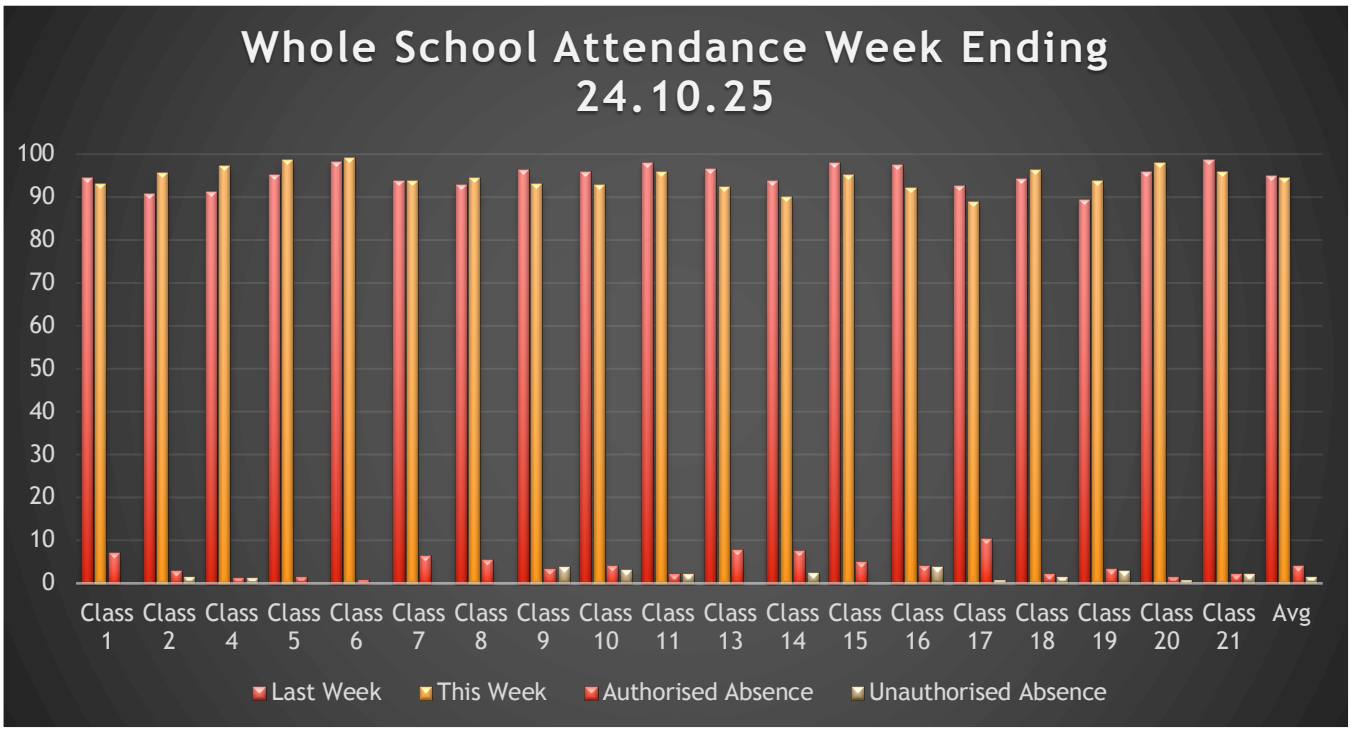
Parent Newsletter

Friday 7th November 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 the week before half-term was **94.6%.** This is just below our whole school target and a slight decrease on the previous week.

Authorised absences were: **4.0%**
Unauthorised absences were: **1.4% -** 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.

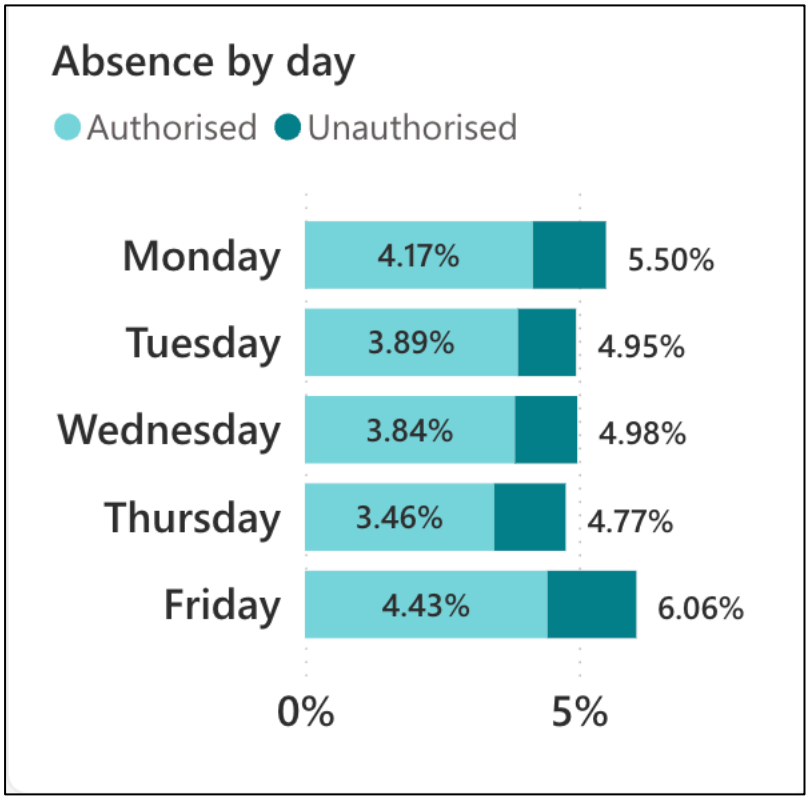
I have been closely monitoring attendance this week and am extremely concerned to see that our levels of persistent absenteeism are significantly above the national average.

Currently, 16.85% of our pupils fall into the category of persistent absenteeism (attendance below 90%), compared with the national average of 9.10%**.**

If you attended the Parent Teacher Consultations before half term, you will have been provided with your child's current attendance figure.

Please be aware that the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) will be arranging meetings with parents where persistent absenteeism shows no improvement. Continued poor attendance may result in a court summons**.**

I urge all parents and carers to ensure that their children attend school consistently, as regular attendance is essential for both academic progress and personal development.



As shown in the table opposite, **Friday has the highest rate of absence, accounting for 6.06%** of total absences. The Education Welfare Officer (EWO) and I will be closely monitoring attendance on Fridays and will be contacting parents where any concerning patterns of absence begin to emerge.

If you are experiencing any difficulties with your child's attendance, please don't hesitate to contact the school office. We are here to support you and can arrange an appointment to discuss how we can help.

Remembrance

This year's community Remembrance Day Parade will take place on Sunday 9th November. The parade will assemble opposite the old Oakdale Post Office at 10:40am. It would be wonderful if as many pupils as possible could walk with the school as part of the parade. Once again, this year, pupils from Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary School will be actively involved in the service. The school car park will be open for anyone wishing to use it.

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.



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

Children in Need

We are excited to let you know that we will be celebrating Children in Need on Friday 14th November.

Once again this year, we will be covering Pudsey in notes and coins to raise money for this fantastic cause. We would be very grateful for any donations the children can bring in to help fill Pudsey's outline!

Pupils are invited to come to school in non-uniform for the day and are welcome to wear any Children in Need merchandise that is available in shops.

Our Year 6 pupils will also be making and selling cakes to help raise even more money for Children in Need. Please send your child with a small amount of money if they would like to buy a treat.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us make a difference.

Secondary School Applications & Reception Applications

Applications for reception places are now open. To secure a place for your child in 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 Reception 2026 is: 12th December 2025

School Photographs

The school photographer was in this week taking pictures of the children and I was lucky enough to see some of the photographs — they look amazing!

Gemma was extremely well organised, and the whole process ran like clockwork. A big thank you to the Admin Team and Mrs Green for their help and support throughout the week.

Your child should have brought home a leaflet containing a **QR code**, which you can scan to view your child's photograph. If you have not received this leaflet, please contact the school office.

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
Christmas Jumper & Costume Sale (PTA)	Wednesday 19th November	Whole School
Christmas Fayre (PTA)	Friday 28th November	Whole School
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 9th December	Nursery am & pm
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 9th December	Reception
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 10th December	Reception
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 10th December	Year 1
Christmas Concert	Thursday 11th December	Year 1
Christmas Concert	Thursday 11th December	Year 2
Christmas Concert	Friday 12th December	Year 2
Christmas Dinner	Friday 12th December	Reception – Year 6
Christmas Concert	Monday 15th December	Year 5 / 6
Christmas Concert	Tuesday 16th December	Year 3 / 4
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 17th December	Year 3 / 4
Christmas Concert	Wednesday 17th December	Year 5 / 6
Christmas Holidays	Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January	Whole School
INSET Day	Monday 5th January	Whole School
Lovely Disco	Thursday 12th February	Year 1 – Year 6
Book Exchange (PTA)	Friday 13th February	Whole School
Half-Term	Monday 16th – Friday 20th February	Whole School
School Eisteddfod	Friday 27th February	Whole School

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

Parent Newsletter

Mr C George
Headteacher

Mrs S Windsor
Chair of Governors

