

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we begin the final Summer half term, we would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the importance of attendance and the positive impact it has on every child's learning journey. Our Thought for the Week, **"Time management is life management"** by **Robin Sharma**, serves as a powerful reminder that the choices we make about how we use our time can shape our success, growth, and future opportunities.

For children, one of the most important ways to manage time effectively is through regular school attendance. Every lesson, activity, and interaction contributes to their development, helping them build knowledge, confidence, friendships, and essential life skills. When children attend school consistently and arrive on time, they are better able to engage fully in learning, keep pace with their peers, and benefit from the rich experiences that school provides each day.

Good attendance also helps children develop positive habits that will support them throughout their lives. By establishing strong routines and recognising the value of being present and prepared, children learn responsibility, commitment, and resilience. These qualities not only contribute to academic success but also help them become confident and independent learners.

As a school community, we greatly appreciate the support of parents and carers in promoting excellent attendance. Working together, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to make the most of their education and achieve their full potential. Thank you for your continued partnership in helping our children understand that every day counts and that managing their time wisely today lays the foundation for their success tomorrow.

Key Dates

Date	Event
Thursday 11 th June 2026	Year 11 leavers ceremony 1pm
Friday 12 th June 2026	Advance Yr 4, 5, 6 sports day
Monday 15 th June 2026	Japan Trip
Tuesday 16 th June 2026	Year 10 Mathematics mock exam
Monday 22 nd June 2026	Storey Arms Trip Year 5
Tuesday 23 rd June 2026	Year 11 Prom 7pm
Thursday 25 th June 2026	Year 5 open evening 4.30-6.00pm
Friday 26 th June 2026	Advance Sports day
Monday 29 th June 2026	Year 10 Work experience
Tuesday 30 th June 2026	Year 1 celebration assembly 2.30pm



Sports Days

The summer term brings the excitement of Sports Days. We are pleased to share the following schedule, and parents are warmly invited to attend where indicated:

- **Advance Phase: Year 4–Year 6: Friday 12th June 9am start) – Parents invited**
- Advance Phase Year 7 & Year 8: Friday 26th June
- Achieve Phase Year 9 & Year 10: Friday 3rd July



You are invited to attend Sports Day at the time specified above. If you are attending, please note that parents and carers are expected to remain on site for the full duration of the event, which will take place on the astroturf. If you need to use the toilet facilities during this time, a member of staff will escort you. These arrangements are in place to safeguard all members of the school community as the school will remain in session during the Sports Day event. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. We look forward to sharing this special event with you.

Year 9 Assessments

The Year 9 examination period will start on **Wednesday 17th June 2026** until **Friday 19th June 2026**. These examinations will take place in the **Sports Hall** or Gym for pupils with access arrangements. The seating will mirror that of a GCSE examination.

Pupils will have examinations in Mathematics, English, Science, Humanities and Welsh. Practical subjects such as IT, Music, Drama, Art, Technology will not complete an end of year assessment. Class teachers will provide more information on the structure and/or content of examinations and what to revise.

	Lesson 1 (8.50am)	Lesson 3 (11.15am)
Wednesday 17 th June 2026	Mathematics	Welsh
Thursday 18 th June 2026	English	
Friday 19 th June 2026	Science	Humanties






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Article 15: To meet with your friends and join groups and clubs

No phone from gate to gate

Pupils are being reminded of the school rules this week. Please could you reinforce this at home and ensure that your child is aware of the consequences if they break the rules.



SPOTLIGHT ON 






OUR 'NO 'PHONE ZONE' POLICY

As per our Afon Wen Way:

- We are a 'no 'phone zone, from gate to gate'
- Any 'phone seen on school site will be **confiscated and handed** in to reception for collection at the end of the school day
- Further instances of mis-use of mobile 'phones on school site will result in additional sanctions, including a **requirement to hand 'phones / devices to reception at the start of every day**

This rule applies to all devices, including air pods

We kindly ask for your support in ensuring our school remains a 'phone free zone where we can focus on in-person interactions without the distractions of social media. Can we also remind you to contact reception should you need to contact your child. We will be reminding pupils of the same expectation next week. As always, diolch for your continued support.



Attendance

Nursery	82%	Year 4	89%	Year 9	84%
Reception	90%	Year 5	90%	Year 10	80%
Year 1	87%	Year 6	88%	Year 11	81%
Year 2	89%	Year 7	90%		
Year 3	92%	Year 8	85%		

Attendance Matters: Final Summer Half Term

As we begin our final half term of the academic year, attendance remains a key priority for all pupils at Ysgol Afon Wen. Every day in school counts, and this final stretch of the year is particularly important for maintaining progress, routines, and positive habits.

We know that the summer term can be a busy time, but consistent attendance continues to make a significant difference. Pupils who attend regularly are more confident, better prepared for the next stage in their learning, and more connected to their peers and school community.

Why attendance still matters now

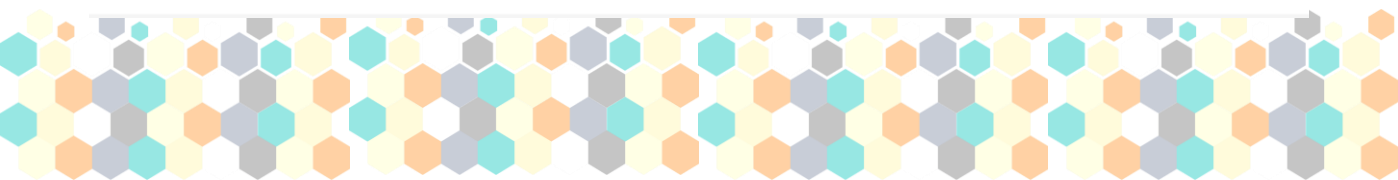
- Important learning continues right up to the end of term
- Teachers are consolidating key knowledge and preparing pupils for September
- Pupils benefit socially from finishing the year positively with their peers

How you can support your child

- Ensure your child attends school every day unless they are genuinely unwell
- Avoid booking holidays during term time
- Maintain routines, including punctual arrival each morning

We are proud of the efforts many pupils have made to improve their attendance this year, and we encourage everyone to finish the year strongly.

Thank you for your continued support, it makes a real difference.



Gwaith Cartref (Homework)

We have published a new, centralised online hub for Gwaith Cartref (homework) for Years 4–11. You can now find all subject homework, knowledge organisers on the school [website](#)

ENGLISH Gwaith Cartref: Term 1 War Poetry

Below are a range of activities for you to complete independently whilst we are learning about War Poetry. You will be set these tasks by your English teacher as part of the YAW Gwaith Cartref Cycle.

1 Poetic technique Detective
Pick five poetic techniques identified from a war poem studied this term, and define their meanings. Then, write your own sentences using these techniques to show you understand them.

4 Propaganda poster
Design a propaganda poster from WW1, encouraging boys and men to enlist. You should aim to include at least 5 'PERSUADERS', and any illustrations you feel would help persuade.

2 Soldier's Letter Home
Write a letter from the perspective of a soldier. Describe their feelings and thoughts about a key event in the war (a Battle/French like/Frontline attack etc). Use descriptive language and show empathy by imagining how they might feel. Aim to write at least half a page in your book.


5 Watch this clip and use it to write a description of life on the frontline.
Refer to all 5 senses and use 4 descriptive techniques. Aim for 2 paragraphs.

3 Research and Infographic
Using a laptop, research the historical context of WW1. Create a simple infographic with key facts and interesting details.

6 Poetry corner!
Write a stanza for a poem about WW1. It doesn't have to rhyme, but it does need to include:
• A simile
• An example of personification
• Onomatopoeia
• A motif/imagery

Tick off and date the ones you have completed

Poetic Techniques Detective	Propaganda Poster	Description
	Letter Writing	Poetry Writing



What you will find

- Years 4–6: Weekly homework tasks directly linked to your child's in-school sessions (literacy, numeracy and topic). These tasks are short, practical and designed for you to support at home.
- Years 7–11: A subject/unit knowledge page for each topic, containing key vocabulary/pre-learning and six independent homework tasks to be completed across the term. These tasks support independent study and revision.
- Quick access: QR codes and links from the site to Google Classroom and other blended learning resources used in lessons.
- These tasks will be set by class teachers, but you and your child can access them anytime on our website.

If you have trouble accessing the tasks

- Please contact the school/Mrs Stephens

How you can help at home (quick tips)

- For Years 4–6: Work alongside your child for 10–20 minutes on the weekly task; praise effort and look for improvements in reading or number facts.
- For Years 7–11: Encourage them to use the knowledge page to create one short retrieval activity per week (flashcard, 5-question quiz, brain-dump). This supports long-term memory and reduces last-minute revision stress.
- Keep it positive: mistakes are part of learning — short, regular practice beats long, infrequent sessions





Celebration of success

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been nominated for the celebration of success this week.

Nursery	Osian Kipling & Kairo Fox	Year 4	Ruby Harrop & Ezra Mansfield	Year 9	Albie Hill & Krystal Spear
Reception	Tymon Stebelko-Sobien & Georgie Holloway	Year 5	Katie Davies & Oliver Rees	Year 10	Corey Hall & Mia Webb
Year 1	Elijah Kuras & Raya-Grace Davies	Year 6	Emilia Jenkins & Zion Abodunrin	Year 11	Ewan Clothier & Chloe Loveridge
Year 2	Elsie King & Evan Jones	Year 7	Abigail Frohwein & Levi Shepard		
Year 3	Elizabeth Bishop & Clayton Kulina	Year 8	Ethan Button & Hallie-Jo Fenwick		

Nursery Enterprise Project



To kickstart their enterprise project, nursery have been learning about money and role-playing exchanging money for goods in a shop. The children will be making their own product to sell next week.



Advance Phase (Year 4 to Year 9)

School Senedd

On Thursday, School Senedd 3 brought together learners from the Advance and Achieve phases for meaningful, positive discussions.



Pupils shared thoughtful views on learning experiences, wellbeing, and the development of a strong school ethos. Their contributions have been carefully recorded and incorporated into pupils' YAW improvement plan. Staff are now committed to working alongside learners to address the ideas raised and to keep making meaningful improvements for the school community.



School Trip

Years 7-11

Final letters have been issued via Bromcom regarding the trips pupils in Years 7-11 have chosen. Please note that the letter you have received is specific to your child's selected trip. We ask that all parents/carers carefully follow the instructions outlined in the letter, particularly in relation to payment arrangements. If you have any questions or require support, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Years 4-6

The Year 4–6 trip letter has been reissued via Bromcom. Please note that the payment deadline has now been extended to **25th June**. The consent form, which includes the option to select either cinema or bowling, is linked within the letter. To secure your child's place, please ensure that both the consent form and payment are completed by this date.

Year 10 Examinations

GCSE Subject	Date of Examination	Examination	Qualification value
Triple Science Biology	Monday 8 th June 2026 AM	Unit 1 Biology,	45% of qualification
History	Tuesday 9 th June 2026 AM	Unit 3 Crime and Punishment	30% of qualification
Triple Science Chemistry	Friday 12 th June 2026 AM	Unit 1 Chemistry,	45% of qualification
Triple Science Physics	Monday 15 th June 2026 AM	Unit 1 Physics	45% of qualification





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Year 5 Open Evening

YSGOL AFON WEN NOSON AGORED YEAR 5 OPEN EVENING

We warmly invite Year 5 pupils and families to our Open Evening. Key members of staff will be available to meet with you and provide information about school life at Ysgol Afon Wen as well as tour the facilities and learning areas. We look forward to welcoming you to our school! There is no need to book in advance.



Thursday, 25.6.26



4.30pm start - 6.00pm (approx.)



Ysgol Afon Wen, CF37 5AL

CONTACT US:



01443 841228



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



Community Celebration

Our Community Celebration on Hawthorn Green was a wonderful success and a proud moment for Ysgol Afon Wen. We were fortunate to enjoy dry, albeit windy, weather, for a joyful morning of music, reflection and togetherness.

Year 4 opened the ceremony beautifully with their rendition of “*When It’s a Sunny Day,*” singing with confidence and enthusiasm. We were then treated to a confident reading of *The Village Blacksmith* by Ezra Mansfield, who delivered the poem clearly and with great poise. This poem was chosen for its powerful message about service, hard work and the quiet importance of individuals who help to hold a community together.



Our Head Girl, Sophie, followed with an inspiring speech on the importance of being good neighbours (included below), before Year 4 returned with “*Count Your Blessings,*” reminding us of the value of gratitude and positivity.

The ceremony concluded with a Year 6 pupil, Nia, proudly cutting the ribbon.



We extend our sincere thanks to Hawthorn Neighbourhood Watch for their continued support this year, and for their generous gift of a cake, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.



Community Celebration



This was the reading delivered by the pupil leadership team and supported by a poem by Ezra in Year 4.

It's a real privilege to stand here today as part of this Community Celebration, and to speak about something that is so important to all of us—the value of being good neighbours.

When we think about neighbours, we might first think about the people who live next door. But being a neighbour is about so much more than that. It's about how we treat the people around us every day—at home, at school, and in our community; in our words, and in our actions, and in our choices.

A good neighbour is someone who shows kindness, respect and understanding. Respect leads to trust, and trust builds community, and community strengthens us all.

At Ysgol Afon Wen, we are guided by the Afon Wen Way, and at the heart of that is one simple but powerful value: respect in our community. Respect for each other, respect for our environment, respect for the place we share.

We don't just learn in our community—we contribute to it; and by contributing to it, we learn what it truly means to belong.

I would like to take a moment to recognise and thank members of our local Neighbourhood Watch who are here with us today. Your commitment to keeping this community safe, and connected, and cared for makes a real difference to all of us.

In particular, I would like to thank Mr Scudamore, who has worked closely with our school this year. Through that partnership, we have learned not only how to be part of a community, but how to take responsibility for it. You have helped us understand that being a good neighbour is not something we say—it is something we show.

Because being a good neighbour is not about big moments. It is about the everyday actions: choosing respect, offering kindness, taking responsibility. Not just when it is easy, but when it matters; not just for ourselves, but for others; not just today, but every day.

That is what builds a strong community.
That is what brings people together.
And that is what today, and this weekend, is all about.



Thank you to Ffion, Carys, Ffion and Jake from the Eco Club for supporting with a litter pick on the green before the ceremony.





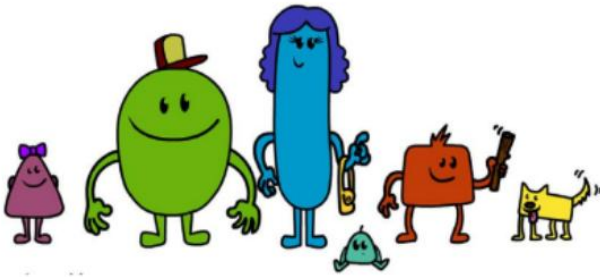
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Community events

A big thank you to Fairtrade Pontypridd for their generous donation of teas, coffees and hot chocolates, supporting our newly opened community hub, Ty Taff. Fairtrade makes a real difference, helping farmers earn fairly and build better lives for their communities. Your kindness means a lot. These goodies will be put to great use at Wednesday's Resilient Families drop-in session—please see the flyer. We look forward to seeing you there!



We continue to host our monthly drop-in session for parents and carers who may be interested in support from Rhondda Cynon Taf's Resilient Families Service.

The sessions will take place on the second Thursday of every month, from 9:15am to 11:30am, in our Community Hub. The next drop-in session is this **Thursday, 11th June**.

The Resilient Families Service offers short-term, practical support to families across RCT. The service focuses on building family resilience and can support with a range of issues such as:

- establishing routines
- family relationships
- education and attendance
- housing or financial worries
- speech, language and communication needs
- emotional wellbeing

The drop-in sessions will be a relaxed and informal opportunity to find out more about the service, ask questions, and speak directly with a member of the team about any support that may be helpful for your family. There is no referral needed to attend.

Refreshments will be available, so please feel free to pop in at any point during the session. We look forward to welcoming you.





Community events

PARENT CARER INFORMATION & SUPPORT EVENT

Hosted by **Behaviour Support Hub** and **Citizens Advice Rhondda Cynon Taf**

An informal support event for parent carers of children and young people with **additional needs and neurodivergence**.



Meet local services and organisations



Access advice, information and practical support




Connect with other parent carers



Refreshments provided

EVENT DETAILS


 **WEDNESDAY 10 JUNE**

 **10:00AM – 2:00PM**

 **ALN HUB, CAPEL Y BONT, PONTYPRIDD, CF37 2BW**

 **DROP IN ANYTIME BETWEEN 10AM–2PM**
FREE TO ATTEND – NO REFERRAL NEEDED

SERVICES ATTENDING INCLUDE:

-  Resilient Families Service
-  Counterforce
-  Eye to Eye
-  Warm Homes
-  CTM MIND Wellbeing Service
-  Home-Start
-  Behaviour Support Hub
-  Citizens Advice Rhondda Cynon Taf
-  Rhondda Cynon Taf Local Authority

and many more!



Behaviour Support Hub




Rhondda Cynon Taf

ALL PARENT CARERS WELCOME | WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU!

FOR PRINT A4 / A3 High Resolution (300 DPI)

FOR SOCIAL MEDIA 1080 x 1350px (Optimised for Facebook & Instagram)

