



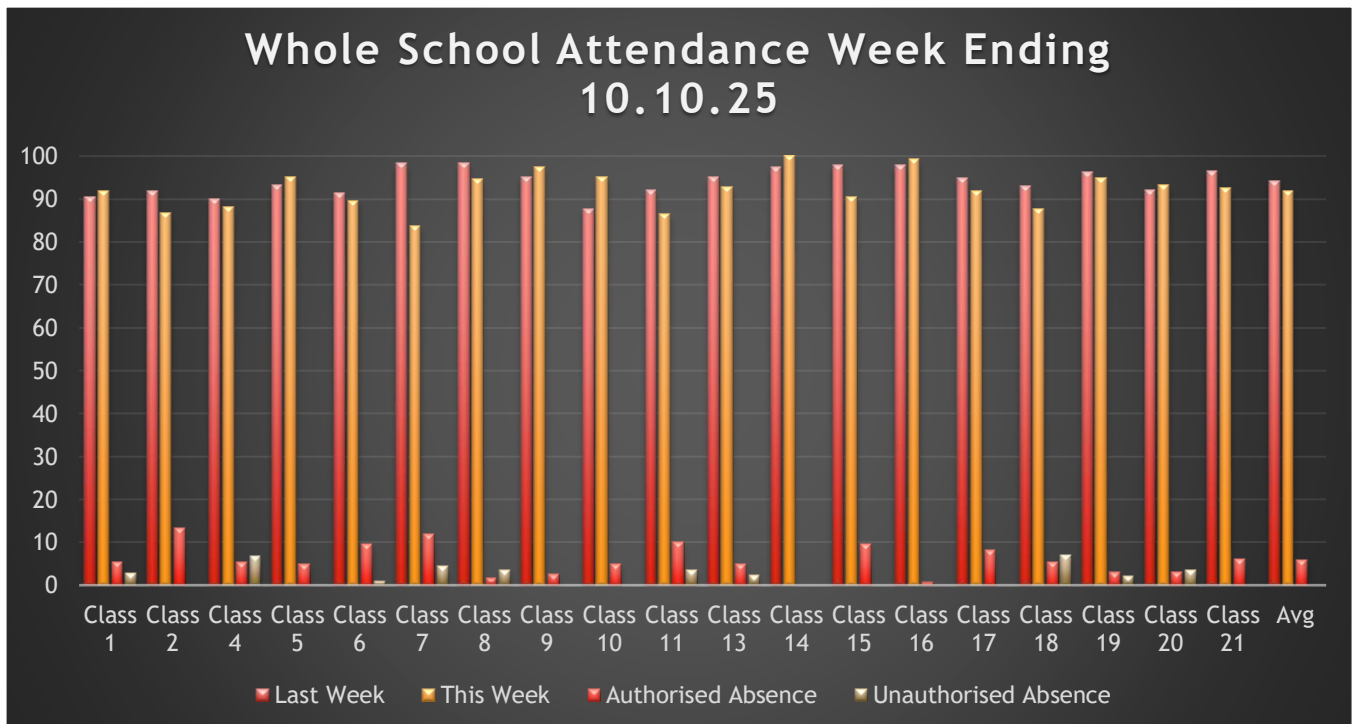
Parent Newsletter



Friday 17th October 2025



Attendance Matters



Our attendance target for the academic year is **95%**. Look at the graph above to see how your child's class is performing. The average attendance across the school last week was **91.9%**. This is significantly below our whole school target and a big decrease on the previous week.

Authorised absences were: **6.0%**

Unauthorised absences were: **2.1%** - 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 2 of the menu. Please check with your child that they like the menu option before they come to school. There have been some changes to the menu from previous weeks.



LUNCHTIME MENU WEEK 2



Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Choice 1	Hot Dog with Onions & Tomato Ketchup	Fruity Curry	Turkey, Yorkshire Pudding Seasoning & Gravy	Jumbo Fish Finger	Pork Meatballs
Choice 2	Tomato Pasta Bake with Garlic & Herb Bread (V)	Welsh Cauliflower Cheese (V)	Margarita Pizza (V)	Macaroni Cheese Made with Welsh Cheese (V)	Cheese Omelette (V)
Choice 3 Daily Special	Fish Goujons Non-Fried	Welsh Cheese Toasted Panini (V)	Meatball Baguette with BBQ Sauce (V)	Filled Sandwich	Cod & Salmon Fish Fingers Non-Fried
Accompaniments	Mashed Potatoes Seasoned Wedges Non-Fried with Tomato Ketchup Salad Bar Peas Coleslaw	Rice/Noodles Savoury Herb Diced Potatoes Non-Fried Salad Bar Mixed Vegetables Corn on Cob	Sage & Thyme Oven Baked Dry Roast Potatoes Mashed/Boiled Potatoes Salad Bar Carrots Cabbage Peas	Pommes Noisettes Tomato & Garlic Cheesy Twist Bread Salad Bar Sweetcorn Baked Beans	Seasoned Wedges Non-Fried Crispy Fries & Various Sauces Salad Bar Baked Beans Peas
Desserts	Strawberry Flapjack	Fruit & Ice Cream	Jelly	Fruit Sponge with Custard	Plain Cookie Served with Fruit

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

Mobile Phones

I would like to kindly ask for your support in helping us create a more connected and engaging environment on our school playground. Recently, I have noticed that many adults are using their mobile phones during drop-off and pick-up times. While I understand how busy life can be, I would like to encourage you to take a short break from your phone when you arrive at school.

Instead, please take the opportunity to greet your child with a smile and talk to them about their day. These few minutes of personal connection mean a great deal to our children and help them feel valued, seen, and supported.

I am increasingly concerned about how reliant young people are becoming on mobile phones and technology. As parents and carers, you play a vital role in setting the example. By showing that it's possible to put the phone away and focus on the moment, you are helping to teach your child the importance of face-to-face communication and genuine connection.

Taking a short break from technology will also support your own wellbeing — allowing you to pause, be present, and enjoy a calm moment at the end of the school day.

Together, we can make a big difference.

Parent Teacher Consultations

Our Parent–Teacher Consultations will take place next week. Letters have been sent home with pupils to help you book your appointment. If you haven't received a letter, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

We encourage all parents and carers to attend, as these meetings are an important opportunity to discuss your child's progress and celebrate their achievements. Working together helps ensure the best outcomes for every pupil.

Once again, this year, the Friends of Rhiw Syr Dafydd will be kindly providing refreshments each evening—we hope you'll take a moment to stop by and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

Please note that all teacher led after school clubs will be cancelled next week due to the parent teacher consultations.

Scholastic Book Fair

We will be holding our Scholastic Book Fair from Monday 20th – Thursday 23rd October. The book fair will be open after school until 4:30pm on Monday and Wednesday and throughout the evening on parent teacher consultation days. Purchasing a book could be a good way of rewarding your child for a positive report! Please make every effort to support the book fair as school will receive commission for all books sold.

Harvest Festival

Our school Harvest Festival will take place on Thursday 23rd October. As part of our upcoming Harvest Festival, we will be collecting non-perishable food items to donate to our local food bank. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the season of giving and support families in our community who may be in need.

We welcome donations of canned goods, boxed meals, pasta, rice, cereal, and other shelf-stable foods. Please ensure all items are unopened and within their expiration dates.

Donations can be dropped off at the school reception any time during school hours, leading up to and during the Harvest Festival.

Together, we can make a real difference and share the spirit of the harvest with others. Thank you for your kindness and generosity!

Spooky Disco

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the *Friends of Rhiw Syr Dafydd* for organising the amazing spooky discos! The children had a fantastic time — the music, decorations, and atmosphere were all brilliant.

Events like these make such special memories for our pupils, and they simply wouldn't happen without the time, effort, and creativity of our wonderful volunteers.

Smoking / Vaping

I would like to remind everyone that **smoking and vaping are strictly prohibited anywhere on the school site**, including the playground, car park, and entrances.

This rule helps us to maintain a safe and healthy environment for all our pupils, families, and staff. We appreciate your support in setting a positive example for our children and in keeping our school grounds smoke-free.

Secondary School Applications & Reception Applications

Applications for secondary school and reception places are now open. To secure a place for your child at secondary school or reception, you will need to complete an online application. Please visit the Caerphilly.gov website, search for school admissions and click to 'Apply for a place at school.' The actual web address is www.caerphilly.gov.uk/schooladmissions.

The closing date for secondary applications is: 31st October 2025

The closing date for Reception 2026 is: 12th December 2025

School Photographs

The photographer will be in school on the following dates:

- Tuesday 4th November: Nursery – Year 2
- Wednesday 5th November: Year 3 – Year 6
- Thursday 6th November: Sibling / Family Photographs

Sibling photographs will be offered. You will need to complete a request slip for this. This is for siblings who are currently attending Rhiw Syr Dafydd.

Family photographs, on Thursday 6th November, will be available from 8:00am until 8:45am.

Please complete the reply slip below if you require a sibling photograph.

Sibling Photograph:

I would like my children to have their photograph taken together. Please list all children to be included in the photograph, starting with the eldest.

Name of child / class:

-
-
-
-

Dates

Please be aware there has been a slight change to the dates below. Year 5 / 6 Christmas Concerts will now be at 6:00pm on Monday 15th December and 6:00pm on Wednesday 17th December.

Event	Date	Year Group
Parent Teacher Consultations	Tuesday 21 st October	Whole School
Parent Teacher Consultations	Thursday 23 rd October	Whole School
Sweet Shop (PTA)	Friday 24 th October	Whole School After School on Playground
Half-Term	Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October	Whole School
Photographs	Tuesday 4 th November	Nursery – Year 2
Photographs	Wednesday 5 th November	Year 3 – Year 6
Sibling / Family Photographs	Thursday 6 th November	Whole School
Christmas Jumper & Costume Sale (PTA)	Wednesday 18 th November	Whole School
Christmas Fayre (PTA)	Friday 28 th November	Whole School
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 9 th December	Nursery am & pm
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 9 th December	Reception
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 10 th December	Reception
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 10 th December	Year 1
Christmas Concert	Thursday 11 th December	Year 1
Christmas Concert	Thursday 11 th December	Year 2
Christmas Concert	Friday 12 th December	Year 2
Christmas Dinner	Friday 12 th December	Reception – Year 6
Christmas Concert	Monday 15 th December	Year 5 / 6
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 16 th December	Year 3 / 4
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 17 th December	Year 3 / 4

Christmas Concert	Wednesday 17 th December	Year 5 / 6
Christmas Holidays	Monday 22 nd December – Friday 2 nd January	Whole School
INSET Day	Monday 5 th January	Whole School
Lovely Disco	Thursday 12 th February	Year 1 – Year 6
Book Exchange (PTA)	Friday 13 th February	Whole School
Half-Term	Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February	Whole School
School Eisteddfod	Friday 27 th February	Whole School
Mother's Day Stall (PTA)	Monday 9 th March	Whole School
Parent Teacher Consultations	Tuesday 24 th March	Whole School
Parent Teacher Consultations	Thursday 26 th March	Whole School
Easter Holidays	Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April	Whole School
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May	Whole School
INSET Day	Friday 22 nd May	Whole School
Half-Term	Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May	Whole School
Summer Disco	Thursday 4 th June	Year 1 – Year 6
Sports Day	Tuesday 9 th June	Nursery
Sports Day	Wednesday 10 th June	Reception
Sports Day	Wednesday 10 th June	Year 1
Sports Day	Wednesday 10 th June	Year 2
Sports Day	Thursday 11 th June	Rising 3s
Sports Day	Thursday 11 th June	Year 3
Sports Day	Thursday 11 th June	Year 4
Sports Day	Friday 12 th June	Year 5
Sports Day	Friday 12 th June	Year 6
Father's Day Stall (PTA)	Monday 15 th June	Whole School
Rainbow Raffle (PTA)	Friday 26 th June	Whole School
Summer Fayre (PTA)	Friday 10 th July	Whole School
Leavers' Assembly	Tuesday 14 th July	Year 6
INSET Day	Monday 20 th July	Whole School

Parent Newsletter

Mr C George
Headteacher

Mrs S Windsor
Chair of Governors

