



"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."

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

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

Croeso i Newyddlen Ysgol Gynradd

Coed Duon!



UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Friday 1st December	ELF DAY!		
Friday 2nd December	INSET – SCHOOL CLOSED		
Wednesday 14th December	CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY!		
Monday 19th December	9:15 – 10:15	Nursery am Christmas concert	Main hall
	11:00 – 12:00	Reception Christmas concert	Main hall
	1:00 – 2:00	Nursery pm Christmas concert	Main hall
Tuesday 20th December	9:30 – 10:30	Year 1 & 2 (Y1 parents) Christmas concert	Main hall
	11:00 – 12:00	Year 5 & 6 (Y5 parents) Christmas concert	Mount Pleasant Church
	1:00 – 2:00	Year 5 & 6 (Y6 parents) Christmas concert	Mount Pleasant Church
Wednesday 21st December	9:30 – 10:30	Year 1 & 2 (Y2 parents) Christmas concert	Main hall
	11:00 – 12:00	Year 3 & 4 (Y3 parents) Christmas concert	Mount Pleasant Church
	1:00 – 2:00	Year 3 & 4 (Y4 parents) Christmas concert	Mount Pleasant Church
Friday 23rd December	LAST DAY OF TERM		



INSET DAYS

Friday 2nd December 2022

Friday June 16th 2023

School Term dates for 2022/2023

Autumn Term 2022

- Term ends Friday 23rd December 2022

Spring Term 2023

- Term starts Monday 9th January 2023
- *Half term starts Monday 20th February 2023*
- Back to school Monday 27th February 2023
 - Term ends Friday 31st March 2023

Summer Term 2023

- Term starts Monday 17th April 2023
- *Half term starts Monday 29th May 2023*
- Back to school Monday 5th June 2023

Term ends Friday 21st July 2023

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
- 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 8:45am for the start of school and close at 8:55 am.

All children need to be collected at 3:00pm

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

PM sessions: 12:40am - 3:00pm

Last week's whole school attendance was: **87.99%**

As a school we are striving to increase our overall attendance moving forward and cannot do this without your support. Our school attendance target this term is 95%

Lateness

We have a significant number of children who are continually late attending school and when being collected from school.

Please try to ensure that your child arrives at school so that they are present for registration; this is marked at 8:55 am each day.

The school day finishes at 3:00 pm and children need to be collected from school on time by an appropriate adult.

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.

Community Information

WARM SPACE



With the rising cost of heating and energy bills, we are sharing our warm space with the community this winter.

Monday to Friday Mornings - 9am to 12pm
River Church, Tram Rd, Pontllanfraith, NP12 2JF

OPEN TO EVERYONE - FREE!

- Free tea and coffee
- Free WiFi
- Charge your phone/laptop
- Bring your friends...
- ...or make some new ones
- You'll be very welcome!



Bargod Llawr Sglefrio Roller Bargoed Roller Skating Rink



**Bargod
Bwyd y Gaeaf
& Ffair Grefftau
Dydd Sadwrn
10 Rhagfyr**

**Bargoed
Winter Food
& Craft Fair
Saturday 10th
December**

Dydd Mercher 7 - Dydd Sul 11 Rhagfyr 2022
Maes Parcio Morrisons, Bargod, 10am - 7pm

Wednesday 7th - Sunday 11th December 2022
Morrisons Car Park, Bargod, 10am - 7pm

£3 am sesiwn 30 munud - £3 per 30 minute session

www.visitcaerphilly.com/cy/events/ [#DewisLeolyNadoligHwn](http://www.visitcaerphilly.com/events/#DewisLeolyNadoligHwn) [#ChooseLocalThisChristmas](http://www.visitcaerphilly.com/events/#ChooseLocalThisChristmas)
029 2088 0011



Pontllanfraith Rotary Sleigh Itinerary 2022

Saturday 26th November		Wednesday 14th December	
Blackwood Lights	10.00/4.00	Springfield Sports Ground	5.30
Friday 2nd December		Newbridge Town Centre	5.50
Maesycwmmr school	4.45	Treowen Shops	6.10
The Crown West End	5.45	Crumlin Square	6.30
Pontywaun Village	6.35	Pantside	6.45
Cwmcarn Institute and Hall	7.10	Three Horseshoes	7.15
Coed Celynen Drive/ Mill Race Abercarn Roundabout	7.30	Thursday 15th December	
Tuesday 6th December		Apollo Way	5.30
Trinant Shops	6.00	Grove Park Flats Junction with Greenwood Road	5.45
Croespenmaen Nisa Shop	6.40	Beaumaris Way Orbital	6.00
Oakdale Square	7.00	Cefn Forest Square	6.15
Wednesday 7th December		Argoed Community Centre	6.40
Bryn Shops	5.45	Markham School	6.55
Penllwyn Millennium Centre	6.05		
Bryn Road (for Bryngwyn)	6.25		
Fleur de Lys Community Centre	7.00		
Clos Coed Bach. Via Elgar Close/ Grange Hill	7.10		
Maesycwmmr Road	7.25		
Cae Collen	7.35		
Tesco Express	7.40		
Thursday 8th December			
Risca Park	6.00		
Afon Village, Rogerstone	6.45		
Tuesday December 13th			
Islwyn Arms Wyllie	5.30		
Ynysddu Alexandra Court	5.45		
Ynysddu High Street	5.50		
Cwmfelinfach (Junction with Islwyn Street)	6.05		
Morrisville	6.20		
Wattsville	6.35		



Santa and his Sleigh will be at:
Tesco Crossways Caerphilly on
 December 16th, 17th & 18th from 10am to 4pm
 and also at
TESCO
Tesco Ystrad Mynach on
 the 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th of December
 from 10am 'till 4pm

**The Town Council of Blackwood would
like to invite you all to a Christingle
Service to be held at Blackwood
Methodist Church at 6pm on Tuesday
the 6th of December**

**Following the service there will be
refreshments downstairs for all to
enjoy.**



Due to feeding times for the Reindeer and Elves all timings are approximate!

Nursery / Meithrin

Nursery has had a busy and exciting November. We started by sharing our experiences from Bonfire night and collaborating on a Bonfire and Firework picture developing our oracy skills.

We have looked at the number 3 in different ways, through stories that we have shared such as Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, and The 3 little pigs.

We also created Poppies by counting to 3 when printing the petals and practising our number formation in writing.

Pudsey day was a huge success. We dressed up, made Pudsey biscuits and created our own Pudsey ears. We have been focussing on 2D and 3D shapes in our play using them to create in our Block Area and with our magnetic shapes.

We have been getting ready for our Christmas Play which the children have been very excited about and are looking forward to sharing with you all on Monday 19th December. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who attended Parent consultations. It was lovely to talk to you all about how well your child has settled into the Nursery setting and the wonderful contributions they make to our Nursery class. Thank you so much for your continued support.

Helpful Information

- Healthy snack can be brought in each day for your child or alternatively snack money can be paid on a Monday at £1 per week.
- Please can all items of clothing be labelled with your child's name and spare clothes left in school.
- As the weather turns colder with the season change we ask that you ensure your child is wearing appropriate weather wear and has a pair of labelled wellies to be left in school.
- Follow us on Twitter: @NurseryBPS



Reception / Derbyn

We have been busy the past few weeks creating poems about bonfire night, building pretend bonfires and counting backwards from 10 on our rocket fireworks. We have been constructing buildings in the block area and drawing plans and writing simple reports on why we wear a poppy on Poppy Day. We have printed poppies, made playdough poppies and drawn pictures of them and we have made poppy biscuits too.

We have been using our maths skills in the playdough area and are getting much better at using the language of length and size.

As usual we have been learning lots of songs to help us learn about special events. Our song 'Guy Fawkes tried to blow up the King' is our favourite!

We all dressed up on Pudsey day and helped to raise money for Children in Need.

We are all very excited about 'Elf Day' and getting ready for Christmas!

Thank you to all the parents for your support.

Helpful Information:

- Reception PE and Forest School day is Thursday, please could pupils come to school dressed in their PE kit.
- Reading books will be sent home on a Thursday, please could these be read and returned on a Monday morning.
- Healthy snack money should be paid on a Monday, £1 for the week which covers the cost of fruit and cooking material for our kitchen.
 - School gates are open at 8:45am and are closed at 8:55am.
- With the change in the weather it would be a good idea if your child is able to put on their coat and practice zipping it up. This is an important fine motor skill that we encourage in Reception class.
- There is still an increasingly growing pile of unclaimed jumpers and cardigans if you wish to sift through them. Only our children use these classroom areas so they must belong to someone.



Year 1 / Blwyddyn 1

Year one have had a very busy month! We have been reading a book, 'We Definitely Don't Like Winter' and have been working hard to write instructions and have enjoyed activities around the book. We have also been busy writing a non chronological report on hedgehog and have written beautiful acrostic and simile poems about fireworks. We were really proud to take part in our Remembrance assembly and sang our songs beautifully. We learned lots of new facts about Poppy day.

We have been developing our construction area and have been planning fantastic buildings and reflecting on how well we did! We have been weighing cereal in our cooking area and making sure we have the right amount of cereal and milk. We are whizzes at weighing!

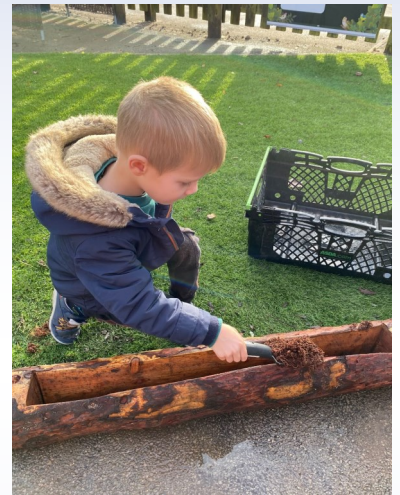
We have been busy developing our outdoor area! We have enjoyed planting seeds and bulbs and can't wait for them to grow. We have an observation station where we will be checking them and measuring to see how much they have grown. We have also been excited to measure rain in our rain gauge! We hope it doesn't get too full!



Helpful in-



formation



- Year One's PE and Forest School day is a Tuesday. Please could pupils come to school dressed in their PE kit.
- Reading books will be sent home on a Thursday, please could these be read and returned on a Monday morning.
- Healthy snack money should be paid on a Monday, £1 for the week, which covers the cost of fruit and cooking material for our kitchen.
 - School gates are open at 8:45am and are closed at 8:55 am.
 - Follow us on Twitter; @YearOneBPS

Year 2 / Blwyddyn 2

It's been a busy time for Blwyddyn Dau! We created Poppy art and researched the meaning behind different coloured poppies as part of Remembrance Day.

We enjoyed wearing odd socks to raise awareness of Anti-bullying Week.

We all had great fun dressing-up to raise money for Pudsey Day 2022!

We've created plans, designed and built structures in our block area checking measurements using cm and m. In our woodwork area we've been working on upcycling, our project is nearly complete.

If you need a tasty sandwich just ask us... we've been working independently to prepare and make tasty sandwiches! Once our sandwiches are ready to serve we cut them into halves or quarters. As part of our literacy journey we looked at features of a letter, we then wrote letters.

Thank you to all the parents and carers for your continued support.



Helpful information

- Year 2's PE day is Tuesday, please could pupils come to school dressed in their PE kit.
- Reading books are given out every Friday, reading books can be returned Monday/Tuesday of every week.
- As the weather becomes colder and wetter, please can you ensure that your child brings a coat to school every day.
- Healthy snack money should be paid on a Monday, £1 for the week which covers the cost of fruit.
 - Please follow us on Twitter @YearTwoBPS
- A polite reminder that school gates close 8.55am, this allows our pupils to self-register and attend morning assemblies (Held every morning). Missing the beginning of the school day impacts pupils' opportunities to learn a range of new skills.
 - Don't forget to Follow us on Twitter; @YearTwoBPS

Year 3 / Blwyddyn3

Blwyddyn 3 have had a busy term! In literacy, we have had a go at Firework and Remembrance poetry and have written detailed non-chronological reports all about Polar bears.

We really enjoyed researching all about them.

In maths, we have been working on knowing all about the number 100 and using that knowledge in lots of different situations. We have also been subtracting from 100 and have worked so hard!

In the creative area, we have explored lots of different mediums to create still life; watercolour paint is a firm favourite of ours.

We have also had a go at modelling 3D poppies which were beautiful!

In the construction area, we have used our measuring skills to plan the build of a place which is special to us.

Outdoors, we have planted bulbs ready for spring; they are going to look beautiful. During anti-bullying week we looked at how we are different and special. We have also looked at our new value of the month 'happiness'.

We are so very excited for Elf day and our Christmas learning journey.

Thank you again to all of our grown ups for joining us at the book look, consultations and for your ongoing support.

Helpful Information

- Our PE day is a Monday. All pupils must come to school dressed in full, appropriate PE kit
- Reading books will be given out on Tuesdays, please could they come back in on Mondays ready to be changed.
 - Please follow us on Twitter @YearThreeBPS
- Healthy snack can be brought into school to be eaten at morning break time.



Year 4 / Blwyddyn 4



Wow, that's November done! Another busy, fun-filled month! We have been learning number bonds and tenths in maths. Our literacy journeys have been writing poetry based on the poem by Gareth Lancaster, "I Dreamed a Dream" What fun we had creating our own!

We paid our respects in our special Remembrance Day assembly and baked poppy biscuits.

We have been creating still life observational artwork and investigating magnets.



We had a visit from PC George teaching us about the dangers of alcohol and drugs.

In PE, we are learning how to play golf and our teamwork skills have been put to the test with our Commando Joe missions.

In Forest Schools, we have created Remembrance Day crosses and more recently leaf lanterns. We developed maths skills by calculating the depth that we need to plant our bulbs and are looking forward to starting on our allotment to grow food to cook in our kitchen.



We loved wearing our odd socks to raise awareness for Anti-bullying week and had so much fun raising money for Children in Need. Didn't we do well?!

We are looking forward to another exciting month full of festive fun!

Thank you for all your continued support!

Helpful information

- PE day is every Thursday. Please can pupils come into school dressed in appropriate PE kit (tracksuit / t-shirt / shorts / joggers / leggings / daps or trainers).
- As the weather becomes colder and wetter, please can you ensure that your child brings a coat to school every day.
- Polite reminder that the school gate closes at 8:55. Please ensure your child arrives in school on time every day so they are not missing out on learning time.
 - Healthy snacks can be brought into school to be eaten at morning break time.
- Although we don't have a dedicated day to change reading books, we would like to ask that you encourage your child to read at home and return books to be changed on a regular basis.



Year 5 / Blwyddyn 5

What a busy month! We have been working extremely hard in Blwyddyn 5. In our literacy journey we have been writing poetry and non-chronological reports. We all raised awareness of Anti-Bullying week by wearing odd socks and paid our respects during our Remembrance day assembly. In Maths we have been round numbers to the nearest 100, 1000 and 10,000 using capacities from stadiums around the world to link with the World cup. We had a fantastic morning watching Wales v Iran, although it wasn't the result we hoped for we felt immensely proud cheering on our heroes!

We think we have discovered Architects and Designers of the future when it comes to construction in Year 5. We have found that we learn a lot through reflection and that our plans often need to be thought through carefully to be used in real life using KAPLA. In preparation for the lantern parade some members of the choir have been designing and creating lanterns using recycled food tins. After much hammering and drilling we are looking forward to testing them out!

Yes there is more! Which materials are the most absorbent and why? We carried out a fair test in science, using different materials to find an answer. We learned key vocabulary such as waterproof, absorbent and permeable along with how important it is to gather multiple readings to make our results as accurate as possible. Remember the most expensive kitchen paper is not always the most absorbent! We are really excited about Elf Day and all the festivities that December brings!

As always thanks to all parents and carers for your ongoing support.



Helpful Information

- Healthy snack can be brought into school to be eaten at morning break time or purchased from school for 20p a day.
- PE day is every Wednesday. Please can pupils come into school dressed in appropriate PE kit (tracksuit / t-shirt / shorts / joggers / leggings / daps or trainers)
- Reading books have been provided to pupils this week. Pupils have access to the reading books and are responsible for changing books themselves once they have completed a test using Accelerated

Year 6 / Blwyddyn 6

We have been finding properties of shapes! We have been identifying lines of symmetry and rotational symmetry of a variety of polygons. In English we have participated in discussions and written balanced arguments. We loved carrying out some Anti-bullying activities to promote friendship in our school especially wearing our odd socks! We created some emotional poems that were read out in the Armistice assembly showing respect to the many who fought in previous conflicts. PC George informed us about the dangers of illegal substances. We have been busy bees in the STEM area of the setting planning, creating and reflecting our bridge designs! Through a problem solving approach, we have created tasty recipes within a given budget for 6 people and evaluated our final creations! In the humanities area we found out many new facts about aspects of the Nativity story and wrote a non-chronological report about it. Wow, it has been a really busy month! We are looking forward to feeling festive next month!



Helpful Information

- PE day is every Wednesday. Please can pupils come into school dressed in appropriate PE kit (tracksuit / t-shirt / shorts / joggers / leggings / daps or trainers)
 - Healthy snack can be brought into school to be eaten at morning break time
- Pupils have access to the reading books and are responsible for changing books themselves once they have completed a test using Accelerated Reader.
- Please could you send old or waterproof clothes and wellies or old shoes to school so that the pupils can use the outdoor areas including the allotment on a weekly basis.