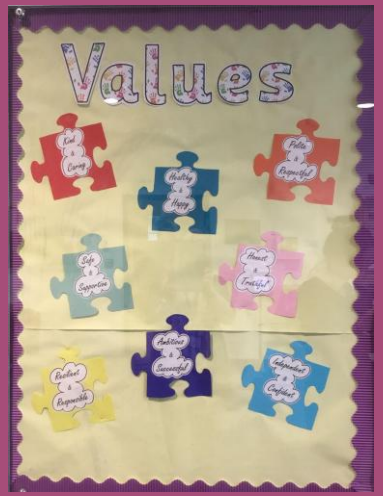
Brynmenyn primary school

Newsletter – September 18th 2026



Our school vision

Brynmenyn Primary School is committed to creating lifelong learners who take responsibility for themselves and their actions, showing resilience and perseverance in the face of all challenges. We strive to instil confidence, passion and ambition across the school community in order for everyone to pursue their dreams, achieve their best and realise their potential. Through kindness, respect and friendship, we support and challenge each other and celebrate the individuality and uniqueness of all learners, families, staff and communities.



This week in Brynmenyn



What a week it has been!

Brynmenyn Primary School has officially made UK history! We are thrilled to announce that Brynmenyn school in the entire United Kingdom to win a Daily Mile Award—a tremendous achievement that highlights our school's incredible commitment to staying active, happy, and healthy.

This prestigious recognition wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our wonderful pupils and staff, and a special mention must go to Mrs. McCarthy. Her boundless energy, passion, and enthusiasm have been the driving force behind this journey, inspiring our entire school community to walk, run, jog, or wheel their way to victory every single day.

We are so proud of everyone involved – huge congratulations to team Brynmenyn for leading the way for the whole country!

Rights respecting schools – September right

Our Right for September is Article 28 "I have the right to an Education".

This means that all children should have access to high-quality learning opportunities that help them develop their talents, abilities, and confidence. Governments have a responsibility to ensure that education is available to all children and that schools are places where children can learn safely and successfully.

At Brynmenyn Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that every child can access their right to education by:

- Providing a safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning environment.
- Supporting children to attend school regularly and achieve their best.
- Ensuring all pupils feel valued, respected, and supported.
- Promoting positive behaviour through respect and understanding.
- Offering a broad and balanced curriculum that helps children develop academically, socially, and emotionally.

Pupil drop off – Years 3-6

To help ease congestion around the main entrance and keep the pathways clear near the Nursery and Reception gates, we are updating the morning arrival routine for our Years 3 to 6 pupils.

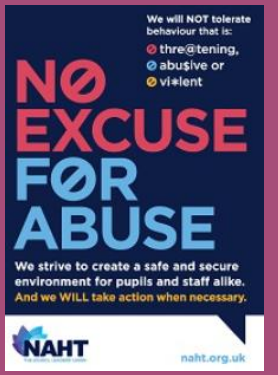
Morning Drop-off Route

- **Pathway: All pupils in Years 3, 4, 5, and 6 should walk up the pavement alongside the drop-off area.**
- **Entrance: Children will enter the school grounds through the small gate at the top, which leads directly onto the Junior yard. This gate will remain closed until a member of school staff opens it.**
- **Parent Waiting: We respectfully ask parents and carers to stay outside the gate. Keeping the area inside the gate clear ensures a smooth, safe flow of pupils across the yard and into the building.**

A member of staff will be on duty on the Junior yard every morning from 8:50 AM to greet pupils as they arrive.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation in making our morning drop-offs safer and easier for everyone.

Parent behaviour on site



We would like to remind all parents and visitors that **appropriate behaviour is expected on school grounds at all times**.

This includes the use of respectful language and calm conduct towards staff, pupils and other adults. Any use of aggressive behaviour, raised voices or inappropriate language is not acceptable and raises **significant safeguarding concerns**, particularly as children may witness adults behaving in ways that can feel frightening, unsettling or threatening.

The school site should remain a safe, welcoming and emotionally secure environment for all children, and adult behaviour plays a crucial role in modelling how we communicate and manage difficult situations.

We thank you for your continued co-operation in helping us keep our school community safe, respectful and supportive for everyone.

Celebration News



Seren y Wythnos awards have been presented to pupils in every class recognised for their use of Welsh. Pupil of the Week awards have been shared for a range of wonderful achievements across the school this week.



This week, these pupils have shared their outside of school achievements –

- Jack (Y3) – Football
- Mila (Y3) – Football
- Max (Y5) – Cubs badges and awards
- Ivy (Y4) – becoming a Sixer in Brownies

Seren y wythnos & pupils of the week





The new year 2026-27 - dates

- Please see the dates for 2026-27.
- Although we do our very best to stick to these dates, they are subject to change when things are out of our control.

Brynmenyn Primary School - Academic Year 2026-27

TERM DATES

Autumn 1	Tuesday 1st September - Friday 23rd October
Half term	Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October
Autumn 2	Monday 2nd November - Friday 18th December
Spring 1	Monday 4th January - Friday 5th February
Half term	Monday 8th - Friday 12th February
Spring 2	Monday 15th February - Friday 19th March
Easter hols	Monday 22nd March - Friday 2nd April
Summer 1	Monday 5th April - Friday 28th May
Half term	Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June
Summer 2	Monday 7th June - Tuesday 20th July

INSET DAYS

Tuesday 1st Sept.	Monday 2nd Nov.	TBC
TBC	TBC	Tuesday 20th July

PARENTS EVENINGS

Autumn Term Booking form will be sent out	Wednesday 7th & Thursday 8th October
Spring Term Booking form will be sent out	Tuesday 23rd & Wednesday 24th February

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THESE DATES MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
WE WILL ALWAYS ENDEAVOUR TO GIVE AS MUCH NOTICE AS POSSIBLE FOR ANY CHANGES.

SPORTS DAY

All classes on the same day

Option 1	Thursday 6th May 2027	9:30-10:30 Years 3 & 4
Option 2	Wednesday 12th May 2027	10:45 - 11:45 Years 5 & 6
Option 3	Thursday 13th May 2027	1:15 - 2:15 Years 1 & 2 2:30-3:15 Nursery & Reception

NATIONAL PERSONALISED ASSESSMENTS (YEARS 2-6)

9th - 20th November	17th - 28th May

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Thurs. 10th December - 2pm	Mon. 7th December - 2pm	Tues. 8th December - 2pm	Weds 9th December - 2pm	Tues. 8th December - 10am	Weds 9th December - 10am	Friday 11th December - 10am	Thurs. 10th December - 10am

Parents evening - booking link

You are invited to make appointments for the school's next parent-teacher meetings.

The parent-teacher meetings are on 7th and 8th Oct 2026, Kestrels are 6th and 8th Oct.

Appointments will be available to book from 9am on 11th Sept 2026 until 17:00 on 2nd Oct 2026 via Edulink.

We look forward to you joining us for parents' evening.

https://www.edulinkone.com

Dates for your diary – autumn term 2026 – September & October

This page will be regularly updated with new dates for events/trips/visits etc.

Keep an eye out for new dates added.

For now, we are sharing the annual dates for 2025-26.

Date	Event
Wednesday 23rd September	Y6 Trip – Royal Welsh Museum
Friday 25th September	Book Fayre open
Wednesday 30th September	Book Fayre – last day
Friday 2nd October	Y5 Rhondda Heritage Trip
Tuesday 6th October	Kestrels Parents Evening
Wednesday 7th October	Parents Evening 1
Thursday 8th October	Parents Evening 2
Friday 16th October	Y4 Caerleon Trip
Wednesday 21st October	Y5 Bryngarw Trip
Friday 23rd October	Y3 St Fagan's Trip
26th – 30th October	HALF TERM

PE AND FOREST SCHOOLS

- When classes have PE please send your child to school wearing appropriate clothing - joggers/shorts and a t-shirt (with a jumper for warmth) and trainers.
- For their Forest Schools session please dress them in warm clothes that you don't mind getting dirty - a sign of a good forest session!
- Children can bring a change of clothes to school just in case ☺

Class	PE Day	Forest Schools Day
Ants	Wednesday	Wednesday
Bees	Wednesday	Wednesday
Butterflies	Friday	Friday
Caterpillars	Friday	Friday
Dragonflies	Monday	Monday
Ladybirds	Monday	Monday
Millipedes	Tuesday	Tuesday
Centipedes	Tuesday	Tuesday
Hedgehogs	Thursday	Thursday
Foxes	Thursday	Thursday
Bats	Wednesday	Wednesday
Owls	Thursday	Thursday
Falcons	Monday	Monday
Kestrels	Monday	Monday
Harriers	Friday	Friday
Hawks	Friday	Friday

Ongoing attendance

- As part of our monitoring systems, we track attendance regularly. The table opposite shows you the weekly attendance of your child's class and the ongoing attendance since September, in alphabetical order.
- You can also see the totals for all classes on a weekly basis and since the start of the term.
- We really need your support to get our attendance up to where it needs to be - **94% and above**.

CLASS	WEEKLY	SINCE SEPTEMBER
Ants	91.0	90.4
Bees	90.2	92.8
Caterpillars	92.6	92.3
Butterflies	93.1	88.9
Dragonflies	89.8	90.8
Ladybirds	96.7	92.8
Millipedes	96.7	99.0
Centipedes	95.5	88.4
Hedgehogs	96.4	96.4
Foxes	96.5	97.4
Bats	92.0	89.2
Owls	84.8	88.8
Kestrels	94.0	94.3
Falcons	93.8	92.2
Harriers	95.4	92.3
Hawks	95.6	90.8
School total	93.5	92.3

Autumn term topics



- Nursery - Marvellous Me
- Reception - Houses & Homes
- Year 1 - Out & About in Brynmenyn
- Year 2 - We Are Wales
- Year 3 - The Kingdom United
- Year 4 - Globe Trotters
- Year 5 - Misty Mountain, Rushing River
- Year 6 - The Crown, the Council & the Community













Driving and parking safely



NO ACCESS TO THE STAFF CAR PARK

We have continued to have cars pulling in to the car park to drop pupils off in the mornings.

THE STAFF CAR PARK IS NOT TO BE USED TO DROP CHILDREN OFF OR COLLECT FROM. YOU MUST USE THE DROP OFF ZONE.

We have had very near misses with cars in the staff car park without permission.

Forest schools



Our classes take part in Forest School activities every week, giving children the chance to explore, discover and learn in our wonderful outdoor environment. These sessions help build resilience, teamwork, confidence and a love of nature – all while having great fun!

With the weather being traditionally Welsh (and often very wet!), we kindly encourage children to bring a change of clothes on their Forest School day. The pupils absolutely love their time outdoors and are never put off by the rain, as long as they are well clothed and kept warm before, during and after their adventures.

No e-scooters on site

- We have had a number of close misses with people riding e-scooters on site.
- **From this point forward, all e-scooters are not allowed on site**.
- Please share this messge with anyone coming to the school to drop off or collect children.
- We want to ensure the site is safe for everyone.



School uniform – full to the brim!

- Thank you so much for all the donations of school uniform. We are now bursting at the seams! We cannot accept any more donations at present.

- If you want or need any uniform for your child, please contact the school office and they will gather some together for you.



No toys/trinkets/cuddlies/plushies



- We have had a large increase in toys/cuddlies being brought to school.
- When toys/trinkets are brought in to school they become a distraction. Either distracting children from their work or causing an argument between friends.
- Please support us by reminding your child that toys/trinkets are not to be brought to school and are best left at home where they are safe.

Considerate parking



- We all know how busy drop off and pick up times can be. We can also imagine how that would impact on our neighbours and local residents.
- When parking nearby to drop off or pick up, we request that consideration is made for our local residents.
- Please avoid parking on other people's driveways or parking spaces.
- Ty Ynysawdre must not be used as it impacts on emergency vehicles getting access. This is essential to keep the residents safe.

LATENESS



- We have had an increase in pupils arriving late for school. This directly affects their attendance and impacts on the start of their day.
- **Our school day starts at 8:55am**. That means children should be in school before this time.
- Gates will be open between 8:45-8:55am and closed promptly. After 8:55am you will need to bring your child to the office and sign them in on the iPad.
- If pupils arrive after 9:05am it gets recorded as a late. If they arrive after 9:25am it is recorded as a ‘U’ code which is late after close of register and impacts further on their attendance.

PUNCTUALITY





The school day starts at 8.55 am. The class registers are open until 9.05 am. If a pupil arrives in class after this time, a “Late” mark will be recorded (L). If a pupil arrives after 9.25 am, a “Late after register closes” mark will be given (U). This affects the pupil’s overall attendance and will cause a decrease in their attendance figure.

Any learner who enters the school late will report to the school office where ***parents are requested to sign in using the iPad system.*** The office will record their name appropriately via SIMS. This will be reviewed with the EWO on their visits.

ATTENDANCE CODES

- / or \ - present
- L - Late (after 9:05)
- U - Late after register closed (after 9:25)
- V - trip or visit
- I - illness (school have been informed)
- M - Medical
- H - authorised holiday
- G - unauthorised holiday

Being respectful on site

POLITE REMINDER

When on site or near the entrance gates, please can all members of our school community work together and refrain from using foul or threatening language. We want our pupils and families to feel safe and secure when in and around the school. Thank you for your support in this matter.







Site security - safeguarding

- If you are waiting in the foyer of the building - by the school office - please DO NOT press the green door release button and let anyone into the building. This is to be done by school staff only. This is in place for safeguarding reasons.
- There is a sign above to remind everyone.
- Thank you for your support



Fruit tuck - reminder

- All fruit tuck will need to be paid for in advance, either on a weekly or half termly basis. We will not be able to give out fruit that has not been paid for. Weekly cost = £1.50
- **This term it will cost £18 until Christmas.**
- Money will need to be sent in an envelope, clearly labelled with your child's name and class/teacher.
- Pupils are still welcome to bring in their own fruit/vegetable snack for playtime.



Bikes & scooters

- We love it when pupils come to school on their scooters or bikes. It all adds to our Tali Teithio data and helps us to have a positive impact on the environment.

- Polite reminder - We do request that they are only walked on school site to avoid any collisions or accidents.



In the know

- As parents, we all want to make sure our children are safe online.
- There is a range of information available to support families on Hwb. Click the link below for guidance about a range of apps.
- In the know - Hwb



Edulink information

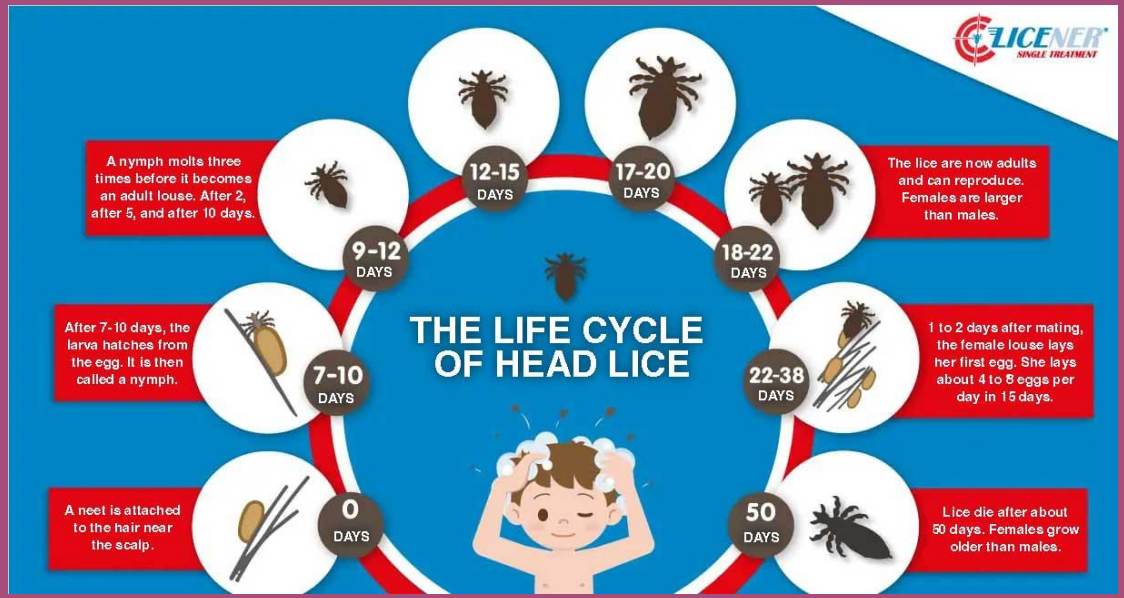
- With Edulink, you will be able to report absences, check school clubs and when the time comes - book parents evening. If you have not yet received a log in, please send us an email on admin@brynmenynps.bridgend.cymru so we can get it over to you.



HEADLICE

- We have had a few cases of headlice recently.
- Please can you help by checking your child's hair with a headlice comb.
- If needed, use a shampoo specifically designed to eliminate the crawly visitors.
- Advice can be found by clicking on the following link -
- **Head lice and nits - NHS**
- Pharmacies will also offer advice and guidance.
- Thank you for your support.





Staff CAR park

- **POLITE REMINDER**
- If you do not have a school permit to use one of the disabled bays, please do not enter the staff car park at any point.
- We all recognise that parking around school is difficult and request that everyone considers our resident neighbours.
- We have far too many cars accessing the staff car park currently and it is a health and safety hazard.
- AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS - **please use the drop off zone** to collect children attending after school club - school based and Simply After School child-care facility.
- We want to keep our grounds safe. This includes the car parks and how they are accessed.
- THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT



Healthy lunchboxes

As part of our work as a healthy school we are required to promote healthy lunchboxes.

Please click on the Welsh Government link below for advice on healthy lunchboxes.

Healthy Lunchboxes



Top tips

You do not have to use foods produced specifically for lunchboxes. Some foods, such as meat or pasta, taste just as good cold. So how about cooking extra amounts for dinner, keeping the left overs in your fridge, then using them as part of your child's lunch to take to school the next day? You could plan lunches for the week in this way to help you to save money and reduce food waste.

To help you to find healthier options at the supermarket, look at nutrition labels on the front of packs and pick those which have amber or green traffic lights for fat, saturated fat, sugars and salt where possible.

Queries or concerns

If you have a query regarding your child in school or a concern to raise please see the chart opposite for who to speak to.

You can contact the school office on 815850 who will pass the message on to the member of staff or arrange an appointment. They will get back to you as soon as possible.

Step 1
Discuss concerns with class teacher - allow time for it to be resolved.

Step 2
If you are still worried - Discuss concerns with class teacher again or with Mrs Russell - allow time for it to be resolved.

Step 3
If you are still worried - arrange a follow up meeting with Mrs Russell - allow time for it to be resolved.

Step 4
If you are still worried - contact the office to book an appointment with Miss Jones.

HELP & ADVICE



Below are a number of agencies that can offer help, support or advice.

- ★ Bridgend Women's Aid - 01656 766139
- ★ WCADA (Substance Abuse Charity) - 01656 667717
- ★ Childline - 0800 1111
- ★ Safer Wales - Male Domestic Abuse Charity - 0808 801 0321
- ★ Live Fear Free 24 hour telephone line - 0808 80 10 800
- ★ Citizens Advice Bureau - 01656 762800
- ★ Samaritans - 116123 or email jo@samaritans.org
- ★ Shelter Cymru (financial & home advice) - 08000 495 495
- ★ Al-Anon (Family support for alcoholism) - 0800 0086 811
- ★ Calan (Domestic Violence Charity) - 01639 633580

General Information

Start & End Times

Please ensure that your child is in school on time, in readiness for the school start time.

As a reminder the times are below -
All classes start time 8:55 am
(Gates open at 8:50-8:55am)
Finishing times Nursery - 3:15pm
Reception to Year 6 - 3:25pm

Up-to-date Contacts

Please ensure we have the correct and most up-to-date emergency contact details for your child. If we are unable to contact you or any of the listed contacts, following repeated attempts, we are obliged to contact Social Services for advice.

Notifying of Absence

If your child is unwell and absent from school, please can you contact the office before 10am on the first day of absence. You can telephone on 01656 815850, use Edulink or email on admin@brynmenynps.bridgend.cymru. Please get in touch with the office rather than through Dojo as those messages might be read after 10am.

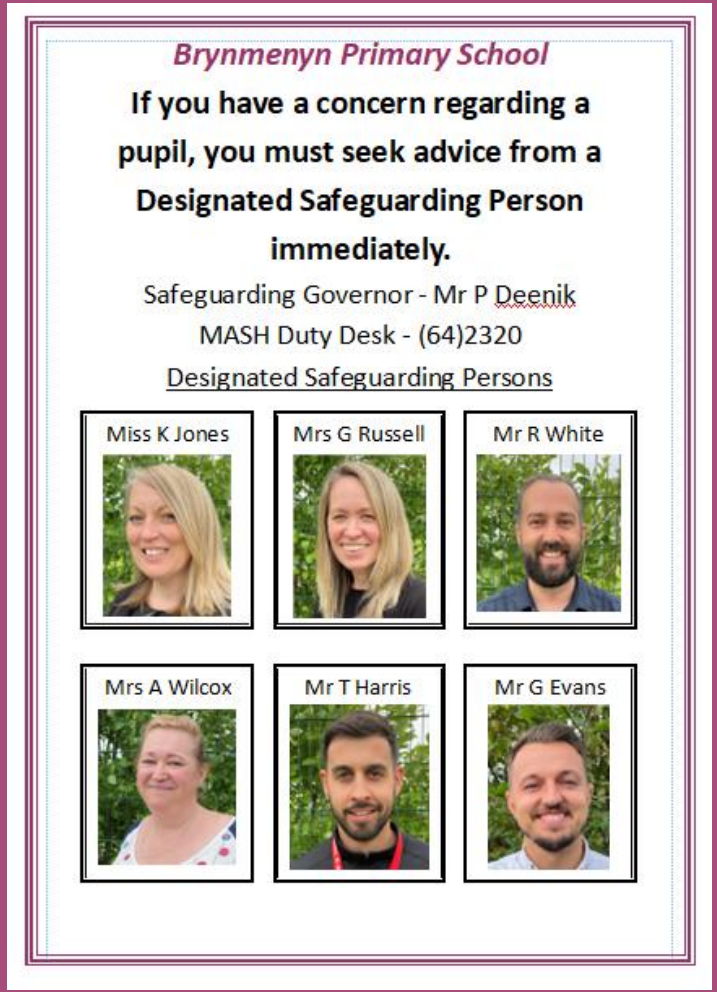
Medicines

Please can all medicines be handed in to the office and a form completed so they can be administered safely. Without the form, we are unable to administer. All medicine needs to be in the original packaging.

SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns around safeguarding, you can speak to any one of the six Designated Safeguarding Leads in school.

If you have a concern outside of school hours, you can contact the Multi Agency Support Hub on 642320.



SAFEGUARDING

- If you are concerned about any child please come and speak with any one of our names designated safeguarding leads on the poster on the previous page or ring on 01656 815850.
- If you feel a child is at risk of immediate harm or danger, ring:
- MASH – 01656 642320
- Out of Hours Emergency – 01443 743665

- Click the link below or click on the image for further information – Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)



- If a child makes an allegation of a child protection nature or staff have serious safeguarding concerns we have a legal duty to report it. There is a process which we have to follow and although this may be upsetting for all involved, the process is there to protect all children and/or adults.
- Once a referral has been made it may result in a strategy meeting between multi-agency professionals (STRAT meeting). Depending on the nature of the concerns the outcomes of the strategy meeting could result in involvement by:
- Children's Services
- Police
- Early Help
- Other support services
- If you or someone you know is struggling please let us know. We are here to help and support you.