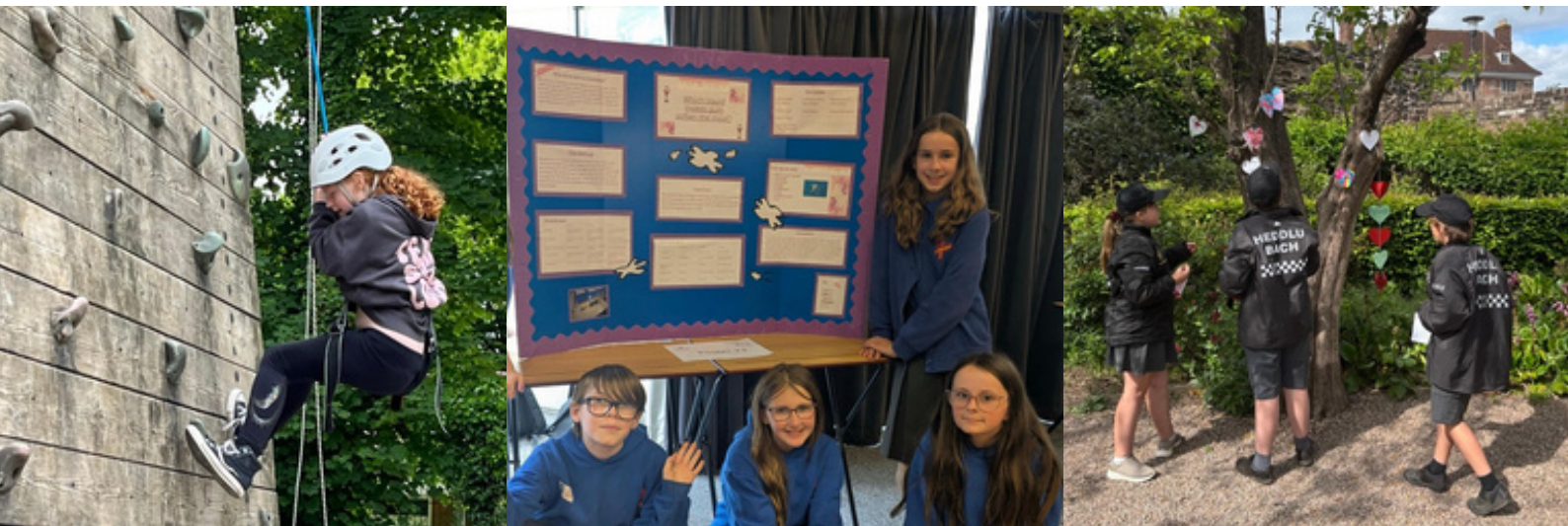




EXPLORERS HANDBOOK



**OVERMONNOW
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

WELCOME



We understand that starting at a new school is a big step for both you and your child, and we're here to make the transition as smooth and positive as possible.

This booklet is designed to help you and your child feel more comfortable as you prepare to join Overmonnow. Inside, you'll find key information about school routines, uniform, communication, and support available—plus answers to common questions. We hope it helps you feel warmly welcomed into our school community.

In the lead-up to starting, it can be helpful to talk to your child about what to expect—such as making new friends, meeting their teacher, and finding their way around school. If possible, practise the journey to school together, and help them get into a routine, such as earlier bedtimes and preparing school essentials. Encouraging your child to share how they're feeling can also really support their confidence.

If there's anything you'd like to know that isn't covered here, please don't hesitate to get in touch—we're happy to chat on the phone or respond to any questions via email.

We're really looking forward to welcoming you and your child to Overmonnow!

Mrs J Child
Headteacher

EVERY CHILD MATTERS, EVERY MOMENT COUNTS





ABOUT OVERMONNOW



School Organisation

The new Curriculum for Wales is set out in legislation for all learners in Wales aged 3 to 16, to ensure all schools cover the same core learning and to secure a consistency of approach for learners across Wales.

The previous names of Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 will no longer be a part of the curriculum; however, the principles of the Foundation Phase will remain. These will become a part of one seamless curriculum for children aged 3 to 16, providing more joined-up learning.

Therefore, we have renamed our phases as below:

Explorers – Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

Discoverers – Year 3 and Year 4

Adventurers – Year 5 and Year 6

Within these phases, staff plan collaboratively as a team and work together to ensure that children are having opportunities to develop skills and lead their own learning.

In Overmonnow, all our classes are named after beaches.

School Staff

Headteacher Mrs J Child

Deputy Headteacher Mr R Davies

Senior Leaders Mrs B Bell
Mr A Ravetta

ALNCo Mr T Middleton

School Administrators Ms S Fox
Mrs D Robbins
Mrs C Williams

Caretaker Mr C Hodgson

ABOUT THE SCHOOL DAY



How is the school day structured?

Reception to Year 2

8:50 doors open

9:00 registration

morning lessons

10:40 break time

11:00 morning lessons

12:00 lunch

12:45 assembly

13:00 afternoon lessons

14:30 afternoon break

15:10 end of the day

School Uniform

Our uniform policy includes:

- Royal blue polo shirt
- Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore dress
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- Grey, black, or white socks / grey tights
- Blue and white gingham summer dress
- Black school shoes (no branded trainers)

As the uniform is identical, it can be difficult for younger children to recognise their own belongings. **Please label all clothing, especially coats and jumpers.** Children need a coat in school every day, as the weather can be changeable.

House System

Your child will be put in a house when they start at Overmonnow and will need the appropriate coloured top:

North (Blue)

East (Yellow)

South (Red)

West (Green)

All Children will represent their House on Sports Day and will be expected to wear their House colour. A weekly award assembly 'Seren Yr Wythnos' enables house points to be added up and recorded as a whole school. Privileges often occur to the winning house as an incentive to follow our Overmonnow School Pledge.

All of our uniform options can be purchased from MyClothing.com or FlexiPrint who are based in Monmouth Town centre.

Classes 2026-2027

Dosbarth Aberdyfi (Reception) Miss J Owen

Dosbarth Tenby (Reception) Mrs C Ursell (Miss A Jones maternity leave)

Dosbarth Three Cliffs (Year 1/2) Miss S Jones

Dosbarth New Quay (Year 1/2) Mrs B Bell / Mrs S Tucker

Class Teaching Assistants:

Mrs J Hartles
Mrs J Hunter
Mrs C Haycock
Mrs T Hodgson
Mrs N Middleton

ALN Teaching Assistants:

Mrs G Gabb
Mrs S John
Miss L Wonson
Miss S Sheen
Mrs S Shepherd

How do we keep in touch?

At Overmonnow, we value strong partnerships with parents and carers and encourage open, regular communication.

We use **ClassDojo** to share updates, reminders, and messages. You'll receive a code to join your child's class—please keep notifications on so you don't miss anything. For urgent matters, always call the school office, as teachers may not see messages during the day.

Letters may also be sent home in book bags - please check them daily. Weekly newsletters, with key dates and news, are shared on our website and ClassDojo.

We hold **parent consultations** in October and March, with a written report provided in the summer term. These are a great chance to discuss your child's progress.

Your child's teacher is your first point of contact and is available at home time for any questions or quick chats. If there's anything you're unsure about, or if your child is experiencing difficulties, please do let us know.

Stay connected by visiting our **school website** and downloading the **Dojo** app.

Keeping your information up-to-date

Please let the school office know if your contact details, address, or emergency information change.

It's important we have up-to-date information to keep your child safe and ensure we can reach you if needed.



GETTING INVOLVED

We're very lucky to have a dedicated and supportive group of parents and friends here at Overmonnow. Our PTFA (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) meets regularly, and everyone is warmly welcome to come along.

All funds raised by the PTFA go straight back into the school to benefit the children. If you'd like to get involved or find out more, please contact the school office, and they'll be happy to put you in touch with the chairperson.



LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

What will my child learn?

We follow the Curriculum for Wales, which is designed to help children become:

- Ambitious, capable learners
- Healthy, confident individuals
- Enterprising, creative contributors
- Ethical, informed citizens

This is achieved through a focus on six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLEs):

- Expressive Arts
- Health and Wellbeing
- Humanities
- Languages, Literacy and Communication
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Science and Technology

At our school, we place a strong emphasis on practical learning through hands-on experiences, problem-solving, and developing a deep understanding and reasoning. Our aim is to support the diverse needs of every child during their formative years, fostering a positive attitude toward learning and helping them become lifelong learners.

All schools in Wales follow the Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Competency Framework. This curriculum planning tool outlines a clear continuum of development, with annual expectations for progress in literacy, numeracy, and digital skills. In addition, children in Years 2 to 6 take part in personalised online assessments to support their learning journey.

Topics and Home Learning

At the start of each term, a topic web of proposed activities will be sent home for your information. This contains ideas of what your child may be learning and experiencing in school as well as suggestions of home learning ideas. We encourage the children to suggest their own ideas for our topics and bring in relevant books, artefacts and home learning.

Trips and Visits

Children in the Discoverers and Adventurers Phase enjoy regular opportunities to explore the local area, with visits to places such as St. Thomas' Church, Monmouth Leisure Centre and the Savoy Theatre. We also welcome a variety of visitors to school, including Reverend Greaves, the Road Safety Officer, our School Liaison Police Officer, the fire brigade, and more.

As part of our topic work, past trips have included Abergavenny Castle, Puzzlewood, St. Fagans, Noah's Ark Zoo Farm, Cefn Mably Farm, We The Curious, and Bristol Aquarium.

Pupils in Year 4 have the opportunity to attend a 1-night residential whilst year 6 pupils have the opportunity to attend a 2-night residential trip to Gilwern OEC.

Consent forms and further details will be shared as needed ahead of each visit.

What if my child is finding things tricky?

If your child is finding anything tricky - whether socially, emotionally, or with their learning - please speak to the class teacher, who will be happy to help. We understand that every child develops at their own pace, and we're here to support them.

If needed, staff can also seek advice from the school's ALNCo (Additional Learning Needs Coordinator), speech and language therapists, MOSTS, or Acorn Family Support, to ensure your child gets the right help at the right time.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club runs daily from 8:00am to 8:40am.

- **8:00am – 8:30am:** £2.00 per session (childcare charge, payable via ParentPay)
- **8:30am – 8:40am:** Free “Take Ten” session for children who are just having breakfast

Children can enjoy a selection of breakfast options, including toast, cereals, and yogurts. All children must be signed in by a responsible adult.

Please note: **doors close promptly at 8:40am**, and we cannot admit children after this time

Lunch Time

Children can choose either a school lunch or bring a packed lunch from home. The current menu is available on our website - please take the time to review it with your child.

Each morning, children select from the following options:

- Cooked meal of the day (vegetarian option available)
- Jacket potato

All children eat together in the hall. Please ensure lunch boxes and bottles are clearly labelled with your child's name.

School meals are **free** for all primary school children in Wales.

We promote healthy eating and ask that packed lunches include balanced options. Please limit crisps and chocolate, and do not include fizzy drinks, sweets, or foods containing nuts.

For information about preparing age-appropriate healthy lunches for your child, please see our school website: <https://www.overmonnow.monmouthshire.sch.uk/healthy-eating/>

What do we need to bring to school?



A healthy snack of fruit or sliced raw vegetables

Every day:

Book bag with reading book



After School Club

After-school club runs daily from 3:10pm – 5:30pm. Session prices vary and are bookable via the their app which you will receive access to once enrolled. After School Club provide the children with a range of activities and outdoor play, along with a healthy snack and drink.

Children will need to be signed out from After School Club by a responsible adult.

Parent Pay

We are a cashless school so payments for trips and visits will be made electronically via ParentPay. You will be provided with an activation letter for ParentPay in September (or once your child has begun school). We ask that all parents/carers activate these accounts as it is used to pay for trips and other visits. The link for ParentPay is <https://www.parentpay.com/parents/>

ILLNESS AND ABSENCE

What do I do if my child is ill?

If your child has been unwell overnight, please consider whether they are ready to manage the busy school day, including lessons and group activities. If you're unsure, it's best to keep them at home until they're fully recovered.

If your child is going to be absent, please let us know by calling the school and using our dedicated absence line: **01600 713458 (option 1)**.

From time to time, we do see small outbreaks of tummy bugs, which are often caused by highly infectious viruses. Following medical advice, we ask that children stay at home for **48 hours after the last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea**. This helps prevent the spread and reduces the risk of reinfection.

What will happen if my child becomes ill at School?

If your child becomes unwell during the school day, we will contact you or one of your nominated emergency contacts. It's important that the school office has up-to-date contact details, so please let us know of any changes.

If your child needs prescribed medication, please speak to the school office. Staff are not permitted to administer non-prescribed medicine, but you're welcome to come in during the day to give it if needed.

For children with asthma, a medical form must be completed—these are available from the office. Inhalers should be clearly labelled and kept at nursery. Please also inform us of any allergies your child may have.

Although accidents are rare, they can happen. Any minor injuries and treatment given will be recorded and shared with you when you collect your child. If we feel your child needs medical attention, we will contact you immediately.

What if I'm going to be late or someone else needs to pick up my child?

If you're going to be late collecting your child, or if someone else will be picking them up, please inform the school office as soon as possible. For safety reasons, we can only release children to authorised adults.

In some cases, we may operate a password system to ensure your child is collected safely. If your arrangements change, just give us a quick call to let us know.

 01600 713458

 www.overmonnow.monmouthshire.sch.uk

 overmonnowprimary@monmouthshire.gov.uk

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