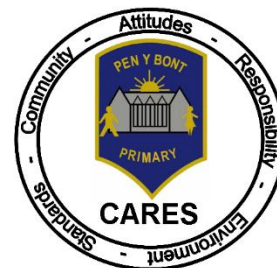


PENYBONT PRIMARY SCHOOL



Bridgend
CF31 1TD

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Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents & Carers,

A Warm Welcome Back to School!

It has been truly heartwarming to see our pupils return to school this week, their smiling faces lighting up the classrooms and corridors once again. Equally delightful has been the sight of parents, some with even bigger smiles, dropping off their children, ready for a fresh start to the academic year.

We are especially pleased to welcome our new pupils and their families to Penybont Primary School. Starting a new school journey is a big step, and we are committed to making sure every child and parent feels supported, valued, and part of our school community from day one.

Our pupils have made a fantastic start to the new school year. They've settled in beautifully and look incredibly smart in their uniforms. We'd like to thank families for their continued support in ensuring children arrive dressed appropriately each day. With the Welsh Government's uniform grant available to eligible families, we kindly remind everyone that full school uniform is expected daily.

This week also marks the arrival of several new staff members who we are thrilled to welcome to our team. Mr. Milton Harris and Mr. Davies have joined our teaching staff, bringing fresh energy and enthusiasm to the classroom. Mrs. Whittle joins our support staff team, and we're delighted to welcome back Mrs. Roberts, who is rejoining us after a short break. Each of them brings valuable experience and a passion for education that will enrich our school community.

We're looking forward to a successful and joyful year ahead, filled with learning, growth, and memorable moments for all.

Important Update: Free School Meals & Uniform Grant – What Parents Need to Know

All primary school children in Wales now receive Universal Free School Meals automatically – no application needed for your child to eat at school. However, **you still need to apply** for means-tested Free School Meals if you receive certain benefits. Why?

✅ **Up to £200 per child in School Essentials Grant** – for uniform, shoes, stationery, and more



- ✓ **Extra funding for our school** – helps us provide better resources and support for all pupils
- ✓ **Eligibility for other support** – including help with trips, IT equipment, and enrichment activities

Even if your child gets a free meal already, **applying ensures your family and our school don't miss out.**

Who Can Apply?

You may be eligible if you receive:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit (with annual net income under £7,400)
- Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit, and income under £16,190)
- Support under the Immigration and Asylum Act
- Pension Credit (guarantee element)

Apply Now

Visit the [Bridgend County Borough Council Free School Meals page](#) to check eligibility and apply. Or contact 01656 643643

Online Safety

Each month, I will share an e-safety newsletter with you containing topical information to help keep your children and families safe online.

I have attached the first of these along with this newsletter.

Parent & Carer Council

I will be in touch with our newly formed Parent & Carer Council during the next few weeks to arrange our first meeting, so I can gather your thoughts on how we can further improve our school.

Clubs on Offer

As always, we aim to provide our pupils with many experiences as possible in Penybont and this term we have another vast range of extra-curricular opportunities for your child to participate in if they wish. Letters will be sent home in the coming days and need to be returned to the relevant club leaders. Please accept apologies in advance for the A3 letters coming from Mr Ashton and Mr Gorman, it seems that they have forgotten how to print onto A4 after 6 weeks off!

Some clubs have a maximum capacity, if your child would like to attend one of the clubs on offer, please ask them to see the club leader to find out if there is any space for them.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for giving up their time to put on such a wonderful menu of choice for our pupils.

Mr Bridgeman will share details of his club when he returns from his paternity leave on Tuesday 16th September.

YEAR	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Y2 only				Mrs Wyatt Clwb Cymraeg	
3/4	Mrs Evans Film Club Mrs Thomas Netball Mr Milton-Harris Touch Rugby	Mrs Maiden-Pitcher Performing Arts		Mr Ashton Football	
5/6		Mr Ashton & Mr Gorman Football Mrs Mulcahy Junior Leadership Team - All Reps		Mrs Alford Netball Mr Gorman Rugby Mr Davies Build The Band	

School Times

It is essential that all pupils arrive in school on time, I have included our school day timings below as a reminder. Please help us to help your child by bring them in between 8.45 and 8.55, no later.

Year Groups	Morning	Afternoon
Nursery	8.45 – 8.55	2.55 – 3.05
Reception, Year 1 & 2	8.45 – 8.55	3.00 – 3.10
Year 3, 4, 5 & 6	8.45 – 8.55	3.05 – 3.15

Volunteers Needed!

Last year, we were blessed with a group of volunteers who helped us run our Dydd Gwener Gwych provision every Friday morning. They supported staff in a range of activities from cookery to swimming and kickboxing.

If you are interested in helping out this year, we would really appreciate your support. We will need you every Friday morning between 9.15 and 11.45.

If you are able to help out, please contact the school office, thank you

INSET Days 2025-26



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

- Friday 3rd October 2025
- Friday 19th December 2025
- Monday 23rd February 2026
- Friday 22nd May 2026
- Monday 20th July 2026

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Owen

Date	Detail
03/10/25	INSET Day 2
24/10/25	Last day of first half of Autumn Term
03/11/25	First day of second half of Autumn Term
18/12/25	Christmas Extravaganza, last day of Autumn term
19/12/25	Inset Day 3
05/01/26	First day of Spring Term