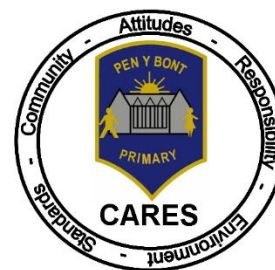


PENYBONT PRIMARY SCHOOL



Minerva Street
Bridgend
CF31 1TD

Headteacher – Mr R Owen
email admin@penybontps.bridgend.cymru
www.penybontprimary.org.uk
Telephone – 01656 754860
Facsimile – 01656 754864

Monday 28th September 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Thank you to all our families for your fantastic support with attendance so far this term. Every day in school really does matter, and your continued efforts in ensuring children attend regularly and arrive ready to learn are greatly appreciated. Let's keep the positive momentum going!

A quick reminder that this Friday is an INSET Day, so school will be closed to all pupils while our staff take part in professional learning and training.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for working together with us to give our children the very best start.

Important Change to Collecting Children After School

We are making an important change to the way children go home from school. Our safeguarding policy says that school and families need to work together to make sure children are safe when they leave school.

Parents and carers must tell us in writing how they want their child to go home and who is allowed to collect them.

The policy also explains that the NSPCC and Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents recommend that someone under 16 should not be responsible for looking after a younger child.

Because of this, our arrangements will be:

- **Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 can still walk home on their own** if their parent or carer has given permission.
- **Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 must be collected by someone aged 16 or over.**
- We will not normally allow a child under Year 4 to go home with a brother, sister, relative or other person who is under 16.
- Parents and carers must make sure the school knows **in writing** how their child will go home.



When will this change happen?

We understand that some families may need time to make new arrangements because of this change. We therefore want to give families notice before we put the new expectations in place.

These new collection arrangements will come into force from Monday 12 October 2026.

Until then, we ask any families affected by the change to please make the necessary arrangements and let the school know in writing who will be collecting their child.

What if this causes a problem for my family?

We understand that every family's situation is different. If you need us to consider a different arrangement, please contact the school before Monday 12 October. We can look at individual family circumstances.

The safeguarding policy allows individual requests to be considered. If a different arrangement is agreed, we will need to record it clearly and have a signed request from the parent or carer.

We know this may mean a change for some families, and we thank you for your understanding and support.

Cross Country Events

We are excited to share the provisional dates for the first three cross country races of the year, open to all pupils in Years 3 to 6.

Children should arrive with their parent/carer at 9:30am, ready for the races to begin at 10:00am. Penybont will provide running vests for children taking part so that they can proudly represent our school.

It is important that families are aware that children remain in the care and responsibility of their parent/carer at all times during these events and are not supervised by school staff. Please also note that dogs are not permitted and there are no toilet facilities at the venues.

- 17 October: Pencoed Comprehensive
- 14 November: Brynteg Comprehensive
- 28 November: Porthcawl Comprehensive

The dates remain provisional at this stage and will be confirmed once final arrangements are in place. We would love to see a great Penybont turnout this year!

Teacher – Parent & Carer Meeting Week

Our parents' and carers' meeting week will take place during the week beginning Monday 19 October. This will provide an opportunity for you to speak with your child's teacher and discuss how they are settling in to their new classes.

Meetings for Mr Ashton's class will take place during the week beginning Monday 2 November, as Mr Ashton will be on paternity leave during the original meeting week.

Further information about how to book either a face to face meeting or a telephone call will be shared later this week.

School Attendance

The table below identifies three sets of statistics relating to school our whole school attendance. The 'Weekly Attendance' figure shows the attendance for that week. The 'Running Attendance' shows the school's attendance percentage from September to date and for this term to date.

If the percentages are coloured red, they are below our whole school target of 93%. If they are coloured in green, they are equal to or above our 93% attendance target for the whole school.

Estyn have given the school a target of reducing persistent absenteeism, we can only meet this target with your help. Therefore, our FEO, Jade, and senior leaders will be closely monitoring attendance in even more detail this academic year and looking to contact families of pupils who are causing concern in relation to this to see if any support can be put in place.

Autumn Term Attendance So Far!

Week Ending	Weekly Attendance	Running Attendance	
		Since September 2025	Since Start of Spring Term
Autumn 1 (04/09/26)	96.2%	96.2%	96.2%
Autumn 2 (11/09/26)	95.8%	95.9%	95.9%
Autumn 3 (18/09/26)	92.9%	95%	95%
Autumn 4 (25/09/26)	94.5%	94.9%	94.9%

We are delighted with the positive start we have made with attendance this term. Our whole school attendance for the week ending 25 September was 94.5%, comfortably above our 93% weekly target, while our running attendance remains even stronger at 94.9%.

This is a fantastic team effort, so a huge thank you to all our families for supporting us in getting children into school regularly and on time. Every school day matters and makes a real difference to children's learning, friendships and progress.

Let's keep it going, Penybont!

INSET Days 2026-27

Please find detailed below the remaining INSET days scheduled for 2026-27

- Friday 2nd October 2026
- Friday 18th December 2026
- Friday 28th May 2027
- Monday 19th July 2027
- Tuesday 20th July 2027

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Owen

Date	Detail
02/10/26	INSET Day – School Closed for training
14/10/26	Cinema Night – Reception to Year 6 (Details to follow)
16/10/26	In School Harvest Festival – pupils only
23/10/26	Last day of Autumn 1
02/11/26	First day of Autumn 2
09/12/26	Years 5 & 6 Concerts
10/12/26	Years 3 & 4 Concerts
14/12/26	Years 1 & 2 Concerts
15/12/26	Reception Concert
16/12/26	Nursery Concert