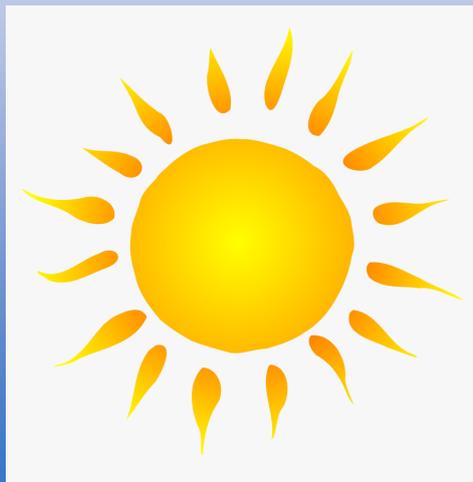




"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."  
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

**Welcome to Blackwood Primary School's  
Summer Term Newsletter!**

**Croeso i gylchlythyr Haf Ysgol Gynradd y  
Coed Duon**



**Please note: Remaining inset days for the school term are  
Friday 24th June and Monday 27th June 2022.**



**Look out for Mrs Davies' Head Teacher blog in our end of term newsletter coming at the end of July 2022!**

**New term dates will also be included!**



## Absences

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

- Telephone - 01495 224111 and leave a voicemail by 9:00 am on day of absence.
  - Email - [mainoffice@blackwoodprimary.org](mailto:mainoffice@blackwoodprimary.org)
- Use the absences section on our parentmail app to provide a reason.

Failure to do so will result in an un-authorised mark and could initiate a referral to the Education Welfare Officer.

Please be mindful that a generic message is being sent out *EVERY MONDAY* morning to remind parents of this.

## Attendance

Please be reminded that the school gates open at 8:45 am for the start of school and close at 9:00 am.

All children need to be collected at 3:00 pm .

Nursery times are: AM session: 8:55-11:15 am.

PM sessions: 12:40-3:00 pm

Last week's whole school attendance was: **87.06%**.

As a school we are striving to increase our overall attendance moving forward and cannot do this without your support.

## Lateness

We have a significant number of children who are continually late attending school.

Please try to ensure that your child arrives at school so that they are present for registration;

this is marked at 9.00 am each day.

Important interventions are carried out first thing every day and if your child is late it means they are missing an important part of their learning. Lateness causes problems over lunch money/numbers, register marking and missed instructions.

Where a genuine reason for lateness exists this will be an authorised absence but where explanations are inadequate or the lateness is after 9.10 am.

## Nursery / Meithrin

Summer term has been very exciting in Nursery following the life cycle of a seed, as our vegetable garden has come alive.

It has been a hive of activity, weeding, watering and harvesting. Our lettuce has been the first crop picked and we have enjoyed creating salad wraps. Beans and peas now have pods, strawberries are plumping up and carrots are nearly ready to be pulled from the soil, we can not wait!

Our Nursery garden has had a beautiful update and the children are really enjoying exploring and using all it has to offer.

Our Mud kitchen is a firm favourite at the moment and lots of creative concoctions are being made, from mud cupcakes, leaf stew and flower petal pancakes.

The children have been continuing their discovery of life cycles by eagerly watching our caterpillars create their cocoons and eventually break free into beautiful butterflies. We held a butterfly release party where we set them free and the children then created their own beautiful butterflies.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was another fantastic fun filled event where we baked our own Jubilee cake and we all agreed it was delicious, the party was in full swing with balloons, flags and bunting and we were lucky enough to receive a visit from the Queen. Our Summer term still has so many wonderful things to do and celebrate and we are preparing for a super sports day !

Thank you to all our families for your continued support and a big WELL DONE ! to our fantastic Nursery Children !

## Reception / Derbyn

We have been very busy this term working on our outdoor garden.

We have been digging, planting and watering lots of different fruits and vegetables and it has been very exciting to watch them grow. We can't wait to harvest some of the things we have grown and then eat them! We have been exploring and observing what you find inside various fruits and looking at all the different kinds of seeds.

We have been learning all about our local environment and we enjoyed going on a walk around Blackwood and finding some special places such as the park, the allotments, Beatrice Webb Care Home and Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

We have been learning all about money and decided to open up a 'Doughnut Shop' in our class where we can practise working out how much something costs and the coins we need to use to buy it.

We had great fun celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We drew portraits of the Queen, found out facts about her, created our own crowns and made up a song to sing at our Jubilee party.

It's hard to believe we've only got a few more weeks left in Reception - we have learned so much over the year and have had such a great time!

Thanks to all our families for supporting us in so many ways.

We look forward to welcoming you to our sports day soon!



# Year 1 / Blwydden 1

What a busy term we have had so far!

We loved celebrating the Platinum Jubilee and learning all about Queen Elizabeth and her family. As a school we came together to celebrate and it was fantastic to see all of the children together, celebrating and signing and enjoying our party.

We have been busy learning all about the Rainforests this term. We were really lucky and had a visit from Animal Lab which allowed us to see a wide range of animals which live in the Rainforest. We were all really brave and held snakes, mice and giant centipedes! From this we investigated different animals and researched facts about them to create fact files. We found some really interesting things out about the animals! We have been reading, 'There's a Rang-tan in my room' and we have been thinking of ways in which we can help the Orangutans. We have grown our own butterflies and have had great fun watching our tiny caterpillars grow into beautiful butterflies. We have been watching them closely every day and have been amazed at the changes that we've seen.

We have been investigating electricity and making circuits. We are super scientists!

We were lucky and visited our local library. We sang, danced, read books and listened to the story, 'Monkey Puzzle'. We had so much fun and we are going to visit them again in the next few weeks to change the books that we chose.

*Just a reminder that reading books need to be returned every Monday. New books will be given out every Wednesday.*

# Year 2 / Blwydden 2

Year 2 has enjoyed completing lots of challenges connected with our authentic learning goal; 'Where the River Meets the Sea'. We've looked at local rivers and how they connect to the sea, created reports, explored habitats and much more! When writing non-chronological reports we used text and images to add lots of detail; we also underlined titles and provided QR codes for others to access additional information.

When researching facts about Salmon fish we recorded the facts we found using digital mind maps.

We continue to work on our problem-solving skills during Maths Box sessions; we've looked at time, shape, and pattern and explored different standardised measures.

We all loved coming together as a School to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We researched facts about the Queen and took a virtual tour of Buckingham Palace. While we were together on the yard we celebrated by singing songs, dancing and eating our Jubilee lunch.

We look forward to the rest of the Summer Term; we cannot wait for Sports Day and opportunities to visit year three! We'll continue to develop our skills and cannot wait to create art inspired by the coast.

We'd like to thank all of our parents/carers for your continued support.



## Year 3 / Blwydden 3

Year 3 have been having a great summer term so far this year and a real highlight was all of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations before the half term holiday. We made decorations and baked our own cakes to enjoy at a whole school picnic on the yard. We sang songs and listened to performances from the other year groups and even had our faces painted!



This term we have been learning about rainforests and the devastating effects deforestation can have on this beautiful habitat. We kicked off the term with a visit from Animal Lab where the children were lucky enough to come close to some animals you may find in the rainforest. We were blown away with how brave the children were and so many were happy to hold a snake!

We have been learning about a whole host of things to do with the rainforest from the different layers of the rainforest, the creatures you may find and how the demand for palm oil is destroying so much of the natural habitat. We have been using our ICT skills to create branching databases and graphs to show some of our findings. We have loved getting creative and creating tribal headdresses inspired by some of the tribes living within rainforests.

The children had the opportunity to be engineers for the day when Mr Wilks visited and got to collaborate on a STEM project together. We are in the process of writing our own 'Kennings' style poems about Rainforest animals using the information learnt in the Summer term so far.



This term we have been lucky enough to welcome Miss Webber via TEAMS, all the way from Switzerland. She has been teaching the children German, reading traditional tales and teaching us about her own culture. Just a reminder that Year 3 reading books need to be returned by a Friday each week and new books will be given on a Monday to go home.

## Year 4 / Blwydden 4

Year 4 have had a very busy term so far! We began this term's theme of Rivers and Oceans by taking a walk to our local Sirhowy River.

We were brilliant detectives and found lots of the features of rivers. We found some river wildlife, skimmed pebbles and sketched what we could see. We have also been lucky enough to travel to Cardiff to visit Technquest! The exhibitions were absolutely amazing and to finish off a fabulous visit, we went to a workshop all about animals and their habitats. Some of us (including some of the teachers) were invited to join in some challenges - the teachers think they may have been set up!?!



We interrupted our Rivers and Oceans work to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee. We learned about Queen Elizabeth II and made our own slide shows full of facts about her and the royal family. We made crowns, bunting, decorated cakes and biscuits and learned songs to sing on our day of celebrations. We have been writing poetry with a river theme and have now started our English journey where we will be writing a story based on the wordless book called Flotsam.

We have been developing our mental maths skills as well as focussing on the four operations, time, timetables and money! We have been using the Robots and Spheros to develop our coding skills and we can use ICT to collect data and construct graphs. The kitchen has been busy with us making delicious sea creature biscuits!

We have been using Commando Joes activities to develop our teamwork skills and practising athletics in PE. We are looking forward to seeing you at our Sports Day event this year!



# Year 5 / Blwydden 5

What an exciting term, we have been enjoying the fine summer weather so far this term! The Queen's Jubilee proved to be an awesome day! It is the first time in a long time since we have all got together as a school, in person to celebrate. All the classes put on an amazing display and we worked incredibly hard to produce our own dance and poem. The Year 5 Team were massively proud of the children for taking ownership of the celebrations and collaborating as a whole Year group.

This term we have been exploring deforestation and its devastating effects. We are looking at the effects of deforestation in our local area compared to the Amazon rainforest. We have discovered that different countries manage their Forest Resources in very different ways. Using different information sources we looked at the pros and cons of deforestation, formulating and justifying our own opinions, in preparation for a debate. Our next step is to plan and record our challenging conversations using Flipgrid. As part of our literacy journey we have loved exploring Kensuke's Kingdom. After collecting pupil voice ideas, we used Kensuke's Kingdom as a stimulus to write an adventure story where endangered Orangutans are being threatened by illegal deforestation in the rainforest.

We have loved developing our coding skills using the BBC MicroBites and Minecraft. We used the BBC Microbits to code a pedometer, developing our debugging skills to solve problems in our code. Then we used our Maths skills to estimate how many steps it would take to walk a mile. We broke the problem down using the pedometer to measure a smaller distance, then scaled up to full distance. We love Minecraft, using the block code we have managed to make it rain cats and dogs,

Our cooking area has been turned into the 'Rainforest Cafe'! Our makeshift Pizzeria is turning out not just any Pizza but only the finest handcrafted dough this side of Italy! We are running our Rainforest cafe as an enterprise, designing, costing, creating and selling our pizza with the goal of making a profit. Stay tuned and follow our progress on Twitter.





## Year 6 / Blwydden 6

We are really enjoying our final term at Blackwood Primary School and are currently working on some really exciting projects!

So far this term we have investigated 'How water shapes our world' looking at the differences between life in local rivers and coastal areas. We have been amazed at the wide range of marine life that surrounds us in Wales and we have thought carefully about changes that we can make to protect our marine life, such as reducing the plastic that we use.

We absolutely love our new Inspire Radio Station and have recorded shows that you can listen to here

<https://www.mixcloud.com/InspireRadioBlackwood/>

Our latest show was the Platinum Jubilee celebration and we loved researching many aspects of Queen Elizabeth's life and reign.

We have also had the opportunity to take part in swimming, rugby, tennis, cricket and athletics sessions and we are so happy that after-school football has restarted!

Our current project is 'The Jam Project' which involves us researching jam recipes, costing the ingredients, creating an advert and finally making the jam which we will be selling to parents!

We are also currently writing our Leavers' Concert which you will be able to view via Google Classroom when it is completed.

This is a very exciting time for us as we are looking forward to our Transition days to our new Comprehensive schools. We are also excited about our Leavers' disco and upcoming trip to PGL.

