

Derwen News September 11

Croeso / Welcome

I hope you had a restful summer with your families and I welcome you all back to an exciting new school year at Ysgol Derwen, and especially to those of you who are associated with the school for the first time.

The children and staff have settled in very quickly and are working hard on their new topics. It is always lovely to see the children looking smart in their new uniforms in September and eager to make a good impression in their new classes.

I look forward to working closely with the children, staff and parents throughout the busy year ahead.

School Admissions

Nursery and Reception Admissions September 2026

Although we have just started a new school year at Ysgol Derwen, the application process for admission to Nursery and Reception classes for September 2026 will start on Monday September 22nd 2025.

If you have a child eligible for these classes or know of someone looking for a place for their child at Ysgol Derwen, please complete an online application form found on the link below.

Application Forms

Applications must be made on an official electronic application form on the Flintshire County Council Admissions Portal (Link Below)

<https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Schools/Admissions/School-Admissions.aspx>

These will be available in accordance with the published dates. Parents will be asked to provide official documentation showing their child/children's date of birth.

Admissions Timetable 2025/2026



Admission Phase	Admission forms available to parents w/c	Parents' consideration period	Closing date for receipt of completed forms	Allocation period by LA/ admitting authority	Parents informed by ("Offer date")
Secondary	01/09/25	01/09/25 03/11/25	03/11/25	04/11/25 – 05/01/26	02/03/26
Reception	22/09/25	22/09/25 - 17/11/25	17/11/25	18/11/25 – 23/02/26	16/04/26
Nursery	22/09/25	22/09/25 – 16/02/26	16/02/26	17/02/26 – 23/03/26	05/05/26

Admissions to High School

The application process for High School is now open with the relevant forms also available on Flintshire CC Website.

Please ensure you complete your application by November 3rd to avoid any disappointment associated with late applications. Pupils from Ysgol Derwen have been refused entry into Castell Alun having attended the school and living within the village due to late applications in the past. Castell Alun is annually over subscribed, and the appeal process is very stressful!

Music Opportunity For Pupils in Years 3 to 6

There are currently some spaces for pupils to have voice and guitar lessons at school. Singing lessons take place on Tuesdays with our visiting teacher Bethan and guitar lessons take place on Wednesdays with our visiting teacher Tim. The chance to learn an instrument or to sing is a fantastic opportunity and great fun, but it can also help children and young people develop confidence as well as contributing to their wellbeing and teamwork skills.

The lessons are provided by Theatr Clwyd Music and provide a wide range of opportunities across the county. You can find out more, including how much it costs, and sign up for lessons via [their website](#). If you would like more information or to arrange a taster lesson please email music@theatrclwyd.com.

Punctuality

Just a reminder at the beginning of the school year that Ysgol Derwen starts at 8.55am for children in Reception to Year 6. Can you please make every effort to ensure that your child is in school by the school start time of 8.55am. Late arrival in school is very disruptive with regards to taking and closing registers and morning assembly.

The school day for Reception to Year 6 starts at 8.55am and the side gates will remain open until 9.00am at which point the Foundation and Junior doors will be closed for security reasons. If for any reason you do arrive after 9.00am please use the FRONT entrance.

Thank you for your cooperation with regards to this matter.

Pupil Absence

Can I please request that every session of absence by your child (illness, appointments etc) is communicated to the school either by the absence form, a note / email to the teacher / school, or by leaving a message on the school phone.

Holiday Requests

Whilst I fully understand many of our parents can't physically get holidays during your child's holiday times, and huge savings can be made during school time, can I please ask you consider very carefully before taking your child out of school during term time and especially during key times of the year.

Parents who arrange family holidays during term time can lead to problems in that:

- Your child's education suffers**

- **Lessons and extra-curricular activities are missed**
- **Continuity of project work is lost**
- **There is often no opportunity for teachers to set additional work or to assist a child in catching up on their return from holiday**
- **The class is generally disrupted and your child and other pupils may suffer as a result**
- **You may be in breach of your legal obligation to send your child to school.**

Parents are entitled to ask for leave of absence of up to 10 school days for an annual holiday, and this may be authorised by the school. Only in exceptional circumstances can any more than 10 days be authorised.

If you need to request leave of absence for your child, please give as much notice as possible. We wish to stress that any request for holiday absence will be considered very carefully taking into account factors such as general attendance / punctuality, number of similar requests; the educational nature of the proposed holiday etc.

If you are unable to avoid requesting absence during school term, an application must be made on an application form (available from the school office or website).

Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

PARKING

Main Road, Higher Kinnerton can become extremely congested at the beginning and end of the school day. The School car park is very small and in the interests of safety parking within the school car park is for staff only. Please do not use the car park to drop off or collect children or park on the zig zag markings outside the school gate as this also causes safety issues.

We ask you also to please be considerate of the needs of local residents when parking. We frequently receive complaints from local residents regarding parents parking in their drives or parking across their drives, parking on double yellow lines or blocking the pavements. Please do all you can to drop your child off safely whilst also respecting our local residents and keeping to the highway code.

The Royal Oak and Swan Public Houses along with the Village Hall also have car parks which can be used during the main drop off and pick up period to help alleviate traffic problems directly outside the school. These three car parks are only a few minutes' walk away from the school building.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY DATES 2025-2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

Staff Training Day	Monday 1 September
Staff Training Day	Tuesday 2 September
Autumn Term Opens	Wednesday 3 September
Half Term Closes	Friday 23 October
Staff Training Day	Friday 24 October
Half Term Opens	Monday 3 November
Term Closes	Friday 19 December

SPRING TERM 2026

Staff Training Day	Monday 5 January
Spring Term Opens	Tuesday 6 January
Half Term Closes	Friday 13 February
Half Term Opens	Monday 23 February
Term Closes	Friday 27 March

SUMMER TERM 2026

Term Opens	Monday 13 April
May Day Bank Holiday	Monday 4 May
Half Term Closes	Friday 22 May
Half Term Opens	Monday 1 June
Term Closes	Thursday July 16
Staff Training Day	Friday 17 July
Staff Training Day	Monday 20 July

Dates For The Term Ahead

September

- **Thursday 11 – SPECTRUM Workshops - Session 1 - Year 2 - 9.30am-10.30am Session 2 - Year 4/5 - 10.45-11.45 Session 3 - Year 5/6 - 1pm-2pm**
- **Thursday 18 - SPECTRUM Workshop- Session 1 - Year 2 - 9.30am-10.30am Session 2 - Year 4/5 - 10.45-11.45 Session 3 - Year 5/6 - 1pm-2pm**
- **Thursday 18 - – Dragon Sports leaders Training –Year 6**
- **Friday 26 - MacMillan Coffee Morning – More details to follow**
- **Tuesday 30 – FODS AGM @ 6.30pm in the school**

October

- **Monday 13 – Parents Evening**
- **Tuesday 14 – Parents Evening**
- **Friday 17 – Harvest Service**
- **Wednesday 22 – FODS Spooky Disco**
- **Friday 24 – Training Day - School closed to pupils**
- **Friday 24 – Break for Half Term**

November

- **Monday 3 – School Open**
- **Tuesday 11 – Remembrance Service (Bell @ 11am)**
- **Wednesday 19 – Flu Vaccinations PM for pupils in Reception to Year 6**
- **Wednesday 26 – FODS Christmas Fair**

December

- **Thursday 4 – Christmas Concert – Nursery & Reception AM**
- **Friday 5 – OAP Christmas Concert AM**
- **Monday 8 – Christmas Concert – Years 1,2 & 3 @ 2pm & 6pm**
- **Tuesday 9 – Christmas Concert – Years 5 & 6 @ 2pm & 6pm**
- **Wednesday 10 - Christmas Dinner Day**
- **Friday 19 – School Closed for Christmas at the end of the school day**

Sporting Opportunities

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2025				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Central Drive MUGA, Aston Multi-Sport 5:00 - 6:00pm Age 7 - 13years	Flint High School Football 5:00 - 6:00pm Age 12+ years	Ysgol Bryn Deva Multi-Sports 5:00 - 6:00pm Age 7 - 13 years	Flint High School Multi-Sports 4:45 - 5:45pm Age 12+ years	Holywell Leisure Centre 3G Pitch Multi-sports 5:00 - 6:00pm Age 10+ years
Buckley Leisure Centre Astroturf Pitch Football 5:30 - 6:30pm Age 8+ years	Deeside Leisure Centre Youth Club 5:30 - 8:00pm Age 11+ years	Deeside Leisure Centre Badminton 5:00 - 6:00pm Age 10+ years	Sealand Manor Multi-Sports 5:00 - 6:00pm Age 7-13 years	
Flint High School Football 7:30 - 9:00pm Age 11 - 16 years	Ysgol Derwenfa, Leeswood Multi-Sports 6:30 - 7:30pm Age 11+ years	Parkfields, Mold Football 5:00 - 6:00pm Age 7+ years	Ysgol Bryn Pennant Mostyn Multi-Sports 5:00 - 6:00pm Age 7-13 years	
		Saltney Youth Club Multi-Sports 6:00 - 7:00pm Age 11+ years	Deeside Leisure Centre Youth Club 5:30 - 8:00pm Age 11+ years	
		Jade Jones Pavilion Us Girls 4:00 - 5:30pm	Caerwys Park Multi-sports 6:30 - 7:30pm Age 9+ years	

Contact josh.mcewan@gwella.wales for more information

[gwella Sports Development](#) [gwella.sportdevelopment](#)

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