



**"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**



**School starts back after half term: Monday 27th February  
2023**

**St David's Day: March 1st - Children invited to wear National  
dress wear**

**"Inspirational ladies in our life" coffee morning- Friday 17th  
March (more information to follow after half term)**

**Term ends Friday 31st March**



## INSET DAYS

Friday June 16th 2023

## BANK HOLIDAYS

May Day - Monday 1st May 2023

King Charles III Coronation - Monday 8th May 2023

## School Term dates for 2022/2023

### Spring Term 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 two methods.

- Telephone - 01495 224111 and leave a voicemail by 9:00 am on day of absence.
- Use the absences section on our Parentmail app to provide a reason.

Failure to do so will result in an un-authorized 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: **87.38%**

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.

# Half Term Fun!

**NETBALL CAMP**

AGE 7-12

£10.60

9.00am - 3.00pm

20th February **Newbridge Leisure Centre**

21st February **Newbridge Leisure Centre**

22nd February **St Cenydd Leisure Centre**

24th February **Sue Noake Leisure Centre**

Come and try Netball, games and activities designed to engage everyone. Our professional, fully qualified and DBS checked coaches will be sure to send your children home smiling at the end of the day!

For more information, contact Bridie Saunders: [soundba@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:soundba@caerphilly.gov.uk)



Book via the Leisure Lifestyle APP  
(Bookings must be made prior to attending)

[sportcaerphilly](https://www.facebook.com/sportcaerphilly) [@sport\\_leisure](https://www.instagram.com/sport_leisure)

**FOOTBALL CAMP**

Learn from the best and... become a better player

AGE 7-12

£10.60

**Risca Leisure Centre**

9am-3pm. 20th, 21st, 22nd & 24th February

**Centre for Sporting Excellence (Ystrad Mynach)**  
9am-3pm. 20th, 21st & 22nd February

**SPACES ARE LIMITED - BOOKINGS / PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO ATTENDING**

Parents must complete a consent form prior to their child taking part. Sport Caerphilly reserve the right to cancel these sessions at short notice due to adverse weather and changes to Welsh Government guidance.

For further information please contact: 01443 863072 / [Lewis10@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:Lewis10@caerphilly.gov.uk)



Please make your booking via the Leisure Lifestyle APP (Scan the QR Code to download the APP)

[sportcaerphilly](https://www.facebook.com/sportcaerphilly) [@sport\\_leisure](https://www.instagram.com/sport_leisure)



## FEBRUARY HALF TERM SWIMMING

Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February 2023

### CAERPHILLY

Free Under 16 Swim Session  
Mon 2:15-4pm  
Tues 1pm-3pm  
Wed Small Pool 2:30pm-4pm  
Wed Main Pool 3:15pm-4pm  
Thurs 1pm-3pm  
Fri 3pm-6pm

Free Over 60s Swim Session  
Tues 10am-11am  
Wed 11am-12pm

Free Swimming Lessons  
Mon-Fri 9am-11am

Free Rookie Lifesaving  
Wed 2:30-3:15pm

Pool Inflatable  
Wed 1pm-2pm

### RISCA

Free Under 16 Swim Session  
Mon-Thurs 11am-12:30pm  
Fri 10:30-12:30pm

Free Over 60s Swim Session  
Mon-Thurs 10am-11am  
Fri 8:50-10:30am

Free Swimming Lessons  
Mon-Thurs 9am-10am

### NEWBRIDGE

Free Mermaid  
Mon 10am-11am  
Wed 10:30-11:30am  
Thurs 10:30-11:30am  
Fri 10:30-11:30am & 11:30am-12:30pm

Free Kids AquaFit  
Thu 11:30-12:30pm

Free Personal Survival  
Wed 11:30-12:30pm

Swimming Lessons £10  
Mon-Fri 9:30am-11:30am

Free Over 60s Swim Session  
Mon-Fri 1pm-2pm

### BEDWAS

Free Under 16 Swim Session  
Mon-Fri 10am-10:55am  
Fri 5pm-5:45pm  
Fri 6pm-6:45pm

Free Over 60s Swim Session  
Tues & Thurs 9am-9:55am  
Fri 3pm-3:45pm

### HEOLDDU

Free Under 16 Swim Session  
Mon-Fri 11am-11:55am

Free Swimming Lessons  
Mon-Fri 9am-11am

Free Over 60s Swim Session  
Mon-Fri 12pm-12:55pm

### CEFN FFOREST

Free Under 16 Swim Session  
Mon-Fri 11am-12:30pm

**DISABILITY SPORT SCHEME**

AGE 7-12

£8.70 per day

10am to 3pm  
Monday 20th February and Wednesday 22nd February  
Sue Noake Leisure Centre

- Bookings must be made prior to attending.
- Parents must complete a consent form prior to their child taking part. This will be carried out when securing your space.
- Participants must be able to toilet and feed themselves.
- The camps do not provide 1-to-1 support.
- Sport Caerphilly reserve the right to cancel these sessions at short notice due to adverse weather and changes to Welsh Government guidance.

For more information please email Paul Taylor: [taylor1@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:taylor1@caerphilly.gov.uk)

[sportcaerphilly](https://www.facebook.com/sportcaerphilly) [@sport\\_leisure](https://www.instagram.com/sport_leisure)



## LETS GO GIRLS

**THURSDAY 23RD FEBRUARY - 9AM-3PM**

- Try new, fun sporting activities and workshops
- Hang out with friends or make new ones
- Increase your confidence

**Heolddu Leisure Centre**  
Age: 9 - 13 Cost: £10.60

Please book via the Leisure Lifestyle APP (Scan the QR code to download the APP).



For more information - email Bridie Saunders: [soundba@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:soundba@caerphilly.gov.uk) or 01443 863072

AWN AMDANI ferched  
**LETS GO GIRLS**



# Half Term Fun!

## Digwyddiadau Events



**Amser Straeon a  
Gweithgareddau Hanner  
Tymor**

Llyfrgell Coed Duon

Dydd Llun 20 fed Chwefror 2023  
11-12

Yn addas ar gyfer plant 3-10 blwydd oed.

Manylion Cyswll  
Rhf Ffôn: 01495 235656  
E-bost: [libblack@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:libblack@caerphilly.gov.uk)  
Twitter: @BlackwoodLib

**Half Term**

**Story Time and Activities**

Blackwood Library

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
11-12

Suitable for children aged 3-10 years

Contact details  
Telephone: 01495 235656  
Email: [libblack@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:libblack@caerphilly.gov.uk)  
Twitter: @BlackwoodLib

**Mwy o wybodaeth  
Find out more**



[libraries@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:libraries@caerphilly.gov.uk)  
[@CaerphillyLibs](https://www.facebook.com/CaerphillyLibs)



Man gwyrddach i fyw, gweithio ac ymweld  
A greener place to live, work and visit

## Blackwood Spring Fair



**Blackwood Town Centre**  
**Saturday 4th March 2023**  
**9am - 5pm**

[www.visitcaerphilly.com/events](http://www.visitcaerphilly.com/events)  
#ChooseLocal #UKSPF Information Hotline - 029 2088 0011










## Ystrad Mynach Spring Fair



**Ystrad Mynach Town Centre**  
**Saturday 5th March 2022**  
**9am - 5pm**

[www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/events) [www.visitcaerphilly.com/events](http://www.visitcaerphilly.com/events)  
#ChooseLocal Information Hotline - 029 2088 0011








## Parc Bryn Bach HALF TERM ACTIVITIES



**SUP  
Taster Session**  
Tuesday 21st February  
2pm - 3pm  
Ages 8+  
£15 per person  
Book online  
[www.parcbrynbach.co.uk](http://www.parcbrynbach.co.uk)

**Adventure  
Activity Day**  
Friday 24th February  
9am - 3pm  
Ages: 8-14  
£15 per person  
Call 01495 355920 to book

**Tiki SUP**  
Wednesday 22nd February  
1pm - 2pm & 2pm - 3pm  
Ages 8+  
£10 per person  
Book online  
[www.parcbrynbach.co.uk](http://www.parcbrynbach.co.uk)

**Climb & Cave**  
Saturday 25th February  
11am - 3pm  
£3 for one activity or  
£15 for two activities  
£15 for 4 children  
(2 activities each)  
No booking necessary



**For more information call 01495 355920**

# Community News / Events

**Every Tuesday 3-5pm**

**Community Welcome Warm Hub**  
*Blackwood Cricket Club*

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

**OPEN TO EVERYONE FREE for the whole family. Every Tuesday 3pm till 5pm**

- Soup and a roll
- Tea and coffee
- Watch TV
- Charge your devices
- Board games
- Newspapers

Blackwood Cricket Club  
 Gordon Rd NP12 1DS

More information call Emma 07988812195

**WARM SPACE**

**MOOSE HALL WARM SPACE PROJECT**

Every Monday morning 11.00am - 1.00pm  
 Moose International, Pentwyn Road, Blackwood, NP12 1HN

MOOSE INTERNATIONAL BLACKWOOD II

With the ever increasing cost of living, the Moose Hall will be opening our doors to welcome residents of our community.

Hosted by the Libanus Lifestyle team, you can enjoy tea, coffee and a warm snack - ALL FREE!

Libanus Lifestyle

No need to book!  
 Just pop along #warmspace #community

**WARM SPACE**

**BREAKFAST CLUB!**

Every Saturday morning 10.00am - 12.00pm  
 Libanus Lifestyle, Libanus Road, Blackwood, NP12 1 EQ

With the ever increasing cost of living, we are opening our doors to welcome residents of our community.

Breakfast rolls, tea and coffee - ALL FREE!

Meet new friends, enjoy our community garden or perhaps sit down and enjoy a book.

No need to book!  
 Just pop along #warmspace #community

Libanus Lifestyle

**LUNCH CLUB**

**FREE COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB**

Every Thursday 11am - 1pm at Libanus Lifestyle Centre

For the next 10 weeks we will be opening our doors on a Thursday to welcome our community residents.

Funded by CCBC we will be offering a hot meal between 11am - 1pm.

This is an opportunity for you to meet new friends and come together as a community.

No need to book!  
 Just pop along #community Libanus Lifestyle Centre, Libanus Road, NP12 1EQ

Libanus Lifestyle

# Nursery / Meithrin

It has been a jam packed February with lots of activity in the classroom kitchen creating delicious things to eat. The Children have been learning to follow visual instructions and also ensuring they are in the correct order. There has been a celebration of Pizzas and all have enjoyed having a slice or two. Developing maths skills whilst cooking, counting ingredients, ordering numbers on our instructions and talking about halves when cutting fruit for our ice pops. Comparing and discussing temperature has been fun and trying warm pizza parcels and fruity ice pops was a great way to do this.

It's not just the children who have had some delicious treats to eat.

Following participation in the national birdwatch Nursery have been making bird seed feeders which has encouraged more birds into our garden recently. The children have been using mark making to begin to record their collections on our outdoor tally chart. Birdwatching has become an interesting activity in Nursery and looking for a good spot to watch from has got the children creating dens and looking for suitable viewing platforms such as the climbing frame.

Valentine's week we have been back in the kitchen baking delicious heart shaped biscuits to take home to a loved one.

Cards were created and small heart shaped gifts.

We talked about all the things we love and read some great stories; Julia Donaldsons 'The Scarecrows Wedding' Giles Andreae 'The Lion who wanted to love' and Sam McBratney 'Guess how much I love you'.

Our traditional story focus has continued with 'The 3 little Pigs'. The children have been using various ways to retell the story. Making puppets, using our retell pictures and props and also creating their own story maps.

What a busy few weeks we have had!

We wish everyone a safe and happy half term and look forward to welcoming you back.

Thank you for your continued support - The Nursery Team

## 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







# Year 1 / Blwyddyn 1

We read the Rainbow Bear, we wrote character descriptions and a poem. We wrote about the Rainbow Bear in Welsh using “Dw i’n”. We explored different mediums to create a landscape of the Rainbow Bear. We also made polar bears out of plasticine and clay.

We celebrated National Pizza Day, we voted for our favourite pizza toppings using J2E, then created pictograms and block graphs. We chose our toppings by using the sentence pattern “Dw i’n hoffi...”.

We have loved exploring lots of new healthy recipes in our cooking area, creating pasta salad as well as pizza. We have been finding out about melting in our investigation area, exploring melting ice, how fast it melts, the height of ice compared with the volume of water created and have explored melting chocolate for strawberries writing an investigation and making a sensible estimate of how long it will take.

We loved eating our chocolate strawberries and bananas!



## Helpful information

- Year One’s 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.
- Please ensure that all items, including hats and gloves are clearly labelled with names.
- Follow us on Twitter; @YearOneBPS

## Year 2 / Blwyddyn 2

We cannot believe it's half term already, we've all been working extremely hard and have learnt so many new skills! We all enjoyed reading *The Lost Stars*, written by Hannah Cumming. We used our senses to write about what we can see, hear, touch, taste and smell. The story made us think of our environment and how we can help take care of it. We created posters to encourage people to reduce, reuse and recycle.

When reading a variety of different poems, we were inspired by shape poems. It was great fun collecting describing words and similes about stars, then creating our very own star shape poems.

Maths Box sessions help us learn new mathematical skills, we've all enjoyed singing the 2x, 5x and 10x tables songs! We've begun to explore division skills. When making sandwiches in the year 2 kitchen we've been cutting our sandwiches into halves and quarters... We all love eating our tasty sandwiches! Our understanding of centimetres and metres help us when we design and create dens.

Have a safe and peaceful half term, we cannot wait to welcome our Year 2 family back after half term when we'll be using Wales as inspiration for learning new skills.



### 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

Happy half term Blwyddyn 3! What a busy half term it has been.

In Literacy, we have been writing a story all about Hunter the polar bear and his perilous adventure on the ice.

Our book was called 'Hunter's Icy Adventure' and it explores the theme of climate change.

In numeracy, we have learnt all about multiplying, dividing and even telling the time. So many important skills!

In our cooking area, we have made pizzas to raise money for the NSPCC. We used our measuring skills to weigh each product and even found out the costs of each one online.

We have now all enjoyed our cricket sessions, diolch Mr Grandin for organising these sessions! Miss Powell's forest school sessions have seen us creating branching databases to present and organise our data from the Big Garden Birdwatch.

In PE, we have started learning gymnastics and we have enjoyed it so much!

We're becoming budding scientists and have investigated rising sea levels and substances which are soluble in water.

The children have engaged well in our value of the month, friendship, and have even learnt a sign language song.

We can't wait to develop this skill in the next half term!

We wish you all a happy and peaceful half term break.



## Helpful Information

- Our PE day is a Tuesday. 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

There goes another half term! Just wow! We've packed in quite a bit again these last few weeks. Year 4 has been helping to raise awareness of Children's Mental Health Week and combined this with Internet Safety Day by creating posters to promote ways we can reach out and connect but stay safe on-line. Both classes have enjoyed our cricket sessions with James and have realised that we have some talented cricketers in Year 4.

With inspiration from our work about the Welsh artist Kyffin Williams, we have been sketching our own beautiful scenes that we can see from our school grounds. We investigated what happens when materials are mixed together and had quite a surprise with some of the results!

We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating NSPCC Number Day and linked it to National Pizza Day. We had so much fun planning and creating our pizzas and raised funds towards NSPCC. Thank you for your very kind donations!

This week we have been exploring the relationships between animals and their habitats and the adaptations needed to survive in each habitat. It has also been interesting to discover how fashion in Wales has changed over the years. In literacy, we have written our emotive poems and have now started our Welsh myths and legends narrative journey.

In maths, we have been focussing on time, timetables, multiplication and division.

We hope you all enjoy a relaxing and fun-filled break and look forward to seeing you next half term.

Thank you to all our families for your continued support.



### 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).
- We access the outdoors every day, therefore please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies (or other suitable footwear), that can be left in school and used for these occasions.
  - Please can you ensure that your child brings a coat to school every day.
  - Healthy snacks can be brought into school to be eaten at morning break time.
    - Follow us on Twitter @YearFourBPS

# Year 5 / Blwyddyn 5

How time flies when you are having fun!

What a busy and productive half term in Year 5 exploring our 'Changes' theme. As part of World pizza day we created a Google Form to gather a range of data from what toppings people prefer to which brands of pizza people purchase.

We used this to create a database and pie charts to look at different trends while trying to explain them.

We even designed our own pizza given a range of toppings, using our knowledge of fractions and percentages to calculate the portions. Creating our dough from scratch was a challenge



## 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 Friday. 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

What a fantastic start to 2023! Through our theme 'Changes' we have read a variety of graphs and interpreted the data identifying trends and patterns. We have collected discrete data and compared results to national statistics.

In English we have been reading Hugo Cabret crafting sentences to describe the Parisian setting and unusual aspects of the mysterious text. We enjoyed writing a mini saga about the Automaton, although it was tricky condensing the content into 50 words!

We have been on an exciting voyage of discovery to the Galapagos Islands with the legendary scientist Charles Darwin. We have learnt about his theory of evolution, and studied his ideas about the finches, making our own predictions about future changes within this species! Using compass and grid reference skills, we have tracked and plotted his voyage on a world map.

Our next task will be to compare this idea of evolution to that of the Biblical Creation story. Using lots of maths skills, we planned, budgeted and created delicious pizzas placing different toppings on different fractional parts. We also made a profit which we proudly gave to the NSPCC!

Outdoors has been really enjoyable this term with the delivery of the new equipment! It was great going down to Blackwood Rugby Club for our Crucial Crew activities where we learnt how to stay safe in a variety of environments!



### 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