

Blackwood Primary School

End of Term Newsletter July 2024



"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."

"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

INSET DAYS

Monday 2nd September

Tuesday 3rd September

Friday 2nd May

Friday 20th June

Monday 23rd June

Monday 21st July

School Term dates for 2024/2025

****Please be reminded of staggered start times for new nursery pupils****

Autumn term

- Term starts Monday 2nd September 2024
- Half term starts Monday 28 October 2024
- Half term ends Friday 1 November 2024
- TERM ENDS FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER 2024

SPRING TERM 2025

- Term starts Monday 6 January 2025
- Half term starts Monday 24 February 2025
- Half term ends Friday 28 February 2025
- TERM ENDS FRIDAY 11 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
- TERM ENDS 21st JULY 2025

Helpful Information

PE DAYS:

Reception	Thursday
Year 1	Wednesday
Year 2	Monday
Year 3/4	Thursday & Friday will need kit
Year 5	Monday & Tuesday will need kit
Year 6	Monday & Tuesday will need kit

BANKHOLDAYS

Monday 5th May—May day

Absences

If your child is going to be absent from school any day please contact the school on either of these two methods;

Telephone - 01495 224111 and leave a voicemail by 9:00 am on day of absence.

Use the absences section our Parentmail app to provide a reason.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance is 88.72% We need a big push in 2024 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.

Category	Attendance % at the end of the school year	Total number of days missed at the end of the school year
Green	100%	0
	97%	5
	96%	8
	95%	10
Amber	94%	12
	93%	14
	92%	16
	91%	18
Red	90%	19
	87%	24
	85%	28
	80%	39

A message from Mrs Davies...

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we reach the end of yet another successful academic year, I would like to start by saying thank you to all our pupils, parents, carers, governors, and staff for their support in helping us achieve this success. We end our Summer Term with a wonderfully busy week of leavers assemblies, sports awards, class parties and pupil book looks. I find myself echoing my words from last year in that it has been a sheer pleasure to hear joy and laughter around the school and witness how your children have shone brightly with enjoyment at these events.

I feel very privileged to be the Head Teacher at Blackwood Primary School and be a part of the school as it continues to go from strength to strength. We have continued to provide a rich and engaging curriculum for our pupils, and they have made us all very proud with their many successes throughout the year. Our pupils experience opportunities to take part in activities beyond the curriculum through a wide variety of trips, afterschool clubs and sporting activities and it was wonderful to see some of these recognised at this week's celebrations. It is with honour, and more than a touch of pride, that we have introduced a suite of awards this year to recognise some of these achievements, from Athlete of the Year to the highly coveted (of course) Head Teacher Award. Our award display shelves outside the Main Hall are beginning to need a new extension. Da iawn bawb!

A special thank you to our wonderful PTA, Friends @ Blackwood, for hosting amazing events throughout the year, culminating in the hugely anticipated school fete. The PTA are an integral part of the school community, and I am sure you will join me in thanking them for their dedication and valued support. I cannot celebrate our successes without mentioning the positive family and community engagement actions we have all been a part of this year. We are proud to display the Silver Heart of the Community Award you helped us achieve this year in recognition of our successful programme of parental engagement sessions. We thank you all for your hard work and dedication to strengthening community links at Blackwood Primary School and we are looking forward to continuing to build on these links as we move into a new academic year.

At this time of year, we say goodbye to both staff and pupils. We bid a fond farewell Miss Gait and Mrs Murphy, thank you for all you have done for the school, our children, and families, we will miss you and wish you all the best in your new ventures. Finally, each year we feel very emotional about our Year 6 children leaving us as they take their next big steps in education. To say I was blown away at the talent on display at this year's Leavers Show is an understatement. The show was entirely written, directed, choreographed, musically scored and produced by the pupils, and we want them to know how proud we are of each and every one of them!

We wish all our Year 6 leavers every success in their future adventures.

Pob Lwc Year 6!

Above all I would like to wish everyone a happy, safe, and restful break, we look forward to welcoming your children back on Wednesday 4th September.

Kindest regards,

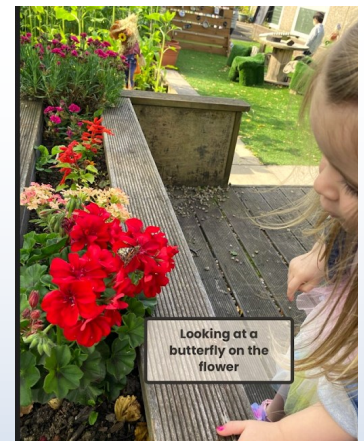
Mrs Davies
Headteacher
Blackwood Primary School

NURSERY

MEITHRIN

This term has been very busy with lots of exciting summer activities. We started the term off with a delivery of tiny caterpillars. This inspired us to find out how a caterpillar becomes a butterfly. We read 'The very hungry caterpillar' and found out that after eating a lot our tiny caterpillars would get very tired and need to sleep in a chrysalis. We watched them grow bigger and bigger and created some observational paintings and drawings. We have tasted fruit that 'The hungry caterpillar' ate and enjoyed Thursday's fruit of strawberries which we grew in our nursery garden. This year we have grown lots of delicious healthy foods in our garden. We have enjoyed picking pea and bean pods and popping all the peas and beans. We tasted them and they were delicious. We really enjoyed pulling up the potatoes that we planted. We washed them, peeled them, chopped them, then they were boiled and mashed. We enjoyed a meal of mash potatoes, beans and cheese enjoying all our hard work after taking care of our nursery plants. It was lovely to welcome our nursery families on sports day we were so proud of how well all of the children participated in the races. We had a fantastic family funday which gave us the opportunity to share lots of fun activities and celebrate your child's first year in Nursery with a mini graduation. All of the Nursery staff would like to say a huge thankyou to all of our nursery families for their continued support this year we have had a lovely year with the children and are so proud of the achievements they have made this year. We wish you all well as you move on to new adventures.

- Follow us on X : @NurseryBPS



RECEPTION

DERBYN

We started this half term with a fabulous trip to Collier's farm and saw many living things and talked about how animals grow and change. We learned about the special names for animal babies. We also learned about where our food comes from. As we worked on our allotment and in our outdoor environment, we also noticed how plants grow and change. We enjoyed hunting for bugs and observed, described and sorted them. We shared Eric Carle's stories about minibeasts, and we made creations in his style using paints and collage. We explored our own timeline and the life cycles of butterflies, frogs and plants. We loved watching the tadpoles change into froglets. We planted spinach, carrots, mint, potatoes, rocket, radishes, beetroot, strawberries and many flowers. We created our very own pumpkin patch too! We used our produce in the recipes we made in our kitchen and we wrote simple instructions to help others. For Father's Day we designed and made a card and created a clay gift. We have continued to develop our problem solving and physical skills by taking part in Commando Joe's and PE sessions each week. We enjoyed a fabulous Sport's Day organised by Mr. Grandin and the Sport's Council. We have loved sewing this year and made mini-images of ourselves using different fabrics. We created our very own pizza parlour where we designed and made our own pizza and ate them in our café Bellissimo! We have made the most of the dry weather, learning to build dens and having lots of fun in the outdoors.

We have written about ourselves so that our new teachers know the things we can do and what we enjoy. We spent 2 whole days with our new teachers and can't wait to work with them in year 1!

We would like to say a very big thankyou to all the families who have supported us on our journey through Reception this year.

Follow us on X: @ReceptionBPS



YEAR 1

BLYDDWYN UN

Wow! What a busy term we have had; we can't believe it's the end of the school year already! We are so proud of our pupils and what they have achieved this year. This term we have enjoyed our trip to Collier's Farm and learnt all about different animals. We were brave and fed goats, sheep and alpacas and petted tortoises, rabbits and chickens. We learnt why it is so important to wash our hands after touching animals. We had a beautiful day and the sun was shining so we went and played on the play equipment. We were bouncing, jumping, running and spinning. We have been growing caterpillars and excitedly watching to see them change. We can't wait to let them fly free when they turn into butterflies. We really enjoyed our 'move up days' and loved meeting our new teachers and seeing our new classes.

The Year 1 team would like to thank all parents and guardians for your continued help and support this year. It has been a true pleasure watching the children flourish throughout the year!

Follow us on X: @YearOneBPS



YEAR 2/3

BLYDDWYN DAU/TRI

Well, we can't believe it's the end of another busy term and the end of the academic year. As they say, time flies when you're having fun!

In literacy, we've covered a range of new skills, we've developed our use of bossy verbs, created interview questions and designed information brochures. We've explored using a range of different sentence openers, adjectives, and similes within our creative stories. We all liked writing detailed character descriptions about the characters in our favourite stories.

We've covered lots of new concepts in our numeracy lessons. Collecting and interpreting data provided lots of opportunities to work independently. We also enjoyed investigating the area of regular 2D shapes, perimeter, and solving written numeracy problems. Using Mathletics is so much fun, again this helps us develop our problem-solving skills.

We all know why it's important to remain safe online and keep our passwords secure and private. We designed posters to remind others of the importance of internet safety.

In forest school, we created mini-beast images using natural materials, made musical instruments using natural resources, and enjoyed listening to stories on the circle-time logs.

We had so much fun on sports day; it was amazing! We also loved joining in the sponsored athlete's day. Thank you, Mr. Grandin, for organising these special days!

Our end of year visit to The Bristol Zoo Project was a lot of fun! We saw lots of different animals in such beautiful, authentic conservation areas. Even the travel hiccup on our return journey didn't affect our positive attitudes. Behaviour was absolutely fantastic and our teachers were so proud!

The F@B have been very busy again; they've arranged lots of fantastic events. We all loved this week's disco! Thank you F@B.

We're looking forward to our Year 3/4 adventure. Our transition days allowed us to show how independent we've become with our learning. It's been a busy and fun-packed year!

Sending a big thank you from the Year 2/3 Team and wishing you all the best for the summer and new academic year!

Follow us on X; @YearTwoThreeBPS



YEAR 4

BLYDDWYN PEDWAR

As we reach the end of another exciting school year, we are delighted to share with you the wonderful achievements and activities that Year 4 have completed during the last term.

In our maths lessons, the children have explored coordinates, rotations and directional language. They have developed a strong understanding of how to read and plot points on a grid, which has been both challenging and fun. We have also been identifying fractions, calculating fractions of amounts and identifying types of angles.

Our literacy sessions have been particularly exciting as pupils have been working on writing an alternative narrative of the classic tale, Little Red Riding Hood. To inspire their creativity, we took a memorable trip to the secret garden. Here, pupils used their senses to describe the setting, which enriched their stories with vivid and imaginative details. In addition to setting descriptions, we focused on the use of dialogue in storytelling. Pupils learned how to effectively incorporate speech into their narratives, bringing their characters to life and adding depth to their stories.

Furthermore, pupils have also worked on writing persuasive leaflets to encourage readers to visit the Bristol Zoo Project. To achieve this, they explored persuasive language techniques, including the use of superlative adjectives, and examined the key features of a leaflet. Their final leaflets were both informative and compelling.

In our humanities lessons, we embarked on a virtual journey to France. The children have been locating various places on a map of France, learning about different regions and their significance. Additionally, we have been exchanging letters with our partner school in France. The pupils wrote detailed letters describing our school and even taught our French friends how to play traditional games for their playground. This cultural exchange has been both educational and enjoyable for everyone involved. A big thank you to the British Council!

Our DCF lessons have been equally engaging, with the children exploring the fundamentals of Scratch programming. They discovered what each block does in the game and learned how to use these blocks to create their own simple programs.

Additionally, as part of our "Our Wonderful World" theme, pupils had the delightful experience of cooking pizzas this term. This activity allowed them to learn about different ingredients, follow a recipe, and enjoy the delicious results of their hard work.

Our end of year trip to Folly Farm was a huge success. During this trip, pupils had the opportunity to see a wide variety of animals and learn about the importance of protecting their habitats as part of our topic.

We would like to wish all our families a peaceful and happy summer. Thank you for all the support this year!

Follow us on X @YearFourBPS



YEAR 5

BLYDDWYN PUMP

As part of our Inspire learning during the summer term, we have been learning all about 'Byd Bendigedig', Our Wonderful World. We started this theme by investigating the 7 wonders of the ancient world and where they were located. Using our numeracy skills, we investigated the height, perimeter and area of different landmarks across the world! Using our literacy skills, we used our persuasive writing skills to create tourist information leaflets to visit countries where there is a wonder of the world. We found the Great Pyramid of Giza to be of interest as it is the only Wonder of the ancient world still standing. We used the pyramid to write vivid descriptions that would be used to create our own horror stories based in the pyramid. We wondered how the pyramids were built and some of the amazing secrets they might hide.

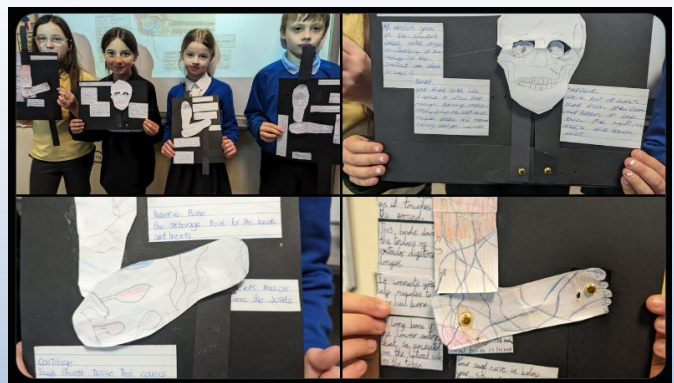
Applying our literacy skills across the curriculum again, we wrote authentic newspaper articles about some of the most recent discoveries that had been made. With all the knowledge we gained we questioned how the treasure of burial chambers might have been kept safe and secure. Using technology, we managed to create sensors using the BBC Micro Bits so that when some steps on a pressure plate (made from cardboard and foil) an intruder alarm is triggered. In science and technology, we wanted to be able to create automated water devices to keep our allotments water over the summer months. We used the BBC Micro Bits to create soil moisture sensors so that we could investigate when soil is low in moisture and so needs watering.

Using our understanding of the 7 wonders of the world we researched the most significant wonders of Wales to create our own list. From this we created an iMovie to promote our 7 wonders of Wales!

Everyone who attended had a fantastic time at PGL! We shared some fantastic times and learned all about teamwork, communication, resilience, perseverance as well as many life skills that will help as we move into Year 6 and 7.

The Year 5 team would like to thank all parents and guardians for your continued help and support this year.

Follow us on X @YearFvePS



YEAR 6

BLWYDDYN CHWECH

Wow! We have had an awesome final term in Blackwood Primary School! Our Byd Bendigedig theme continued with a trip to Oxford University. We had the rare opportunity to have an insight into what student life is like in one of the most prestigious colleges in England. We participated in a variety of workshop activities and enjoyed a sightseeing trip around the city too! One of the highlights was eating lunch in the Great Hall which looked like Hogwarts!

We continued to transfer our Literacy, Numeracy and DCF skills across the curriculum by completing lots of Y6-Y7 transition tasks. We enjoyed reading the novel 'The Boy At the Back of The Class' and wrote a diary about Ahmet's journey. We developed our data handling skills by completing tally charts and bar graphs showing different heights of pupils in Year 6.

Our transition day at Blackwood Comprehensive was really fun as we were able to experience a variety of lessons in preparation for September!

Our Leavers concert had a spooky Ghostbuster theme this year! We had a great time writing our scripts and practising the songs! The actual performance was very emotional for us and our families!

We have had such a blast during our years here at Blackwood Primary School but it's time now to spread our wings and fly off to KS3!

Follow us on X @YearSixBPS



Goodbye & Good Luck Year 6



A message from Friends at Blackwood Primary

What a busy term Friends@ Blackwood Primary (F@B) group have had, and we would like to thank you all for your continued support.

The Inspirational Men events were a big hit. This was an opportunity for the men in our children's lives to come into school, take part in activities and spend some time together. There were a variety of activities for the children to enjoy, such as Lego, colouring, and sporting activities, with the children who attend getting a chance to make a keyring as a keepsake of the event.

The summer fete held on Tuesday 9th July was a resounding success. It was wonderful to see so many people support the event, and we raised over £730 which will be reinvested back into the school for the pupil's enjoyment. We would like to thank everyone for all the wonderful donations we received and fingers crossed for next year, when we might even have some sunshine!

We have also supported a number of smaller events that have been held throughout the school such as nursery fun day, sports presentation and the leavers assembly.

The Sports Presentation is a new celebration this year to say a big well done to everyone who participated and contributed towards Blackwood Primary's sporting success. The F@B group have covered the cost of various medals and awards that have been given out. Going forward this will be an annual event, with more children given the opportunity to represent the teams as they progress through the school. A big thank you to Mr Gradin for all his hard work!

Leavers awards were handed out to the worthy recipients during the Leavers concert. The F@B team covered the cost of the awards for Inspire Champion, Authentic Champion, Most Motivated and also the Headteachers award. The recipients each received their own version to keep and the plaques will remain in school for future years. Next time you are in school take a look. We look forward to seeing these awarded each year!

We made our annual donation towards the Year 6 leavers Party. It looked like they all had a wonderful time! We would like to pass on our good luck and best wishes to all the Year 6 pupils as their time at Blackwood Primary comes to an end!!

End of year discos were a big hit. What a wonderful way to end the school year with a disco to celebrate their achievements. There are some excellent dancers in Blackwood Primary, all showing off their best moves. Year 5 had the best moves by far, especially to Superman - check out the video on X.

Thanks again for your support throughout this academic year and we look forward to continuing our work in the new school year!!

Hope you all have an enjoyable summer!

Friends@Blackwood Primary.

