NEWSLETTER
October 2026

Dear Parents and Families,

It's been a busy half term at Coed-Y-Lan as we welcomed all our families back to school after the summer and settled in to all our old (and new) routines. The children have really enjoyed the start of their topic for the term 'Let's Explore Wild Weather and Wicked World Events' and have been investigating, researching, and collecting data from our school grounds, local area, and the wider world. Our little meteorologists have been outside with their weather vanes, rain gauges, and weather charts and have enjoyed learning about news and weather reports. Our after school clubs are up and running, with a rugby club, handbell club, and choir also starting after half term.

All the children from year 1 to year 6 have joined their new pupil voice groups, written their action plans, and started their important work of contributing to and influencing school life. We have also elected our Llywydd and Is-Llywydd for 2026-27 who you will see a lot of over the coming year.

Coed-Y-Lan is taking part in some exciting collaboration projects this year which will involve us working with other primary and secondary schools in RCT to develop our reading culture, use of the outdoors, and oracy in outdoor learning. These collaborations involve training for staff, enrichment opportunities for children, new resources and teaching and learning experiences, and the opportunity for us to share good practice with colleagues in other schools.

We continue to engage with our local community and have thoroughly enjoyed assemblies this term from the 'Open the Book' team from St David's Uniting Church, Alun from Temple Baptist and Trish from St Catherine's.

It was lovely to meet with so many of you at our parent consultation evenings to share the children's learning and chat about their progress and wellbeing. There was also a really good turnout for the PTA's first quiz night which was a fun opportunity to get together as a school community. Keep your eyes peeled for the next one – we're hoping for a team from every class!

Please keep an eye out for us on social media. We have set up a school Facebook page and Instagram profile to create another channel through which to share the lovely things that go on at Coed-Y-Lan with our families and wider community. Please give us a like, a follow, and a repost!

We would like to extend our congratulations to Mrs Katie Thomas and Mrs Alex Chapman, who have been appointed as the class teacher of Dosbarth Castan and whole-school HLTA respectively, and who will be staying with us for the remainder of the academic year. They are both super additions to the Coed-Y-Lan team.

Have a lovely half term and we'll see you in November!

Mrs Evans and Mrs Davies

Let's Explore Wild Weather and Wicked World Events

So far this term, our children have undertaken a range of exciting learning experiences across the curriculum. Children in progression step 1 have made rain in a jar, made snow and built snowmen, made their own rain gauges to collect and measure rainfall, investigated the power of wind in real-life experiments, and role-played weather reporters in their purpose-built television studio. In progression step 2, children have made their own volcanoes, investigated mystery boxes filled with equipment related to different weather conditions and planned for weather events, role-played in our volcano-based science lab, made their own storm orchestras, and completed a weather study and analysis. In progression step 3, pupils have written and recorded weather broadcasts, built their own emergency shelters, researched how to stay safe in different extreme weather situations, planned weather defenses, investigated chromatography, and written their own weather warning stories.













Forum Theatre

Pupils from years 5 and 6 have been taking part in a forum theatre drama project with Aleksandra from the YMa centre to support with transition to high school. Forum Theatre is an interactive form of drama where young people watch a short play about a social situation and then step onto the stage to test out real-life solutions. The children have been learning a range of drama skills and visted YMa on Friday to meet an artist as part of the project.



Bearfoot and Beyond

All of the children at Coed-y-Lan have been working with Rhys from Bearfoot and Beyond in the school garden again this term. They have built shelters for surviving weather conditions, made magic wands from the willow they have harvested, learned to identify birds from their songs and calls, investigated cobwebs and the spiders that make them, planted trees, and learned to make fires. Not to mention the s'mores at the end! The amazing work Rhys does with all our children us funded by our PTA and the sponsored events we run. Thank you for your continued support to enable this amazing experience to enrich our learning.









Padel Power

Dosbarth Bedw had the opportunity to visit the 'Unbound' centre in Llantrisant for a padel taster session with Mr Tippings. They had a super time and enjoyed getting stuck in to sport!





Music Tuition

There has been a huge uptake of music lessons this term, with Mrs Jowett coming to teach piano and Mr Chadwick teaching guitar. Pupils are thoroughly ejoying their lessons and we love hearing them!



Cerdd Music
RHONDDA CYNON TAF

Harvest

We were excited to receive a letter from the school council at Glenboi Community Primary School asking us to support their Big Bocs Bwyd community foodbank this term. Our Llywydd and Is-Llywydd put it to the vote and there was a school-wide consensus to support. We had a wonderful harvest festival with lots of lovely singing and poetry recitation as well as an amazing array of harvest gifts. We finished off the celebrations by sharing a traditional harvest loaf donated by our PTA. Thank you to them and to our governors for coming to support and share such a special occasion with us. Mrs Evans delivered the 'harvest haul' to Glenboi where the school council received it and restocked th Big Bocs Bwyd the next day. A huge thank you to all our children and families for your generous donations.





Pupil Voice Groups

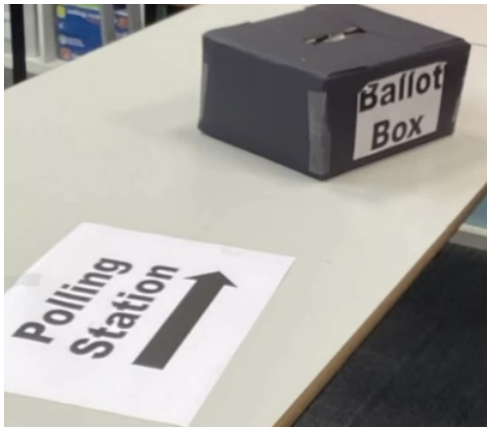
All the children from year 1 to year 6 have joined their new pupil voice groups. They listened to 'pitches' from the staff who lead each group and voted for the groups they wanted to join. Pupils were then allocated to a pupil voice group based on their preference and group from the previous year. Since then, each group has written their action plan, elected their leaders, and started the important work of contributing to and influencing school life. We also held an exciting election, during which ten year 6 candidates made speeches to the whole school before every child from year 1 to year 6 cast their vote. Our elected Llywydd and Is-Llywydd for 2026-27 are Finley and Peyton.





Senedd Coed-y-Lan
Llywydd and Is Llywydd
Elections 2026

Peyton	
Leyona	
Georgia S	
Isabella	
Georgia L	
Amélie	
Lola	
Finley	
Macie	
Fikayo	





We Love to Read!

Our Love Reading project will be a key focus for the coming year as we work alongside schools across Rhondda Cynon Taf to develop our culture of reading for pleasure within school and the wider community. The project has been designed to nurture a love of books and promote reading as something to be enjoyed, shared and celebrated by everyone.

Throughout the year, we will be developing engaging and inviting reading environments across the school, reviewing and enhancing our book collections, and ensuring that all children see themselves reflected in the literature they read. We will also work closely with pupils to gather their views on reading and use their ideas to inspire and engage our young readers

The children will have opportunities to take part in a range of exciting reading activities, including reading challenges, reading buddies, library visits, and reading cafés. These experiences will help raise the profile of reading and encourage children to discover books that spark their interest and imagination.

As part of the project, we will strengthen links with families, libraries, and the wider community. We will also use our social media platforms to celebrate reading achievements and share the wonderful reading experiences taking place in school and at home.

By the end of the project, we hope to see children, staff and families sharing and celebrating literature together, creating a school community where reading for pleasure is enjoyed by all.

Half Term Home Challenge

Can you become a book cover designer for the holidays?

Choose your favourite book and either recreate the front cover as accurately as possible or give it a complete makeover with your own creative design. Use colouring pencils, paint, collage, digital art, or anything else that helps bring your ideas to life!

Then, on the back, become a book reviewer. Tell us why you would recommend the book to someone else. What makes it special? Is it funny, exciting, mysterious or full of surprises? Who do you think would enjoy reading it?

We can't wait to see your brilliant designs and discover some fantastic new book recommendations. You might even inspire someone to find their next favourite book!



Social Media

The launch of our new social media pages is an exciting step forward in strengthening the connection between school and home. We are delighted to announce that our school now has official Facebook and Instagram accounts, providing families and the wider community with another way to celebrate and stay up to date with school life. Through these pages, we will be sharing highlights of pupils' achievements, learning experiences, school events, important reminders, and special celebrations. Our aim is to give parents and carers a window into the fantastic opportunities our children enjoy every day and to showcase the vibrant learning taking place across the school. By following our pages, you will be able to see photographs of school activities, hear about upcoming events, and keep informed about the many exciting things happening throughout the year. Please follow, like, and share our content to help spread the word.



Parent Voice

As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we will be inviting parents and carers to share their views through the questionnaire sent to you via MCAS, Seesaw, and this newsletter. The questionnaire provides an opportunity for families to have their voices heard on a range of aspects of school life. We encourage all parents and carers to take a few minutes to complete the survey. By working together and listening to the views of our school community, we can continue to provide the very best experiences and opportunities for all our pupils. Thank you in advance for your support and valuable feedback. https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/JbLt1NusBy

Attendance Matters

At Coed-Y-Lan we are committed to providing a happy, caring, and safe school environment where every child is encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards school and learning and fully connected to school life. Regular attendance at school enables pupils to build and maintain positive relationships with both their peers and the adults who support them, while also ensuring that they do not miss important learning experiences and key steps in teaching sequences.

Wherever possible, we kindly ask parents and carers to arrange medical, optical and dental appointments outside of school hours. We appreciate that this is not always possible, particularly for hospital appointments and specialist clinics. In these circumstances, please share appointment letters with the school so that absences can be recorded appropriately.

We also ask that children are not collected early from school unless it is absolutely necessary, such as for a medical appointment. This term, there has been a significant increase in pupils being collected before the end of the school day. Whilst we understand that occasional early collection cannot be avoided, frequent interruptions have a considerable impact on learning across the school. Lessons are disrupted, valuable learning time is lost, and Mrs Owen is often required to leave the office to facilitate collections.



Safeguarding

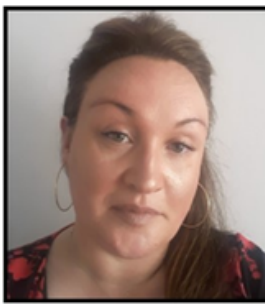
The safety of all children is our number one priority in Coed-Y-Lan, and we follow all protocols to ensure pupils are kept safe in school. If you have any concerns for the welfare of a child in Coed-Y-Lan please report it to Mrs Evans, or a member of the safeguarding team, or phone the RCT number below.



Mrs Evans
Designated
Safeguarding Person



Mrs Davies
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Person



Mrs Boulton
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Person



Mr Jenkins-Jones
Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Person

Cwm Taf Morgannwg
Bwrdd Diogelu
Safeguarding Board

www.ctmsb.co.uk



Diogelu Plant

Diogelu yw atal camdriniaeth neu esgeulustod tuag at blant a phobl ifainc, a diogelu'r rheini sydd wedi dioddef camdriniaeth neu esgeulustra.

Beth yw Camdriniaeth neu Esgeulustra?

CAMDRINIAETH yw pan fydd plentyn neu berson ifanc yn cael eu cam-drin neu eu niweidio.

Gall camdriniaeth ddigwydd mewn sawl ffordd:

Camdriniaeth Gorfforol • Trais Domestig
Camdriniaeth Emosiynol
Camdriniaeth Rywiol • Camdriniaeth Ariannol

ESGEULUSTOD methu â chwrdd ag anghenion sylfaenol plentyn, sy'n debygol o amharu ar eu lles.

Beth ddylwn i ei wneud?

Os ydych chi'n amau bod plentyn neu berson ifanc mewn perygl uniongyrchol o niwed, ffoniwch 999 a siarad â'r Heddlu.

Os ydych chi wedi dioddef camdriniaeth (neu'n dal i ddioddef), neu os ydych chi'n tybio bod rhywun rydych chi'n eu hadnabod yn cael eu cam-drin, ffoniwch un o'r rhifau isod:

Safeguarding Children

Safeguarding is about preventing the abuse or neglect of children and young people and protecting those who have been subject to abuse or neglect.

What is Abuse and Neglect?

ABUSE is when a child or young person is mistreated or harmed.

Abuse can take many forms...

Physical • Domestic Abuse
Emotional Abuse
Sexual Abuse • Financial

NEGLECT is a failure to meet a child's basic needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of their wellbeing.

What should I do?

If you suspect a child or young person is in immediate risk of harm call 999 and speak to the police.

If you are or have been subject to abuse, or know someone who has, please contact one of the following numbers:

Rhondda Cynon Taf	Pen-y-bont | Bridgend	Merthyr Tudful | Merthyr Tydfil
☎ 01443 425006	☎ 01656 642320	☎ 01685 725000

Oriau agor | Opening Hours: Dydd Llun | Monday - Dydd Gwener | Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm

Carfan ar Ddyletswydd ar gyfer Argyfyngau y Tu Allan i Oriau Swyddfa: Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team: ☎ 01443 743665



Dates for Your Diary



26-30th October	Half term
Friday 13th November	Children in Need
Friday 20th November	Autumn Reading Cafe
Monday 7th December	Christmas Concert - St Catherine's Church 5.30pm
Tuesday 8th December	Christmas Concert - St Catherine's Church 9.30am
Thursday 17th December	Pantomime - Y Muni
December 21st-1st January	Christmas Holidays
Monday 4th January	Back to school
Friday 15th January	Spring Reading Cafe 1
8th- 12th February	Half term
Monday 15th February	Back to school
Friday 19th March	Spring Reading Cafe 2
22nd March-2nd April	Easter holidays
Wed 17th-Fri 19th March	Manor Adventure Residential - Y5/6
Monday 5th April	Back to school
Friday 28th May	INSET Day - school closed to pupils
31st May - 4th June	Half Term
Friday 18th June	Summer Fete
Thursday 8th July	Year 5/6 Prom
Friday 16th July	End of Term