



"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**



Monday 16th January - After school clubs start running again.

Monday 13th February - Parent/staff meet and greet in classrooms.

Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th February -

Parent consultations - more information to follow in the new year.



INSET DAYS

Friday June 16th 2023

School Term dates for 2022/2023

- **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

A message from Mrs Davies, Headteacher

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we reach the end of an incredibly eventful and wonderful first full term of the school year, my message is one of thanks to the Blackwood Primary School community for all your support and help. It takes a whole community to raise a school and we are very fortunate to have that.

I am especially grateful to the Governors, PTA, teachers, and wider support staff, for making Blackwood Primary such a fantastic school for children to grow, learn and be happy. But also, a huge thank you to you, the parents, and carers. Your support is crucial to our success, from supporting our after school clubs, attending book look events, or even just talking to your child about their day, is so important to their development as people. Nothing makes me prouder as a Headteacher than seeing first-hand how our school community comes together.

The Friends of Blackwood Primary PTA have been phenomenal, as ever! The F@B Supper with Santa event was a huge success, thank you everyone for supporting them.

This is my favourite time of year; fun activities, wonderful festive outfits (especially on Elf Day), a scrumptious special Christmas Dinner by our wonderful catering staff and always an eagerly anticipated visit from Father Christmas himself! This week I have been both honoured and proud to attend each year group's Christmas concert. From Nursery to Year 6, to see the joy in your children's faces as we welcome back family audiences was rather emotional.

Speaking of which, emotions are also running high as we wish a fond farewell to Miss Williams, who has been at the school for over 8 years. We will miss you very much and are so grateful for all you have done for the school, our children, and families over the years, diolch yn fawr a pob lwc Miss Williams.

I hope that you all have a fantastic Christmas holiday, and we look forward to welcoming your children back in the New Year.

Kind regards,
Mrs Davies
Headteacher
Blackwood Primary School



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: 85.60 %

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 8:55am each day.

The school day finishes at 3:00pm 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!



INTERNET SAFETY SUPPORT

This festive season, set your child up for online safety that lasts the whole year. Whether you're gifting a new device or one that's new-to-them, make sure you set it up before you wrap it up with step-by-step guides and a personalised online safety plan.

Explore our guidance below to gift yourself peace of mind as they play and share in new and different ways over the holidays.

[Get ready for a digital festive season | Internet Matters](#)

There are also a set of films for the younger pupils (4 – 7) based on some friends called Jessie & Friends that can be found here:

[Jessie Friends videos \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)

And a whole article of keeping the under 5's safe online:

[Keeping your under 5 safe online \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](http://thinkuknow.co.uk)



Save up to
£230

Are you worried about the cost of Christmas?

If you claim means tested
and/or disability benefits,
we have lots of financial
support options available
that could help you save
on your water bill.



We're here
to help

Call us to talk through your
options: 0800 052 0145

Visit us online for more info:
dwrcymru.com/helpwithbills





Blackwood Primary School Sports News!

We have had the opportunity to take part in some fantastic sporting competitions this year and look forward to many more to come in the new year!

We would like to say a huge congratulations to all the children who took part in “Game on” - Girls primary school Christmas Football Festival yesterday.

The girls played 14 games in total, won 13 and drew one. This was a fantastic achievement.

Both teams were phenomenal!



Nursery / Meithrin

What a busy term we have had in Nursery! The children have been putting their creative skills to work designing and making their Christmas crafts, developing their fine motor skills and strengthening their muscles ready for writing. We hope you all like the wonderful Christmas bags the children have put together for you. The children have been learning about shapes when making their Christmas cards and have begun to recognise and write their name. Everyone loves to cook with Mrs Humayra and they have done a fabulous job making their own Christmas Reindeer fudge developing maths skills counting and measuring ingredients. Our calendars this year have focused on the seasons of the year which the children have been learning about, they have been able to talk about the season Autumn which has been our focus and started to look at Winter which we will develop our knowledge of in the new year.

Our Christmas concert was a roaring success. The children had lots of fun showcasing their wonderful singing and acting for you all to see and it was such a joy to be able to invite you all in to share this magical first memory with you.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support this term and hope you all have a wonderful Christmas time.

We look forward to welcoming you back in 2023 to start a new year of adventures.



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

Wow! It's been a very long and busy term for us all in Reception. We have been practising hard for our 'Little Nativity' concert. Thanks to all the parents and carers for providing the children with a costume. We hope you enjoyed the performance.

We have also learned new woodwork skills: sawing, drilling holes and sticking the antlers onto our reindeer decorations - they were so much fun to make! We also used the loose parts to create a Christmas image which were turned into a cake topper and we have been practising the language of length whilst making our Christmas tree decorations. We hope you like them. As well as that we have been designing and making Christmas cards and have been

working with textiles to create a calendar, Wait until you see them they are great!

We have continued to work hard on maths and Read Write inc. and have been predicting the best coat to stop Sneezy the snowman from melting in a science investigation.

We have also been learning lots about the nativity story and the true meaning of Christmas.

Now we are ready for a long rest, lots of delicious food, sweets and chocolates and a special visit from Santa! Not long to go now!

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas. See you in the New year ready for round two!



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. Please help your child practise the sounds in their green sound books which are in the reading folders.
- Healthy snack money should be paid on a Monday, £1 for the week which covers the cost of fruit and cooking ingredients 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

Wow! What a fantastic term we have had. We have been so busy and have loved our learning journeys of Cynefin and Dathlu. We have been creating Christmas decorations using our textile skills and have had so much fun learning how to sew. We are sure these will look lovely on our Christmas trees! We are so proud of the children who have excelled in their concerts this week. We are sure you loved hearing them sing and that this helped ignite your Christmas spirit! We have enjoyed reading 'The Owl Who Came for Christmas', and have been thinking of questions that we could ask Rosie the Owl. We then used the book to answer them. We wrote the story of Rosie using lots of exciting adjectives to make our writing exciting! Thank you for all of your continued support this year. We all hope you have a very merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in January.



Helpful information

- 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

December has been a magical time learning lots of new skills. We began our Christmas journey celebrating Elf Day, it was so much fun!

We've looked at features of formal and informal letters, written letters to Santa, studied and sequenced The First Christmas Story and written reports using the Nativity scene for inspiration.

We've developed our understanding of money in a number of ways, most recently costing our Christmas design project. We selected items and totaled the amount our design would cost in pounds and pence.

In the cooking area we measured amounts and made hot chocolate, we all loved drinking our tasty drinks! Making a variety of items to add to our Bags of Happiness was so much fun.

We can't wait to take our bag's home and share what we've been busy making.

After listening to the story of The Festival of Light we made Diva lamps. We shaped clay using our fingers, then decorated our designs using different tools and techniques. In our woodwork area we planned, designed and created frames that hold very special photos... we hope you like them! For design technology we created Christmas Binka Baubles, decorating using a variety of stitches. We've worked hard throughout the Autumn Term and are proud of everything we've achieved.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year, we look forward to seeing you in 2023!



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

We've had a wonderful half-term together, learning and applying new skills. Over the last few weeks we have been designing and creating Christmas craft.

We have also been exploring Christmas traditions and celebrations such as 'The Chistingle'.

The pupils have enjoyed creating traditional decorations and practising different types of stitching. In literacy, pupils have been writing alternative endings to the story, *Elf Road* and have been using the *Mighty Writer* to support with their literacy skills.

In numeracy, pupils have been doubling and halving numbers, calculating perimeter and using directional language to solve problems.

The children have worked so hard this term and are growing in confidence to apply their skills independently.

We are so proud of them all.

May we take this opportunity to thank all our parents/guardians for their ongoing support and hope you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas. We look forward to welcoming the children back in 2023!



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

Well, we've blinked and the term is almost behind us! What a busy few weeks we've had! We had a visit from Mrs Rees to share all about Christingle. We've been writing non-chronological reports on Advent and using water colours to create still-life observational artwork.

Our sewing skills have been developed with the Christmas decorations we made.

We have been transforming 2D shapes into 3D shapes for our Christmas cards and our English writing journey is based around The Polar Express.

We look forward to seeing you all in 2023, from all the Year 4 staff have a very Merry Christmas!



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.
 - Follow us on Twitter @YearFourBPS

Year 5 / Blwyddyn 5

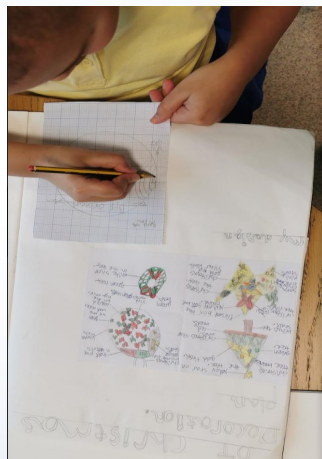
What an amazing Autumn term we have had in Blwyddyn 5! Our DT Christmas Tree Decorations are coming along nicely!

We have been designing, annotating, creating 1:1 scale drawings, creating patterns to accurately trim materials, and pricing the cost of the materials.

Some of our Year 5 Digital Leaders took part in a Live code along session with the Microbit Education Team. This led us nicely into our Technology AoLE where we have been designing algorithms to show animations on the BBC Microbit!

It was fantastic to see the effort everyone put in for Elf day Blwyddyn 5 looked amazing! We had great fun putting our watercolour skills to good use creating Christmas cards for our loved ones and we got creative making Christmas tree decorations using acrylic paint pens. In Mathematics we have been developing our knowledge of fractions, decimals and percentages, and applying our knowledge to authentic online deals to see how much money we can save. In English we have been creating non-chronological reports and applying our new knowledge across the curriculum to write reports comparing Christmas in Great Britain to countries in Europe.

Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd dda i chi gyd, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our families both near and far. We are already super excited to see you all again in 2023!



Helpful Information

- Healthy snack can be brought into school to be eaten at morning break time or purchased from school for 20p a day.
 - Follow us on Twitter @YearFiveBPS
- 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 Reader.

Year 6 / Blwyddyn 6

Another busy few weeks! Elf Day kicked our Christmas festivities off with decorating the Y6 setting and lots of Christmas fun and crafts! We have researched the story of the Nativity in detail and written non chronological reports about the important aspects of the story. In the creative area we have been planning and creating a mobile phone case as part of our Christmas craft.

Using our measuring skills we drew an accurate plan of our final design to scale and then created it using felt and other craft materials. Our calendars this year show how we have used different media to represent the four seasons! In English we have written discussions about a variety of contentious issues and applied our multiplication and division skills in Maths!

We absolutely loved performing our Christmas Concert in Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, singing a range of songs both old and new. It was so great to be able to perform once again in front of an audience! Nadolig Llawen a Blwyddyn Newydd dda i chi gyd, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our families both near and far. We are already super excited to see you all again in 2023!



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.
 - Follow us on Twitter @YearSixBPS



**Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn
newydd dda gan holl staff
Ysgol Gynradd Coed Duon!**

