Dydd Llun 16eg Tachwedd 2026

YSGOL BWLCHGWYN BULLETIN



...aiming high in all that we do.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and exciting few weeks across the school, with lots of wonderful learning taking place. The children have enjoyed a wide range of curriculum activities and enrichment opportunities, designed to enhance their learning experiences, spark curiosity and bring their topics to life. It has been lovely to see their enthusiasm and engagement, with so many opportunities for them to develop new skills and celebrate their achievements.

We are now looking ahead to the Christmas season, which is always such a special and magical time in our school calendar. We have lots of exciting events and festive celebrations planned, and we look forward to making some wonderful memories together. The coming weeks will be filled with opportunities for the children to enjoy the excitement of the season and take part in some special experiences.

Please continue to check your child's Seesaw Blog for updates on their learning and the MCAS app for important dates, reminders and upcoming events. Our monthly school bulletin will also keep you informed about news and achievements across the school.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a wonderful and festive few weeks ahead!

Kind regards,
Mrs Fox

Attendance and Punctuality Matter!

Regular attendance and punctuality are essential to helping children make the most of their learning and achieve their full potential. Arriving on time ensures children are settled, ready to learn and don't miss important teaching and activities at the start of the day. Every day and every minute counts! Thank you to all our families for your continued support in ensuring children attend school regularly and arrive on time.

A reminder that we use a RAG system to categorise attendance:

🟢 Green: 96-100% attendance
🟠 Amber: 93-95.9% attendance
🔴 Red: Below 93% attendance

ATTENDANCE FOR THIS HALF TERM
96.5%

If your child is going to be absent from school, please ring the office by 9:15am so we can update the register. 01978 269930.

If no reason is given for a child's absence, we will phone home as part of our first day calls.

PTFA News

Our PTFA AGM has now taken place, where we discussed lots of exciting fundraising events and activities planned for the year ahead. Mrs Jane Williams was voted in as Chair, and we look forward to another successful year of fundraising.

If you would like to get involved or support the PTFA but were unable to attend the meeting, please let us know and we can add you to our communications.

A huge thank you to everyone who supports our fundraising events and helps us raise valuable funds to provide additional opportunities and resources for our children. Your support is greatly appreciated!

easyfundraising

You can support our school simply by shopping online through Easyfundraising! Many retailers will donate a percentage of your purchase to our school at no extra cost to you. Every little contribution makes a difference, so please consider signing up and supporting us whenever you shop. Click the below link:

Bwlchgwyn Easy Fundraising

Dosbarth Meithrin a Derbyn

Amazing Animals

Nursery and Reception have made a fantastic start to the term, settling happily into their new routines and exploring the learning environment through play, curiosity and discovery. The children have been learning about autumn, investigating seasonal changes and exploring the animals and natural world around them. They have also thoroughly enjoyed their 'Wellies in the Woods' sessions, using stories and outdoor exploration to develop their understanding of the environment.

Back in the classroom, the children have followed recipes to make their own playdough, explored expressing and understanding feelings, practised forming numbers to 5 and 10, and developed their knowledge of letter sounds. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they embrace new experiences and learning opportunities.
Remember to see more learning on the class Seesaw blog.



SeeSaw Blog - you can access what the children have been learning about each week using the links below:

- Meithrin (Nursery): https://app.seesaw.me/blog/meithrin2627
- Derby (Reception): https://app.seesaw.me/blog/derbyn2627 (please contact the school for the password)

Dosbarth 1

Circus

Year 1 and 2 have thoroughly enjoyed their exciting circus topic! The children have developed their research skills, exploring different aspects of circus life and discovering how circuses have changed over time. They have also considered the ethical issues surrounding the use of animals in circuses, using their ideas to write a letter to Mr Big Top, sharing their thoughts and posing some interesting questions.

Creativity has been at the heart of their learning too, as the children explored the artwork of Marc Chagall and worked together to create a colourful circus collage. They also enjoyed a fantastic 'Hula Hula' circus experience, where they had the opportunity to learn some fun circus skills, including stilts, diabolo and simple juggling. There has been lots of excitement, creativity and fantastic learning along the way!
You can access further information about the children's learning through the SeeSaw blog.



SeeSaw Blog - you can access what the children have been learning about each week using the links below:

- Dosbarth 1: https://app.seesaw.me/blog/class1202627 (please contact the school for the password)

Dosbarth 2

The Brave, The Bad and The Beasties

Year 3 and 4 have been immersed in their topic, The Brave, The Bad and The Beasties. The children have explored descriptive writing, creating their own pieces inspired by The Dream Giver. They have developed their vocabulary and grammar, using exciting language, including similes and metaphors, to make their writing more imaginative.

They have also been discovering the fascinating world of rainforests, exploring their global locations, temperatures, layers and the positive and negative impacts of deforestation. Alongside this, the children have been working towards their enterprise projects, developing entrepreneurial skills through designing, planning, costing and promoting their ideas, while exploring profit and loss.

There is still plenty more to explore, including diversity and other exciting themes. For further information, please see the termly topic plan.
Remember to access the class Seesaw blog.



SeeSaw Blog - you can access what the children have been learning about each week using the links below:

- Dosbarth 2: https://app.seesaw.me/blog/dosbarth2for2026to27 (please contact the school for the password)

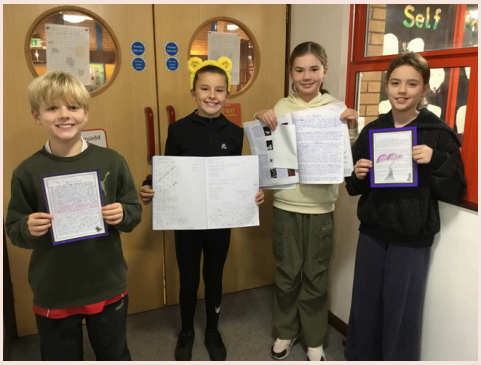
Dosbarth 3

Crime and Punishment

Year 5 and 6 have been exploring 'The Highwayman' poem, using it as inspiration to create their own narratives. The children have demonstrated fantastic writing skills, using sophisticated vocabulary, carefully structured paragraphs and descriptive language to build tension, create atmosphere and develop mood. They have also experimented with inner monologue to bring their characters to life and make their writing even more engaging.

In topic, the children have been investigating crime and punishment, exploring how laws and punishments have changed over time. A highlight was their visit to Ruthin Gaol, where they experienced first-hand what life was like in a Victorian prison, bringing their historical learning to life.

Alongside this, the children have been developing their entrepreneurial skills through their enterprise projects. They have used their literacy, numeracy and digital skills to promote their designs, explored profit and loss, and developed their problem-solving skills by adapting and refining their ideas.



SeeSaw Blog - you can access what the children have been learning about each week using the links below:

- Dosbarth 3: https://app.seesaw.me/blog/c32627 (please contact the school for the password)

Enterprise Fair!

A reminder that our Enterprise Fair is on this Wednesday 18th November straight after school. Come and support our young entrepreneurs at our Enterprise Fair. Each class will be selling handmade gifts, crafts and creations, while Class 3 will be taking on their exciting 'Grow a £10 Note' challenge with games and products from their business groups.

Every purchase helps support our school fundraising efforts. Please note: Year 5 and 6 pupils will stay after school to run their stalls and should finish by 4:30pm. We look forward to seeing you there!! 😊

Teams4U

We were delighted to welcome Teams4U into school to share information about their Shoebox Appeal. We are proud to be supporting this worthwhile initiative and encourage families to get involved by putting together a shoebox for a child.

Further information and details of how to take part can be found on their website: https://teams4u.com/

All shoeboxes will be collected on 20th November, so please ensure any contributions are brought into school by 19th November. Thank you for your support and generosity!



Harvest Coffee Afternoon ☕🍰

Our Harvest Coffee Afternoon was a huge success, bringing families together and celebrating our wonderful school community.
It was lovely to see so many parents and carers joining us for the occasion.

Thanks to everyone's generosity and support, we raised an amazing £136.00.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed!



Christmas Pantomimes

Christmas wouldn't be complete without a trip to the pantomime! We are delighted that our children will have the opportunity to enjoy some festive theatre this year. Reception to Year 2 will be visiting The Stiwt to watch Jack and the Beanstalk, while Years 3 to 6 will be heading to Theatre Clwyd to enjoy Rock 'n' Roll Cinderella. We are looking forward to two fantastic festive experiences!

Arts Council of Wales

We are thrilled to have been successful in securing a grant of £980 from the Arts Council of Wales to contribute towards the cost of these trips. This funding will significantly subsidise the visits, helping to keep the cost to parents and carers as low as possible.

We are very grateful for this support and the opportunities it provides for our children.



Thank You to Kellogg's

A huge thank you to Kellogg's for generously donating cereal boxes and cereal bars for all our children as part of their initiative to encourage a healthy breakfast and a positive start to the day. Having breakfast helps support children's wellbeing, concentration and readiness to learn. We are incredibly grateful for their generosity and support in helping our children get the best possible start to their school day!





Music Cooperative

Year 3 and 4 have enjoyed taking part in 'First Experiences' sessions with the Music Cooperative, giving them the opportunity to explore and try out a range of musical instruments. These sessions have been a fantastic introduction to music and developing new skills.

The Music Cooperative also offers ongoing music lessons in school for children in Years 3–6, at a cost of £40 per term. If your child is interested in taking part, please contact the school office for further information.



St. John's Ambulance

We were delighted to welcome St John Ambulance to school, where they delivered engaging and practical sessions on life-saving first aid skills for children in Years 3 to 6. Pupils learned how to respond in an emergency, the importance of staying calm, and had the opportunity to practise CPR techniques. The sessions were both informative and inspiring, helping children build confidence and develop valuable skills that could one day help save a life. We would like to thank St John Ambulance for providing this memorable learning experience.



Information

You can access all of our class topic overviews on our school website:
Click here to access

Please have a look at our Class Blogs on Seesaw to see more of the children's learning experiences.

You can also follow us on Facebook @Ysgol Gynradd Bwlchgwyn

Additional Financial Support for Families

Families may be eligible for extra financial support to help with the cost of school uniform, equipment and some educational visits.

In Wales, all pupils in primary school receive a free lunch through the Universal Primary Free School Meals scheme. However, it is still important to apply for Free School Meals if you think you may be eligible, even if your child already receives a free school meal.

Applying for Free School Meals may give you access to additional support, including:

- The School Essentials Grant to help with the cost of school uniform and equipment.
- Financial assistance or remission towards some school trips and activities.

We strongly encourage all eligible families to apply.

To check your eligibility and submit an application, please visit:
https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/service/school-meals/free-school-meals

ParentPay

Snack, events and trip payments must be paid in advance via ParentPay. School meals must also be booked in advance by 8am. If you require any support with ParentPay please contact the school office.

ADMISSIONS

🎒 Reception Class

- Applications open: 21 September 2026
- Applications close: 15 January 2027
- Offer date: 16 April 2027

🧸 Nursery

- Applications open: 5 January 2027
- Applications close: 15 February 2027
- Offer date: 5 May 2027

Snack

As part of our commitment to promoting healthy eating, we offer a healthy snack in school for just £1.50 per week. Snacks are provided daily and include a range of nutritious fruit.

Payment can be made on ParentPay.

If your child brings a snack from home, we kindly ask that it is fruit or vegetables only to support our healthy eating approach and help encourage positive lifelong habits.

Thank you for your support.

https://www.wrexham.gov.uk/service/-admissions

After School Clubs

Dance & Gym Club - every Friday
More clubs will resume in the Spring term

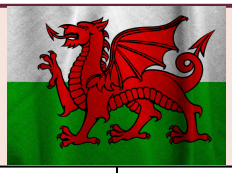
Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is open every morning from 7:55am, providing children with a calm, welcoming start to the school day. A healthy breakfast and positive morning routine can help children feel settled, focused and ready to learn, supporting their wellbeing and achievement throughout the day. There is a small charge for the childcare element of the provision. Please contact the school for more information or to enquire about a place.

Welsh Phrases

We are continuing to develop the use of Welsh across Ysgol Bwlchgwyn and encourage all children to use Welsh wherever possible throughout the day. Please support us by encouraging your child to use Welsh words and phrases at home. Why not have a go yourself and challenge yourself to learn and use some Welsh too? Every little bit helps! Diolch am eich cefnogaeth.

Try some simple greetings



Cymraeg	Saesneg
Bore da	Good morning
Prynhawn da	Good afternoon
Hwyl Fawr	Goodbye
No da	Good night

Cabin Crew

Bwlchgwyn Cabin Crew

Cabin Crew will be open until Wednesday 23rd December 2026. It will then reopen on Monday 4th January 2027. Bookings can be made in the usual way via:
iPAL: Booking, payment and management system - Login (ipalbookings.com)

BWLCHGWYN CABIN CREW FLYING START (FUNDED CHILDCARE FOR 2 YR OLDS)
Welsh Government Flying Start 2-year-old funded childcare has been extended to include postcodes in Bwlchgwyn and Gwynfryn, in addition to other local areas which include Brymbo, Bryn Cefn, Coedpoeth, Minera & New Broughton. This means that local families now have the opportunity to apply for funded childcare through Bwlchgwyn Cabin Crew.

What does this mean for you?
Parents and carers can now apply for a Flying Start place for their child from as young as 15 months, allowing children to start their childcare placement from the term after their 2nd birthday and continue until they turn 3 years old. Children who are not eligible for the funded places yet can still attend our Playgroup sessions, open for all children aged 2+ years each weekday morning between 9:00am - 11:30am, alongside our Flying Start provision. Playgroup plus sessions are also available between 11:30am until 3:10pm. Playgroup and flying start sessions include an opportunity for children to have lots of fun, get messy, learn new skills and build relationships with other children that will be in their year/class in school.

We are proud to be part of this initiative and to offer Flying Start places to our local community. This is a fantastic opportunity to give your child access to high-quality early education and care, fully funded by the Welsh Government.

If you're interested or would like more information about the Flying Start funding and how to apply, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We are more than happy to answer any questions or provide assistance in the application process.

Apply here: Flying Start Childcare Offer for 2 year olds | Wrexham County Borough Council

We look forward to welcoming new children and supporting all our little learners on their journey!

Email: bwlchgwyncabincrew@hotmail.co.uk Call: 01978 756718

Key Dates

Training Days 2026-2027

~~Monday 1st September 2026~~
~~Tuesday 2nd September 2026~~
~~Monday 2nd November 2026~~
Monday 4th January 2027
Monday 19th July 2027
Tuesday 20th July 2027

October 2026

~~Wednesday 14th October: Harvest Coffee Afternoon (2:30 - 4:00pm)~~

~~Wednesday 14th October: Meet the Teacher (3:15 - 4:00pm)~~

~~20th - 22nd October: Parent Telephone Appointments (see individual class appointments on link)~~

~~Thursday 22nd October: PTFA Halloween Disco (3:15-4:15pm Reception-Year 2; 4:30-5:45pm Years 3-6)~~

~~26th - 30th October - Half term (School closed)~~

November 2026

- ~~Monday 2nd November: Training day~~
- ~~Tuesday 12th - Flu Vaccinations~~
- ~~Friday 13th - Children in Need Day and Bring a bottle donation for the enterprise fair~~
- 16th - 20th - Anti-bullying Week
- Wednesday 18th - Enterprise Fair afterschool

December 2026

- Thursday 3rd December: Christmas Dinner Day
- Thursday 10th December: Nursery Christmas Concert 9.30am
- Thursday 10th December: Reception - Year 2 Christmas Concert. Two performances:
- 1:30pm
- 3:45pm
- *Children will stay in school for the 2nd performance
- Friday 11th December: Reception - Year 2 (9:00 - 12:00pm)

December 2026

- Tuesday 15th December:
- 10:30am - Community Carols
- 5:00pm - Carols by Candlelight
- Wednesday 16th December: Christmas Party Day
- Thursday 17th December: Year 3-6 Panto Trip (arriving back in school for around 4:30pm)
- Friday 18th December: Last day in school!
- 19th - 3rd January: Christmas Holidays

January 2027

- Monday 4th - Training day School closed to children
- 25th-27th - Bikeability Year 5 and 6
- 25th January - Santes Dwynwen Disco:

3:15-4:15pm Reception - Year 2
4:30-5:30pm Year 3-6

February 2027

6th - 14th - Half term
Monday 8th - Back to school
Wednesday 24th - Tempest photos
Friday 26th - PTFA Quiz (Years 3-6 only)

March 2027

Monday 1st - St. David's Day - Eisteddfod
Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd - PTFA Mother's and Others Stall
Thursday 4th March - World Book Day
3rd-5th - Year 5 and 6 to Glan Llyn
Friday 12th - PTFA Non school uniform (bring an Easter Egg/Chocolate)
16th - 18th - Parent's Evenings
Wednesday 17th - Easter Bingo
20th - 4th April - Easter Holidays

April 2027

Monday 5th - Back to school

Please note: Dates are accurate at the time of publication but may be subject to change. We will inform parents and carers of any significant updates as soon as possible.