



**"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**



**Wednesday 1st February - School closed to pupils due to  
industrial action**

**Friday 3rd February - Number Day**

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

**Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th February -  
Proposed parent consultations - more information to follow.**

**Half Term - W/C Monday 20th February 2023**



## 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

- 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 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: 88.30%

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 News / Events



**AGE 7-12**

## NETBALL CAMP

**£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: [saubda@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:saubda@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://twitter.com/sport_leisure)





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

**AGE 7-12**

## FOOTBALL CAMP

**£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://twitter.com/sport_leisure)





**DISABILITY SPORT SCHEME**

**£8.70 per day** **Ages 7-12**

**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.

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

For further information please call 01443 863072

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://twitter.com/sport_leisure)





**#LetsGoGirls**

## 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: [saubda@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:saubda@caerphilly.gov.uk) or 01443 863072

Bookings must be made prior to attending. Sport Caerphilly reserve the right to cancel these sessions at short notice due to adverse weather and changes to Welsh Government Covid-19 guidance.






# Community News / Events

**Blackwood Cricket Club**  
NP12 1DS



## COED DUON FRIENDS

**GWENT POLICE SURGERY**  
Come and enjoy meeting new and old friends...

Join us to make new friends and connect with old friends.

This month we have Caerphilly cares to chat. Come and chat to the community officers get advice and get to know what is happening in the area.

**Saturday 11th February 1-3pm**

Come and join us  
If you would like more information contact  
Emma 07988812195



**Friends, Chat, Wellbeing, Relax, Breathe**



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Every Tuesday **Community Welcome Warm Hub**

**3-5pm**

*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 NP121DS

More information call Emma 07988812195

Made with PosterMyWall.com



# Crochet CLASS



Come along to Blackwood Cricket Club every Monday evening. Come and learn to crochet or just bring your project to meet new friends. £3 includes a hot drink

**Beginners and Advanced Welcome! Also knitters**



**Monday 23rd Jan 7-9pm**

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AMGUEDDFA CYMRU museum.wales

## AMGUEDDFA DROS NOS

### DEFFRO GYDA'R DEINOS!

**GARTREF**

**MUSEUM SLEEPOVER DINO NIGHTS! AT HOME**

**11.02.2023**



AMGUEDDFA GENEIDLAETHOL CAERDYDD - NATIONAL MUSEUM GARDIFF

Cefnogwyd gan Supported by



Noddi gan Lywodraeth Cymru Sponsored by Welsh Government





# Reception / Derbyn

Welcome back to school in 2023. We have already made our New Year's resolutions to help us become better and to help others. It's been a busy start doing science investigations and drawing our second draft of our self portraits using the Austin's butterfly approach to improve them.

We have been making crackers and costing the price using the five and ten frames to help us, using real money! We have done lots of work learning about tally charts, pictograms and block graphs as a way to collect and record information. We are learning about the Chinese

New Year and Mrs Brace has brought in lots of Chinese artefacts to look at and foods to taste. It is the year of the Rabbit. We look forward to exploring new ideas and learning lots of new things in our topic 'Changes' this term.



## 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.
- Follow us on Twitter: @ReceptionBPS
- 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

A huge welcome back to our Year One families and we hope you all had a lovely break. We have enjoyed learning all about Chinese New Year and learning all about Chinese traditions and food. We have been drawing self portraits and looking closely at our features using mirrors. We have been busy in our cooking areas and have been making pasta salad using our maths skills to measure and to find fractions. We have been busy making tally charts in our investigation area and finding out who has wobbly teeth and who has lost teeth. We have been developing our outdoors and have been busy building dens to keep animals safe in Antarctica. As part of our literacy journey we have been writing postcards and letters and in maths we have been doubling and halving. We have investigated food chains. We are so creative and have loved making models of cold climate animals out of clay and have been saying what we like about each one.



## 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.
  - Follow us on Twitter: @YearOneBPS

## Year 2 / Blwyddyn 2

Welcome back everyone, we have loved being back in Year 2! As always, we have been extremely busy. We have been writing lots of creative stories, weighing and measuring different classroom objects and have been extremely adventurous in our new den building area.

We are looking forward to our new challenges in our learning environments - we can't wait to use our new weighing skills in the cooking area!

Class 5 have enjoyed the cricket taster sessions with James and class 6 are looking forward to these sessions next week.



### 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

Welcome back! We've already had a busy start to our term and are enjoying being back together. The children in Year 3 loved our immersion day to kickstart our new theme, 'Changes'. We all dressed in green to show our commitment to making changes for our world.

In literacy, we have been writing newspaper reports linked to the text, Duffy's Lucky Escape. The text has captured the children's interests about the changes we need to make to look after our oceans and sea life.

In numeracy we have been exploring multiplication, 2D and 3D shape and have applied these skills in our construction area.

In theme lessons, we have explored the concept of 'food miles', dissolving and have created artwork using recycled materials.

Half of the year group have thoroughly enjoyed their cricket sessions and the other half of the year group are looking forward to their sessions in the coming weeks.



## 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, Year 4 has certainly been busy since coming back after the Christmas break. The new year started off with reflections on last year and we linked our new year promises to our right of the month 'To be the best we can be.' We've certainly made an excellent start!

Our new theme 'Changes' began with considering the inquiry question of 'How does change affect me?' in terms of people, the weather, moods and feelings and the seasons.

We investigated the colour black and discovered how it is made up of lots of other colours. We've been exploring our creative skills with oil paintings of Welsh artist Kyffin Williams and have used his style to recreate his work. Year 4 has located different countries around the world and compared the climates.

We had so much fun creating music and have learned how to compose and perform ostinato using body percussion. We have been creating fact files about China and writing reports about how Chinese New Year is celebrated.

In maths, we have been developing our understanding of time, fractions, 3D shapes and their properties and even made marvellous maths magical, by constructing 3D shapes from 2D shapes! In literacy, we completed our adventure narrative and wrote our own stories and have just written our own persuasive leaflets.

Our teamwork, communication and collaboration skills have been put to the test in our Commando Joe missions and Class 9 have enjoyed weekly cricket sessions with James. Class 10 will begin cricket sessions this week. In our Forest School sessions, we have been learning about British birds and have taken part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch.

We will be continuing to develop our outdoor area, so if anyone has any tools, equipment, plants, old wellies, etc that they are willing to donate, we would gladly take them off your hands. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to catching up with you next month.



## 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 is still colder and wet, 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

A huge welcome back and a Happy New year! As part of our new 'Changes' theme we have been analysing Census data about Blackwood from the 1900's and comparing it to current day. Of particular interest has been the change in people's occupations. Using our digital skills we created graphs and pie charts to show the percentage changes over the last 100 years. Then using our inference and deduction skills we worked out why certain occupations had increased or decreased. Using Blackwood as a stimulus we have started using our digital skills with Jamboard to plan descriptions of how Blackwood town would have looked and felt in the 1900's.

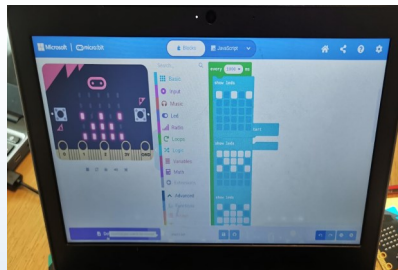
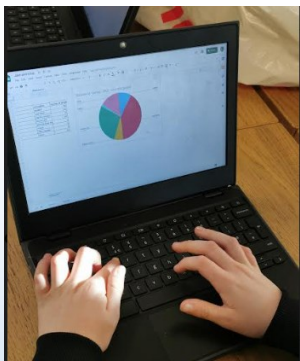


In Literacy we thoroughly enjoyed exploring Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo. What a fantastic stimulus to use to write an adventure story! So far we have used the text to write a re-count, a description and understand character emotions. In Maths we have been working out percentage savings on different January deals and solving and creating word problems to reinforce our understanding.

As usual we have been busy with our independent learning. We have been late to the party planting our daffodil bulbs, but we look forward to seeing them grow as spring and the lighter nights are around the corner.

We have removed the last of our carrots from our planters and have been cooking honey roasted parsnips and carrots. We have been improving our coding skills by writing our own algorithms to create an animation using the BBC Micro Bits.

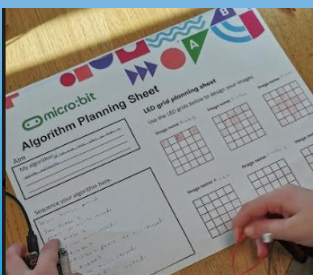
Class 11 have been having a great time over the last 3 weeks, working with Cricket Wales to introduce the children to Cricket. Hopefully they have introduced some future stars to the sport. As always we thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to updating you soon with our plans for February.



### 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 AND FOREST SCHOOL IS NOW EVERY FRIDAY.  
Please can pupils come into school dressed in appropriate PE kit (tracksuit / t-shirt / shorts / joggers / leggings / daps or trainers)

- 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

A huge welcome back and a Happy New Year from Blwyddyn 6! Our theme this term is 'Changes.' We have looked at Census data from 1901, 2011 and 2021, making comparisons between the population, jobs and religion in Blackwood.

We then created bar and pie charts, analysed the results and made predictions about 2031 - what will happen to Blackwood in the future? We also drew and painted Blackwood 100 years ago using watercolours and wrote vivid descriptions of Blackwood High Street.

In English we are absolutely loving our text 'Hugo Cabret.' We have written descriptions about the train station from the perspective of the clock and we can't wait to find out what happens to Hugo.

Some of us have been having a great time over the last 3 weeks, working with Cricket Wales and we will all have the opportunity to enjoy this initiative over the next few weeks.

We also continue to welcome Tygan from Dragons Rugby on Fridays.

We are continuing to develop a multitude of skills through accessing our independent learning areas. In the creative area we have developed our colour-mixing skills to create seasonal pictures, in the humanities area we are currently researching the amazing true story of Artie Moore who heard the Titanic distress call, and in the cooking area we are planning meals within a given budget.

As always we thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to updating you soon with our plans for February.



## 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