Friday 2 October 2026

Dydd Gwener 2 Hydref 2026



Griffithstown Primary School Gazette

www.griffithstown-primary.co.uk
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Monthly Snapshot

You Said.... We Did

In July, we invited parents and carers to share their views on a range of aspects of school life. We are very grateful to everyone who took the time to respond. Your views matter to us, and we have listened carefully to your feedback, using it to inform our ongoing self-evaluation and school improvement planning.

A summary of what you told us, along with how we are responding, can be found later in this edition of the Gazette.

Have Your Say

Thank you to all who have already completed our Parent Survey for the start of the 2026-27 year. You still have time to complete this survey:
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/UHV25gm5Nv

Presenting Our New School Council

After a closely contested election, our new School Council is officially up and running! The successful representatives met with Mrs Pugh on Monday 21st September to share their manifestos and agree their priorities for the year ahead.

The Council then presented these priorities to the whole school during assembly the following Monday. Our representatives are already full of enthusiasm and ideas, and we look forward to seeing their pupil voice turn into positive action across our school.



Meet The Teacher

We were delighted to welcome so many parents into school last week. The sessions provided a great opportunity to share information about phonics, reading, routines and expectations, as well as to strengthen the important partnership between school and home. Thank you for making the time to attend. Your support and involvement are greatly valued as we work together to help every child thrive.

Attendance

We automatically send attendance letters at certain points during the school year so that parents are kept up to date with their child's attendance. We fully appreciate that children become ill from time to time and, when your child is unwell or contagious, keeping them at home is absolutely the right thing to do. The letter is simply to keep you informed and should not be seen as a criticism of genuine absences. Our aim is to work together with families to support children's health, wellbeing and regular attendance so that they can make the most of their time in school.

Up & Coming

October - Black History Month

8th - Harvest Festival at St. Hilda's Church
9th - Progress Certificates sent home
13th & 14th - Parent/Teacher Consultations
(Book fair in school all week.)
15th - Diwrnod Shwmae
16th - Show Racism The Red Card
Nurs / Rec - Flu immunisations
21st - F.O.G.S. Halloween Discos
23rd - Half term

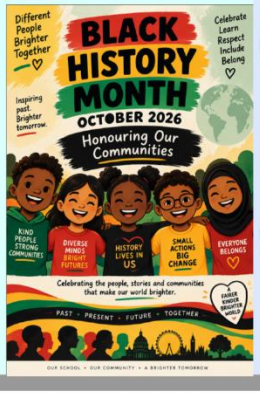
Seren Yr Wythnos

10th, 17th, 25th, September & 2nd October

Mr Pembrey	Adele R, Kacey-May W, Oliver P, Rory Y
Miss Thomas	Evie A, Carl J, Tristan C, Elara B
Mr Franklin	Bradley M, Kallie R, Annabella B, Brody M
Miss Hall	Ayra B, Jay B, Sienna S, Lillie P
Mr McDonnell	Summer R, Danny H, Khalid F, Esme R
Miss Lloyd	Samuel T, Mason L, George B, Anna G
Mrs Jordan	Sofia L, Oliver CH, Haniya, Lily-Grace
Miss Evans	Carter S,Harri S, Amara G, Millie C
Miss Charles	Miles R, Elias C, Osian P, Lyra C
Miss Murphy	Archie, Albie, Joud and Bella
Mrs Jones/Ms C-Brown	Teddy S, Evie H, Oliver MR, Emily S
Mrs Hawksworth	Archie , Leia, Phoenix, Harley-James

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Sharing Success Outside School

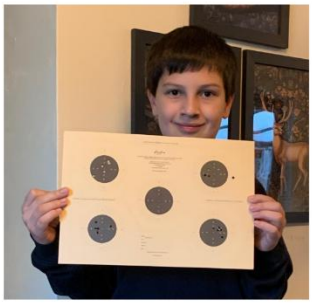
Llongyfarchiadau!



Lornna-Rose(Y1) has passed her first dance exam. Da iawn, Lornna-Rose.



Evelyn (Y3) has passed Nofio 7 - just one more to go! Freya (Y4) has completed Nofio 8. Haydn (Y3) has achieved Nofio 3.



Neirin (Y6) is celebrating one year membership at Torfaen Smallbore and Rifle Club and will be attending the annual evening gala later this month to celebrate his achievements.

Huge congratulations to Ben & Freddie who have secured their places on the Pontypool Schools District rugby team.



Avery has moved into the Dance Stars group. Congratulations, Avery!





Congratulations to Sean (Y1) who received his milestone wristband at Junior Park Run on Sunday to celebrate ten Park Runs. Da iawn!



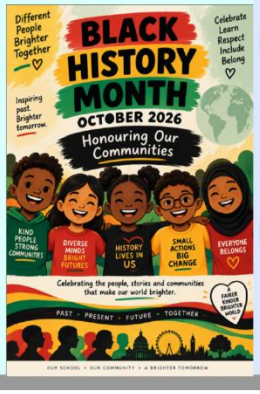
Evie (Y6) took part in a rugby festival for her club (Abergavenny) on Sunday where they played 6 games against 6 different teams. They went on to win the festival with Evie scoring the winning try in one of the games. Bendigedig!

Carter (Y2) received the 'Player Of The Match' trophy in his recent football match. Gwych!



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Griffithstown Primary School School Council 2026 - 27



Our Mission

We are the **voice** of the pupils. Our mission is to **listen**, **share ideas** and **take action** to make our school happier, more exciting, inclusive and welcoming for everyone.

Together, we will improve our school and make sure every child has the chance to **be heard.**

Your voice matters!

Our School Council supports the UNCRC:

Article 12: every child has the right to express their views about matters that affect them and for those views to be listened to and taken seriously.

Article 19: every child has the right to be kept safe from harm.

Article 31: Every child has the right to play and relax.

★ Our Priorities for 2026/27 ★

This year, our School Council will work together to:

1. Make playtimes more exciting by improving the activities and equipment available to pupils.
2. Create a calm outdoor area for children who would prefer a quiet space during playtimes.
3. Provide more opportunities for cooking and practical food activities in school.
4. Make lunchtimes more inclusive by exploring more menu options for children with allergies and dietary needs.
5. Care for our school environment by working together to keep our school grounds litter-free.
6. Make learning fun and engaging by sharing pupils' ideas about activities they enjoy and would like to see more of in school.
7. Review our School Expectations so that they are clear, positive and understood by everyone.

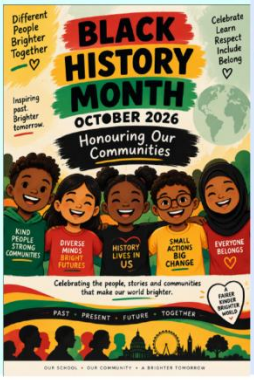
Better ideas
Brighter days
A stronger school

★ Our Promise ★

We will **listen.** We will **represent.** We will **take action.** We will **make a difference.**

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Meet our new 'Reading Rangers'

Our Reading Rangers are passionate about books and play an important role in promoting reading across the school. They help inspire others to discover new stories, share their love of reading and encourage everyone to become confident, enthusiastic readers.



Word of the Month

Magnificent (adjective)

Meaning: Extremely impressive or beautiful.

Challenge: *Can you use this word in a sentence this week?*

October Reading Challenge



Can you read.....?

- **1 funny book**
- **1 non-fiction book**
- **1 book recommended by a friend**

Summer Reading Challenge winner!





Llongyfarchiadau to Isaac, the winner of the Summer Reading Challenge! We are incredibly proud of his achievement and hope his enthusiasm for reading inspires other learners to discover the joy of a good book.

GRIFFITHSTOWN BookWorms

We want to hear from YOU!

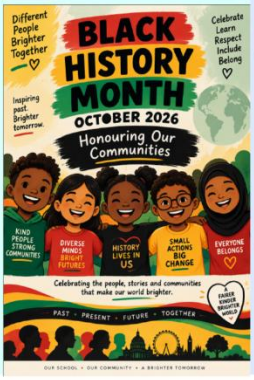
Griff's Reading Recommendations

Do you have a book you can recommend?

Scan the QR code to access the Microsoft Form and share a short recommendation for a book you have enjoyed reading. Your recommendation could be featured in the next edition of the Gazette, and if you need help, please ask an adult to support you.

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Hwyl am y tro, Miss Thomas, a Chroeso i'r Criw Cymraeg newydd!

Bye for now Miss Thomas, and Welcome to the new Criw Cymraeg!

Miss R Thomas has embarked on an exciting new opportunity, taking part in the Welsh Sabbatical Scheme from September to April. During this time, she will be further developing her Welsh language skills and exploring ways to strengthen Welsh language provision across the school. In her absence, Miss Charles has kindly taken over the Criw Cymraeg Clwb, and we are delighted to welcome our new members for 2026-2027. We look forward to seeing how they develop their leadership skills and promote, encourage and celebrate the Welsh language throughout the school community.





The Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy aims to reach one million Welsh speakers by the year 2050, helping to ensure that the Welsh language continues to thrive for future generations. Parents and carers play a vital role in this journey by encouraging and celebrating the use of Welsh at home, helping children to see the language as a natural part of everyday life. Primary schools are also central to achieving this ambition, as they provide children with the foundations, confidence and opportunities needed to develop their Welsh language skills from an early age. By working together, schools and families can inspire the next generation of Welsh speakers and contribute to a vibrant bilingual Wales.





Dysgu Cymraeg (Learning Welsh):

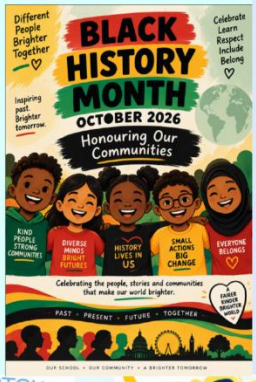
- Develops pride in Wales, our culture and our national language.
- Supports cognitive development and the benefits associated with learning an additional language.
- Creates future opportunities through employment and career pathways where Welsh language skills are increasingly valued.
- Enables us to communicate with more people and build connections with different communities and cultures.
- Encourages respect for our language and heritage.

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GRIFFITHSTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Maths Minions

October



Meet Our Maths Minions

I am very excited to announce our new Maths Minions, our very own Maths Ambassadors, helping children to develop their confidence, curiosity and love of learning maths.

Please give a big welcome to Rex and Elena, Hargun and Elijah, Noah and James, Bella and Evie, Sapphire, Harvey and Jaia, Jacob and Raer who have taken on the important role of becoming this year's Maths Minions.

We are enthusiastic mathematicians who want to make maths fun, exciting, accessible and engaging across our school.

We are on a mission to make maths more fun and engaging!

Our Mission

We will:

- **Make maths fun and engaging** by suggesting maths games, puzzles, challenges and activities.
- **Celebrate mathematical achievements** and recognise children who are making great progress or showing fantastic mathematical thinking.
- **Encourage maths talk** by helping children to talk about, enjoy and explore mathematics.
- **Share and celebrate parents' ideas** for fun and engaging maths activities and games that children can enjoy at home.
- **Help children see maths in the world around us** and discover that maths isn't just something we do in our maths lessons!
- **Encourage children, families and staff to share their own ideas** for making maths fun.

We can't wait to see what our Maths Minions get up to this year!

Maths Game to Play at Home

Race to 100!

You only need two players and a dice!

How to play:

1. Start at 0.
2. Take turns rolling a dice.
3. Add the number you roll to your running total.
4. Keep going until someone reaches 100.
5. The winner is the player who gets to exactly 100!

Challenge!

Can you develop a strategy to help you win? For an extra challenge, try playing Race to 50, Race to 200 or use two dice!

Maths talk:

Ask your child, "How did you decide what to do?" or "Can you spot a pattern?"

Number Rhyme of the Month

October Number Rhyme

Five little pumpkins sitting on a gate,
The first one says, "Oh my, it's getting late!"
The second one says, "There are bats in the air!"
The third one says, "But we don't care!"
The fourth one says, "Let's run and run and run!"
The fifth one says, "Isn't autumn fun?"
Then "Ooooo!" went the wind,
And out went the lights,
And the five little pumpkins
Rolled out of sight!

Maths challenge:

Can you use the rhyme to practise:

- **Counting backwards:** 5, 4, 3, 2, 1
- **Counting forwards:** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
- **Number bonds:** How many pumpkins are left when 2 roll away?
- **Subtraction:** What is 5 – 3?
- **Doubling:** What would 5 pumpkins look like doubled?

MAGIC NUMBERS – OCTOBER

MAGIC NUMBER: 12

- There are 12 months in a year.
- There are 12 numbers on a traditional clock face.

MAGIC NUMBER: 63

- 63 is an odd number.
- It is made up of 6 tens and 3 ones.
- $63 = 7 \times 9$.

Did you know?

Saturn takes about 29½ years to orbit the Sun — so someone who is 63 Earth years old would have completed just over two Saturn orbits!

Maths challenge:

Can you find three different calculations that have an answer of 63?

MAGIC NUMBER: 18

- 18 is an even number.
- $18 = 9 + 9$.
- $18 = 3 \times 6$.
- 18 has 6 factors: 1, 2, 3, 6, 9 and 18.
- A standard round of golf has 18 holes!

Maths challenge:

How many different ways can you make 18 using addition, subtraction, multiplication and division?

Maths at Home

We would love to hear your ideas too!

Have you discovered a brilliant maths game, puzzle, challenge or activity that your family enjoys? Share your ideas with us!

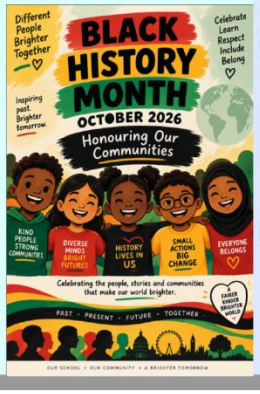
You might even see your family's maths idea featured in a future Gazette!

Remember...

- ✓ Maths is everywhere!
- ✓ Maths is for everyone!
- ✓ Let's make maths fun!

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Parent Questionnaire Summer 2026

Survey Summary

There were 82 responses to Parent Questionnaire in July 2026.

Question	Positive (Agree/Always/Most)	Negative (Disagree/Almost Never/Some)	Don't Know / N/A
My child likes this school	93%	7%	0%
The school helped my child settle in well when they started	96%	4%	0%
I believe my child is safe in school	89%	11%	0%
School deals with bullying, harassment or discrimination well	74%	8%	18%
School offers interesting learning experiences, trips and visits	94%	6%	0%
My child receives the additional support they need	83%	17%	0%
School keeps me informed about my child's progress	87%	13%	0%
School seeks my views as a parent/carer	82%	18%	0%
School considers my feedback and responds to it	73%	27%	N/A responses included
Leaders respond appropriately to issues raised	84%	16%	N/A responses included
School shares important information clearly and in a timely way	73%	27%	0%
I would recommend this school to another parent/carer	89%	11%	0%

Areas for Consideration

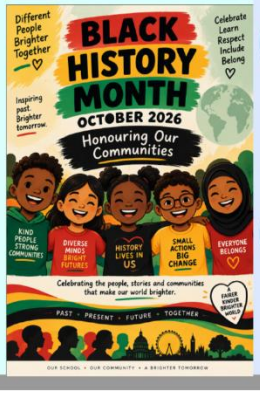
Analysis of the July 2026 Parent Questionnaire indicates that overall parental feedback is positive, with the majority of respondents expressing confidence in the school and reporting that their children are happy, safe and well supported. A number of parents provided particularly positive comments regarding the quality of teaching, relationships with staff, support for pupils and the range of experiences available. However, the analysis has also identified several recurring themes which warrant consideration as part of the school's ongoing self-evaluation and improvement processes.

Communication with Parents

You said: The most frequently recurring area for improvement relates to the timeliness and consistency of communication. A number of parents commented that information regarding trips, events, changes to arrangements, non-uniform days and requests for payments can sometimes be provided at short notice. This was highlighted as particularly challenging for working parents who need sufficient time to make arrangements. There were also isolated concerns regarding responses to Class Dojo messages, contact through the school office and clarity of information. At the same time, several parents acknowledged that the introduction and use of Class Dojo has improved school-parent communication.

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We did:

- Whole school planner shared prior to the end of the academic year in July 2026 where whole-school events, non-uniform days and payments requests are identified
- Commitment from class teachers to share information of class-based trips and events with three weeks' notice
- Messages on Class Dojo: work related communication outside of working hours is a personal matter for class teachers. They will endeavour to respond to messages in a timely manner however it is important that staff maintain a healthy work/life balance. We would be grateful if parents would pause, reflect and consider the necessity of the message in the first instance.

Bullying, Behaviour and Pupil Wellbeing

You said: While a number of parents reported positive experiences of the school's response to bullying and unkind behaviour, a small number expressed concerns about the consistency with which incidents are addressed. These included perceptions that some concerns had not been resolved sufficiently quickly or that children did not always feel listened to. One respondent also raised a concern regarding perceived favouritism. These responses indicate the importance of continuing to ensure that procedures are consistently applied and that actions and outcomes are clearly communicated to parents where appropriate.

We did:

- Procedures linked to bullying consistently applied
- Introduction of staggered playtimes and lunchtimes to reduce the number of pupils on the yard at any one time, ensuring playtimes are meaningful and pupils can actively engage in a range of activities.

Additional Learning Needs and Pupil Support

You said: Some parents raised concerns about whether sufficient additional support is consistently available for pupils who require it. Comments included references to the availability of teaching assistant support and the need for clearer communication regarding interventions and progress. Conversely, the questionnaire also included highly positive feedback from parents regarding ALN provision and the progress children have made as a result of effective support. This suggests that strong practice is evident.

We did:

- maintain consistency of provision and communication.

Pupil Progress, Assessment and Reporting

You said: A small number of parents expressed concerns regarding their understanding of their child's academic progress and the school's response where progress was slower than expected. There were also comments regarding the timing of reports and the opportunity to discuss concerns with teachers before the end of the academic year.

We did:

- Baseline assessments in Nursery and Reception, and Progress Certificates in Years 1 to Year 6, are shared with parents prior to Parent/Teacher Consultations (PTCs.) These are discussed during PTCs
- Documentation for ALN and Pre Basic pupils is shared in high-quality meetings involving families, teachers, the ALNCo and external agencies.
- Documentation for pupils with behavioural and/or wellbeing needs is shared in effective meetings with all relevant individuals.

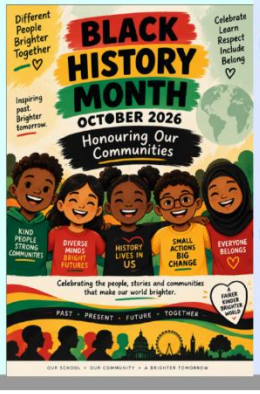
Parental Voice and Responsiveness

You Said: Although many respondents felt that the school listens and responds appropriately, a minority indicated that they would welcome greater opportunities to contribute their views on wider school matters. Some parents also felt that significant decisions affecting their children could be explained more fully. Strengthening opportunities for meaningful parental engagement and ensuring clear communication around decisions would therefore support continued development in this area.

We Did:

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- Currently developing a 'Parent Voice' vision to ensure parental engagement is meaningful and impacts all aspects of school improvement.

Financial Pressures on Families

You Said: A recurring concern related to the frequency of requests for financial contributions, including trips, fundraising activities and other events. Some parents highlighted the impact of short-notice requests on family budgeting, while one respondent raised concerns about the inclusivity of activities requiring payment during the school day. This feedback provides an opportunity to review the frequency, timing and communication of requests for contributions, particularly in the context of the school's commitment to reducing the impact of poverty and disadvantage.

We Did:

- Improved notice for trips
- All F.O.G.s activities for the year shared with parents in September
- We are selective in the charities we support and donations are strictly voluntary.
- We direct parents to https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/schools-and-learning/schools/financial-support/free-school-meals

Wraparound Care

You Said: A small number of parents raised concerns regarding the availability and communication of before- and after-school provision, particularly for working families. Suggestions included consideration of an earlier breakfast club start time and greater clarity around after-school provision. While this represents a relatively small number of responses, it may be useful to consider alongside wider engagement with parents regarding wraparound needs.

We Did:

- Breakfast Club time is the optimum duration to ensure pupils are fed and ready to learn.
- We offer an extensive range of extra-curricular activities: Running Club, Dragon Sports, Criw Cymraeg, Italian, Heddlu Bach, Choir, Arts & Crafts, Rugby, Maths Minions, Dance, Netball, Eco / Gardening Club, Digital Leaders, Football.

Safety

You Said: Most parents indicated that they believe their child is safe in school. However, individual concerns were raised regarding traffic and vehicle movements around East View at arrival and collection times and aspects of the school's security/emergency arrangements. These comments should be considered alongside the school's existing safeguarding, site-security and risk-management procedures.

We Did:

- Health & Safety Policy is reviewed annually and we work closely with the local authority to ensure the site is secure
- Risk assessments are reviewed annually and are available on the school website for parents to view
- Fire risk assessments, tree risk assessments, outdoor play risk assessments etc. are completed by a range of external agencies and actions are monitored to ensure issues and safety concerns are addressed.

Staffing and Continuity

You Said: A small number of comments related to continuity of staffing, including the impact of teacher absence and supply cover, availability of teaching assistant support and the organisation of mixed/shared-age classes. In particular, parents indicated that clearer communication about the rationale for class organisation and how pupils' individual learning needs will continue to be met would be helpful.

We Did:

- We work with the local authority to manage staff absence and use trusted Supply agencies
- Pupil numbers vary year on year, and we share with parents a clear rationale for mixed classes which is age. Consideration may be given for pupils with A.L.N.