



# Newsletter

## 16th September 2025

### Essential Update

The start of term hasn't been quite as we imagined, however, it has been wonderful to see how everyone has pulled together (children, staff and parents). We have all shown huge amounts of resilience, patience and adaptability! The best news is that our new building is really coming along:

- Nearly all classrooms have now been fully refurbished (new electrics, lighting, flooring and redecoration), just the downstairs classrooms to complete.
- New data cabling is in - the same type of cabling as South Wales Police!
- Pupil toilets are close to being completed, both upstairs and downstairs.
- The stair wells are in the process of being refurbished, just the flooring on the stairs to go
- The new fencing is almost complete, one section might not be ready, however, the railings are still there so it poses no immediate danger.
- The office spaces have been started, including the new main entrance. There is still a little more to do to get it ready for visitors.
- The new boiler is scheduled to be completed by October half term - before it gets too cold.

With all of this being stated - I am now confident that we will be able to have children back in our new school from the beginning of November. In order that the school is ready for children, we have to move everything back in, and organise classrooms. The Local Authority has said that we may have closure days, however, we wish to minimise the impact on children and parents as much as possible.

I have spoken with the Local Authority and our Chair of Governors (Ceri Prosser) and have agreed to have 3 of our INSET days at the end of this half term - we will be closed to pupils on Wednesday 22nd, Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th October. INSET days usually have to be used for essential staff training, we have definitely stretched that definition! Welsh Government have given all schools an allocation of 6 INSET days this academic year.

For clarity, this is what we have done so far this academic year:

- 1st - 5th September = closure days (originally earmarked to unpack in our new building) we used these days to plan for the whole school to move to Ysgol Groes-wen
- 8th September = INSET day 1, essential Health and Safety training and safeguarding training

This is what is planned next:

- 22nd - 24th October = INSET days 2, 3 & 4, unpacking and setting the school up, setting up new routines and procedures
- 22nd May = INSET day 5, training linked to the School Development Plan
- 20th July = INSET day 6, training linked to the School Development Plan

Our last day in Ysgol Groes-wen (the last day for coming to school by coach) will be Tuesday 21st October. I would like to record here my profound thanks to the Head teacher - Mr Carbis, and all of the staff and pupils in Ysgol Groes-wen for their welcome and support to everyone in our St Monica's family.

## Parking and Travel to School

As of today (Tuesday 16th September):

- All children need to be dropped off at Gelligaer Street Park by 8.45am
- The earliest drop off is from 8.15am in the park
- Any late comers that miss the coach will miss school that day and it will be marked as an unauthorised absence
- St Monica's staff will walk children to Crown Way to get onto the coaches which are waiting for us, it is very important that you do not try to 'sneak your child' onto the bus whilst we are in Crown Way, we mark the register whilst we are in the park and need to ensure we know who is on which bus
- Nursery children and children on transitional timetables are returned to Crown Way by 11.30am. Please collect your child from Crown Way promptly
- At the end of the day we will be dropped off along Crown Way and will then walk the children back to Gelligaer Street Park for 3.15pm. Please do not attempt to collect your children from Crown Way, it is not safe. All children (except those going to Blue Door) will be walked to the park. Staff will then only let your child go to you once they have spoken with you, please don't call them to you, we want our dismissal at the end of the day to be controlled and safe.



FEATURED

### School Essentials Grants

Eligible families can apply for a grant of £125 per child per year. Families with children entering year 7 can apply for £200 to help with increased costs associated with starting secondary school. All looked after children qualify for the grant. Schools also receive additional funding as a result of claiming this grant.

### £1 bus fares for young people from September

Young people aged 16 to 21 will be able to ride on buses across Wales for just £1 from September. The Welsh Government will extend the scheme to 5 to 15-year-olds from November. Existing reduced fares for children will apply until then.

Dates for your diary

I am not able to authorise any absence for term time holiday or any extended time away from school. Please do not be tempted to take your child out of school during term time.

## School term dates

<https://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ENG/resident/Schools-and-learning/Schools/School-term-dates/Pages/default.aspx>

Monday 15th September	Tuesday 16th September	Wednesday 17th September	Thursday 18th September	Friday 19th September
Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen <b>Longtown (residential trip for Y4 - Y6) Parent meeting 3.30 - 4.30 at The Table</b>	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen <b>Flu vaccinations - remember to send in the form</b>
Monday 22nd September	Tuesday 23rd September	Wednesday 24th September	Thursday 25th September	Friday 26th September
Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen Full Governing Body meeting 4pm at St Michael's Church	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen
Monday 29th September	Tuesday 30th September	Wednesday 1st October	Thursday 2nd October	Friday 3rd October
Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen
Monday 6th October	Tuesday 7th October	Wednesday 8th October	Thursday 9th October	Friday 10th October
Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen Standards Governing Body meeting 4pm at St Michael's Church	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen
Monday 13th October	Tuesday 14th October	Wednesday 15th October	Thursday 16th October	Friday 17th October
Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen Vision & Values Governing Body meeting 11am at St Michael's Church Premises, Finance & H+S meeting 4pm at St Michael's Church	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen
Monday 20th October	Tuesday 21st October	Wednesday 22nd October	Thursday 23rd October	Friday 24th October
Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	Coaches to/from Ysgol Groes-wen	<b>INSET Day - no school for children</b>	<b>INSET Day - no school for children</b>	<b>INSET Day - no school for children</b>
Monday 27th October	Tuesday 28th October	Wednesday 29th October	Thursday 30th October	Friday 31st October
Half Term Break - no school	Half Term Break - no school	Half Term Break - no school	Half Term Break - no school	Half Term Break - no school
Monday 3rd November	Tuesday 4th November	Wednesday 5th November	Thursday 6th November	Friday 7th November
Start in our new building! Y6 cycling	Y6 cycling	Y6 cycling	Y6 cycling	