



January 2026

Gwryrosydd News

A Fantastic Start to 2026: January Highlights @ Gwryrosydd

A Snow Surprise to Start 2026

We began the year with a truly *snowy* surprise! Hazardous winter conditions meant our school site had to close for two days, as the heavy snowfall transformed our grounds into a winter wonderland - beautiful to look at, but far too risky to navigate.

Despite the unexpected disruption, we were absolutely thrilled with the fantastic home learning our pupils completed. One firm favourite involved placing snow in different spots around the house and investigating which sample melted first - a brilliant blend of science, curiosity, and fun!



Follow us on Instagram!



We're on Instagram! Want a sneak peek into the everyday magic at Gwryrosydd Primary? In addition to Dojo we now have an Instagram page showcasing curious classroom moments and brilliant artwork to sports, trips, and everything that we have on offer. Follow us for snapshots of learning, laughter, and little victories as they happen. Don't miss out! Join our online adventure and see school life through our lens!



Penblwydd Hapus Daniel James

What a brilliant way to celebrate a birthday! January has been bursting with community spirit as we've thrown ourselves into all things that embrace togetherness. We marked Daniel James' birthday on January 23rd with a whole-school poetry competition that truly showcased the extraordinary talent across Gwyrosydd Primary. From clever acrostics and thoughtful haikus to mind-bending reverse poems and eye-catching shape poems, our pupils proved that creativity has no limits. The imagination, effort, and heart poured into every entry have been nothing short of amazing - a true celebration of voice, expression, and Calon values in action.



Community



Aspiration



Loyalty



Ownership



Never Give Up

Mixing with the stars of our Community!

Dave Brayley, who is a sports journalist and author, came to school on Tuesday 13th January to speak to the year six children about the importance of reading for enjoyment and developing a love for writing about topics that interest them.

Dave wrote the autobiography of Ashley Williams (the former Swansea City and Wales captain), a series of children's books with the former Wales and Ospreys rugby player James Hook and he has a new children's novel out "George's Fateful D-Day



Ex-Pupil Spotlight: JOMO Keys

We're incredibly proud to celebrate former Gwyrosydd Primary pupil JOMO Keys, an R&B and hip-hop artist whose journey is nothing short of inspiring. Now 21, his music career began with self-taught production as a teenager, driven by passion, creativity, and pure determination. Today, he boasts hundreds of thousands of followers across social media and continues to make waves in the music industry proving that big dreams can grow from small beginnings. He remains a true inspiration to our pupils, showing what's possible with talent, resilience, and belief. Be sure to check out the photo from his last day at Gwyrosydd — his jumper says it all: "Keep on rapping."



Working together to unlock our potential
Gweithio gyda'n gilydd i ddatgloi ein potensial

EXCITING NEW PROJECTS

Exciting New Projects in Store!

We have so many exciting developments happening at Gwyrosydd! Our polytunnel project is growing strong, allowing us to cultivate homegrown produce and encourage healthy futures for all our pupils. Caffi Calon is evolving into a welcoming community space for everyone to enjoy, while we are also creating sensory rooms to support pupils who benefit from a calm, nurturing environment. We are incredibly grateful for the support you've already shown through our Garden Amnesty, it's making a real difference! If you know of any businesses or community members who might like to sponsor projects such as outdoor learning, the community café, or the community cupboard, please do get in touch.

A special thank you to Kaymac Marine & Civil Engineering Limited for their generous donation towards our polytunnel and outdoor development - your support is helping us grow,

THE GWYROSYDD GARDEN AMNESTY

At Gwyrosydd we are so lucky to have wonderful green spaces that surround our school but we want to develop them further so that we are the best in Swansea (and beyond!)

We are currently in the process of repairing our gigantic polytunnel but we would love your help please to ensure that, come spring, we are ready to start growing lots of tasty food and are surrounded by beautiful flowers and plants that will attract wildlife.

We are looking for donations of:

- Gardening tools and watering cans
- Wellies and gardening gloves that are suitable for children of ages three to eleven
- Seeds, bulbs and plants of any kind
- Pots, bamboo canes and compost
- Plus anything else that could help us on our gardening journey please

If you are able to help us then you will be helping our children to develop a love for the outdoors, nature and gardening.

Any donations can be brought into school from Monday 19th January please. Older children can bring in any donations themselves or they can be brought into the school office.

If you have any questions then please get in touch with Mr Stones via Dojo or contact the school office and he'll give you a call.

Thank you for your continued support!



School Attendance

At Gwyrosydd Primary, we want every child to enjoy school, feel confident, and reach their full potential. Regular attendance is key - pupils in Wales are expected to attend at least 95% of the school year. Missing school means missing lessons, routines, and time with friends. Even a few days can make it harder for your child to keep up.

To help your child make the most of their learning, we ask parents to support good attendance by encouraging them to arrive on time each day - school doors open at **8:40**, and pupils should be in class ready to learn by **8:50**. Whenever possible, please book appointments outside of school hours, let us know promptly if your child is unwell by contacting the school on the first day of absence, and avoid taking holidays during term time. Your support helps us ensure every child has the best chance to succeed and enjoy school.

%	Num. days absent	Sessions absent	Approx wks absent
95%	9 ½ days	19	2 wks
92%	15 days	30	3 wks
90%	19 days	38	4 wks
85%	28 ½ days	57	6 wks
80%	38 days	76	8 wks
75%	47 ½ days	95	9 ½ wks

Why School Attendance Matters for your child:

- Helps children keep up with their learning
- Builds confidence and self-esteem
- Supports emotional wellbeing and social skills
- Encourages positive routines and habits
- Prepares children for future success

Why Punctuality Matters for Your Child:

- They won't miss important lessons or instructions at the start of the day
- Helps them feel confident and ready to learn
- Makes it easier to join in activities with friends
- Reduces stress and worry about catching up
- Builds good habits for school and later life

Mins late per day for the school year	Num. of days learning lost in a school year
5 mins	3.4 days
10 mins	6.9 days
15 mins	10.3 days
20 mins	13.8 days
25 mins	20.7 days

Reminder: No Unauthorised Vehicles on Site

We have noticed that some cars are entering the school grounds without authorisation. This is extremely dangerous, as our site is full of children, staff, and visitors moving around at all times. For everyone's safety, only authorised vehicles may enter at designated times, and we ask all families and visitors to respect this rule. Thank you for helping us keep Gwyrosydd a safe place for all.



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Dates for the Diary

Term	Term begins	Mid-term holiday begins	Mid-term holiday ends	Terms ends	INSET DAYS	
					Date	Event
Autumn 2025	Monday 1 September 2025	Monday 27 October 2025	Friday 31 October 2025	Friday 19 December 2025	01/09/25	Whole School
					15/09/25	Whole School
					15/12/25	STF ONLY – Rest of school open for mainstream pupils.
Spring 2026	Monday 5 January 2026	Monday 16 February 2026	Friday 20 February 2026	Friday 27 March 2026	23/02/26	MAINSTREAM ONLY – STF Will be open for STF pupils
					1/05/26	Whole School
Summer 2026	Monday 13 April 2026	Monday 25 May 2026	Friday 29 May 2026	Monday 20 July 2026	5/05/26	Whole School
					20/07/26	Whole School

Dates for the Diary

11/02/26	Valentines Disco
13/02/26	Dydd Miwsig Cymraeg & Number Day (pupils to wear numbers, Welsh Colours or both)
HALF TERM HOLIDAY	
23/02/26	INSET DAY (School closed to Mainstream pupils – STF is open)
24/02/26	Pupils return to school
2/03/26	St David's Day – Pupils to wear Welsh colours/national dress
W/B 23/03/26	Parents Evening Week (Times TBC)
27/03/26	Last day of term for pupils
EASTER HOLIDAYS	
13/04/26	Pupils return to school

Thank You for Your Incredible Support

As we close this first newsletter of 2026, we want to send a huge shout-out to our amazing families, carers, and community. Your support, whether it's joining in snowy home learning experiments, cheering on our poets and artists, helping our garden grow, or simply encouraging your children every day, truly brings Gwyrosydd Primary to life. It's your energy, kindness, and belief in our pupils that makes our school a place where creativity, curiosity, and Calon values flourish.

We are so grateful for everything you do, and we can't wait to see what we'll achieve together this term. Here's to another fantastic chapter of learning, laughter, and growing together!

Best Wishes
Mrs A. Edwards
Headteacher



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