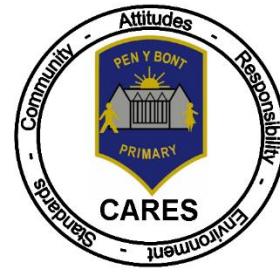


PENYBONT PRIMARY SCHOOL



Bridgend
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Tuesday 27th January 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Please accept my apologies for sending this week's newsletter a day later than usual. Yesterday was an exceptionally busy day, beginning with a phone call from Estyn informing us that **our school will be inspected from 9–11 February**.

We have been preparing for this process for several years, and we feel confident and proud of the provision, experiences, and support we offer our pupils and our community. Our Last inspection was in May 2019; all schools are inspected approximately every 6 years.

As part of the inspection, Estyn has asked us to share a questionnaire with families. The questions are the same as the survey that I published which closed last Friday, but this time your responses go directly to Estyn rather than to us. I kindly ask everyone to complete it; your feedback will help provide Estyn with a valuable first impression of our school before they even arrive. The survey is live now and will close on Sunday 1st February at 11pm.

When completing the questionnaire, the back button should not be clicked on the browser once the questionnaire has been submitted as this could result in duplicate responses being recorded.

The questionnaire can be accessed via this link:
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/11JCV2/>

Or via this QR Code:



Estyn would also like to invite parents and carers to a meeting in the school hall at 3:30pm on Monday 9 February. This is an opportunity to share your thoughts, feedback, praise or concerns openly with the inspection team. We would be very grateful for your attendance.



Only parents/carers of pupils currently attending the school should attend. Normally, no children of school age should attend with parents as this can sometimes be disruptive or distracting. We will offer an on site creche service for the duration of the meeting for any parents and carers who require it. This will be based in our nursery department.

Access to the meeting and the creche facility will be via our main school office from 3.15 on Monday 9th February.

We are approaching this inspection as a chance to showcase everything we do and the wonderful community we serve. Your support, through the questionnaire and the meeting, plays an important part in this, and we truly appreciate it.

I have attached an information sheet provided by Estyn entitled Understanding inspections in schools: A guide for parents and carer' to help you further understand the inspection process.

School Discos – Date Change!

Due to our staff being required to participate in the inspection process outlined above, the school discos will now take place after the half term holidays. The new dates are as follows:

Tuesday 24th February:

2:15 - 3:15pm: Reception to Year 2

3:30 - 4:30pm: Years 3 & 4

Wednesday 25th February:

3:15 - 4:30pm: Years 5 & 6

The Discos will be held in the school hall at a cost of £2.00 per pupil which includes a drink and snack. Please make payment via scopay.

We apologise for any inconvenience that this change of date may cause.

Family Engagement Officers.

As mentioned in the last few weeks, we have a new community FEO, Sarah Bawden. Sarah will be coming to school every Tuesday to further support pupils and their families. She would like to find out how to best support our families so she would like you to complete this quick [questionnaire](#). Thanks for your continued support

We will be hosting a **coffee morning on Tuesday 3rd February, between 8.50 – 10.30** where you can come along to meet our FEO's and find out more about their role and how they can support you and your children.

Family Engagement Officer



About me

I am Sarah the Community Focused Family Engagement Officer from Bridgend Council. My role is to build strong connections between school, families, and the wider community so every child feels happy, safe, and supported. I have over 5 years experience as a Primary School Teacher - working with and supporting families is something I am passionate about.

Hello!
I'm Sarah

How can I help?

- Building strong relationships between home, school and the community
- Workshops on common issues e.g. managing emotions
- Supporting family wellbeing and attendance
- Listening to parents/carers concerns
- Guide families to local services/support

You're welcome to come and talk to me about anything mentioned above, or anything that may be affecting your child's learning, happiness, or wellbeing.

Contact information

Email:
Sarah.bawden@bridgend.gov.uk

I will be in school every Tuesday if you would like to chat!



Contact Arrangements for New Teachers in Years 3&4

As promised, we have now facilitated for our two new teachers to be available to contact on our school app messaging system. They can be contacted directly in the same way that all other teachers are.

If you need to message Miss Samuel (Year 3), she can be found as 'L Samuel'. If you need to message Miss Taylor (Year 3/4), she can be found as 'L Taylor'. Please see the screenshot of this below for your reference.

New Message

Recipients

To...

L Samuel x

L Taylor x

May I take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers of our communication flowchart which will help you direct your communications to the correct channel. I have attached this flowchart for your convenience.

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.

Attendance Update: Spring Term

Week Ending	Weekly Attendance	Running Attendance	
		Since September 2025	Since Start of Spring Term
Spring 1 (09/01/26)	88.9%	91.2%	88.9%
Spring 2 (16/01/26)	93.4%	91.4%	91.4%
Spring 3 (23/01/26)	90.4%	91.4%	91.1%

Overall attendance this term shows a strong positive trend, highlighted by a significant rise in Week 2 where attendance jumped to 93.4%, demonstrating that we can reach our target level.

Although Week 3 has dipped to 90.4%, the running attendance since September has remained steady at 91.4%, and the Spring term running average remains at 91.1%. Looking ahead, a realistic target for next week is to achieve at least 92.7%, which would lift the Spring running average to 91.5%, while a stretch target of 94.7% would raise it to 92.0%.

INSET Days 2025-26

Please find detailed below the remaining INSET days scheduled for 2025/26;

- Monday 23rd February 2026
- Friday 22nd May 2026
- Monday 20th July 2026

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Owen

Date	Detail
03/02/26	Family Engagement Officer Coffee Morning in our family room (8.50 – 10.30)
09/02/26	Estyn Parents & Carers Meeting in the school hall.
13/02/26	Last Day of Spring 1 Half Term
23/02/26	INSET Day 4
24/02/26	First Day of Spring 2 Half Term for pupils
24/02/26	School Discos 2:15 - 3:15pm: Reception to Year 2 3:30 - 4:30pm: Years 3 & 4
25/02/26	School Discos 3:15 - 4:30pm: Years 5 & 6
02/03/26	Eisteddfod celebrations in School
03/03/26	Eisteddfod class showcases for parents and carers
27/03/26	Carnival of Culture – All day event in Penybont Primary School
27/03/26	Last Day of Spring 2 Half Term
28/03/26	Start of Easter Holidays
13/04/26	First Day of Summer 1