

Blackwood Primary School

End of term Newsletter

July 2025

"United we Empower, Nurture, Challenge"



SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025-2026

- First day of school Wednesday 3rd September 2025
- Half term starts Monday 27 – 31 October 2025
- AUTUMN TERM ENDS FRIDAY 19 DECEMBER 2025

SPRING TERM 2026

- Spring term starts Monday 5 January 2026
- Half term starts Monday 16 – 20 February 2026
- SPRING TERM ENDS FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2026

SUMMER TERM 2026

- Summer term starts Monday 13 April 2026
- Half term starts Monday 25 – 29 May 2026
- Last day of school is Friday 17th July 2026

For further events please visit our online calendar, which can be found on the Blackwood Primary School website.

PE DAYS:

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



INSET DAYS

Monday 1st September 2025

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Friday 1st May 2026

Friday 19th June 2026

Monday 22nd June 2026

Monday 20th July 2026



We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new official Instagram account; @blackwood_ps!

As the school moves away from using X (formerly Twitter), we look forward to sharing exciting learning moments and updates with even more of our +community on this vibrant and popular platform. Follow us and join the journey!

Attendance

Our whole school attendance is currently 89.9%

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. If your child is going to be absent from school this needs to be reported on their first day of absence by 9am, by phoning the main office or reporting the absence on the parentmail app.



A message from Mrs Davies, Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on all that we've accomplished together. What a fantastic year it has been! From exciting classroom activities to memorable school events, our pupils have continued to inspire us with their enthusiasm, hard work, and kindness.

On a personal note, I want to sincerely thank each and every one of you for your kind support throughout the year. It is a pleasure to work alongside such dedicated parents and carers, and your involvement truly enhances the nurturing environment we aim to create here at Blackwood Primary School.

This year, we welcomed many visitors to the school, including Estyn, who conducted a thorough review of our processes and practices. We are eagerly awaiting the release of their report, which will be published on the **4th of August**. Please keep an eye out for it, and we'll ensure that you're kept informed of any updates. I'm incredibly proud of our pupils, who were fantastic throughout the process, showcasing their skills and maturity in every interaction. They continue to make us all proud day after day.

Looking ahead to next year, I'm pleased to share that our transition plans have been a success. In consultation with our Governors, we will have a mixed year 1/2 year group where learners will access our highly effective learning provision both inside and outside, daily, through our Inspire Curriculum. Learners will be split into 3 mixed classes with a lead teacher for registration, parent consultation and a main point of contact. The curriculum in Wales is designed to allow flexibility, meaning pupils from different year groups can be taught together while ensuring that each child's individual needs are met.

At Blackwood Primary School, we ensure high standards of teaching and learning to enable all groups of learners to make progress. Pupils work in family groups within their year group, which are reviewed and refined as a result of regular assessment and analysis of progress. Each family group engages in a blend of teaching approaches daily. We understand that change can be unsettling and raise concerns, particularly when it comes to classroom dynamics and how it may impact the learning experience. However, I want to reassure you that this approach is not new to our school.

We have successfully implemented mixed-year teaching in other areas, and we believe this will be an effective way to continue supporting the diverse needs of our pupils. As we move forward with this plan, we remain committed to ensuring that all teaching is tailored to each child's needs, with the necessary support in place to help them thrive.

Our new teaching cohort will be;

Nursery; Mrs Nicholls and Miss Blanchard
Reception; Mrs Cooper and Miss Samuel
Year 1/2; Mrs Shuker, Mrs Davies and Miss Powell
Year 3; Mrs Shand and Miss Davies
Year 4/5; Miss Kinsey, Miss Walters and Mr Dyer
Year 6; Mr Turner and Mrs Phillips

As always, I would like to thank our wonderful F@B group who work tirelessly to support the school and provide a range of fun and memorable experiences. Your dedication truly makes a difference in our community, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do. It is nostalgic to say goodbye to long-standing F@B member, Mrs Wilks. She has always been the first to offer her unwavering support in all aspects of school life, and her presence will be greatly missed by both staff and families alike. Thank you, Mrs Wilks, we wish you all the best and hope to keep in touch!

I'm excited to announce that Mr Davies will be participating in a Welsh secondment from September, immersing himself in our wonderful Welsh language. Pob Lwc Mr Davies!

At this time of year, we say goodbye to both staff and pupils. We bid a very fond farewell to Mrs Paul and Mrs Porter. I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Paul and Mrs Porter for all they have done for the school, our children, and families. We will miss you and wish you all the best in your future ventures.

Each year we feel very emotional about our Year 6 pupils leaving us as they take their next big steps in education. It truly is a bittersweet moment as we watch them grow and prepare to embrace new adventures. To say I was blown away at the talent on display at this year's Leavers Show is an understatement. The creativity of our pupils was nothing short of remarkable! They took charge of the entire production - writing, directing, choreographing, musically scoring, and producing everything themselves. It was a joy to see their hard work come to life on stage.

We want them to know just how proud we are of each and every one of them. You've all left an indelible mark on our school community, and we can't wait to see what the future holds for you. Go on and shine Year 6, we wish all our leavers every success in their future adventures. Pob Lwc Year 6!

Finally, I want to thank you once again for your unwavering support throughout this year. It has been a privilege to watch our pupils grow and achieve in so many ways. I look forward to welcoming you back in September for another exciting year ahead!

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer holiday.

Kind regards,

Mrs Davies
Headteacher
Blackwood Primary School

NURSERY

MEITHRIN

What a wonderful year we have had in Nursery. This term we have been exploring our topic 'Byd Bendigedig' (Wonderful World). Our big question was: 'What wonderful things are around us?'

We have been finding out about all the wonderful things that we have around us in Nursery. We have talked about healthy eating and tried different foods and had such fun at our 'Very hungry caterpillar' tea party. We have explored how plants and animals grow and change. Our vegetable garden has flourished this year and picking the crops has been fun. We have been measuring the rhubarb using blocks to see which one is long and which one is short. We have also been measuring to see which beanstalk is the tallest in the garden. It has been fantastic to see all the beanstalk updates on seesaw they have grown so tall. Time to eat our produce and we have been making rhubarb crumble. We created our own family dinner from the vegetables we have grown it was delicious. We have explored the life cycle of butterflies and watched tiny caterpillars grow and become chrysalis. They slept for a long time and we were in awe when the butterflies emerged. They were beautiful. We created our own butterfly pictures looking at patterns. We released the butterflies into our wildflower garden. We were so proud of everyone who took part in Sports day especially our risers first experience of this. Everyone who took part gave it their all we loved cheering our friends on!

We would like to take this time to thank all our Nursery families for their continued support this year and wish everyone a safe and happy summer.



DERBYN

Another busy term as we head towards the summer holiday. With the lovely weather we have continued to explore the outdoors building dens and making creative concoctions in the outdoor kitchen. We have been learning the names of mini beasts in English and Welsh and enjoyed watching our flowers and vegetables grow. Our potatoes were planted and should be ready to harvest soon. We have grown the biggest, juiciest strawberries ever this year and Poppy Crwban, our tortoise, was very lucky to share them with us. We wrote reports about tortoises to share with our friends in Nursery and show them how to look after her next year.

We went on a visit to Collier's farm and had a wonderful day learning about animals and their babies and we got to play in the fun zone. We wrote recounts about our visit and drew pictures of our favourite animals. We have learned about the life cycle of a butterfly and observed our tadpoles as they developed into froglets and hopped away from our little pond. We even ordered our own photographs to create our personal time lines to show changes as we grow. We are so grown up now and can work independently. We can whip up scones and cookies in seconds and have made something special for someone special at the woodwork station and are becoming good at sawing, drilling and hammering. We continued to listen to the stories of Eric Carle and can create pictures of mini beasts in the same style. We are also skilled at building animals in the construction area and we made our homes in the block play area as we learned our addresses.

We had an amazing sports day organised by Mr Grandin and it was really special having our families there cheering us on. We were lucky enough to spend two days in our new classes with our new teachers and had fun getting to know our friends in year 1 who are moving up with us.

The Reception team would like to thank all the families who have been so supportive throughout the year. We hope you have a great summer holiday!



YEAR 1 BLYDDWYN UN

Wow! What a busy and exciting year we have had. We can't believe it's the summer holidays! This term we have embraced our local community and developed further links with Beatrice Webb Nursing home. We visited and sang some of our favourite songs which impressed the residents so much, they wanted us to return. As part of our VE day celebrations, we practised lots of songs including 'We'll Meet Again,' and 'White Cliffs of Dover' and performed them for our friends in Beatrice Webb. They loved it so much and thoroughly enjoyed singing along with us. We found out that a resident, Shirley, used to work in Blackwood Primary 60 years ago and she was telling us lots of information about Blackwood in the past. We found this so interesting and this helped with our learning journey.

Inspired by Shirley and our visit to the nursing home, we wanted to learn all about nurses in the past. We looked at Florence Nightingale and other famous nurses who helped shape our world today. We found out such interesting facts and enjoyed looking at the differences between hospitals now and then. We loved finding out facts and looking at pictures to help our learning.

We have all grown and developed so much over the past year and we are really proud of each and every one of you. We wish you all the best for Year 2, and wish you all a very happy and safe summer holiday.



YEAR 2

BLYDDWYN DAU

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!

This year, through our Inspire Curriculum, we have explored lots of exciting and important topics. We've learnt how to build positive and healthy relationships with our friends and classmates. We watched the amazing life cycle of a butterfly and discovered how creatures grow and change. We thought about ways to encourage visitors to come to Blackwood and other parts of Wales, and we talked about pollution and how it can affect our local community and environment. Using Google Earth, we followed the path of our local river to see where it flows and why it's important to keep it clean. In addition, we had fun creating simple electrical circuits to make bulbs light up!

In literacy, we have been busy developing new skills, including using alliteration and onomatopoeia and creating our own information booklets. We explored different ways to start sentences and used adjectives and similes to make our stories more interesting. Writing detailed character descriptions of our favourite characters was a highlight!

In numeracy, we learnt many new concepts. Collecting and interpreting data helped us work independently, and we also practised times tables, division, telling the time, measuring, and weighing using a variety of tools. Using Mathletics has been great fun and helped us develop our problem-solving skills.

We had an amazing time on sports day – a big thank you to Mr Grandin for organising this special event! We're looking forward to our Year 3 adventure. Our recent transition days showed just how independent we have become with our learning. It's been a busy and fun-packed year!

A big thank you from the Year 2 Team – we wish you all a happy and safe summer and look forward to the new academic year!



YEAR 3/4

BLYDDWYN TRI/PEDWAR

What a fantastic summer term we've had! As part of our exciting theme 'Byd Bendigedig' (Wonderful World), we've been exploring the big question: 'Where Does Our Produce Come From?' Through engaging, hands-on learning and thought-provoking discussions, pupils have deepened their understanding of the world around them, with a particular focus on food origins, sustainability, and environmental impact.

We started the term with 'pupil voice', giving our learners the opportunity to shape their own learning journey. Their enthusiasm and curiosity helped guide our planning and made this term all the more meaningful.

In Literacy this term, our learning has been both creative and purposeful. We began by using body biographies to help us ask and answer thoughtful questions about key characters, deepening our comprehension skills. We then moved on to writing a film review and an emotive diary entry inspired by The Dreamgiver, where pupils demonstrated empathy and imagination. Alongside this, we enjoyed designing our own wanted posters, incorporating compound and complex sentences to build detail and suspense. We also focused on using similes effectively, adding vivid imagery and description to our writing.

In Maths, we have developed a range of important skills through engaging, real-world contexts. Pupils explored capacity and volume, learning to measure and convert between units accurately. We also delved into the concept of profit and loss, applying all four operations to solve problems linked to everyday situations. Our geometry work included identifying properties of both 2D and 3D shapes and investigating lines of symmetry, which supported our cross-curricular art projects. Finally, we revisited fractions, strengthening our understanding and applying this knowledge in different problem-solving scenarios.

Our INSPIRE curriculum has been full of hands-on learning and creative exploration. Pupils began by writing persuasive letters to the PTA, requesting seeds to plant in our allotment areas—an initiative that helped connect our learning to the local community. In science, we carried out an investigation to discover which conditions best support plant growth, encouraging curiosity and teamwork. We created artwork inspired by William Morris, using lines of symmetry, and explored the work of Paul Cézanne, producing still-life pieces that celebrated the beauty of produce and nature. We also discussed the benefits of buying local produce compared to importing goods, linking our learning to sustainability and environmental awareness. We also reflected on the story of Adam and Eve and discussed how it connects to our school value of the month: Respect. Throughout the term, pupils have continued to use our authentic learning areas to develop their independence and apply skills in meaningful ways.

Our authentic learning areas have continued to offer pupils the chance to develop their skills independently, encouraging creativity, problem-solving and resilience.

We also enjoyed a brilliant workshop by Dŵr Cymru, where we learned all about water efficiency and how small changes in our homes can help us be smarter with water – a vital resource for our planet.

One of the highlights of our summer term was our fantastic Sports Day! It was wonderful to see so much encouragement, teamwork and determination from all year groups. A huge thank you to all the families who came to support—it made the day even more special. Well done to all the children for their enthusiasm and effort... and congratulations to all of our pupils for participating.

Our sporting success doesn't end there, as many of our pupils have taken part in bowls and tennis finals throughout the summer term. Our tennis team went all the way to the final and proudly came away with the gold medal! Da iawn to everyone for their fantastic sporting achievements.

As always, we're incredibly proud of how hard the children have worked and how much they've grown – not only academically, but in confidence and independence too. Thank you for your continued support throughout the term.

We wish you all a restful, happy and sunny summer break!

Follow us on instagram

Photos from Year 3/4



YEAR 5

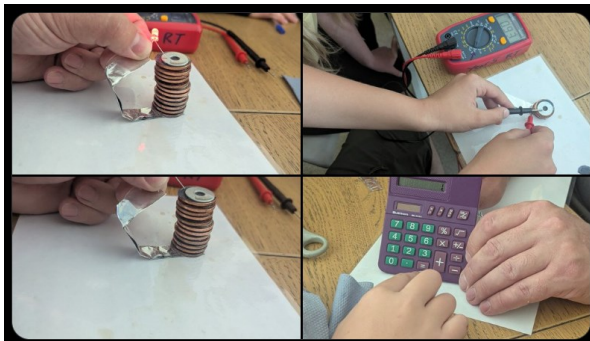
BLYDDWYN PUMP

During the Summer term, our Byd Bendigedig theme focus in Year 5 was “Has Technology made our World better?” We started this theme using our pupil influence to generate ideas on what we would like to find out, with our end goal to create an iMovie/presentation to teach younger children about this issue. Through our literacy work we have been exploring science fiction narratives inspired by the futuristic world of Pandora, and creating poems based on fictional creatures like the Jabberwocky.

Through our INSPIRE learning, we have explored the history of technology, finding out some of the key figures from society who have shaped our technological world, while researching the advantages and disadvantages of some of the forms of technology we use today. We have also investigated the use of Artificial Technology, using it to generate recipes in the cooking area based on our pantry ingredients. In addition, we have been exploring machine learning by creating our own ‘boxerbit’ device, programming a microbit to recognise different movements and reaction times based on our different movements. We have also taken part in workshops using machine learning and AI to generate images based on our descriptive language skills.

During this term we have also enjoyed our fantastic four day residential to Hilston Park, along with developing our water safety skills through swimming lessons at our local leisure centre in Cefn Fforest. While it has been a very busy term, we have developed many life skills including measuring and engineering, as we created wooden digital device holders and fabric pouches in our woodwork and sewing areas. We have also used Minecraft education to plan our own futuristic buildings using different materials/blocks before attempting to bring them to life using the Kapla construction blocks. Our theme was brought to an end with a sharing event in class where we watched our completed iMovies among our peers before sharing them with pupils lower down the school.

As usual, thank you to all parents/careers for the continued support from the Year 5 team. Have a great summer holiday and we wish all of Year 5 the very best for their final year in Blackwood Primary.



class of 2025

Our Summer Term theme was Byd Bendigedig and our authentic question was 'How is the land used for leisure?' We began the term with a visit to Blackwood Market Square where we interviewed residents to find out what they like about Blackwood and what improvements could be made. We used this information to create a tally and a graph. In science we learnt about the life cycle of a plant and labelled all the different parts. We celebrated VE Day and created some really effective artwork. We analysed data about WW2 and made comparisons.

We then began a really exciting theme park project, working in groups to design a new theme park in a remote country. This project allowed us to have different roles such as publishing, accounts and eco managers. We were really creative in our designs and we loved filming promotional adverts to launch our parks.

We welcomed many visitors to school this term including local artist David Chamberlain and Gwent Police Cyber Prevention Unit. We also had lots of transition events with Blackwood Comprehensive School.

We discovered that many butterflies are in decline and decided to help them by planting a beautiful butterfly garden researching which plants attract most butterflies.

We really enjoyed our trip to Oxford University. This gave us the opportunity to have a mini-lecture, eat lunch in the Grand Hall and have a tour of Oxford. It was really inspirational! We also enjoyed our final Primary Sports Day, particularly watching our mams and dads doing the egg and spoon race!

The term ended with our Leavers events - a concert and a party with a Hawaiian theme!

Wow Year 6, what an amazing last year in Primary School you have all had! You have been really fantastic this year and we are so proud of each and every one of you. We wish you good luck as you begin the next part of your journey at your chosen Comprehensive School - Pob Lwc! Happy holidays to our pupils and their families



REACH
for the
STARS

Blackwood Primary Sports News

We have had a very busy sporting summer term participating in:

- Athletics
- Cycling
- Cricket
- Football
- Tennis
- Bowls

We would like to congratulate the tennis teams who all qualified for the Caerphilly finals. The year 3/4 girls & 5/6 boys went onto win the Caerphilly finals with year 3/4 boys losing in the final. We would also like to congratulate our Bowls team who all qualified for the Caerphilly finals. A massive congratulations to our Cricket team who qualified for the South East Wales finals day and went on to be crowned South East Wales Cricket champions.

Thank you for your support throughout the year. We hope you have enjoyed watching the teams compete as much as we have this year.

A message from the F@B team

As the school year draws to a close, Friends@ Blackwood Primary (F@B) group 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. The children who attend were able to design a Fathers Day coaster, which two of our lovely Mums made. Well done Ladies, they all looked wonderful. The summer fete held on Friday 27 th June was a resounding success and we have finally managed to hold the event outdoors due to the wonderful sunshine. It was wonderful to see so many people support the event, and we raised over £400 which will be reinvested back into the school for the pupil's enjoyment.

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

The Sports Presentation is back for the second time 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. A big thank you to Mr Grandin for all his hard work!

Leavers awards were handed out to the worthy recipients during the Leavers concert.

The F@B group 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, which this year was an Hawaiian theme 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!!

During the summer term we have also made various other donations to the school, covering the cost of things like plants, garden equipment, picnic benches and parasols.

We also made a donation to the early years to support their learning. The bikes that we bought were a big hit with the children and with all this sunshine, they have been able to enjoy them.

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.



Playworks
Blackwood

Providers of the
30 HOURS FREE CHILDCARE OFFER
for 3-4 year olds



After school club
3.00pm - 6.00pm
Monday - Friday

We would love to tell you more.
02920 864 780
enquiries@playworks-childcare.co.uk
www.playworks-childcare.co.uk

Opening September 2025

In association with





Blackwood Primary will be offering an After School Club from September 2025 for all children who attend our school.

We have partnered with Playworks, a registered childcare provider, to offer an After School Club based on the school site Monday – Friday during term time, running from the end of the school day until 6.00pm.

Children who attend this club will be offered a healthy buffet snack, as well as a range of fun activities to keep them busy and entertained in addition to PlaySports Coaches providing a range of sports activities and opportunities.

As the club is registered with Care Inspectorate Wales you may be able to access help towards your childcare costs. To find out if you're eligible to make a claim, contact HMRC directly on 0345 300 3900, or you can find information on Tax Free Childcare at [Tax-Free Childcare - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/tax-free-childcare)

If your child is between the ages of 3-4 years and you work 16 hours or more per week, you could be entitled to receive funding to receive FREE after school care through the 30 hours of FREE Childcare Offer for Wales. You can check your eligibility at [Get 30 hours of childcare for 3 and 4 year olds | GOV.WALES](https://www.gov.uk/get-30-hours-of-childcare-for-3-and-4-year-olds)

For further information and to book please contact Playworks directly via their website at Play Works, or you can give them a call on 029 2086 4780.

We look forward to the exciting launch of our new September After School Club and potentially expanding to an Early Breakfast Club soon.