

Dear Parent/Carers,

Thank you to everyone who attended our **Meet the Teacher** session in Reception to Year 6 this week. It was a pleasure to welcome so many of you into the school and share an insight into what your child will be learning this year. Your involvement plays a vital role in your child's education, and we truly appreciate your continued support.

We would also like to say a big **thank you to all our pupils** for completing the **PASS (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School) survey**. Your honest feedback is incredibly valuable and helps us to better understand how you're feeling about school, learning, and your wellbeing. We will be using the results to ensure we continue to create a positive, supportive learning environment for everyone.

This week, our Year 6 and 7 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to visit the **Welsh National Opera**. It was a wonderful cultural experience, giving pupils a behind-the-scenes look at the world of opera and live performance. A big thank you to the staff who helped organise the trip, and well done to the pupils for representing the school so brilliantly!

We're excited to share with you the **topics of study for Nursery through to Year 6** for this term! These have now been released. We encourage you to take a look to see what your child will be exploring in class—this is a great way to support conversations at home and extend learning beyond the classroom.

It is wonderful to see all of the nursery pupils starting with us and working on their first topic "What makes me, me?"



Key dates

Date	Event
Monday 29 th September 2025	Nursery – Year 6 School Photos
Wed 15 th & Thus 16 th October 2025	Nursery – Year 6 Progress Evenings
Thursday 23 rd October 2025	Yr 11 Progress Evening
Monday 27 th October 2025	Week of October half term





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AFON WEN

Newsletter 26.09.25

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

School photographs



PHOTO DAY
Ysgol Afon Wen

Nursery - Year 6

**Monday 29th
September**

Year 7—11 School photos are now available to view and order online at:

www.clickfoto.co.uk. Each child will have been handed a unique and individual access code on Photo Day. Families may order with FREE delivery to school before the deadline as shown online. At any time orders may be placed for delivery direct to home by post.

If you or the parents have any questions or need help please call our helpline on: 02920 448210 or email us at orders@clickfoto.co.uk

Nursery integration



It is wonderful to see the pupils in the nursery joining us in the school and starting their forest schools adventure.





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School Production

Rehearsal Schedule



	Tuesday until 4:30pm	Wednesday until 4:30pm	Thursday until 4:30pm
Who?	Year 6 - 11	Year 4 - 11	Year 6 - 11



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October 20-22nd 2025 | 5pm |

All Tickets £5
Available on the door

Book by
Thomas Meehan

Music by
Charles Strause

Lyrics by
Martin Charnin

Original Broadway Production Directed by Martin Charnin
Based on "Little Orphan Annie"® By Permission of Tribune Content Agency, LLC
Annie Jr. is presented through special arrangement with
and all authorized materials are supplied by
Music Theatre International, New York, NY
(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com





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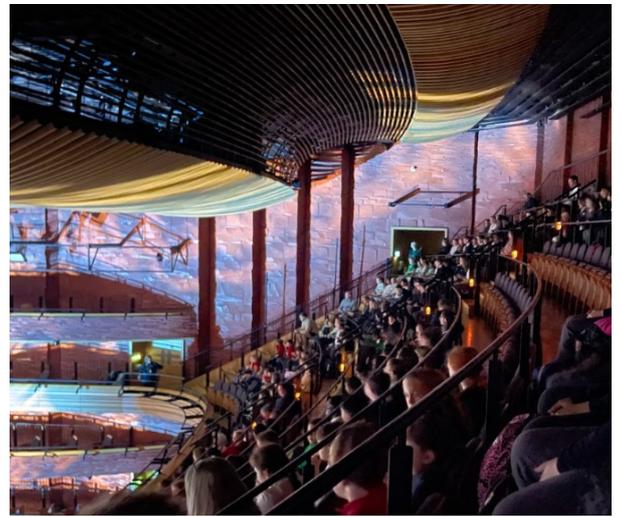
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Year 6 and 7 trip to the Welsh National Opera

Year 6 and 7 have had a wonderful cultural experience at Cardiff Bay exploring the Pierhead, Senedd and the Wales Millennium Centre. They have spent time sketching artistic sculptures, listening to guided tours around the Pierhead building and our very Welsh Parliament.

The children were amazed at the Welsh National Opera's performance of The Aviary in a spectacular engaging show where children experienced first class Harpists and operatic star studded professionals.



Year 11 information : Pathway evening

Yr 11 Pupil and Parent Pathway Evening will take place on **Thursday the 2nd of October at 5pm** in the School Theatre.

Very important information from Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School, Coleg Y Cymoedd and Careers Wales will be shared. It is vitally important Yr 11 pupils and parents attend to have information that will help support your next steps.

Year 11 information : Progress Evening

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to **Year 11 Progress Evening** on **Thursday 23rd October 2025** between **3:30pm and 5:30pm** at Ysgol Afon Wen.

This evening will give you the opportunity to speak to class teachers regarding your child's academic progress and personal development. As I am sure you realise, this is a very important evening; I hope that you will be able to attend.

Your child has been given an appointment sheet and will schedule appointments for you in conjunction with their class teachers. If you have any queries, please contact Miss M Jenkins, Progress Leader for Year 11.

For your child to be successful, and to reach their full potential, it is important that both home and school work together in partnership and we look forward to strengthening this important partnership further during the evening.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Ysgol Afon Wen.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Jones
Head of Achieve Phase

Miss M Jenkins
Progress Leader Year 11





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Year 6 Open Evening

YSGOL AFON WEN NOSON AGORED YEAR 6 OPEN EVENING

We warmly invite prospective Year 6 pupils and families, who were not able to attend our previous Open Evening in July, to our additional Open Evening. Key members of staff will be available to meet with you and provide information about school life at Ysgol Afon Wen. We look forward to welcoming you to our school! There is no need to book in advance.



Thursday, 9.10.25



5pm - 6pm



Ysgol Afon Wen, CF37 5AL

CONTACT US:



01443 841228



admin@ysgolafonwen.cymru
www.ysgolafonwen.co.uk



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Celebration of Success

This week, we're celebrating an extraordinary achievement by one of our own—**Mr. Medd** Year 5 teacher, who recently crossed the finish line of the **Ironman Triathlon!**

For those unfamiliar, an Ironman is one of the most gruelling endurance races in the world, consisting of a **2.4-mile swim**, a **112-mile bike ride**, and a **26.2-mile marathon run**—all completed in a single day!

Mr. Medd trained for nearly a year, balancing early morning workouts, weekend long runs, and after-school training rides—all while continuing to inspire students in the classroom with his passion for science and perseverance.

“I always tell my students that big goals take time, consistency, and a positive mindset,” says Mr. Medd. “Finishing the Ironman was a dream come true—and I hope it shows that anything is possible with hard work.”

His achievement reminds us all—students and staff alike—that limits are meant to be challenged. Mr. Medd’s dedication is a powerful example of setting goals, sticking to them, and pushing through even when it gets tough.



Celebration of Success

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been commended by their Progress leader or teachers. Well done!

Nursery	Osian Kipling & Romilee Troake	Year 4	A.J Hansen-Spurre & Arya Kong	Year 9	Logan Winter & Abbie Fisher
Reception	Poppy Andrews & Olly Selwood	Year 5	Oaklee Harris & Peyton Powderhill	Year 10	Princess-Mia Bowles & Elijah Haynes
Year 1	Jarrad Close-Kedward & Hollie Kipling	Year 6	Luka Kirvalidze	Year 11	Tehila Goje & Lucas Parsons
Year 2	Ella Davies & Carson Pitman	Year 7	Abigail Frohwein & Akindu Senawaththage		
Year 3	Brooke Bouldin & Ioan Southway	Year 8	Catherine Abodunrin & Bright Aikoriogie- Osahon		



Literacy and Numeracy Skills

At Ysgol Afon Wen, we are committed to ensuring that every child reaches their full potential. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve key skills, we will be conducting assessments over the next two weeks to monitor progress and provide targeted support where needed. This will provide a baseline assessment using GL assessment in both literacy and numeracy.

Establishing this starting point means that we can track progress with planned assessments in February and May. These tests will help to identify strengths and areas for improvement which can be used to adjust teaching strategies to better meet the needs of the pupils. This data is used in conjunction with the Welsh National Test data.

We look forward to discussing your child's skills with you in more detail during the parents evenings, the first of which is Year 11 and Nursery to Year 6 during October. If you have any questions in the meantime, please speak to your child's class teacher or arrange an appointment with your child's Progress Leader.

Headlice

We've had a small number of reports of **head lice** in the **Activate Phase (Nursery to Year 3)**. This is a common issue in schools, and we kindly ask all parents to check their child's hair regularly and treat if necessary. Prompt action helps prevent further spread. More information on detection and treatment is available from your local pharmacy or the NHS website.

[Head lice and nits - NHS](#)



Seesaw App



As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance communication and learning, the school is currently reviewing the use of Seesaw, a digital platform that allows students to share their learning with parents and teachers in a secure and engaging way.

We are considering whether to adopt Seesaw across the school, from Nursery through to Year 6, and would really value your feedback.

Would you be interested in using Seesaw to follow your child's learning journey and receive updates in the Advance Phase (Year 4, 5 and 6)?

Please take a moment to share your views by completing our short survey here – <https://forms.gle/JZ2ihPGTieJz86gc8>

Your voice matters and will help shape how we move forward with digital communication tools in our school.



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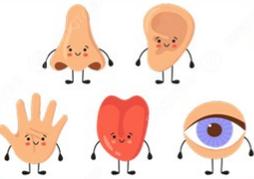
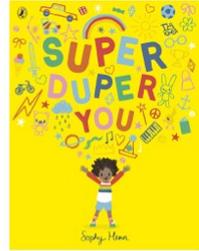
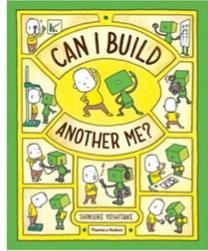
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Curriculum

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Nursery | Autumn | What Makes Me, Me?

I can identify the important people in my life and recognise that I belong to a wider community.



Share my own stories and express needs, thoughts, feelings and ideas.
Expand my vocabulary and notice that symbols in my environment carry meaning.

Use my senses to explore the world around me.
Develop my concept of time and focus my attention on what interests me.



Can I build another me? By Shinsuke Yoshitake. A quirky, laugh-out-loud story where a boy wonders if he could make a copy of himself - and discovers what truly makes him unique.

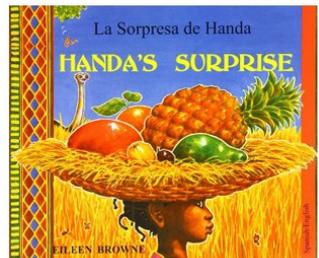
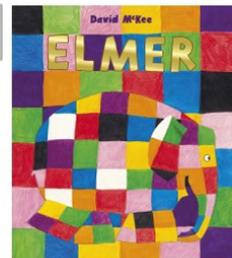
Super Duper You! By Sophy Henn. A bright and joyful celebration of everything that makes you special - because there's only one super duper you!



Coordinate my movement and maintain balance across a range of changing environments.

Reception | Autumn | All about me

Identify my own interests and talents and explore how they make me who I am.



Explore the important figures in my life and know what is important to me.



Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne - Follow Handa on her journey to the neighbouring village, whilst avoiding sneaky animals along the way.

Elmer by David McKee. Elmer is the colourful patchwork elephant who teaches us that being different is something to celebrate - because standing out can be wonderful!



Understand how emotions make me feel and where I may feel them.

To celebrate where I come from and why I am unique.



Show how kindness forms lasting friendships.

Understand the importance of family and how it makes my community.

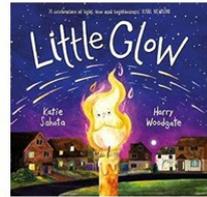


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Year 1 | Autumn | Let's celebrate.

Explore the importance of Diwali and how it is celebrated around the world.



Perform movement sequences inspired by a cultural dance.

The Scarecrows Wedding by Julia Donaldson. Join Harry O'Hay and Betty O'Barley on their big day, a farmyard wedding full of laughter, love, and a little mischief.

Little Glow by Katie Sahota. A gentle, heartwarming story that shows how even the smallest light can shine brightly, bringing warmth and hope to everyone around it."

Describe how my life may differ from children around the world.



Know how to show kindness and respect towards others.



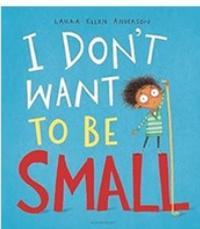
Make comparisons with what I celebrate in my community and with others round the world.



Explain why it is important to treat others fairly and recognise my own rights.

Year 2 | Autumn | Brilliant bodies.

Celebrate the different ways people look and dress inspired by their culture and traditions.



Know the benefits of healthy choices and the impact they have on our bodies.

Funny Bones by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
Get ready to giggle with Funnybones - a hilarious story where skeletons go on night-time adventures, proving even bones can have fun and a few scares!
I Don't Want to be Small by Laura Anderson.
A funny and heartwarming tale about a little boy who discovers that being small isn't so bad after all - especially when friendship makes you feel 10 feet tall!"

Explore how our body reacts when taking part in different forms of exercise.



Appreciate and celebrate the differences in my own community.



Understand how to show compassion and empathy towards others.

Identify how humans have changed over time, making connections to the changes I have been through in my lifetime.





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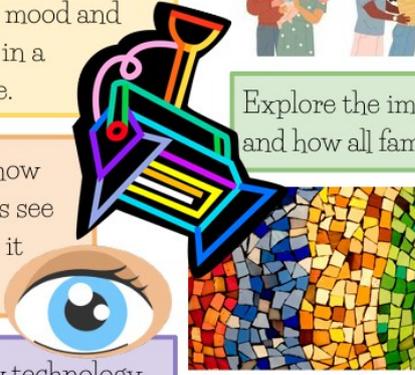
Year 3 | Autumn | Lights, Camera, Action

Discover how lighting and sound affect mood and atmosphere in a performance.



Explore the importance of human rights and how all families differ

Investigate how light helps us see and the way it travels.



Learn how to pressure print and design your own mosaic art piece.



Explore how technology aids visual impairments, how toys are made and reflect on the impact technology has on the environment.



Study how inspirational people have helped their communities and brought about change.



Learn how to create and edit your own digital animation.

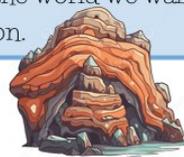


The Owl Who Was Afraid Of The Dark by Jill Tomlinson. Follow the journey of Plop, the baby owl, and how he overcomes his fear of the darkness.

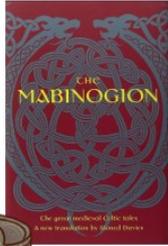
Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown. One night, a giant pinboard falls on of Stanley Lambchop, leaving him completely flat. Discover the highs and lows of being so different, as Stanley tries to return to his original shape.

Year 4 | Autumn | Rocks, Relics and Ruins

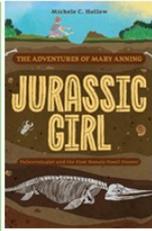
Explore different types of rock and how they shape the world we walk on.



Explore how the stories of Wales are presented in The Mabinogion.



Design and create your own castle combining representational, expressive and abstract styles.



Investigate why relics matter and how people in history faced their fears and challenges.



Discover why there are 600 castles in Wales and how they have helped defend the land throughout history.

Learn to use body movements and gestures to explore how fictional characters react in different situations.



Research, design and create your own 3D model of a fantasy character.



Jurassic Girl by Michael C. Hollow. Discover the fascinating life of 12-year-old Mary Anning, a fossil hunter who would grow up to be a famous paleontologist.

Darwin's Dragons by Lindsay Galvin. Shipwrecked on the Galapagos Islands, Syms, a Cabin Boy on Charles Darwin's Beagle makes a discovery that changed the world.





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Year 5 | Autumn | Disaster Detectives

Sharing likes and dislikes, as well as the benefits of healthy food in Welsh.



Research, design and create your own fabric pencil case.



You will learn to play the ukulele and perform as part of a cohesive group.

Using mixed media you will create your own planet artwork.



You will study the connection between tectonic plates and earthquakes and volcanoes.



Explore the impact of cyberbullying and online behaviour on ourselves and those around us.

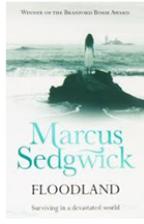
Investigate the importance of international aid and disaster response.



When disaster strikes, understand the impact on physical and mental health.



Explore the impact of cyberbullying and online behaviour on ourselves and those around us.



Floodlands by Marcus Sedgwick. We will learn what it is like to live in an apocalyptic world, where the world is flooded and the adults seem to be missing.

The Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen. Imagine a world where strange plants have started to take over. Tower blocks are falling down around Ade and his mum won't leave the flat.

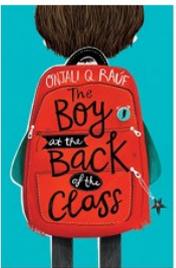
Year 6 | Autumn | Conflict and Resolution



Investigate chemical reactions and how to extract metals.



Understand how war broke out and the impact it had in the local community.



Research, design and create your own Welsh souvenir.



Learn to play the keyboard and compose your own music.

Explore the work of Edvard Munch and Salvador Dali and how themes of conflict run through their pieces.



The Boy at the Back of the Class - Onjali Q. Rauf
Explore themes of kindness and friendship as a boy, new to the area, joins Josie, Michael and Tom's class.

Learn to resolve conflict and how it impacts our mental and emotional wellbeing.



War Horse - Michael Morpurgo. Discover the realities of World War 1 from the perspective of Joey, a horse who has seen the power of war and the beauty of peace.



Using Welsh to explain the causes of conflict and identify key figures in Welsh history.

