

Dear Parents and Carers,

A huge thank you to all parents and carers who joined us for our Christmas shows. The pupils were so proud to share the wonderful work they have been doing throughout the year, and your support truly helped make the events special.

Pupils in the Activate and lower Advance phases were especially thrilled to meet Santa and his reindeer during their visit to school. The excitement is definitely building as they look forward to Santa's return on Christmas Eve!

Our Year 11 pupils in Hospitality and Catering have also been busy embracing the festive spirit, preparing a delicious Christmas dinner as part of their coursework. Other year groups have been making Christmas cookies. Their hard work, teamwork and culinary skills really shone. Well done to all involved!



It was also wonderful to see so many pupils receiving small gifts in the Ysgol Afon Wen Attendance Advent. Your commitment to being in school every day shows fantastic dedication and is truly paying off. Enjoy your reward, you have earned it. And remember, there are still more prizes to be won, so keep up the great work.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks for your incredible generosity. The donations received for the food bank, Shelter and our Christmas present appeal have been overwhelming, and your kindness will make a meaningful difference to many families this festive season.

Next week are the school reward trips and we are very excited to hear all about their adventures. If you have received an email requesting that you complete the consent form for next week's trips, please can you do this as soon as possible. Without consent, your child will not be able to attend the trip.

Key dates

Date	Event
Tuesday 16th December 2025	Year 4, 5 & 6 Cinema Trip
Wednesday 17th December 2025	Year 7 & 8 Cinema Trip
Thursday 18th December 2025	Year 1 & 2 Christmas cinema on site
Thursday 18th December 2025	Christmas Pantomime Year 3-7
Thursday 18th December 2025	Year 9 –11 Cinema trip
Friday 19th December 2025	Last day of term
Monday 5th January 2026	INSET DAY (school closed for pupils)
Tuesday 6th January 2026	Pupil return for Spring Term



Newsletter 12.12.25

Right of the month: To follow your own religion (Article 14)

Celebration of Success

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

Nursery	Sofia Tucker & Daisy Stokes	Year 4	Aurora-May Bailey & Lexi Street	Year 9	Layla Burgess & Carys Elliott
Reception	Deegan Jones & Savannah Parker	Year 5	Zack Jaswal & Lucy Blakely	Year 10	Delcie Redwood & Nathan Sowerby
Year 1	Max Delaitre-Morgan & Thomas Pritchard	Year 6	Ruby Wood	Year 11	Cian Phillips & Amelia Weyman
Year 2	Havana Pyne & Isla Noble	Year 7	Akindu Senawaththage & Grace Blatchford		
Year 3	Finley Bevan & Seb Davies	Year 8	Opememi Abiona & Charlie Baldwin		



Congratulations to all pupils who have received an attendance reward this week. So many happy faces!

Keep attending every day as there will be even more prizes next week.

Top of the bench competition

Everyone was impressed by Milo K who came top of the Year 8 pupils on the Kahoots. He was lightning quick with his answers. All 3 YAW teams placed highly amongst teams from across South Wales. YAW were not top 2 so were unable to compete in the final, but watching the two top teams under pressure was an enjoyable hour. We will get a photograph of all the pupils with their certificates in due course. All 12 pupils said their chemical knowledge improved by taking part.



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Sporting success

Year 7 boys football vs Afon Taf



The Year 7 Netball team competed in the Urdd National Netball competition this week in Cardiff. YAW faced some tough opposition in a strong pool but showed brilliant resilience and a positive attitude throughout the day, rounding the day off with 2 wins. They were a credit to the school and demonstrated the YAW WAY excellently all day. PE Department are incredibly proud of you all.



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Fresh Fruit Fridays

Pupils in Year 1-3, 5A and 6A have been preparing fruit salad with Miss Price in the catering suite and then taking home a bag of fruit to recreate the recipe with their families over the weekend.

This initiative is supported by Tesco Stronger Starts funding, enabling us to provide free ingredients for families.

Below is one of the family pictures we have of Arya making the fruit salad at home.



If your child has not completed this yet, they will be bring fruit home today.

Please email any pictures to

community@ysgolafonwen.rctcbc.cymru



**YSGOL
AFON WEN**

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAYS

A new home & school initiative

Week Commencing 1st December – Advance Phase: Year 4A, 4B, 5B, and 6B
Friday 12th December – Activate & Advance Phase: Year 1-3, 5A, and 6A
 Learn how to make fruit salad in class →
 Take all the ingredients home for FREE →
 Share your pictures with us.

Interim reports

NAME		 <p>YSGOL AFON WEN</p>
FORM CLASS	6	
ATTENDANCE	71.32%	

Dear Parent/Carer,

Please find attached your child's progress report for the Autumn Term. This report reviews current academic expectation as well as attitude to learning in all subjects.

If you have any additional questions, please contact your child's Class Teacher or Mrs V Geach (Years 4-6 Progress Leader) via phone requesting a call back (01443 841228).

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working together to ensure your child reaches their full potential.

Mrs C O'Carroll
Advance Phase Leader

Standardised tests scores Autumn 2025

The Welsh National Tests are designed to help understand how well your child is doing in the key subjects; reading, numeracy, and reasoning. These tests give important information about your child's progress and help identify where they might need extra support to succeed. The Welsh National Tests produce an age-standardised score scale. An age-standardised score of 100 is an average test score.

Welsh National Test Scores	Summer 2025 Score	Autumn 2025 Score
WNT Reading	84	84
WNT Procedural Mathematics	81	81
WNT Reasoning Mathematics	83	83

(* - Score below range / NP - Pupil was **Not Present** for the assessment)

Please be aware that the above scores may fluctuate as the pupils' standardised scores are compared to age-appropriate comparisons. The Autumn test is always used as a practice with the pupils retaking the test again in the summer.

Reading Age	Reader profile
7 Years 2 Months	Transitioning Reader

Please see additional information at the end of the report to explain what this reader profile means for your child.

Parents in Year 2— 11 will have received an interim report on the My Child At School App. Please ensure that you have been able to view it and if you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher/form teacher or progress leader.

Thank you for your support.





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Green Day



YAW



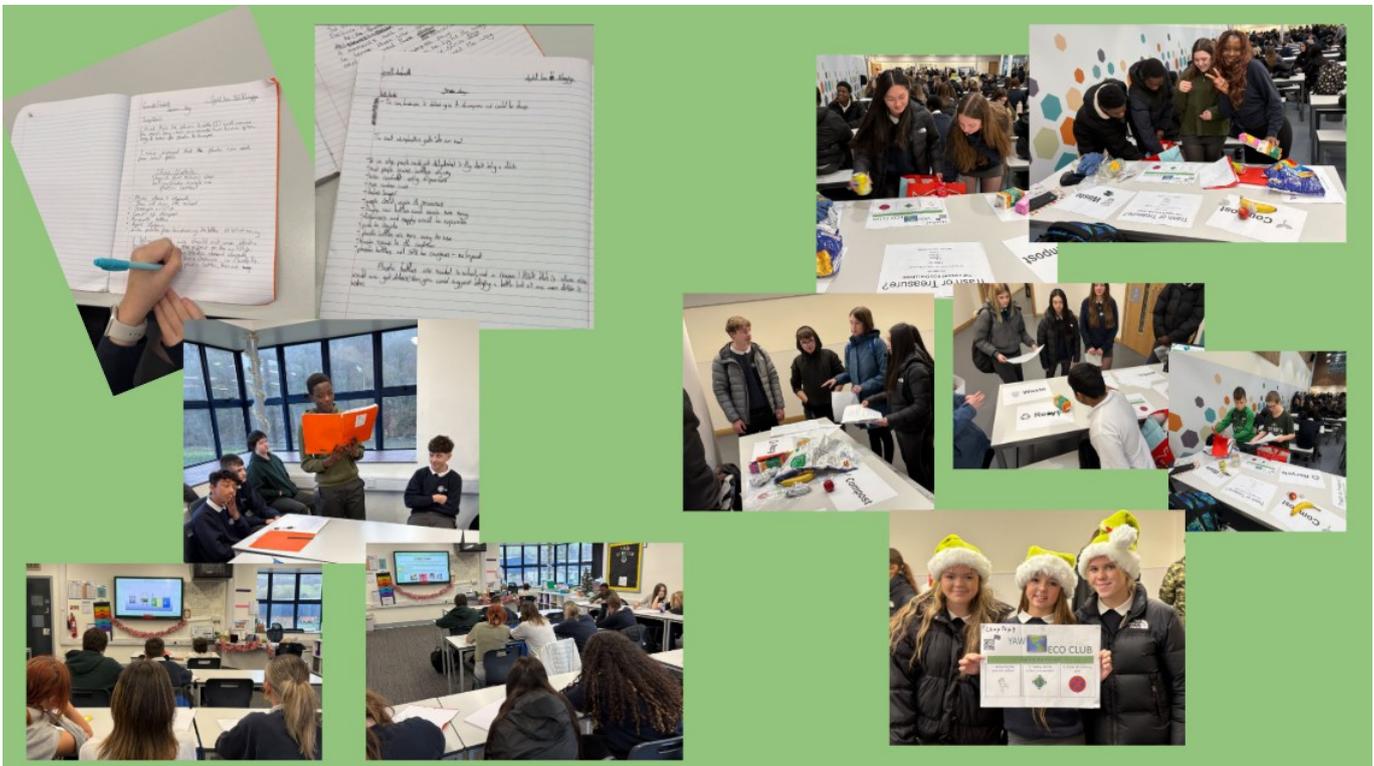
ECO CLUB

Eco Club want to say a huge THANK YOU to all parents/guardians, pupils and staff for taking part in Green Day this week.

We raised £219!

This will go towards our projects this year, including -

- Sunflower growing
- Community litter picks
- The Great British Bird Watch
- Bug Hotels
- And renewing the polytunnel





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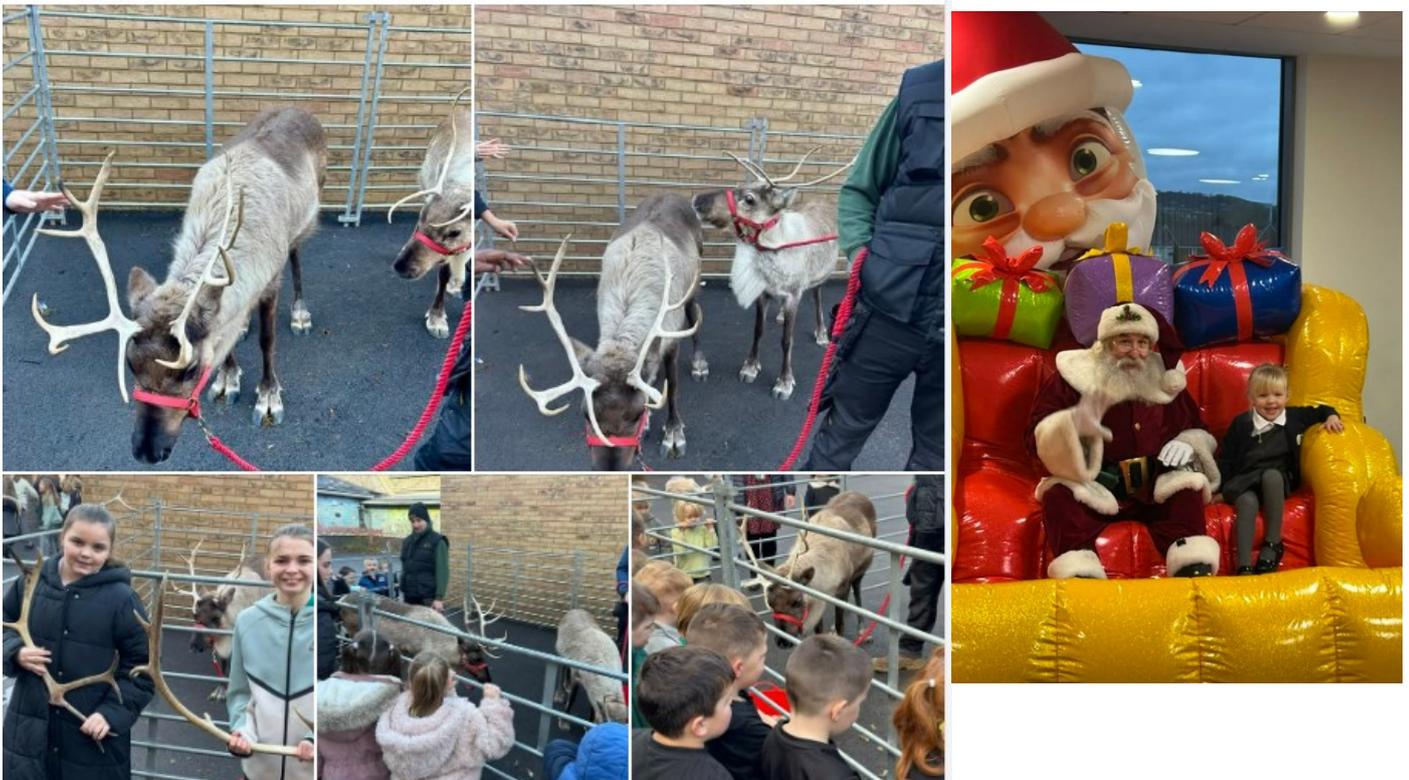
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Jolly Jumper Day

Pupils will be invited to wear a jolly jumper on the last day of term—Friday 19th December.



Santa and the reindeers



It was wonderful to see Santa and his reindeer this week in Ysgol Afon Wen. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience and we look forward to their visit on Christmas Eve.





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Parental Reminders

Please can we remind all parents/carers of a few things prior to the end of term. Firstly, uniform is to be worn up to Thursday (with Christmas jumper day on the Friday). Black leggings are not part of the school uniform and black shoes schools must be worn.

Pupils need to ensure that they do not have sharp objects in their pencil case (such as sharpeners) or compasses without a tin/cap. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school safe.

Community Events

Church Rhydyfelin

Christmas CAROLS ON THE GREEN

Hawthorn Village Green
Saturday 20 December 2025 @ 4:00pm

COME AND CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH AT BETHLEHEM

LIGHT PARADE
MEET FATHER CHRISTMAS!
SEASONAL REFRESHMENTS
provided by Leggs Sweets & Treats

there will be a bucket collection & food donations for Pontypridd Foodbank

due to parking restrictions we ask you walk to the green if possible, thank you

Debt & Mental Health FOCUS GROUP

Join us for an open, supportive discussion about how debt affects mental health and how we can better support our community.

Spaces are limited. Register your interest by clicking the link in the description.

Hosted by:
citizens advice Rhondda Cynon Taf

Citizens Advice RCT
Knight Street
Mountain Ash
CF45 3EY

18th December 2025
2:00pm

Your voice matters. Come share your experiences, ideas, and concerns in a safe and friendly space.

Light Refreshments and a **FREE** goodie bag for everyone who attends!

