



Newsletter 04.09.25

Right of the month: Article 28: I have a right to go to school and an education.

Dear Parent/Carers,

Welcome back to a brand-new school year. We hope you all had a fun, relaxing, and safe summer break. Whether you were building sandcastles, reading books, exploring new hobbies, or just enjoying time with your family and friends.

It's been a joy to see the school filled with smiles, laughter, and the energy of learning once again. Whether you're returning or just starting your journey with us, you've all made a brilliant beginning.

This week we've seen:

- * Activate pupils settling in with curiosity and confidence
- * Advance pupils diving into their new topics with enthusiasm
- * Achieve pupils showing maturity and drive as they take on new challenges

A special well done to our new pupils who have already begun to make friends and find their way around – we're so proud of how well everyone is settling in!

We've also seen great teamwork, positive attitudes, and lots of kindness throughout the school. Form tutors/class teachers have been talking us through the Afon Wen way and this is exactly the kind of environment that helps us all grow and succeed together.

As we head into the term, we're excited for everything that's coming up – from clubs and sports to creative projects and school trips. There's so much to look forward to! Thank you for making the first few days of term a real success.

Term dates

TERM	DATES	HALF TERM	INSET DAYS
Autumn	1.9.25 – 19.12.25	27 th – 31 st October	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd September 2025
Spring	5.1.26 – 27.3.26	16 th – 20 th February	Monday 5 th January 2026 Monday 9 th February 2026
Summer	13.4.26 – 20.7.26	25 th – 29 th May	Monday 20 th July 2026

Key dates

5 th September 2025	Year 7 School Photos
19 th September 2025	Year 8 – 11 School Photos
22 nd /23 rd September 2025	Nursery to Year 6 meet the teacher
29 th September 2025	Nursery – Year 6 School Photos
15 th & 16 th October 2025	Nursery – Year 6 Progress Evenings
23 rd October 2025	Yr 11 Progress Evening





Afon Wen Way



YAW WAY

"This is the Afon Wen way"



YAW WAY

YSGOL AFON WEN CODE OF CONDUCT

<p>RESPECT FOR MYSELF</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will behave in a way that keeps myself and others safe I will not bring prohibited items to school I will respect myself and others
<p>RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will respond politely and honestly to all members of our community I will listen to directions and respond appropriately I will treat others with kindness
<p>RESPECT FOR LEARNING</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will work to the best of my ability I will be punctual I will complete tasks on time and to the best of my ability I will take pride in my work I will respect the right of others to learn
<p>RESPECT FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will keep our classrooms / buildings and outside areas tidy I will move around in a calm and orderly manner I will dispose of litter appropriately
<p>RESPECT FOR OUR COMMUNITY</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I will respect and value the diverse and inclusive nature of our school community I will be polite and sensible whilst travelling to and from school and representing our school I will show respect to all visitors



RESPECT FOR MYSELF RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER RESPECT FOR LEARNING RESPECT FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT RESPECT FOR OUR COMMUNITY



YAW WAY

"This is the Afon Wen way"

NORMS	ROUTINES
<p>COMMUNICATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff and pupils will greet each other appropriately "Bore da / Shw'mae / How are you?" We will stop walking when spoken to We will look at each other 	<p>UNIFORM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will wear the appropriate items We will not wear hoodies
<p>LUNCH / BREAK TIMES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will eat food in canteen areas / outside only We will use the bins available We will remember that we are a nut free school 	<p>ASSEMBLY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will attend on time We will wear full school uniform We will sit with our form and Form Tutor We will listen and contribute with respect
<p>TOILETS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use the toilets during break / lunch One person per cubicle Unless for medical reasons, we will not access toilets during lessons 	<p>START OF LESSON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will arrive on time We will be greeted by the classroom door If late, we will knock the door before we enter We will remove coats We will stand behind our chairs until we are asked to sit We will follow the seating plan We will get our equipment ready We will follow directions
<p>CORRIDORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will walk on the left hand side We will open the door for others 	<p>END OF LESSON</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will tidy our area / pack our equipment We will follow directions When asked, we will stand behind our chair We will wait to be released by our teacher
<p>MOBILE PHONES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are a no-phone zone, from gate to gate 	








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Afon Wen Way



A Warm Welcome Back and Introducing 'The Afon Wen Way'

What an absolute pleasure it has been to welcome all our pupils back to school this week! The corridors are once again filled with the energy and enthusiasm that makes Ysgol Afon Wen such a special place to learn and grow. Seeing our pupils settle back into their routines with such positivity has been truly heartwarming. We are delighted to share with you that we are launching our brand new behaviour curriculum, 'The Afon Wen Way', which places respect firmly at its core. This exciting initiative represents our commitment to creating an environment where every member of our school community can flourish, from our youngest learners right through to our oldest pupils.

'The Afon Wen Way' is much more than a set of rules – it's a comprehensive approach that guides how we interact with one another, how we approach our learning, and how we contribute to our school community. The beauty of this curriculum lies in its simplicity and clarity: respect underpins everything we do. When we show respect for ourselves, for others, and for our learning environment, we create the conditions where everyone can succeed.

Our expectations are clear and consistent for all pupils, spanning from Activate to Achieve. This means that whether a pupil is just beginning their educational journey with us or preparing for their next steps beyond Ysgol Afon Wen, they understand what is expected of them and how they can contribute positively to our school community.

As staff, we have been impressed with, but not surprised by, how naturally our pupils have embraced these principles. They have engaged very positively with 'The Afon Wen Way', demonstrating that respect is already deeply embedded in who they are as individuals and as members of our school community.

The principles of 'The Afon Wen Way' will guide us throughout this academic year and beyond. They will help us celebrate our successes, learn from our challenges, and continue to build the inclusive, supportive community that defines Ysgol Afon Wen.

As we move forward together, we are confident that 'The Afon Wen Way' will help every pupil develop not just academically, but as respectful, responsible citizens who will make positive contributions wherever their futures may take them.

Next week, we look forward to begin rewarding and celebrating pupils' efforts as they demonstrate and uphold these values. As families, you will be able to access our Rewards and Sanctions information via the 'My Child at School' app, so please make sure you have downloaded it.

Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this exciting new chapter together.



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Attendance

Dear Parent / Carer,

Attendance

I would like to extend a very warm welcome back to you and your children as we begin a new school year. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break and that your child is looking forward to the exciting opportunities ahead.

At Ysgol Afon Wen, we are committed to ensuring that every child achieves their full potential. A key part of this success is good school attendance. Children who attend school regularly benefit from consistent learning, stronger friendships, and a greater sense of belonging. Research shows that even small amounts of absence can have a significant impact on progress and attainment.

We understand that children may occasionally need to miss school due to illness or unavoidable circumstances. However, we kindly ask that these occasions are kept to a minimum and that holidays are not taken during term time. Working together, we can make sure your child enjoys the very best start to this academic year.

Your child's attendance target is 95% or higher.

Attendance	What This Means	No. of Sessions Lost	No. of Days Lost	No. of Weeks Lost
97 – 100%	Excellent	Up to 8	Up to 4	-
95 – 97%	Good	Up to 13	Up to 7	Up to 1 and ½
90 – 94%	Unsatisfactory	Up to 26	Up to 13	Up to 2 and ½
86 – 90%	Poor	Up to 38	Up to 19	Up to 4
Below 86%	Very Poor	More than 38	More than 19	More than 4 weeks off

If your child is ill and unable to attend please inform school on the first, and every subsequent day, that your child will be absent.

If you would like any support with ensuring good attendance, or if you are facing challenges that make this difficult, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a successful year ahead and to working closely with you to help your child thrive.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. I. Dwight **Pennaeth Cynorthwyol/Assistant Headteacher**



Activate Classes: Reception to Year 3

Whether your child is returning or joining us for the first time, we are here to make sure they feel safe, happy, and confident from the moment they walk through the gates.

Please check the information below to ensure that your child has the best possible start to their school year:

Start Time: Please ensure your child arrives promptly. School starts at 8.50am

Uniform: All children should return in full school uniform, including appropriate footwear. Please label all items clearly with your child's name.

Packed Lunch / School Meals: If your child brings a packed lunch, please ensure it's nut-free. School meals will be available as usual and a menu is available on the council website

Water Bottles and fruit snack: Please ensure water bottles are filled with fresh water and labelled with your child's name. Feel free to provide a piece of fruit for your child's snack and for younger children ensure that it is readily prepared and easy to eat.

Change of clothes: Younger children require a change of clothes to be kept in school on their pegs. This can be school uniform (if you have spare) or normal clothes. It needs to include underwear, top, bottoms and socks. The bag needs to be clearly labelled.

PE Kits: PE days are on the next page of the newsletter. Children will be able to wear their PE kit (YAW t-shirt, black shorts/joggers) to school on their allocated PE day.

Medication: If your child requires medication during the school day, please bring it to the office with a completed medical form.

Communication: Make sure the school office has your most up-to-date contact details. We use the My Child at School app to send information which needs a correct email address. Please ensure you have this downloaded on your device and turned on notifications.

Drop-off and Pick-up: Please follow the usual procedures for drop-off and collection. Staff will be available to guide and support, especially for new families.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to a great year ahead. Please keep an eye out for updates via our usual communication channels (our weekly newsletter, website, MCAS app, and don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.





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Activate Classes: Reception to Year 3

We are very excited to share the refurbishment that has taken place over the summer in Activate. Our newly painted classrooms with new flooring is in place in all of the classrooms that originally belonged to Hawthorn Primary School. There are further improvements planned for October half term which we look forward to showing you soon.



PE and Forest Schools activities

Please see below the PE and Forest School day(s) for your child's class. Please ensure that they wear their YAW PE top and black sports bottoms and trainers for PE and bring their wellies for the Forest schools session.



Dosbarth Class	Colour	Teacher	PE day	Forest Schools
Nursery	Enfys	Mrs A Calved Mrs Edwards Mrs Quinlan Miss Higgings	Friday	Wednesday
Reception	Coch	Miss C Greenman Mrs Stoddard	Thursday	Monday
Reception	Oren	Mrs K Connor Mrs Norton	Thursday	Monday
Year 1	Melyn	Mrs N Rowland Miss Hefford	Monday	Thursday
Year 1	Gwyrdd	Mrs P Sheppard/Mrs H Williams Miss Peglar	Monday	Thursday
Year 2	Porffor	Miss B Jones Mrs Addicott	Tuesday	Wednesday
Year 2	Glas	Mrs G Griffiths Mr Gunter	Tuesday	Wednesday
Year 3	Pinc	Miss M Fawkes Mrs Price	Wednesday	Tuesday
Year 3	Fioled	Miss R Harry Mrs McClean	Wednesday	Tuesday
Year 4	Du	Mrs K Jones	Monday	N/A
Year 4	Gwyn	Miss N Kafai	Thursday	N/A
Year 5	Arian	Mrs V Geach	Tuesday	N/A
Year 5	Aur	Mr G Medd	Tuesday	N/A
Year 6	Platinwm	Mr G Couldrick	Monday	N/A
Year 6	Saffir	Mr K Webster	Friday	N/A



Advance Classes: Year 4 to Year 6

Transition lessons will take place every day in the afternoon. Pupils will experience a range of teaching in Expressive Arts, including music, drama, art and media as well as completing some experiments in Science, complete a project in Technology and experience new activities and games in PE.

Dosbarth Class	Colour	Teacher	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 4	Du	Mrs K Jones	PE	Technology	Expressive Arts	Science	Expressive Arts
Year 4	Gwyn	Miss N Kafai	Expressive Arts	Science	Expressive Arts	PE	Technology
Year 5	Arian	Mrs V Geach	Science	PE	Technology	Expressive Arts	Expressive Arts
Year 5	Aur	Mr G Medd	Expressive Arts	PE	Science	Technology	Expressive Arts
Year 6	Platinwm	Mr G Couldrick	PE	Science	Expressive Arts	Expressive Arts	Technology
Year 6	Saffir	Mr K Webster	Expressive Arts	Science	Technology	Expressive Arts	PE

Advance Classes: Year 7

Year 7 pupils have made a successful transition from their primary school and it is lovely to see the year group working together and making new friends. The enhanced transition process of letting the pupils remain in their form classes for some lessons this week has been successful. Pupils will receive their timetable next week and start to meet new friends in their teaching classes.





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Wellbeing support

As always, we will continue to ensure your child is supported in all aspects of school life this year. Your child’s class teacher / form tutor will always be your first point of contact. Should you require any additional support, please reach out.

Nursery – Year 3	Mrs N Rowland
Year 4 – Year 6	Mrs V Geach
Year 7	Mr A Williams
Year 8	Miss L Burnett
Year 9	Miss L Phillips
Year 10	Miss H Boyce
Year 11	Miss M Jenkins
ALNCO	Mr S Lock

[Ysgol Afon Wen - Help and Support](#)



Progress Evenings

Wednesday 15th / Thursday 16th October 2025	N-Year 6 Progress Evening
Thursday 23rd October 2025	Year 11 Progress Evening
Thursday 12th February 2026	Year 9 Core Progress Evening
Thursday 5th March 2026	Year 9 Options Evening
Thursday 19th March 2026	Year 11 Targeted Progress Evening
Thursday 26th March 2026	Year 8 Progress Evening
Wednesday 22nd / Thursday 23rd April 2026	N-Year 6 Progress Evening
Thursday 7th May 2026	Year 10 Progress Evening
Thursday 14th May 2026	Year 7 Progress Evening





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Community support

SCHOOLS FAMILY ADVICE
SOUTH WALES

Citizens Advice Rhondda Cynon Taff provide free, confidential and impartial advice on a range of areas including debt, benefits, housing, employment and family.

If you or your family need help to find your way forward, speak to one of our advisers today.

CONTACT US

familyadvice@carct.org.uk
02921 111272

Open Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm
during school holidays

Schools Family Advice: Citizens Advice RCT
This project offers free, confidential advice and support to families on a wide range of practical issues including:

- Income maximisation & benefits
- School-related costs
- Debt & money management
- Housing and tenancy issues
- Employment and work challenges

