

'At Maes Ebbw, all are challenged to grow and succeed'

Maes Ebbw School/ Ysgol Maes Ebbw
Maesglas Road/Ffordd Maesglas
Newport/Casnewydd
South Wales/De Cymru
NP20 3DG



Dear Parents and Carers

22nd September 2023

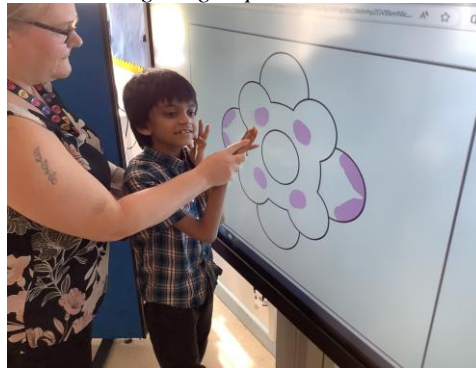
It has continued to be a challenge to staff school this week. Almost a third of the staff group have tested positive for Covid since the start of term. Current government guidance requires staff to stay away from school, where they are in contact with vulnerable pupils, for 10 days after testing positive. I am very sorry for the amount of disruption families have experienced. Sadly, after 10 days many staff are still too unwell to return, which makes matters worse. We have significant difficulties with staffing classes with staff who know the pupils and their needs. We are continuing to avoid gathering together for lunch times and assemblies. We are hoping that things will start to improve and we will return to normal again soon. Thank you for your support.

Learning in school

Despite the staffing challenges the pupils have still had a great time in school this week. I promised some photos from the Barry Island trip last week. I have also included photos from other classes.

Learning about India, painting with spices and making rangoli patterns.

Celyn's visit to Able Radio



Barry Island with Dosbarth Eirlys & Morfa



Dosbarth Afon having fun in class



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Vaccinations

Recently, the Welsh Government and Public Health Wales have jointly developed a guide to vaccinations for young people in school years 7 to 11. The link provides information on when and how these vaccinations are offered and why they are needed. We have been asked by the Welsh Government to share the message below with all parents.

Vaccination is one of the most important things we can do to protect children and young people against ill health. The Welsh Government and Public Health Wales have developed the following link to vaccinations for young people. The link below explains when and how vaccinations are offered to young people in school years 7 to 11 (ages 11 to 16) and why they are so important. Parents and carers are asked to use the link. In addition, when each vaccination is due you will receive information from the school about the vaccination being offered along with a consent form.

[Immunisation and Vaccines - Public Health Wales \(nhs.wales\)](https://www.nhs.uk/immunisation/vaccines-public-health-wales)

You will need to choose the option for Secondary Schools and then you can select Maes Ebbw.

Annual Reviews

We have now planned the annual review date for each pupil at Maes Ebbw for this academic year. We are planning to hold these in person at school. If you prefer to attend this meeting via Teams, please let us know beforehand. Paperwork for these meetings will come home in your child's bag.

You will be aware that Wales is changing its systems for pupils with statements. I want to reassure you that this process should not mean any major changes for your children.

Over the next 2 years, your child's statement will be converted into an IDP (Individual Development Plan), it will be mostly a change of format for your child. We will talk to you about how this will happen at your child's annual review this year.

For pupils in Nursery, Year 2, Year 6, Year 8 and Year 10 the process of converting a statement to an IDP will happen this academic year and a member of the SEN Team from Newport will also attend your child's annual review to support this process.

It is **important** that you read through your child's current statement/IDP and make any amendments necessary (ie. Updates on their diagnosis, learning abilities, self help, etc. etc), **you can then bring this to the meeting** and the amendments can be incorporated into their new paperwork. If you are unable to attend these meetings, please send in your amendments and any other relevant reports/documents that can be used going forward.

Thank you all for your continued support and we hope you have a lovely weekend.

Kind Regards

NICOLA ALLAN
HEAD TEACHER