



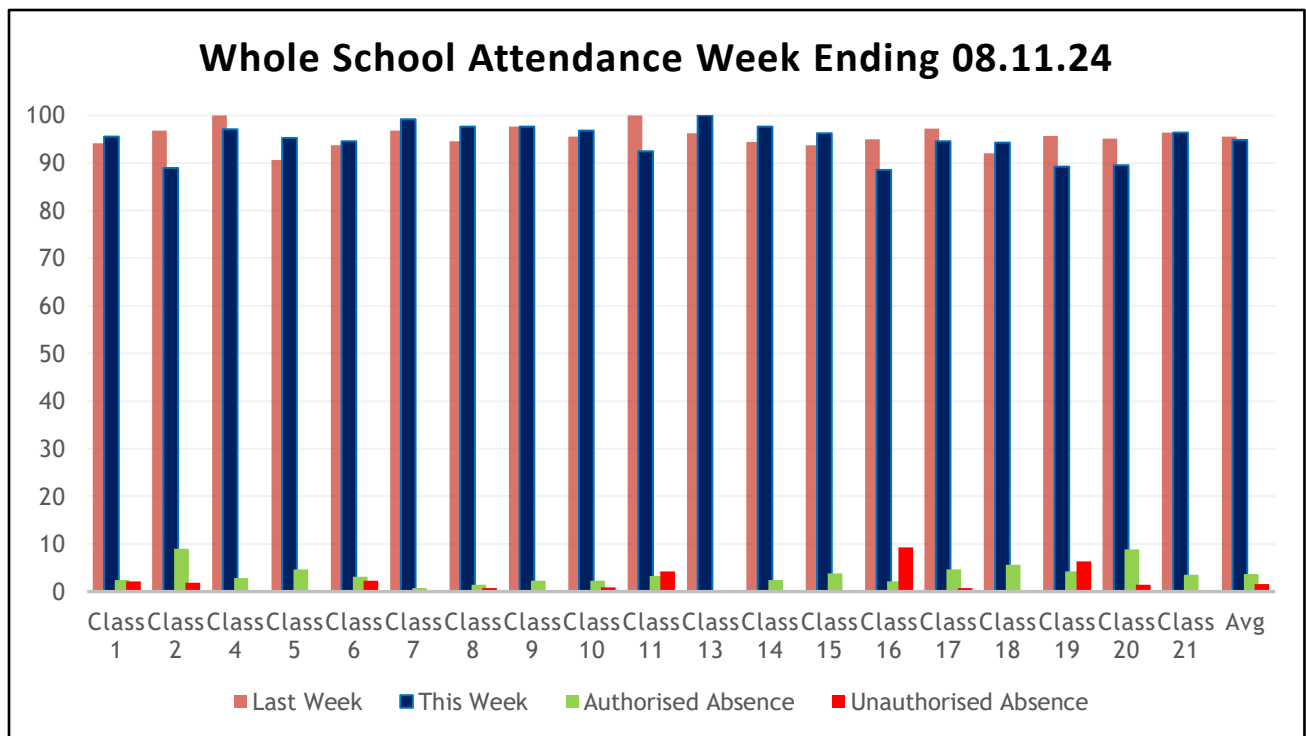
Parent Newsletter



Friday 15th November 2024



Attendance Matters



Our attendance target for the academic year is **95.7%**. Look at the graph above to see how your child’s class is performing. The average attendance across the school last week was 94.8%, this is slightly below our whole school target but a slight increase on the previous week.

Authorised absences were: **3.7%**

Unauthorised absences were: **1.6%** - All absences **must** be reported to the school office.

It is imperative that all absences from school are reported to the school office. This will help to reduce the percentage of unauthorised absences at the school. Failure to report your child’s absence from school could result in a prosecution from the educational welfare officer.

School Dinners

Next week, we will be on Week 3 of the menu. Please check with your child that they like the menu option before they come to school.



LUNCHTIME MENU WEEK 3



Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Choice 1	Welsh Pork Meatballs with Tomato & Basil Sauce	Welsh Sausage Roll	Chicken, Yorkshire Pudding, Seasoning & Gravy	Minced Beef Pie & Gravy	Fish Bites
Choice 2	Vegetable Nuggets (V)	Ravioli in Welsh Cheese Sauce (V)	Vegetarian Cottage Pie (V)	Margherita Pizza (V)	Cheese & Potato Pie (V)
Choice 3 Daily Special	Filled Jacket Potato	Fish Goujons Non-Fried	Welsh Vegan Sausage Roll (V)	Cod & Salmon Fish Fingers Non-Fried	Filled Baguette
Accompaniments	Mashed Potatoes Pasta Salad Bar Cheesy Coleslaw Peas & Sweetcorn	Mexican Bread Potato Croquettes with Various Sauces Salad Bar Baked Beans Sweetcorn	Oven Baked Dry Roast Potatoes Boiled/Mashed Potatoes Salad Bar Cauliflower/Swede Peas	Savoury Herb Diced Potatoes Non-Fried Seasoned Wedges Non-Fried Salad Bar Peas Farmhouse Mixed Veg	Boiled Potatoes Chipped Potatoes With Various Sauces Salad Bar Baked Beans Peas
Desserts	Sticky Orange Date Brownie & Orange Wedges	Various Fruit Crumble & Custard	Various Flavoured Mousse	American Pancake with Fruit & Ice Cream	Chocolate Cookie

A Selection of Filled Jacket Potatoes, Sandwiches, Baguettes or Wraps are also available daily
Please note: The above menu contains allergens

If you are taking your child for a medical appointment or they will be arriving at school late, could you please telephone the school office before 9:30am to book their lunch. This will help the school cook to ensure she has made the correct number of meals.

Inclement Weather

The weather is set to turn much colder next week and whilst I am hopeful that we will not be affected by snow, it seems as good a time as any to remind parents about our procedures with regards to snow.



The following is provided for clarification for parents:

- The best way to find out if the school is open or closed is to look at the Caerphilly County Council Website – www.caerphilly.gov.uk I can access this from home and will update it when there is some news. Once I have done that, I will put a message on Seesaw and our website www.rhiwsyrdafyddscool.wales.
- In deciding whether to open the school, I will need to take a number of things into account. These include:

- The number of staff able to get safely to school.
 - The condition of paths and car parking on the school site. Car parking is an issue here as staff cars are likely to add to congestion if parked outside school.
 - The ability to provide food at lunchtime.
 - The condition of Maes Y Garn Road and if it is safe for parents and staff to drive along it.
- As I live in the Oakdale area, in periods of adverse weather, it is my decision, in consultation with Mrs Windsor, as to whether to close the school. I always aim to put the decision on Seesaw, Twitter and Caerphilly Council Website by 6:30am.
 - As weather forecasts are not always accurate, the decision to open or close will be made early each morning. However, as I fully recognise the pressure on parents, during longer periods of severe weather I will always try to give an indication the evening before.
 - I will only open the school when paths have been cleared on the school site to allow pupils to safely enter and exit the school. Mr Gibbs-Bowen will always clear paths from Maes Y Garn Road to
 - The main entrance, the large hall, to Nursery and to Reception.
 - The entrance to the back of the school will remain closed until the Council has gritted/cleared the public footpath. It is my policy to have fewer paths well gritted and very safe, as opposed to trying to clear all paths and reduce the quality of the clearance.
 - Pupils for Breakfast Club are to use the main entrance, pupils for Nursery and Reception are to use their designated entrances and pupils from Y1 to Y6 should follow the cleared path from Maes Y Garn Road to the main hall. If the snow does not clear during the day, then pupils will be dismissed from these same points at the end of the school day.
 - Staff can only answer telephones if they can get into school. I am grateful to those staff who struggle into school to answer calls. Please be aware that we have two lines and if only one person is answering the phone, then the second caller will get the answer machine. The use of Seesaw and the website should significantly reduce the number of parents who need to telephone the school.
 - If heavy snow falls whilst we are open, then a message will be posted on Seesaw to ask parents to collect children and the closure will be listed on the Caerphilly website. In such a case, we would ask parents help in informing as many other parents as possible. Please note that we cannot let anyone collect your child unless you have given us permission to do so. Initially, infant pupils should be collected from their classrooms and junior pupils from the main entrance. As numbers of pupils decrease, the remaining pupils will be taken to the main hall and staff who live furthest away released.

I will open the school when I have managed all in my power to make the school safe. It is for parents to decide if they can get their child to school safely. If you are unable to get your child here safely, then naturally I would strongly advise that your child remains at home.

Christmas Concerts

Please find the concert dates and times below:

Year Group	Date	Time
Nursery	Tuesday 10 th December	10:15am (Morning Nursery) 13:45pm (Afternoon Nursery)
Reception (Class 1)	Tuesday 10 th December	9:15am
Reception (Class 2)	Wednesday 11 th December	9:15am
Year 1		10:30am
Year 1	Thursday 12 th December	9:15am
Year 2		10:30am
Year 2	Friday 13 th December	9:15am
Year 3/4	Tuesday 17 th December	18:00pm
Year 5/6	Tuesday 17 th December	13:30pm
Year 3/4	Wednesday 18 th December	13:30pm
Year 5/6	Wednesday 18 th December	18:00pm

Christmas concert letters to order tickets will be sent home the week beginning 18th November.

School Choir

I am pleased to inform you that our school choir will be singing in Sainsbury's Pontllanfraith on Saturday 23rd November at 10 – 11am.

Healthy Snacks

On Wednesday 20th November, the school Eco Team will be selling healthy snacks at break time. The snacks are all 50p and will include cheese strings, bread sticks, yogurts, breakfast bars and raisins.

Remembrance

Thank you to everyone who attended the Remembrance parade last Sunday. It was wonderful to see so many members of the school community there.

Reception Applications

The application process is now open for parents/guardians of Nursery aged pupils to apply for Reception in September 2025. You must apply for a place in Reception even if your child already attends our Nursery setting.

You can apply by visiting www.caerphilly.gov.uk and searching for school admissions or by scanning the QR code below. For help and support call the Admissions team on 01443 864870



Dates

Event	Date	Year Group
Christmas Fayre	Friday 29 th November	Whole School
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 10 th December	Nursery
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 10 th December	Reception
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 11 th December	Reception
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 11 th December	Year 1
Christmas Concert	Thursday 12 th December	Year 1
Christmas Concert	Thursday 12 th December	Year 2
Christmas Concert	Friday 13 th December	Year 2
Christmas Dinner	Friday 13 th December	Reception - Year 6
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 17 th December	Year 3 / 4
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 17 th December	Year 5 / 6
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 18 th December	Year 3 / 4
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 18 th December	Year 5 / 6
INSET Day	Friday 20th December	Whole School
Christmas Holidays	Monday 23 rd December - Friday 3 rd January	Whole School
INSET Day	Monday 6th January	Whole School
Valentine Disco	Thursday 13 th February	Year 1 - Year 6
Half-Term	Monday 24 th - Friday 28 th February	Whole School
School Eisteddfod	Friday 7 th March	Whole School
Mother's Day Stall	Monday 24 th March	Whole School
Parent Teacher Consultations	Tuesday 8 th April	Whole School
Parent Teacher Consultations	Thursday 10 th April	Whole School
Easter Holidays	Monday 14 th - Friday 25 th April	Whole School
Bank Holiday	Monday 5 th May	Whole School
Cardiff Bay Trip	Tuesday 6 th - Wednesday 7 th May	Year 4
Half-Term	Monday 26 th - Friday 30 th May	Whole School
Summer Disco	Thursday 5 th June	Year 1 - Year 6
Father's Day Stall	Monday 9 th June	Whole School
Sports Day	Tuesday 10 th June	Nursery

Sports Day	Wednesday 11 th June	Reception
Sports Day	Wednesday 11 th June	Year 1
Sports Day	Wednesday 11 th June	Year 2
Sports Day	Thursday 12 th June	Year 3 / 4
Sports Day	Thursday 12 th June	Year 5 / 6
Sports Day	Friday 13 th June	Rising 3s
Reserve Sports Day	Friday 13 th June	Various
PGL Residential	Wednesday 18 th - Friday 20 th June	Year 6
Transition Day	Tuesday 24 th June	Whole School
Rainbow Raffle	Friday 27 th June	Whole School
Reports	Friday 4 th July	Whole School
PTA Summer Fayre	Friday 11 th July	Whole School
Year 6 Leavers' Assembly	Tuesday 15 th July	Year 6
INSET Day	Monday 21 st July	Whole School

Parent Newsletter

Mr C George
Headteacher

Mrs S Windsor
Chair of Governors

