

# MAES EBBW SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers

30<sup>th</sup> January 2026

It has been a very busy and positive week at Maes Ebbw School. I've included some photos of pupils enjoying their learning, which I hope give you a little glimpse of their experiences in school.

There is some important information regarding the leadership structure from September 2026.

I have also included some dates for your diaries.

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### Newport Autism Group

A reminder that the next meeting will take place at Serrenu Centre on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> February between 10-12am.

Jonathan from National Star will be attending to share information about the support and opportunities National Star can offer (this is particularly useful to some of our older students). There will also be a discussion about the Carers Card. All parents and carers are very welcome.

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### Parent Coffee Morning

Our parent group is running slightly differently this term due to staff absence. The group will continue to meet every Wednesday morning, (9.30-11.00am) and parents are warmly invited to drop in for a chat and the chance to connect with others who understand and support one another.

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### DATES

Monday February 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> - **Half Term (School Closed)**

Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup> – INSET DAY (**School closed to pupils**)

Tuesday February 24<sup>th</sup> – Pupils return to school

Monday March 30<sup>th</sup> – Friday April 10<sup>th</sup> – Easter Holidays (**School Closed**)

Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> – INSET Day (**School closed to pupils**)

Monday May 4<sup>th</sup> – Bank Holiday (**School closed**)

Welsh word of the week is "Sing - Canu"

## Leadership Arrangements for September 2026

After a great deal of thought, I have decided to move from full-time to part-time work in my role as Headteacher from September 2026. As part of this change, I will be job sharing the Headteacher role with Graeme Tully.

Many of you already know Graeme well. He leads the school whenever I am off site, whether for meetings or inspection work and he knows our pupils, families and community extremely well. This shared arrangement will ensure strong, steady leadership while allowing us to maintain the positive progress already underway across the school.

During this period, I will be working exclusively for Maes Ebbw, with my full focus on supporting the school. Graeme will be in school throughout the week, and we will work closely together to ensure continuity, stability and a smooth transition.

It continues to be a real privilege to lead such an exceptional community. I am confident this phased approach will help us retain the strength, stability and high expectations that make Maes Ebbw such a special place.



Nicola Allan  
Head Teacher



Graeme Tully  
Deputy Head Teacher



Gemma Nelson  
Assistant Head Teacher



Some of the pupils from Dosbarth Seren went for their first walk outside using their walking frame. 😊

Lots of progress to be celebrated!



Some of our students in Bach had the opportunity to take part in a hands-on work experience project at Reciclio, where they designed and built a planter over four days. They were proud to support the placement and planting of their finished work in Maindee, demonstrating teamwork, practical skills, and commitment throughout the project. The sunny weather made it a perfect opportunity for them to see their hard work come to life.



We were very lucky today to receive a visit from Gavin Clifton, affectionately known as “The Disabled Writer”. Gavin is a bestselling children’s author and a disability awareness speaker. He was born with cerebral palsy and a speech impairment and has spent his life proving that limitations **do not** define destiny, but resilience **does**.

The pupils really enjoyed his storytelling and the interactions with Gavin throughout the visit.

