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 23rd November 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

Today was our very first Surprise Attendance Day, and what a fantastic day it has been so far!

The surprise celebrations were our way of saying thank you to all the pupils who were in school, ready to learn and be part of the fun. Throughout the year, we'll be holding one surprise attendance day every half term, with no advance warning, so every day in school counts!

Today's surprise treats included bubble machines, attendance stickers, extra playtime, music, dancing and lots of smiles. The excitement around the school was fantastic, and the children loved the unexpected rewards.

When will the next Surprise Attendance Day be? Nobody knows! One thing is certain though, you need to be in school to be part of the fun!

Let's see who will be here for our next surprise celebration!

Movember Update

A huge thank you to all of the parents, carers, staff and friends of the school who have supported our Movember Challenge this month. We have been incredibly grateful for the enthusiasm shown by those taking part in personal challenges, growing their moustaches, spreading awareness and raising money for such an important cause.

Special thanks go to everyone who has committed to completing a challenge throughout November, as well as those who have already donated or helped raise funds. Your support not only helps to raise money for men's health charities but also encourages important conversations about physical and mental wellbeing.

There is still time to get involved. If you would like to support our Movember fundraising efforts, donations can still be made via the link below. Every contribution, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated and helps make a real difference.

Thank you once again for your fantastic support and for helping to make this year's Movember challenge such a success.

Donate here: https://movember.com/t/penybont-primary-school-community?mc=1

Christmas Extraveganza

We are thrilled to be hosting our annual Christmas Extravaganza on Thursday 17th December!

Our previous extravaganzas have been a huge success and are always a real highlight of the school year. This year's event promises to be bigger, brighter and packed with even more festive fun for our pupils.

To help make this special day possible, we kindly ask for a contribution of £6 per child. We believe this represents excellent value for the memorable Christmas experiences, activities and treats that the children will enjoy throughout the day.

We appreciate that the festive season can place additional financial pressures on families, and we are grateful for your support in helping us create a magical day filled with excitement, laughter and Christmas cheer for all.

All pupils will be having a packed lunch on the Christmas Extravaganza day. If you wish your child to receive a school packed lunch , please send a message to the school office, with your child's name, their class and their preference of cheese or ham.

The cut off for requests is Friday 4th December at 2:00pm, any late applications will have to be declined.

Catering don't make lunches on site, they have to be ordered in advance.

Thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to celebrate together and create wonderful Christmas memories for our children!

Christmas Concert Information

Date	Event	Detail
08/12/26	School Christmas Dinner	Further details to follow
09/12/26	Years 5 & 6 Concerts	AM & PM concerts (during the school day)
10/12/26	Years 3 & 4 Concerts	AM & PM concerts (during the school day)
14/12/26	Years 1 & 2 Concerts	AM & PM concerts (during the school day)
15/12/26	Reception Concert	AM concert only
16/12/26	Nursery Concert	AM concert only
17/12/26	Christmas Extravaganza	Last Day of Autumn Term

As in previous years, each department will have both a morning and an afternoon performance, except for nursery and reception pupils, who will only perform once each, as two performances would be too demanding for them.

In each concert, for years 1-6, the youngest year group will form the choir and the oldest year group will perform on stage. This is repeated every year, ensuring that everyone has had opportunity to be in both the choir and on stage within the last 2 concerts.

Families will be given the option of buying up to 2 tickets per pupil in the concert (ie either 2 for the am, OR 2 for the pm, OR 1 for both). The remainder of tickets going on sale on a first come first served basis.

Tickets are on sale from today! Please send your child's completed order form and payment in a named, sealed envelope. Envelopes will be collected from children during registration.

To help us process orders efficiently, please do not include siblings' orders in the same envelope, as these are organised by class, year group and concert. We also ask that children do not hand loose change or order forms directly to teachers.

Please note that tickets cannot be purchased from the hatch. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

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 2026	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%
Autumn 5 (02/10/26)	93.6%	94.6%	94.6%
Autumn 6 (09/10/26)	92.8%	94.3%	94.3%
Autumn 7 (16/10/26)	93.2%	94.1%	94.1%
Autumn 8 (23/10/26)	92.5%	93.9%	93.9%
Autumn 9 (06/11/26)	94.6%	94%	94%
Autumn 10 (13/11/26)	95.3%	94.1%	94.1%
Autumn 11 (20/11/26)	94.4%	94.2%	94.2%

Attendance continues to be a key priority at Penybont Primary School, and I am delighted to report that our overall attendance currently stands at 94.2%, exceeding our school target of 93%.

After a strong start to the academic year, attendance dipped slightly during September and October, which is not uncommon as seasonal illnesses begin to circulate. However, it has been encouraging to see attendance improve again throughout November, with one week reaching 95.3%.

Every day in school matters, and these positive figures reflect the commitment of our pupils, families and staff to ensuring children are in school, learning and making the most of every opportunity. Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain attendance above our target and giving our children the very best chance to succeed.

Our target: 93% | Current attendance to date: 94.2%

INSET Days 2026-27

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

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

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Owen

Date	Detail
28/11/26	Saturday Cross Country – Porthcawl Comprehensive School
08/12/26	School Christmas Dinner
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
17/12/26	Christmas Extravaganza – Last Day of Autumn Term
18/12/26	Inset Day (3 of 6)