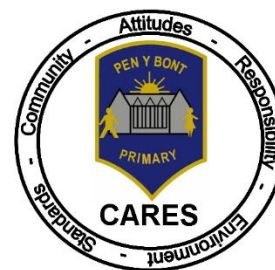


PENYBONT PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Wednesday 16th September 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been wonderful to see such a positive start to the new school year at Penybont Primary School. Our pupils have settled quickly into their new classes and routines, and we have been incredibly impressed by the way they have embraced our two key targets for this term; being kind and trying their best. Across the school, children are demonstrating these values every day through their attitudes, effort and the way they support one another. We are very proud of the fantastic start they have made, and we encourage them to keep up the excellent work.

This Friday, we are also looking forward to our first sporting fixtures of the year, as our Year 5 and Year 6 football and netball teams travel to play against Litchard Primary School. We wish all of our players the very best of luck and know they will represent the school with pride, determination and good sportsmanship. As these matches are taking place away from school, unfortunately parents and carers are unable to attend. However, we are very happy to welcome supporters to our home fixtures throughout the year and look forward to seeing many of you cheering on our teams in the months ahead.

I've also included the dates for our Christmas performances in the calendar section at the bottom of this newsletter. Yes, I know... it's only September and I'm already mentioning Christmas! I am sharing the dates early to help families plan ahead. The countdown may still have a long way to go, but we know how difficult it can be to get time off work to attend such events.

School Crossing Patrol Update

I am thankful that a number of parents, carers and local residents have raised concerns regarding the absence of our School Crossing Patrol Officer. We appreciate that this service plays an important role in helping children and families travel to and from school safely.

Please be assured that I have contacted Bridgend County Borough Council to enquire about both short term and long term arrangements for providing crossing patrol cover. Unfortunately, the recruitment and deployment of School Crossing Patrol Officers is the responsibility of the local authority, meaning that this matter is currently outside of the school's control.

We will continue to liaise with the council and will share any updates with our school community as soon as we receive them. In the meantime, we encourage all families



to take extra care when crossing roads around the school site, particularly during busy drop-off and collection times. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

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.

Summer 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%

Our school attendance target for the year is 93%, and I am thrilled to share that our attendance for the start of term is an outstanding 95.9%. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the commitment of our families to ensuring children are in school every day, ready to learn.

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