



CYLCHLYTHYR / NEWSLETTER 05.09.25

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Well, I'm pretty sure it's already a case of "what summer holiday?" The children have made it over the shock of waking and getting ready for school and they're raring to go in their new classes. The "bore da" this morning was a lot more energetic than the one I had on day 1! I have noticed that the parents faces are completely different on the first day of the year compared to the last day. The smiles seem to be a lot bigger. I can only guess why that might be!

As it's the first newsletter we send out important reminders that will set us all off on the right foot. We will follow this up with more detail as the term progresses. There's lots to do this year and hard work will be needed. It's lovely to see all the children dressed smartly in their uniforms and they're always happy to engage in a chat whether it's about work or anything else. Here's to another great year of working together to give our children the best we possibly can. It'll be Christmas before we know it!!

Supporting your children and their learning

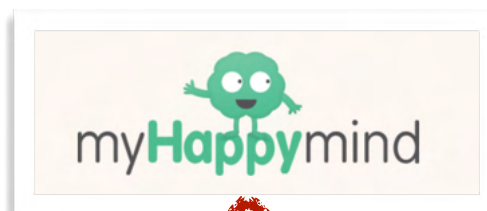
Your support at home can make all the difference. Whether it's showing an interest in what the children have learnt/done that day or preparing them for school each morning. Your help and support is always important and makes a huge difference.

If you can share some of your mistakes, try new things with them, reinforce our values of courage, brilliance and kindness, our expectations of being ready, safe and respectful or a passion for learning; that will make our community an even better place to be.

We are going to promote the joy of reading this year. It doesn't matter what you read or how you read it. We want the children to read as much as they can and enjoy it. Reading opens doors in so many ways, we'd need 6 newsletters to share them all. Anything you can do to promote the enjoyment of reading will help your children. Even if you read in front of them or read with/for them.

Maths is one thing that can divide opinion. We kindly ask that you try to promote a positive attitude to maths. Please don't tell the children it's hard or you were no good at it in school/or now!! No one is born a maths whiz. It takes a positive attitude and hard work to get good at anything and maths is no different. If the way we teach it now is confusing or different, please come and speak to us or let the children teach you. We will help! Maths teaching and learning is always evolving so we know how you feel!

Anything you can do to support your children's learning will be of benefit. It doesn't matter how big or small the action is. Every little helps! Thank you everyone.



MY HAPPY MIND

A reminder that we use this fantastic tool in school!

It's NHS backed!

My Happy Mind is very proudly commissioned by the NHS. This means that the NHS pays for 100% of our programme in some schools — all because myHappyMind has such a big impact on the children and staff and reduces CAMHS referrals significantly.

Giving today's children the skills to thrive in tomorrow's world

<https://myhappymind.org/about/>

DYDDIADAU / TERM DATES*

Autumn Term

24.10.25 School Closes 🍂
03.11.25 School Reopens
19.12.25 School Closes 🎄

Spring Term

05.09.26 Training Day Staff
06.01.26 School Reopens
13.02.26 School Closes
23.02.26 School Reopens
26.03.26 School Closes 🍌
27.03.26 Training Day Staff
13.04.26 Training Day Staff

Summer Term

14.04.26 School Reopens
22.05.26 School Closes
01.06.26 School Reopens
17.07.26 School Closes ☀️
20.07.26 Training Day Staff

*further details will follow about events. They may change.

Attendance

We already have families that are on holiday at the beginning of a new year or going very soon. This can have a negative effect on your child's experience in school for the rest of the year. This is the time when children settle in and establish themselves.

Whilst we can sympathise with the costs, work commitments and family needs of holidays in term time we cannot authorise them and they will have an impact on your child's education. The attendance policy will be followed closely and processes followed.

Attendance is national priority and closely monitored by the Welsh Government and local authorities.

We as schools are expected to do all we can to ensure children attend every session they possibly can.

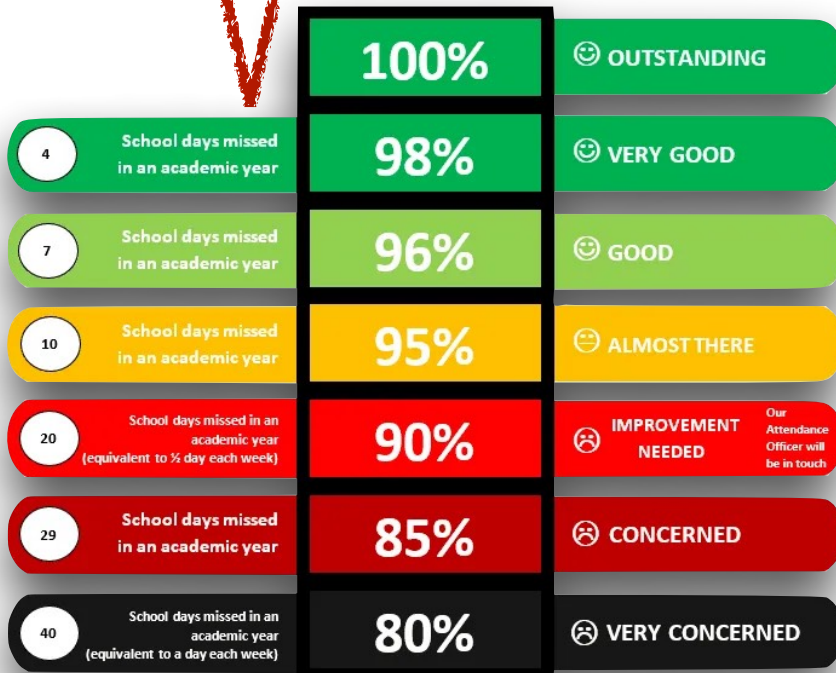
Please know that we are here to help if you need it and that we are only following the attendance policy when attendance is poor and causing a concern.

We urge you to always keep us informed of the reasons for any absence. Thank you in advance for your support.

School Uniform

The children look very smart in their school uniforms. A school uniform can promote equality by reducing socioeconomic pressure, foster a sense of belonging and school pride, enhance focus on academics by minimising fashion distractions, improve discipline and focus, and increase safety by making students easily identifiable. They also hopefully simplify morning routines for families and (we know they are not cheap) they can be more cost-effective in the long term compared to keeping up with fashion trends. We do not want clothes with a school logo and shirts, skirts, trousers and shorts can be bought from any store of your choice.

Please ensure that your child attends in their uniform everyday.



Expectations for P.E uniform. They must be plain.

Indoor P.E	Outdoor P.E
Red/White polo shirt	Red/White polo shirt.
Navy/Blue/black shorts	Navy/Blue/black shorts/tracksuit bottoms
Gym pumps	Trainers

* In the colder spells, children are able to wear tracksuit bottoms and jackets when outside.



Pupil Behaviour

We are very proud of the behaviour of our pupils. This doesn't happen by accident. We have to model good behaviour, manners and attitude in front of the children. We have our behaviour policy that we follow and the children were a part of putting it together. Children being children they will sometimes push the boundaries and/or misbehave. We will challenge this behaviour, encourage better and teach them how to be better next time. We then draw a line and move on as it's all a part and parcel of growing up. There are serious consequences for significant or persistent bad behaviour but thankfully this happens very rarely at Bryn Hedydd. We want to continue to be proud of the children's behaviour and manners here and when they are outside school or have moved to high school. It is a strength, especially in the times that we live in.

The children should always be safe, ready and respectful.

We hope that you can support us and we can work together to ensure that Bryn Hedydd is a safe and happy school to come to.
Thank you everyone

GOOD BEHAVIOUR AT SCHOOL

EXPECTATIONS	WHAT THIS MEANS	HOW TO DO IT (examples)
BE SAFE	Ensure that your actions don't harm yourself or others, and that you follow safety rules both physically and emotionally.	Follow playground and classroom rules. Walk instead of run inside the building. Use equipment properly and safely. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself. Report any dangerous situations or bullying to an adult.
BE READY	Be prepared and willing to engage in learning and school activities whatever they may be.	Bring the necessary materials (e.g., books, homework, stationery) to class. Arrive on time and line up promptly when asked. Listen attentively and follow instructions. Have a positive attitude toward learning and trying new things.
BE RESPECTFUL	Show consideration for other people, their belongings, and the school environment.	Speak kindly and politely to others. Listen when others are talking without interrupting. Respect personal space and belongings. Take care of school property and help keep the classroom clean. Be considerate of the feelings and opinions of others, even if they're different from yours.

Parental Behaviour

We want to pride ourselves on being friendly and approachable. We want to work with you as parents and carers to ensure the best for your children.

We promote honesty, respect and courtesy across the school and this is no different in the way we interact with parents and carers. We will strive to remain professional, supportive and respectful at all times when interacting with you. We ask that you do the same. Whether this is face to face, on the phone or by email/SeeSaw we expect to be treated with respect and courtesy. There may be bumps in the road where awkward conversations have to be had but these should be approached with collaboration at their heart. Together, we can work through anything that might happen. We ask that you come and speak to us if you have any concerns or worries so that we can get the heart or truth of the matter together.

A parental expectations document will be shared with everyone. We want the children, staff and parents to be safe and happy here and able to work through problems together. Thank you everyone.

The screenshot shows a school website page with the following content:

- Page Header:** Bryn Hedydd Primary School, Headteacher: Mr G. Evans, 01160 231675.
- PARENTAL CONDUCT / EXPECTATIONS:** As a school we promote respect, honesty, politeness and positive communication. Sometimes things don't always go the way we hope and difficult conversations have to take place. These conversations are always approached with collaboration and problem solving as their focus. We are here to help and support families that work with us and treat us with respect and decency.
- SeeSaw:** SeeSaw is a wonderful app that we have adopted to share and communicate with parents and carers, bringing you into school life. We want to continue developing its use, but we also need to establish clear guidelines to ensure it remains a positive platform for everyone.
 - SeeSaw is for sharing information, children's work and progress and for messages from parents about incidental things such as PE day queries or positive comments about work etc.
 - SeeSaw is not the forum to share concerns about your child's education, wellbeing or behaviour. Please make an appointment to see your teacher. This can be done through SeeSaw.
 - Staff will not be able to respond to messages instantly – they have classes to teach and work to do and cannot always reply. They will see the messages but not always straight away. If it is urgent – please call the office.
 - If parents write abusive, demanding, threatening or rude messages you will be removed from the app for a fixed period or possibly permanently. SeeSaw access is not a right.
 - Face to face/phone call meetings are the best way to sort any problems. Text is easy to misinterpret and can cause unnecessary problems.
 - SeeSaw is to be used during office hours by staff between 8.30am and 4.30pm.
- On the vast/school grounds:**
 - Teachers are available to speak briefly at the beginning of the day but they have 30 children to teach / look after and cannot offer extended time without prior arrangements/appointments.
 - Parents cannot approach and speak to children that are not their own whilst on school grounds. If there is a concern, please make a member of staff aware.
 - Parents cannot use bad language on the school grounds as no one sends their child to school to hear this. You will be asked to stop, leave the grounds or be banned from the site.
 - Parents that are aggressive, demanding, intimidating, shouting, behave unreasonably towards staff, other parents or children will be asked to leave the school site. If they refuse, the Police will be called. This behaviour can lead to being banned from the school grounds for a fixed period or permanently.
 - Parents that deliberately, loudly bad mouth staff, the school or undermine the school so that others can hear will also be removed or banned from the school grounds. This behaviour is unacceptable. Please make appointments to discuss any concerns. We are here to help.
- WhatsApp / Social Media:**
 - WhatsApp/social media is not a place to air perceived grievances, rile people up and write vile things about staff, parents, children or the school. If there's a concern please come and talk to us as we want to work with you.
 - The problems that can be caused within school due to parental social media groups is unacceptable and staff will not be expected to deal with these issues or put up with any abuse or vexatious allegations.
 - If any of the unacceptable content about the staff, school or children in the messages is shared with us, they will be forwarded to the relevant authorities.
 - If you are concerned about something you've seen a parent post on social media and feel it might be a serious or legal issue you can report this to the Headteacher/Governors.
- Face to face / phone calls:**
 - We will not accept foul language from parents/carers especially in front of children and we will terminate the meeting.
 - Threats of any kind will not be tolerated. We promote respect and politeness at Ysgol Bryn Hedydd.
 - We will not accept abusive language, shouting, degrading, rude behaviour and will terminate the meeting / phone call immediately after informing you of the reason.
 - Meetings / phone calls will be organised for mutually convenient times. They won't always be immediate as the staff have classes to teach and other commitments.
 - If parents/carers fail to follow our expectations we can refuse to meet with them and put an action plan in place for limited contact or ultimately parents being banned from the school.

Logos at the bottom include: Education, Pivotal Education, Investors in People, and Ysgol Bryn Hedydd.

Mobile Phones / Smart Devices

There is a growing consensus amongst parents and professionals that mobile devices and social media are not good for developing minds. The problems caused by social media could be a full time role to try to fix. I'm sure if schools could ban social media and phones permanently, they would!!

I could write a list of the issues we and other schools have to deal with because of them. We know that children who walk to school use a phone or device so that parents can track them.

We do not allow the use of mobile phones, smart watches or devices on the school grounds. As soon as the children enter school they should turn off their device and when they enter the building they have to place them in the digital drop boxes. They are safe in school and we will contact parents if needed.

If they are caught using their device in school it will be confiscated and parents will need to attend school to collect the device. Thank you for your support with this.



HEALTHY SCHOOLS - SNACKS AND LUNCH

We are promoting healthy choices and snacks at school. It is part of our curriculum and we take it seriously.

For **snack times** children are expected to bring:

Water as a drink in a named bottle

Fruits such as apples, bananas, fruit kebabs, melon...

Vegetables such as carrots, peppers, cucumber, celery sticks...

A piece of cheese such as cheddar, mini babybel

Plain breadsticks, oatcakes, pitta bread

No fizzy or sugary drinks such as squash, fruit juice, cola, lemonade etc...

No sweets or chocolate, fruit winders etc..

Fried and/or meat products such as sausage rolls or pepperami.

Dinner times

We are not the lunchbox police. We encourage you to keep any treats to a minimum in the children's lunchboxes. We appreciate that sandwiches/dinner can need a little encouragement to eat but healthy options are preferable.

The Universal free school meals mean that every child from Reception to Year 6 is entitled to a meal from the canteen at school. The menu has changed to be even healthier and to accommodate even more allergies. It's a great choice to take if your children will try it at least once.

There are currently more children eating school dinners than ever before.

These foods are not permitted or are restricted		
Types of food	Description	
 Cakes and biscuits	Such as jaffa cakes, digestive biscuits, swiss roll, jam tarts	not allowed
 Confectionery	Such as chocolate, boiled sweets, cereal bars, marshmallows	not allowed
 Savoury snacks	Such as crisps, baked crisps, corn snacks, popcorn	not allowed
 Salt	Not available for pupils to add to food	not allowed
 Drinks	Such as squash, fizzy drinks, flavoured water, sports drinks	not allowed
 Condiments	Such as ketchup and mayonnaise must not provide more than 10ml	restricted*
 Meat products	Such as sausage rolls, corned beef pasties, pork pies	restricted*
 Potato products	Such as chips, potato waffles	restricted*
 Products cooked in fat/oil	Such as fish fingers, nuggets	restricted*

These foods are permitted		
Types of food	Description	
 Fruit and vegetables	Must be available at all serving outlets, e.g. as fresh, frozen, tinned (in fruit juice)	✓
 Water	Free, fresh drinking water should be available	✓
 Dairy products	Such as semi-skimmed milk, yoghurts, custard, rice pudding, cheese	✓
 Meat and fish	Fresh and tinned fish such as salmon, tuna, mackerel. Meat such as ham, chicken, lamb, beef	✓
 Breakfast cereals with semi skimmed milk	Such as wheat biscuit, rice snaps. No added sugar or cocoa	✓
 Bread based products	Such as sandwiches, wraps, bagels, English muffins, crumpets	✓

DIGITAL CONSENT FORM

Please can we ask that all parents fill in the digital consent form so that we can see which children are allowed on our various media platforms. **As you can imagine, this is very important. Thank you very much.**

<https://forms.office.com/e/kphtFHX8dm>



Building Updates

We have had a new ceiling in the hall with new energy saving lights. I can now (maybe) cancel the earplug subscription for the lunchtime staff!

The year 4 corridor and wet area at the end have been painted, the year 5 wet area has new flooring, year 6 is now updated and finished with ceilings, floors and lights and the new HUB building is up and running.

We have to beg, steal and borrow to improve our school environment but we're getting there slowly. The outdoor areas will need updating this year and the next.



Our Breakfast Club

Reception to Year 6 children

You can sign up for Breakfast club quickly and easily with a form from the office.

Payment and booking is through ParentPay.

£1.50 per session for the first child

£1.25 per session for siblings

COOL CATS - No cars please.

A reminder that our car park is for staff and not for public use.

Pick up and drop off for Cool Cats is by walking down the path next to the side of school.

We ask that no cars come into the car park for Cool Cats and that parents don't walk through the car park.

We have had some close calls with cars coming in and people walking through the car park. It isn't safe as it's a busy place, narrow and at peak times with staff cars reversing and parking it can become dangerous.



Please park outside the school.

Please use the path provided.

Thank you for your support!



Seesaw

Please remember to keep an eye on SeeSaw for class and school updates.

Emails will also be sent out with important information. Please ensure we have all of your up to date contact details.



YSGOL BRYN HEDYDD

Courage, Brilliance, Kindness