

# February Chwefror



## Cylchlythyr y Prifathrawes Headteacher's Newsletter

### Dates for the Diary...

- 2.2.26 Afon Dance sessions (Bedw and Deri classes) until 9.3.26.
- 4.2.26 Poetry workshops for parents/grandparents of Bedw (Author- Rhiannon Oliver James).
- 9.2.26 Mental Health awareness week.
- 9.2.26 Y6 transition to Cynffig Comp. (Annie school show).
- 9.2.26 Dosbarth Helyg trip to Parc Slip.
- 9.2.26 Parent Book Look session 3:15pm-5pm in classes.
- 11.2.26 International Women and Girls day.
- 11.2.26 Valentines disco Infants in school; Juniors 4pm-5:30pm. £2 for everyone, Shop for juniors.
- 12.2.26 Deri and Cedrwydd trip to Cilfynydd (Dwr Cymru).
- 12.2.26 and 13.2.26 Dydd Miwsig Cymru assembly and activities.
- 16.2.26-20.2.26 Half term holidays.
- 23.2.26 Cardd Plant Cymru Wonders of Wales workshop PS3.
- 23.2.26 Afon Dance sessions (Helyg and Bedw classes) until 23.3.26.
- 23.2.26 PS3 Ukelele sessions start (weekly until Easter break).
- 25.2.26 Dosbarth Deri visit Pyle library (Sion Tomos Owen workshop).
- 2.3.26 Deri visit to Big Pit
- 3.3.26 Whole School Eisteddfod.
- 5.3.26 World Book day.
- 6.3.26 Girls Touch Rugby tournament with Corneli (Llandarcy).
- 6.3.26 Cardiff Dragons Netball trip
- 13.3.26 Young Carers day.
- 20.3.26 Comic Relief day.
- 23.3.26 Creative Dance Showcase (Helyg and Bedw).
- 26.3.26 Crucial Crew for Year 6 (Bridgend TA Centre) with Corneli.
- 27.3.26 Easter Bonnet Parade (2pm).
- 30.3.26-10.4.26 End of term two holidays.
- 13.4.26 Y3/4 swimming 11am (daily until 24.4.26).
- 27.4.26 Y5/6 swimming 11am (daily until 8.5.26).

### Welcome...

February already, time is sure flying by! You may Remember in November's I put out our annual parental questionnaire, where I am seeking your views. I extended the date in December's newsletter to 10.12.25 as there were no responses. Sadly, we have had no one respond. I am therefore asking again for you to take no more than 2 mins. to reflect on the school's successes and highlight aspects we could improve. We value what you say. Please scan the QR code above to respond to the questionnaire. Open until 27.2.26.



On a more celebratory note, we were visited by Estyn on 16.1.26, with the visit letter due to be published on their website 12.2.26. We'd like to celebrate with you the progress Inspectors have seen in the school since last visiting June 2022. Scan the QR code, which will take you to Estyn's website to read all about what Inspectors saw. #waituntil12.2.26

As you know, Mrs. Noor-Mohamed will be leaving us at half term for a year to have her first child. She will be missed! We had a recruitment drive and have successfully appointed Miss. Hannah Scourfield as replacement teacher for Dosbarth Helyg. She will have a couple of handover sessions with Mrs. Noor-Mohamed and will be coming on the trip to Parc Slip, so she can get to know the children more.



Afon Y Felin is officially a Read, Write Inc. school. Your children are underway with a one month sounds (phonics) and reading challenge. After that, they will be assessed every half term and regrouped according to their skills. We have a parent awareness session booked in for **Friday 27.2.26 starting at 2:45pm**. This will be your opportunity to find out more, ask questions and have a cuppa and cake! Please take the time to come along to this informal event. Update... FEOs Sharon Richards and Sarah Lee are absent from work, with no return to work date, we will keep you updated!

### BCBC jobs...

Are you interested in earning some extra money? Corneli have positions available... **Cleaner** (4 hrs Mon-Fri) and a **Lunchtime Supervisors** (1hr Mon-Fri); Afon Y Felin are also looking for **Lunchtime Supervisors** (1hr Mon-Fri) - above adverts going live 5.2.26. Speak to office staff for help. Scan the QR code to find out more!



### Criw Cymraeg...



Mae hi'n bwrw hen wragedd a ffyn! It's raining cats and dogs!  
Pob lwc Cymru! Good luck Wales!

### Safeguarding/Child Protection...

Are you worried about a child in the community?  
**Bridgend Children's Services duty desk: 01656 642320**  
**NSPCC 0800 800 5000 / 0800 1111**



At 8:50am, the school day begins, with learning, laughter and big grins! If you're on time, you're in the flow, Ready, Steady- off we go!



But creeping in at 9 o'clock, (Or after that- oh, what a shock) Means rushing, stress, a frantic race, And missing the start- it's hard to chase.

A one-off dash? We understand, but daily dashing? That's unplanned! So set that alarm, don't hit snooze, Being on time means you won't lose!

8:50- that's the way, start on time and your own day!



Starting the day at 9:15am each day, means your child is missing 75 minutes of learning every week- 5hours a month, a whopping 47.5hrs a year!

Starting the day at 9:30am each day, means your child is missing 2.5hours of learning every week- 10 hours a month, a massive 95 hours a year!

### Admin...

Contact us...  
01656 815750, text 07860 051156 or [admin@afonyfelinsps.bridgend.cymru](mailto:admin@afonyfelinsps.bridgend.cymru)  
or check out our school website [www.afonyfelinprimary.co.uk](http://www.afonyfelinprimary.co.uk)  
We also have secure class Dojo pages and Instagram.



### School attendance...

January's attendance was **86.8%**. This has gone up a smidge, well done! Class attendance for January was...

**Mes Fach Little Acorns... 85.9%**

**Celyn Hollies... 79.1%**

**Helyg Willows... 89.8%**

**Bedw Birch... 88.4%**

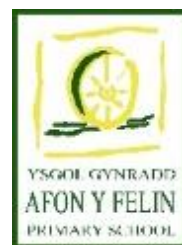
**Cedrwydd Cedars...86.5%**

**Deri Oaks... 91.9%**

Office staff, on request, can also provide you with a holiday form, breakfast club form or a 'medication' form. The medication form only needs to be completed if your child is taking prescribed medication three-four times a day such as antibiotics, allergy or asthma pumps. If your child is, please hand this paperwork into a member of staff from your child's class with medication labelled (from a chemist). Please note, no medication can be given unless prescribed by a GP or a form completed by parents/ guardians.

If your child is ill, please inform the school office by 9:30am. You can leave a message if the line is busy.

## #ATTENDTOACHIEVE AUTUMN TERM 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

As part of Bridgend's attendance drive [#attendtoachieve](#), you would have received your termly letters stating your child's attendance. I am writing with an update on our school attendance and a few reminders.

During Autumn 2025, Dosbarth Bedw are the only class that has managed to maintain their attendance above our target of 91%. **A special mention to Dosbarth Bedw, our class currently with the highest attendance so far last term at 91%.** Classes are currently between **82.4-91%** and our overall school attendance for Autumn Term is 87.8% which is lower than Autumn 2024.

As of the end of December 2025, there were 72 days in the school term. Every child has a 'mark' for the morning and afternoon every day that we are open (discounting things like INSET days), so 72 days equates to 144 (half day) sessions.

100%	144 sessions	Not Missing any lessons. Your child has the optimum chance to attend and is taking full advantage of every learning opportunity.
97%-99%	140 – 143 sessions	Your child has missed no more than 3 sessions.
93%-96%	130 – 134 sessions	Your child has missed between 2 – 4 days so far.
92% and below	132 or fewer sessions	Your child has already missed over 4 days of school this term.

### Lateness

Pupils who arrive at school *after* the teacher has taken the register (usually 8:50am-9:10am and first five minutes in the afternoon), are marked as late (L). More than half an hour late, it is marked as a "U", which actually counts as an absence for the purposes of attendance figures. Autumn term, there have been over **104 'L'** late marks across the school, approximately 1 per pupil on average, with Dobsarth Cedrwydd having the highest volume of 'L' marks (33). There were **22 'U'** marks, with Dosbarth Cedrwydd having the highest volume (14). **Please can I urge parents to make every effort to ensure that children arrive at school by 8:50am so that they are ready to come straight in as soon as staff open the doors.**

### Sickness

As the colder months are here, it is common to see an increase in sickness absences. Autumn term data for absence/sickness and medical appointments counts for over 5.5% of our pupil absence during the Autumn term, accounting for over **386.5 days lost** since September! Obviously, children will be ill from time to time and understandably, some parents may be uncertain about whether they should send their child into school or not. [Public Health Wales](#) produce a guide to common infections which may be helpful, scan the QR code for guidance.



### Attendance Policy

Further to [BCBC](#) publishing their updated [School Attendance Enforcement Policy](#), our Governing Body have now agreed our revised [Attendance Policy](#) which reflects the changes and expectations made of us by Welsh Government and BCBC. As part of this approach, we very much want to channel our efforts towards promoting good attendance (as opposed to the potential consequences arising from poor attendance) and our termly [#attendtoachieve](#) letters are part of that promotion, helping to raise awareness of expectations and where you can access current information on your child's attendance. The office staff are also able to provide a print-off of their attendance register marks for the current academic year should you have any concerns.

As part of my responsibilities as Headteacher, I regularly review the attendance of individual pupils and will write to parents where attendance reaches certain thresholds, either of absenteeism, or punctuality. We also meet regularly (every 3 weeks) with our Education Welfare Officer (EWO) Laurie Baldwin to discuss attendance of individual pupils and, where necessary, may refer families to them in the hope that they can support families to make improvements.

### Holidays in Term Time

Holiday request forms are available in hard copy from the foyer or via our website. We all recognise that holidays taken during the school term breaks are likely to be significantly more expensive (as all school staff know full well!) but can I stress that affordability is not considered an acceptable reason for taking holidays during term time. When completing the request form, we ask that parents explain clearly why such an absence is being taken in term time so that any special circumstances can be given consideration. Please can I remind parents that BCBC expects parents to provide at least four weeks notice of a holiday request.

Autumn 2025 data tells us that **101 days** of holidays were requested, with only **41.5 days authorised**. The Headteacher will only authorise holidays ('H' code) if a child's attendance for the current academic year is above the school target (91%). The previous academic year's attendance will also play a part in this decision to authorise.

Thank you for reading about attendance as this is an important matter – together, we can ensure that your children make the best possible progress during their time at Afon Y Felin Primary School.