



**"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!***

MARCH



INSET DAYS

Friday 16th June 2023

Monday 19th June 2023

BANK HOLIDAYS

May Day - Monday 1st May 2023

King Charles III Coronation - Monday 8th May 2023

School Term dates for 2022/2023

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-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: 85.61%

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.

F@B Group

Friends at Blackwood Primary (F@B) group would like to thank you for all your support, during this academic year so far. Since the children returned in September, we have held various events. We have held discos during the school day, which the children thoroughly enjoy. There are some very good dancers at Blackwood Primary.

The return of Supper with Santa was such a wonderful event held back in December. It was fabulous to be able to hold the event in school again after the disruptions of covid. The event was well-supported. Seeing all the children's smiling faces when they met Santa was delightful. It got everyone in the Christmas spirit, and we look forward to running the event again later this year.

Our most recent event was the Inspirational Ladies coffee morning. We had over 100 ladies attending across the two sessions, and it was brilliant to see the children taking part in craft activities and spending some time with the ladies in their lives. We will be holding a similar event in the coming months for the Inspirational Men in the children's lives. Hopefully the weather will be kind and we can have the event outside with a sporting theme!

With the money raised so far this year, we have contributed to buying outdoor equipment for the children to use when developing their outdoor areas. At Christmas, we purchased a book for each child as a gift and some of the prizes for the sports raffle came from money donated by F@B group. We have also provided each class with an Easter egg hunt kit, so they can have an egg hunt before the Easter break.

Thanks again for all your support and we look forward to raising more funds to benefit the children.

We are always on the look out for new members – if you are interested in helping at any events, please contact the office.

Future Events:

May Disco – Friday 26th May 2023

Inspirational Men's event – DATE IN JUNE TO BE CONFIRMED



Half Term Fun!

Caerphilly One Beat Family Mega Day!

Advice and support
from lots of
organisations!

Free demonstrations
- dance, martial arts,
music and more!

Hot food and
refreshments
from local vendors

Marketplace for local
groups and artisan items

Free children +
family activities!

Crafts, storytelling,
colouring, etc!



Plus some friends
will be visiting!



Friday 14th April 10am - 3pm
Blackwood Rugby Club



Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Gwent



Half Term Fun!

JUNIOR ADVENTURE DAYS

..... with Caerphilly Adventures @ Cwmcarn



**AGE
7-12**

**£27.50
a day**



**Bush Craft, Adventure Walk,
Canoeing, Stand Up Paddle Boarding**

Monday 3rd - Thursday 6th April 2023 (9.30am - 3.30pm)

Tuesday 11th - Friday 14th April 2023 (9.30am - 3.30pm)

Cwmcarn Forest



**Booking essential via the Leisure Lifestyle App.
For further information please call 01495 271234
or email caerphillyadventures@caerphilly.gov.uk**



Caerphilly Adventures



@Caer_Adventure



Community News / Events



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING EASTER HALF TERM 2023

COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL



ASDA CAFE

Kids eat for £1 all day, every day with no adult spend until the end of Easter 2023

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays & up to 2 Kids get free breakfast with 1 adult breakfast

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

THE REAL GREEK

Kids eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

PREMIER INN & TRAVELODGE

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

MORRISONS

Spend £4.49 & get one free kids meal all day, every day.

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

BILLS

2 kids eat FREE all day, every day from Monday 3rd until Friday 14th April 2023

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.

YO! SUSHI

Kids eat free all day at YO! Sushi with any adult £10 spend from April 3rd 2023

SA BRAINS PUBS

Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Valid All Day Wednesdays

FUTURE INNS

Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal. During the school holidays

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

TO BE CONFIRMED...

M&S, Tesco and Farmhouse Inns

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

Nursery / Meithrin

Wow what a busy Spring term we have had! We started off with St David's Day where we followed instructions to make Welsh cakes, we also learnt a new song which we enjoyed singing called "Heno, Heno". We have looked at lots of stories this term such as "The 3 Little Pigs," "When will it be Spring?" and "Hush Little Chick". We have enjoyed retelling the stories using masks, puppets and props. We have also been super clever and drawn our own pictures for our story maps.

We were very lucky to have a special visit from Amy who came to teach us some sign language during British sign language week. We learnt lots of signs for animals, colours and different greetings.

We love being creative in Nursery and we have been painting and drawing spring flowers looking carefully at the parts of the flower. We have also been busy in our cooking area and made flower pattern biscuits and Easter nests which looked super yummy!

After lots of discussions about new life and chicks being born our block area has been very busy this term with lots of amazing nest building. We have had some fabulous designs and were blown away with the creations we saw.

We really enjoyed our Easter bonnet parade. The children looked absolutely fantastic.

Thankyou to everyone who made bonnets of all shapes and sizes.

We look forward to welcoming our new Rising three children after Easter!

Pasg Hapus to all our Nursery families!



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 ! Where did all the time go? It is nearly the end of term and we have been so busy. Outdoors we have planted bulbs and spring flowers and have sown wildflower seeds ready for the summer. We have been working outdoors making artwork out of natural materials and making Soup in the outdoor kitchens as well as building dens.

Indoors we have been making playdough daffodils and chicks and drawing and painting lots of Easter pictures. We even designed and made our Mother's day cards. We love creative activities and we are currently in the process of making 'Something special for someone special' in our woodwork area. Lots of us made cakes and artwork and we won lots of certificates in the St David's day Eisteddfod.

We dressed up on World book day as our favourite characters as we love stories and we have been writing stories too. We also got to dress up in red on Red nose day as well whilst raising money for excellent causes.

We have been estimating and weighing objects from the Easter Bunny's sack and we have been using mirrors to explore symmetry.



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 every day-keep these at home.
- 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.
- Please practice zipping up coats and buttoning cardigans-we need to stay warm and dry! This is an important fine motor skill that we encourage in Reception class. Your challenge, if your shoes have laces, is to tie your own laces!
- Please follow us on Twitter @ReceptionBPS



Year 1 / Blwyddyn 1

What a busy and fantastic term we have had! We have worked incredibly hard and we have made everyone so proud of us. We have enjoyed learning all about Wales and Saint David, joining in with the Eisteddfod and learning new songs and stories about Wales.

We celebrated World book day by dressing up as our favourite characters and reading our favourite stories.

For Red Nose day, we learned all about people around the world who need help.

We have been busy learning all about the Easter story and have been enjoying painting our own Easter Eggs in the style of Andy Warholl, drawing chicks and making chick models using clay.

We used the Mighty Writer to sequence the Easter story and made our own story maps.

We also made crosses in the woodwork area.

A huge thank you to our fantastic PTA who arranged our Inspirational Women coffee morning. We had such a fantastic time. We are wishing all of our families a very happy and safe Easter.



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 can't believe the Spring term is nearly over! We are continuing to work hard and expand our skills that we have been taught. We enjoyed dressing up for St David's Day! We have learnt all about Wales and the many castles that we have! We read a story about Mary Jones. Did you know she saved her money for 6 years so she could buy a bible! and she walked 40 km with no shoes on to buy it!

We have made daffodils and love spoons out of clay and painted them.

We have started planting lots of seeds. Sunflowers, radishes and sweet peas. They have already started to grow. We have also planted potatoes. Hopefully we will have a good crop in June.

We celebrated World Book day, we enjoyed dressing up as our favourite characters. We had fun reading our books to our friends. We made book marks, did word searches and we had a quiz.

The FOB organised a special Mothers Day craft morning where we were invited to make something special with our Mums/Nans - thank You FOB.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Easter Holiday!



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 have had a wonderful half-term together and have continued to develop our skills, knowledge and experiences through the concept of 'Changes'. At the beginning of March, we celebrated our Welsh culture and heritage on St David's Day. We enjoyed the array of competition entries and the children loved showcasing their class poem and singing in the school Eisteddfod.

In literacy, we have been writing Haiku poems and informal letters. The students have learned about the different parts of a letter, how to address an envelope, and the importance of using appropriate language and tone. They have also had the opportunity to practise their letter writing skills by writing letters to their friends about their school trip to Blackwood library!

In numeracy, we have been experimenting with a range of methods to calculate addition and subtraction and have been applying these skills to solve challenging problems. We have also solved problems using fractions in practical and real life situations.

We have continued to develop our ICT skills and have collaborated with each other to create PowerPoints about ourselves. We have also loved using Hwb to research information on renewable energy.



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.
- snack can be brought into school to be eaten at morning break time.
- Please follow us on Twitter @YearThreeBPSHealthy

Year 4 / Blwyddyn 4

Just like that, we're at the end of March and almost another very busy term! March started off with a brilliant Eisteddfod to celebrate St David's Day. We loved the stories and poems that the children wrote and were so impressed with the 2D art and 3D models that were made. The cakes that were baked were delicious, bendigedig pawb! We celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as characters and doing lots of fun book related activities.

We enjoyed learning to use sign language to help raise awareness of British Sign Language week. Red Nose Day was another successful day with us raising money for a much-needed cause. Thank you to everyone for your very kind donations! This coincided with our Mother's Day event to help celebrate all the wonderful ladies in our lives: Inspirational Ladies Day! We hope you enjoyed spending time with your children. Thank you to our lovely PTA ladies for such a fabulous morning! You worked really hard and we hope you were spoiled on your special day!

Snow day? What snow day? We had a day away from school due to the snow, but that didn't stop us learning from home! We enjoyed doing our snow-related tasks that were set on our home learning hub in Google Classroom.

Our Cardiff City Sleepover was a huge success (after we had to postpone because of the snow.) All the children had fun, whether they went on the trip or came to school.

We have been planting seeds ready for our allotment planters and are looking forward to more gardening projects through the Spring.

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We have been planting seeds ready for our allotment planters and are looking forward to more gardening projects through the Spring.



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

Well that was a short but busy half-term, time flies when you're having fun! Well that was a short but busy half-term. We were blown away by how creative our children were for St David's Day, from amazing Welsh Cakes and cakes to awesome 2d and 3d art! Fantastic work!

In literacy we have been writing persuasive letters based around Lottie's diary. We have been discussing the importance of the UN Convention on Rights of the Child and the differences to life for children in Victorian times. From our research and use of facts of what life was like for children that were forced to work, we wrote a persuasive letter to a Victorian Mine owner. Giving him no option but to close with immediate effect!

In Maths we carried out an investigation, using previous skills, to see if there was a correlation between height, head circumference and hand span. We took a sample of data between Years 3 to 6, using careful measuring skills to two decimal places. We then used mean, median, mode and range to analyse our data for trends. We found out as children got older children became taller and their hand span became bigger. We didn't find any correlation between hand span as there wasn't a significant difference between measurements.

As part of World Book Day we dressed up as our favourite characters from a variety of books. We built on our Digital Skills creating multimedia book reviews using Adobe Express. We had a fantastic day and enjoyed a range of activities from designing alternative book covers of our favourite books to writing 500 word short stories.

We hope that our Year 5 Mothers enjoyed their Bouquet of flowers. We worked hard to create roses made from tissue paper and wooden barbecue sticks, enjoying the creative process as much as giving our loved ones a gift.

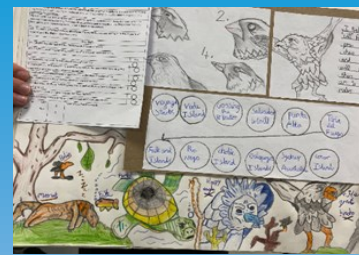
As always thank you to all parents/carers for your continued support.

Helpful Information

- Healthy snack can be brought into school to be eaten at morning break time or purchased from school for 20p a day.
- 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



Another busy term in Year 6! It all started with Dydd Gwyl Dewi where we performed a poem called 'Clicyti Clac' as part of our Eisteddfod.

We have really enjoyed our Space topic, researching each planet and making comparisons between them. We used pastels to create some beautiful space pictures and wrote imaginative descriptions of our favourite planet. We also listened to Holst's 'Planet Suite' and created dances in groups. In English we have been using the film 'Ruin' to develop a science fiction story. In maths we have tackled long division and timetables.

As part of our Humanities topic we have been fascinated to find out about Charles Darwin and his travels around the world. We found out that he discovered and wrote about lots of different animals on his travels and we plotted his journeys using maps and co-ordinates. Some of us made a hedgehog hotel out of wood as part of our woodwork project and we are hoping to purchase a night vision camera to see if any prickly friends check in for the night!

We were delighted to be invited to Blackwood Comprehensive to watch the P.E display and we couldn't believe the skills involved in the gymnastics and dance performances. Lots of us can't wait for you to see us perform next year!

We learnt how to quill by rolling paper to create effective Easter cards. We are working hard to improve our handwriting and are practising every day!

We are really looking forward to the Summer Term and lots of transition events.

We wish you all a happy Easter and thank you 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)
- 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

