



Annwyl Parents / Carers,

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

We hope you had a wonderful Christmas break filled with fun, laughter, and quality time together. It has been so lovely to welcome everyone back to school — and what a difference! The scaffolding is gone, the new roof is complete, and the school looks brighter and more welcoming. While we did have a small leak during the first week back, I'm pleased to say it has now been fully fixed, and we are ready for a fantastic term ahead.



We also started the year navigating the wintry weather and avoiding the snow and ice, and we want to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for helping ensure the children got to school safely. Your support meant we were able to stay open and keep the school running smoothly despite the tricky conditions.

The children have settled back into school life brilliantly and have been jumping straight into their new topic, "Inventors and Inventions." Already, our learners have had some exciting experiences! Our youngest children visited Swansea Museum, where they explored the history of toys and learned all about inventions that shaped toys and transport over time. Meanwhile, our older children visited the South Wales Miners Museum, discovering inventions that helped shape the mining industry and our rich Welsh heritage.

It's been wonderful to see the children so enthusiastic about their learning, asking questions, sharing ideas, and getting creative as they explore the world of inventors. This promises to be a fun, inspiring, and hands-on term full of curiosity and discovery.

We are very excited for the months ahead and can't wait to share more of the children's adventures, discoveries, and achievements with you. Thank you as always for your continued support — here's to a happy, safe, and inspiring 2026 for all!

Please see ClassDojo and our Instagram page for photos from our trips and classroom activities — there's lots to see and share! Also, please find an important message from our community policing team at the bottom of this newsletter.

J. G. Paynter

UNCRC Right of the Month

School Aim of the Month



Article 12: The right to be the best you can be.



"Be the best you can be" "Gwnewch eich gorau glas"

Patrwm y Pythefnos - Welsh Patterns to share at home:



Ga i ... os gwelwch yn dda?

Can I have ... please?

Cei. / Na chei.

Yes. / No.



We are looking for children who can use these patterns (and others) in school.

Construction Tools - Makedo

We are thrilled to share that last week the school received a wonderful donation of Makedo activity sets from the Bowen Richards Trust — a huge thank you to them!

The Bowen Richards Trust manages the car park at Rhossili Church, and all money raised through this goes back into supporting the local community. Over the years, the Trust has shown incredible generosity and support for our school, and we are truly grateful.



Makedo is a creative, eco-friendly construction system that gives children safe, reusable tools to turn everyday cardboard into imaginative creations. It's the perfect addition to our spring topic, "Inventors and Inventions"!

The children were so excited to open the sets and start learning how to use the tools. We can't wait to see their creativity in action as they begin designing and building large class projects together. Keep an eye on our posts — there will be lots of incredible creations to share soon!

A huge thank you once again to the Bowen Richards Trust for supporting our learners and helping bring their inventive ideas to life!



Attendance and Illness Guidance

As we are well into the season of coughs, colds, and sickness bugs, we would like to thank you for your continued efforts around attendance. We know this time of year can be challenging, and we greatly appreciate the communication and cooperation we receive from families.



We would like to gently remind parents of our illness guidance. In line with NHS advice, if a child has been sick or had diarrhoea, they should remain at home for at least 48 hours from the last episode before returning to school. This helps to reduce the spread of illness and keep everyone in our school community safe and well.

We were disappointed to hear last week that some pupils were sent into school after being sick the night before. While we fully understand the pressures families face, returning children to school before the 48-hour period has passed can put other children, families, and staff at risk. Coming back too soon often results in more pupils and staff becoming unwell, which can have a knock-on effect across the school.

Going forward, we kindly ask that families follow these guidelines strictly. Please be aware that if we are informed, or become aware, that a child has returned to school before completing the full 48-hour period, we will contact parents and ask for your child to be collected immediately.

Thank you for your understanding, support, and ongoing efforts in helping us keep everyone safe and well. By working together, we can protect the health of all our pupils, families, and staff, and ensure the school runs smoothly for everyone.

Friday Enrichment starting back this week

Our enrichment programme started again today, and we couldn't wait to welcome the children back to these exciting sessions! It's always wonderful to see children from across the school, of all ages, coming together for fun, creative, and inspiring activities.

The groups will rotate once again as we began a brand-new enrichment cycle, giving every child the chance to try something different and discover new skills. Here's a quick overview of how it will work:

- Children are split into four mixed-age groups (Years 1-6)
- Each group takes part in a different enrichment activity each week
- Groups will rotate weekly as part of this new enrichment cycle
- Over the half term, every child will experience all four exciting activities
- Non-uniform Fridays continue, making the day practical, creative, and fun



ENRICHMENT

This term's enrichment activities are packed with adventure, creativity, and hands-on learning:

Gower Explorers - trips to Periswood with Mr Paynter for thrilling Archery and Falconry sessions, where children can test their aim and get up close with majestic birds of prey!

Cooking - delicious hands-on cooking sessions with Mrs Thomas and Miss Pitson, where children will prepare apple crumble and then bring it home to cook and enjoy with their families.

Music - continuing from last term, composing, writing lyrics, creating videos, and performing with Mr Smith.

Coding - dynamic coding challenges with Mr Donovan and Mrs Latham, giving children the chance to create games, solve puzzles, and develop digital skills that bring their ideas to life.

At the end of the half term, we'll review the activities and plan the next cycle, making sure children continue to explore, create, and develop their skills in exciting new ways.

Thank you for supporting these incredible opportunities — we can't wait to see the children throw themselves into this new enrichment cycle, have fun, and discover new passions!

Welsh Government School Essentials Grant - Don't Miss Out!

Did you know you could receive up to £200 to help cover the cost of essential school items?

This includes uniforms, shoes, coats, school bags, and even support for school activities. This funding is available through the Welsh Government's School Essentials Grant and is designed to help families with the costs of sending children to school.

To access this grant, you'll need to register for Universal Primary Free School Meals. Please note: this is different from the free school meals your child may already be receiving.

Why Register?

- ✓ Up to £200 per child to help with school essentials
- ✓ Additional funding for our school - every registration helps us support all pupils better
- ✓ No impact on other benefits - signing up won't affect any other support you receive
- ✓ Quick and easy to apply

Even if your child already receives free school meals, registering is still important to unlock this extra support.

Important: During January, the number of children and families registered is recorded, and this figure has a direct impact on our school's budget share for next year. Registering after this period will not benefit our school, so if you think you may be entitled, please register as soon as possible.

By registering, you're not only helping your own child but also contributing to additional funding that benefits the whole school community. Don't miss this opportunity to make the start of the school year easier and stress-free - register today!



ADDYSG CYMRU
EDUCATION WALES
cenhaduath wis caned | our national mission



Claim up to **£200** of
additional support for **School
Essentials** if your child is
eligible for **Free School Meals**.



Afterschool club start back 12th January 2026.

We're delighted to confirm that afterschool clubs resumed this week, January (12th). Here are the key updates:

Afterschool Care: Our Monday and Tuesday Afterschool Care Club will continue to run for Reception to Year 6 pupils.

Wednesday Clubs: Both Expressive Arts and LEGO Club will carry on as usual.

Thursday afterschool Club: Attendance has been lower than expected, so we will run the Thursday club for two weeks and then review its future. We'll keep you updated on any changes.



Football on Mondays: A big thank you to Steve and Simon, who have kindly agreed to continue running the football club on Mondays.

Due to lower-than-expected participation, our clubs have been operating at a loss. To ensure they can continue, we need to make a small increase to membership fees. Please be assured this is not about making a profit—our goal is simply to keep the clubs running for the benefit of all our children and families.

The new fees will be:

Extra-curricular clubs: **£2.50** → **£3** per session

Afterschool childcare provision: **£7** → **£9** per session

Siblings: **£5** → **£7** per session

We appreciate your understanding and continued support, which helps us maintain these important activities. Together, we can keep our clubs thriving for the benefit of all our children and families.

All dates up until February half term are now live on IPay and you are able to book in advance.

INSET Friday 6th February 2026

We would like to inform you that Friday 6th February has been booked as a Cluster INSET day. On this day, all primary school and comprehensive staff from our Bishopston Cluster will come together to collaborate on shared projects, planning, and professional development.

Cluster INSET days are a valuable opportunity for staff to work together, share ideas, and develop new approaches that benefit all our pupils. By working closely with colleagues across the cluster, we can strengthen teaching, enrich learning experiences, and ensure that children continue to receive the highest quality education.

We wanted to give you as much notice as possible, and this date has also been added to our website calendar for your reference.

As a result, school will be closed to pupils on Friday 6th February. We appreciate your understanding and support and look forward to welcoming the children back on Monday 9th February.

Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Finally...

As always, if you have queries, compliments, complaints, concerns or issues you would like to discuss please speak to a member of staff. If family or friends help with school runs, we'd love for you to share the weekly newsletter with them. Please also make sure we have your updated contact details so we can stay connected!

Thank you in anticipation of your continued support.

Dymuniadau gorau,

J G Painter

Headteacher

Dates for your Diary

Please follow the link below to our school webpage: <https://www.knelstonprimary.co.uk/academicyear2025-2026>

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South Wales Police

Working with the Community



Heddlu De Cymru

Cydweithio Gyda'r Gymuned

Gower Neighbourhood Policing Team.

IMPORTANT NOTICE **KNELSTON PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We write on behalf of South Wales Police and Gower Neighbourhood Policing Team in relation to ongoing parking problems outside the school. It has been brought to our attention that vehicles are continuously being parked on the narrow pavement on the hill approaching the school, during pick up and drop off times. Please bear in mind that the pavement is very narrow at this location and any obstruction causes a danger to pedestrians as they're only safe passage to the school is blocked and they must resort to walking onto a very busy main road, to attend the school. We simply ask all parents/guardians please not to obstruct the pavement as this is the only pedestrian access to the school for those who prefer to walk.

Please do not feel that by parking fully on the road, you will cause any obstruction to the public highway. In fact, it is quite the opposite as parking on the road at this location causes a natural speed calming measure as the flow of traffic is reduced to one lane.

As always, the children's safety is of paramount importance, thank you for your continued support.

Pcso 60659 Andrew Brown

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Pc 5450 Simon Chadwick

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