



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 7th September 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome Back to a New School Year at Penybont Primary School!

As we begin another exciting year at Penybont Primary School, I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to all our pupils, parents, carers and families. I hope you were able to enjoy a restful summer break and spend some valuable time together. It has been wonderful to see the school come back to life over the past few days, with classrooms full of smiling faces, enthusiastic learners and staff who are delighted to welcome everyone back.

The start of a new school year always brings a sense of excitement and possibility, and I am pleased to say that the children have made an exceptionally positive start. Throughout the school, pupils have settled quickly into their new classes and routines, demonstrating enthusiasm, kindness and a genuine readiness to learn. As a school, we have asked every pupil to focus on two very important goals this year: **being kind** and **trying their best**. These simple but powerful values underpin everything we do at Penybont Primary School.

We believe that when children show kindness towards one another and consistently put forward their best effort, they flourish both academically and personally. We have already seen countless examples of pupils helping friends, welcoming others, demonstrating good manners and showing resilience when faced with challenges. We are incredibly proud of the start they have made and look forward to seeing them continue to grow and achieve throughout the year.

Important Information About School Communication

This newsletter is being shared both digitally and as a paper copy, but it will be the **only newsletter that will be distributed in both formats**. We have done this to remind all parents and carers that the majority of school communication comes via the 'Reach More Parents' app.

It is essential that all parents and carers are able to access their Reach More Parents account. Through the app, you will receive newsletters, important updates, event information, reminders, letters and other key communications from the school.

Many of you already use the app to your advantage. If you have not yet logged in to your account, or if you are experiencing any difficulties accessing the app, please contact the school office as soon as possible. Our staff will be more than happy to assist you in getting logged in and ensuring that you can receive all future

communications. We do not want any family to miss important information simply because of technical difficulties, so please get in touch if you require any support.

Follow Us on Social Media

We are also delighted to share that Penybont Primary School now has official school pages on Facebook and Instagram. These platforms will be used to celebrate the fantastic learning experiences, achievements and memorable moments that take place across our school community. Throughout the year, we will share photographs, short videos and highlights from activities, events and special occasions to give families a further insight into the wonderful experiences our pupils enjoy.

While we know many parents and carers enjoy keeping up to date through social media, it is important to emphasise that these platforms are intended for adults. We do not expect or encourage primary aged pupils to access Facebook or Instagram, as these services have age restrictions and are designed for older users. Our social media pages are simply another way for parents, carers and the wider community to celebrate and recognise the amazing work that takes place at Penybont Primary School every day. We hope they will help strengthen the connection between home and school and showcase the many successes of our pupils throughout the year.

Keeping Everyone Safe at Drop-Off and Collection Times

The safety of our pupils, families and local community remains our highest priority. The start and end of the school day can be particularly busy times around the school site, and we ask for everyone's support in helping us keep these periods as safe as possible.

Unfortunately, unsafe parking can create significant risks for children and families. We would like to remind all parents and carers that vehicles must never be parked on the yellow zig-zag markings outside school, even for a short period of time. These markings are there to provide clear visibility and safe crossing areas for children and must remain unobstructed at all times.

Likewise, parking on double yellow lines is not permitted and can create hazards for both pedestrians and other road users.

We would also ask drivers to avoid parking on pavements and pathways. When vehicles block walking routes, families, young children and those using pushchairs or mobility aids are often forced into the road, placing them at unnecessary risk.

Please be considerate of our neighbours and other road users when choosing where to park and allow yourself a little extra time if you need to walk a short distance to school.

We are fortunate to have a caring and supportive school community, and by working together we can ensure that every child arrives at school safely and leaves safely at the end of the day. We appreciate your cooperation and support in helping us keep our school environment safe for everyone.

Once again, welcome back to Penybont Primary School. We are looking forward to a fantastic year filled with learning, friendship, achievement and memorable

experiences. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Together, we can ensure that every child has an enjoyable, successful and rewarding year ahead.

Robbie Owen
Headteacher
Penybont Primary School

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%

We are absolutely delighted with the start our pupils have made this term, not only in their learning and behaviour, but also in their attendance.

Our school attendance target for the year is 93%, and I am thrilled to share that our attendance for the first week of term was an outstanding 96.2%. This is a fantastic achievement and reflects the commitment of our families to ensuring children are in school every day, ready to learn.

Excellent attendance gives pupils the very best chance of success, helping them build friendships, develop confidence and make the most of every learning opportunity. Thank you for your continued support in helping us get the school year off to such a positive start. Let's keep up the great work together!

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
23/10/26	Last day of Autumn 1
02/11/26	First day of Autumn 2