

# Blackwood Primary School

## Half term Newsletter February 2025

"United we Empower, Nurture, Challenge"



### General reminders....

Please make sure that if you change home address/phone number or email address, you update school as soon as possible.

If your child is going to be absent from school any day please contact the school either by telephone - 01495 224111 and leave a voicemail by 9:00 am on day of absence or use the absences section our Parentmail app and provide a reason.

Please park considerately around the neighbouring properties to the school. According to the highway code it is an offence to park across driveways, dropped kerbs or double yellow lines.

Please ensure that children arriving for breakfast club or the start of the school day are accompanied by a responsible adult, who will wait with them until a member of staff opens the gate.

Please be reminded that children should only be collected by someone over the age of 16.

Please leave the school site as soon as you have collected your child. Children should not be climbing trees, playing on the gym equipment or on the grass verge surrounding the staff car park.

### PE DAYS:

Reception	Thursday
Year 1	Wednesday
Year 2	Monday
Year 3/4	Thursday/ Friday
Year 5	Monday/ Tuesday
Year 6	Monday/ Tuesday

## SCHOOL TERM DATES

### SPRING TERM 2025

- Half term starts Monday 24 February 2025
- Half term ends Friday 28 February 2025

**Term ends Friday 11th April 2025**

### SUMMER TERM 2025

- Term starts Monday 28 April 2025
- Half term starts Monday 26 May 2025
- Half term ends Friday 30 May 2025

**Last day of term 21st July 2025 (please note this is an INSET day)**

### INSET DAYS

Friday 2nd May 2025

Friday 20th June 2025

Monday 23rd June 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

### Attendance

**Our whole school attendance is currently 90%**

We need your support to meet our target of **95%**.

We can only do this with your support, so please make every effort to ensure that your children are in school every day.

Attendance awards have started again from September 2024, where all prizes must be collected within the academic year.

As usual pupils will be reminded during the final week of term to collect their chosen prize.

## Upcoming events in school....



We will be celebrating **World Book Day on Thursday, 6th March**. On this special day, children are asked to either come dressed as their favourite character, or in something that they feel most comfortable to read in – this could be pyjamas or comfy clothes. Of course some children prefer to read in school so may wear their uniform. We kindly ask that each child brings along their favourite book to school, as throughout the day there will be a variety of book-themed activities for them to enjoy.



**St David's Day Celebrations:** On the **7th of March** pupils can either wear something red, Welsh rugby / football shirts or traditional Welsh costumes. We hope to celebrate the day by immersing ourselves in the Welsh culture and language.



The **Inspirational Ladies event** will take place on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March** ~ We will provide further information regarding this event shortly.

Stay tuned for exciting updates and important dates by regularly checking the school calendar on the Blackwood Primary School website. You won't want to miss out on any of the events lined up throughout the academic year. From special assemblies to fun-filled activities, our calendar is your go-to guide for staying informed and involved in our school community.

## NURSERY

## MEITHRIN

We have had a fantastic start to 2025. We started the year seizing the season of winter. As the temperature has dropped we have looked at the differences between hot and cold. We wrapped up warm with our hats, scarves, coats and gloves and went on a winter walk. We found lots of signs of winter such as ice and frost which inspired us to create winter pictures. During the Big bird watch we discovered the importance of taking care of birds in the winter. We developed our fine motor skills threading cheerios to make our bird feeders. After hanging out the bird feeders in our nursery garden we had fun watching and counting the different birds that came to visit. We created a tally chart to help us keep track of our feathered friends.

There were lots of celebrations to be had when learning about Chinese New year. This year was the year of the snake. We created colourful lanterns and followed a repeating pattern dragon. Our cooking area was very busy with lots of chopping, we chopped carrots, peppers, cabbage and sweet potatoes. We added the chopped ingredients to our dough that we had rolled and pinched the edges to make a dumpling. After cooking we enjoyed the tasting with noodles where we experienced using chopsticks. We ended our week of celebrations with a lion dance in the hall. We had so much fun banging the drums and creating shapes with our body and colourful scarves for our dance.

We have read lots of stories in nursery and have really enjoyed exploring Goldilocks and the 3 Bears. In the block area we have designed and built chairs and beds for the bears focusing on comparing, sorting and ordering the sizes big, medium and small.

Outdoors has been a hive of activity preparing our garden for planting. We have been clearing the leaves and digging the beds. Our first seeds planted have been beans which will be harvested in summer for our family dinner. We have added a splash of colour with bright and cheerful flowers. Our teamwork skills have been a focus outdoors as we have been learning how to independently build a den, we have worked together to carry blocks, poles and then attach tarpaulin with pegs. To warm up this week we enjoyed yummy porridge which was neither too hot or too cold but just right.

Nursery staff would like to thank all of those who attended parent consultations. It has been fantastic sharing all the achievements each child has made. We would like to thank you for your continued support and wish everyone a lovely half term.

**Follow us on X : @NurseryBPS**



# RECEPTION

## DERBYN

Yet another busy beginning of term. It's gone so quickly!

We began by setting new year's promises. Soon we found ourselves celebrating St Dwynwen's day who is the Welsh saint of love. We made love spoons on the woodwork bench and on the loose parts area and made chocolate heart shapes to put on our cookies. We learnt all about changes that happen in melting and cooling chocolate and know that the changes can be reversed. We also dressed up and retold the story of Saint Dwynwen and shared it on Seesaw. We participated in 'The Big Bird Watch' this January. We had great fun looking for different types of British birds that we spotted from the playground and made tally charts to record them. We drew and painted pictures and wrote simple reports about them.

We also listened to a story about the Chinese New Year and we had fun learning about the order of the animals that crossed the finishing line. We know that this year is the year of the snake.

Next we designed the ideal pizza and chose toppings that we liked. Then we costed the ingredients in simple terms and paid for them using real coins then we made our pizzas and they were delicious! We have been having fun learning about the different coins and playing games identifying and sorting them. We have also been learning to write subtraction sentences using familiar songs to help us. On Number day we participated in lots of activities about numbers, we made tasty Nutella apples and toast and helped to raise money for the NSPCC.

We also learned about Saint Valentines and learned lots of creative ways to make hearts and we used them to make cards for our families.

Recently we were lucky enough to have training on the balance bikes. It was great fun! We have made amazing castles and dragons in the block play area and we are celebrating being Welsh. We have learnt lots of Welsh songs and currently we are beginning to prepare for the Eisteddfod after half term. We can't wait!

We Wish you a safe and happy half term.

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# YEAR 1 BLYDDWYN UN

Wow! What an exciting and thrilling start to 2025 we have had! Firstly, we explored the fascinating world of teeth. This topic not only covered the importance of dental hygiene but also included some hands-on activities that made learning fun. The children observed and sorted different types of teeth, allowing them to understand their unique functions and significance.

As the seasons changed, we learned about the Arctic and Antarctic, discovering the diverse wildlife that inhabits these extreme environments. The children learned about the unique adaptations of animals such as polar bears, penguins, and seals, which inspired them to think about how such animals survived in harsh conditions.

We also participated in 'The Big Bird Watch' this January. This engaging event encouraged children to observe and record the birds they saw in our local environment, fostering a love and appreciation for wildlife in our locality.

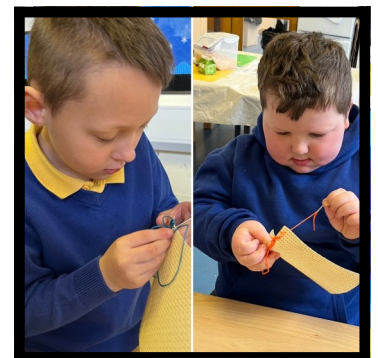
We further developed our cooking skills as we learned to cook pancakes, cheesy potato pie, and shortbread. These activities provided a wonderful way to reinforce our measuring, collaboration and data skills.

In line with our outdoor provision, we planted a variety of seeds and bulbs in preparation for the spring and summer months. This hands-on experience taught children about gardening, growth cycles, and the joy of nurturing plants, enhancing their understanding of nature and responsibility.

The children have learnt about the inspiring story of St Dwynwen, the Welsh patron saint of love. We discussed her journey and the values of love and kindness that her story shows. We sequenced the story which developed understanding and comprehension. We also listened to the story of St Valentine, comparing the story of St Dwynwen and St Valentine. Children reflected on the values of love and how these incorporate their daily lives and what they mean to them and their families.



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## YEAR 2

### BLYDDWYN DAU

What a great start to 2025! We are exploring 'what Wales looked like in the past' for this term's theme 'Newidiadau' (Changes). We've worked our socks off to improve spelling and mental maths skills! In literacy, we've written poetry, newspaper reports based on the text *The Lost Stars* and retold a story called *How To Be A Lion*. In maths, we've been practising our measuring skills by using a variety of tools and equipment to weigh, measure length and capacity, and read a thermometer to find out the temperature.

We have been learning about how and where people lived in Wales in the past and have explored the different types of castles that were built at different times. We created our own artwork using 2D shapes and pastels, inspired by the work of Paul Klee. We enjoyed our pattern seeking investigation and found interesting answers to our questions. We have been developing literacy and numeracy skills through our cross curricular authentic areas which are linked to our big question. We are now experts on making Welsh rarebit! We took part in Internet Safety week and learnt all about keeping ourselves safe online.

Our visit to St Fagan's was a great day! We continued to explore what Wales looked like in the past and even managed to finish the day with a play in the park! A huge success!

In forest schools, we made bird cakes to encourage birds to come to our grounds for when we took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch. We took part in the NSPCC Number Day by engaging in lots of maths activities and games. Thank you for your kind donations to such a worthy cause!

It was lovely to finish the half term with parent meetings, sharing all our children's achievements, showing how hard they have been working this year.

We hope you enjoy a relaxing, fun-filled half term break and look forward to seeing you for more fun. Thank you for your continued support!

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## YEAR 3/4

### BLYDDWYN TRI/PEDWAR

We've had a fantastic half term in Year 3/4, filled with exciting learning and memorable experiences!

In Literacy, we proudly finished writing our Welsh Myth stories and have been working towards writing a Non-Chronological Report. The children have explored effective headings and subheadings using alliteration and questions, created glossaries, and identified key features of reports. After half-term, we will turn our reports into a 'book' for our school library and share them with Reception!

This term, we have explored number patterns by recognising sequences and completing them, as well as applying given rules to extend number sequences. Pupils also developed practical skills by reading thermometers and interpreting temperature changes. In data handling, we focused on interpreting bar graphs and learning how to organise and present data effectively. These skills were further reinforced through engaging activities where the children collected and displayed their own data sets. Our exploration of mass involved reading scales accurately, converting between different units of measurement, and comparing different masses to develop a deeper understanding of weight and balance. We also worked on key multiplication and division skills through grouping, sharing, and using arrays to represent numbers in different ways. Fractions have been another key focus this term. The children practised reading and writing fractions before moving on to identifying equivalent fractions.

Our topic, Which British Beast is Best?, has inspired some wonderful activities. We took part in the Big Bird Watch, designed and started making British animal hand puppets, and created observational drawings of bird feathers. In Technology, we have been using the 'I Can Animate' app to produce a stop-motion animation of a woodland scene—a fantastic way to bring learning to life!

In the Cooking Area, we embraced French culture by making French crêpes to celebrate La Chandeleur—a delicious and fun experience! In our construction areas, we've been busy creating MiniBeast Hotels! Using our measuring and building skills, we have designed and built special habitats for minibeasts to explore.

This half term in our INSPIRE books, we have been busy with a range of exciting activities! We took part in making and creating our own Galette des Rois, a traditional French pastry, learning about its cultural significance and enjoying the fun of finding the hidden charm inside. In science, we investigated which materials are the best insulators, testing different substances to see which kept heat in the best. We also explored the differences between living and nonliving things by learning about the seven life processes using MRS GREN. In art, we created our own wildlife-inspired pieces, taking inspiration from the work of Chris Chalk to develop our artistic techniques. Throughout the half term, we have also used our independent areas to further develop our skills, exploring topics in our own way and deepening our understanding through hands-on learning. It has been a fantastic and creative half term!



## YEAR 5

### BLYDDWYN PUMP

What a fantastic start to the year we have had in year 5! We can hardly believe the amount of learning that has taken place, and what everyone has achieved during these first weeks of the Spring term. Our theme for Spring term is all about the benefits of growing and using local produce as we investigate the big question "How can local produce improve our planet?"

We have been learning all about germination and how plants grow as part of our investigation work, while prepping our produce during the cold winter months to grow indoors. We have been tending to these daily, and have also been learning about the different elements of a healthy balanced diet using the eatwell plate guide.

In health and wellbeing, we planned our own sponsored obstacle course event to raise money for our class charity "Welsh Air Ambulance" as part of our Commando Joe's and Jigsaw sessions on Mondays every week. We have been so successful and raised over £500!

Our authentic areas around the classroom have also been very busy and linked to our theme, as we write reports about buying local produce, plan and create wooden planters in woodwork, and create a range of watercolour art inspired by still life perspectives of various foods and plants. We have also been developing our digital skills by using the micro bits to create a soil moisture sensor which has helped us monitor our potted plants in class!





## YEAR 6

### BLWYDDYN CHWECH

What a great start to 2025! Our topic of 'Newidiadau' has already enabled us to delve into many aspects of the past and how these features of everyday life have developed throughout different periods and are continuing to change in present times. To ignite our big question 'Which energy source is the best for our planet?' We travelled back in time to find out what life was like for our Welsh ancestors working at Blaenavon Big Pit. We had so much fun going underground! One of our favourite parts of the trip was when we got to see and learn about the pit ponies and how important their role was to the miners! We definitely came back to school with a whole new level of respect for all that worked there many years ago!

We recently attended Crucial Crew, at Blackwood Rugby Club, where we were taught about a variety of life skills and how we can keep ourselves safe as we transition into the next phase of our lives.

We have also relished the opportunity to start rehearsing for our Easter Concert! This is a play about different aspects of the past!

We look forward to participating in some transition activities with Blackwood Comprehensive School next term!

**Follow us on X; @YearSix\_BPS**





## Blackwood Primary Sports News

This term we have taken part in the following:

Netball round 2

Indoor athletics

Year 3&4 tag rugby

Year 5&6 girls rugby

Football cluster league round 3

We would like to congratulate our year 5&6 boys football team who have qualified for the football finals later this year.