



Ton Yr Ywen Primary School

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15/07/'26

End of Year Newsletter and thanks 2025–26

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Governors,

As another successful school year draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support, commitment and partnership throughout the year. It has been another busy and rewarding year at Ton Yr Ywen Primary School, and I am incredibly proud of everything our pupils, staff and wider school community have achieved together.

Our vision at Ton Yr Ywen is simple yet ambitious – **Explore, Grow, Belong**. Throughout this year, we have seen your children embrace new opportunities, grow in confidence and achievement, and strengthen the sense of belonging that makes Ton Yr Ywen such a special place to learn and thrive.

Developing Our School Environment

Our school environment has continued to develop this year thanks to the generosity and commitment of our wider community.

Thank you to Llwynfedw Gardens: In recent weeks, we have received a much-needed donation of replacement benches. These will be installed on the playground for September, having already been used this term by Year 2 to enhance their outdoor learning provision. We are extremely grateful to **Llwynfedw Gardens** for helping us replace the benches that had sadly deteriorated over time.



We would also like to extend our thanks to **Travis Perkins**, who responded positively to persuasive letters written by our Year 6 pupils. Their generous donation enabled the children to complete a wildflower garden project, creating another valuable learning and environmental resource within our school grounds.

A special thank you must also go to the **Friends of Ton Yr Ywen** for their fantastic fundraising efforts throughout the year. Their commitment has enabled us to make significant improvements to our outdoor provision, including the development of our exciting new nature reserve, where children can learn, play and explore together.



Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising events and to the families who joined the nature reserve sessions this term. Your generosity and involvement continue to make a real difference to the opportunities we can provide for our children.

Celebrating Sustainability and Curriculum Development

This month we have successfully renewed our **Platinum Eco Schools Flag**. This achievement recognises the significant environmental developments made across the school, as well as the strong integration of sustainability within our curriculum.

I would like to thank **Mrs Williams and our Eco Warriors** for their hard work and dedication in showcasing the many developments that helped secure this prestigious award once again.

My thanks also goes to **Mrs Antoniazzi** whose leadership has supported staff in continuing to develop an authentic, progressive and engaging curriculum for your children. High-quality professional learning has further strengthened our approach to outdoor teaching and learning and continues to enrich the educational experiences we offer.

Learning and Achievement



This year there has been much to celebrate in our pupils' learning. We have seen significant improvements in reading progress across the school, reflecting the dedication of our pupils, staff and families in developing a love of reading through the addition of new rich texts and effective reading strategies.

It has also been wonderful to hear children using Welsh more confidently throughout the school day. Seeing Welsh become a natural part of everyday conversation demonstrates how our pupils are growing as confident bilingual learners while embracing an important aspect of our Welsh identity.

In the upper school, we have also introduced the teaching of **French**, as part of our commitment to developing international languages across the school.

Staffing Updates

As we reach the end of another school year, we say goodbye to several valued members of our school family.

We would like to thank **Karen Brennan** and **Claire Milligan** from our school office for their professionalism, kindness and dedication over recent months. Their contribution to Ton Yr Ywen has been greatly appreciated, and we wish them every happiness and success as they move on to new opportunities sooner than any of us expected.

From September, our office team will comprise **Jennifer Hopkins**, who will continue to lead Finance and HR along with a new employer **Karen Worthey**, they will both work alongside **Sarah Ridley**, who recently succeeded Rebecca Saunders, moving to a full-time office role from September. I know our school community will make them feel incredibly welcome as they continue to support our school.

We are also delighted to celebrate the recent achievement of **Mrs Davis**, who has secured her **HLTA qualification** and has subsequently been appointed as HLTA in Nursery. Mrs Davis will work alongside **Miss Girardi, Teacher in Charge**, as part of a successful job-share partnership in our Nursery.

We are also looking to appoint a new **Estates Manager** following the departure of **Mr Martin**, who has secured a promotional opportunity. Andrew has made an enormous contribution to Ton Yr Ywen, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our school remains safe, welcoming and well maintained. On behalf of the entire school community, I would like to thank Andrew for his dedication, care and commitment and wish him every success and happiness in his new role.

Recently, I informed families that **Ben Jones** had been appointed to join us in September. Ben has since decided to pursue a different career path and will no longer be joining our school. We wish him every success for the future. I am delighted to share that **Emlyn Williams** will be joining our team instead. A passionate sports enthusiast and experienced tennis coach, Emlyn brings a wealth of enthusiasm and expertise, and we look forward to the opportunities he will provide for our pupils through PE and school sport.

Thank You to Our Staff

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to every member of our teaching and support staff for their incredible hard work this year. Led by a dedicated senior leadership team, it is a joy to work alongside such a nurturing team.

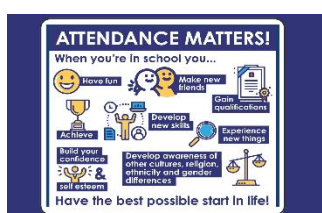
They have all embraced continued curriculum development with professionalism, creativity and enthusiasm, ensuring that our pupils experience engaging, purposeful and memorable learning

opportunities. Their commitment enables our children to explore their world, grow as independent learners and develop a genuine sense of belonging within our school community.

This exciting curriculum journey will continue throughout **2026–27** as we move into the second year of our two-year curriculum cycle.

Following our traditional two-week focus on wellbeing, relationship building, transition activities and settling into new classes, our whole-school learning context will begin with **Peace and Conflict**. This rich and thought-provoking theme will provide meaningful opportunities for learning across all areas of the curriculum.

Attendance and Exceptional Leave



The first days and weeks of the autumn term are incredibly important. They allow children to establish routines, build relationships with new staff and classmates, and settle confidently into school life. For this reason, we do not approve holidays during the first week of the autumn term, as this is a vital settling-in period and ensures every child can

begin the year positively.

Once pupils return on **Tuesday 2nd September**, parents may begin to request up to five days of exceptional leave to be taken during the academic year, provided their child's attendance is **93% or above** at the time of the request.

Applications should be made using the updated **Exceptional Leave Request Form**, available on the school website from the start of next term. Each request will be considered carefully on its individual circumstances.

Farewell to Year 6 and children leaving us from Nursery



To our wonderful **Year 6 pupils**, thank you for everything you have contributed to Ton Yr Ywen. You have truly embodied what it means to **Explore, Grow and Belong**, and we are incredibly proud of the young people you have become. As you leave us this week to begin the next stage of your educational journey, remember that you will always remain part of the Ton Yr Ywen family. Your new schools are

fortunate to be welcoming such kind, resilient, talented and thoughtful young people, and we know that you will continue to achieve great things.

To any other families including those in our Nursery who are moving on to different primary schools this year, we wish you every happiness and success for the future. We are proud to have shared in your learning journey and wish you all the very best as you begin this exciting new chapter.

Thank You to Our Assembly Squad



I would also like to offer a very special thank you to my **Assembly Squad**, whose term of office came to an end this week.

Each member set themselves personal goals at the start of the year, and I am incredibly proud that they have achieved them all. They should be proud of the confidence they have developed, the skills they have strengthened and the positive contribution they have made to our school community.

Their commitment, enthusiasm and willingness to take on responsibility have been a wonderful example of how our pupils can make a real difference.

Thank you to our outgoing Assembly Squad for everything you have contributed. I look forward to welcoming our new Assembly Squad in September as they take on the responsibility of leading assemblies and supporting a range of community-focused initiatives that continue to strengthen the sense of belonging at the heart of Ton Yr Ywen.

The Assembly Squad, alongside the Eco warriors, Digital leaders and Senedd all ensure that the voice of your children is heard. Well done and thank you to them all for their contributions.

Thank You to Our Governors

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to our committed **Governing Body** who generously give many hours of their own time to support the school, and this commitment is greatly appreciated by both staff and me. The children also enjoy seeing governors visiting the school and are always keen to share their learning, talk about what we are doing, and discuss their ideas for future developments. Their presence helps strengthen the close partnership between the school community and its leadership, ensuring that pupils' voices remain at the heart of our journey.

A Final Thank You

Finally, thank you to everyone who has taken the time to send such thoughtful end-of-year messages and words of appreciation to our staff. Your kindness is genuinely valued and means a great deal to everyone who works so hard to make Ton Yr Ywen such a special place. On behalf of all the staff, I wish you and your families a safe, restful and enjoyable summer holiday. Thank you for helping us create such a wonderful school community—one that I feel incredibly proud to lead and nurture. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school **Tuesday 2nd September** for another exciting year together.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs James-Griffiths (Headteacher)

