



"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."

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

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

Croeso i Newyddlen Hydref Ysgol Gynradd

Coed Duon!



INSET DAYS

Friday 2nd December 2022

Friday June 16th 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Children in need: Friday 18th November 2022—Wear your PJ's, and toy/cake sale.

Anti-bullying week (w/c 14th November) -

Children are invited to wear odd socks on Monday 14th November 2022.

Elf Day (come to school dressed as an elf): Thursday 1st December 2022.

Supper with Santa—7th December 2022.

School Term dates for 2022/2023

Autumn Term 2022

- *Half term starts Monday 31st October 2022*
- *Back to school Monday 7th November 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*



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: 88.36%

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.

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.

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.

Twitter



Don't forget to follow the school on Twitter, each class has their own Twitter page!

We have recently launched a new Family Liaison Twitter page (@flobps)

which is designed to keep families informed of services/support and events that are available within the local community.

Community Information

Eat Out For Less This October Half Term

Children can eat for just £1 at Asda Cafés

Kids Eat For Free All day, every day with any purchase at The Café when you use your Clubcard.

Only one free meal from the kids menu with any one adult meal with a value of £4.99 or over.

Pick up a FREE main, snack + drink from our Kids' Munch Menu when you spend £5 in the Café.

Kids Pasta with Tomato Sauce and a soft drink for 95p or any other Kids Meal for £1.50. Available every day from 11am at IKEA.

Kids three courses & a drink for £1 from 4-6pm Monday - Thursday With purchase of every adult main meal.

One Free Kids Menu With Every £4 Spent. Monday To Friday After 3pm.

For every adult Sizzling meal, you'll also get a kid's main meal for £1. Monday-Friday 3pm-7pm

We recommend downloading Harvester & Toby Carvery Apps both have offers and regularly include kids Eat For £1 Offers!

CAERPHILLY	RISCA	NEWBRIDGE	BEDWAS	HEOLDDU	CEFN FFOREST
<p>Free Under 16 Swim Session Mon, Tues & Thurs 2pm-4pm Wed 2:30-4pm Fri 2pm-6pm</p> <p>Free Over 60s Swim Session Thurs 12pm-1pm Sat 12pm-2pm Sun 9am-11am & 3:15-8pm</p> <p>Free Pool Inflatable Wed 1:15-2:15pm</p> <p>Free Swimming Lessons Mon-Fri 9am-11am</p>	<p>The swimming pool is currently closed until further notice.</p>	<p>Free Under 16 Swim Session Mon-Fri 12pm-3pm</p> <p>Free Over 60s Swim Session Mon-Fri 3pm-4pm</p> <p>Free Over 60s Swim Session Mon, Wed & Fri 3pm-3:45pm</p> <p>Pool Inflatable £1 Tues & Thurs 2pm-3pm</p> <p>Fun Floats Mon & Wed 2pm-3pm</p>	<p>Free Under 16 Swim Session Mon-Fri 11am-12pm</p> <p>Free Over 60s Swim Session Mon, Wed & Fri 3pm-3:45pm</p> <p>Pool Inflatable £1 Tues & Thurs 2pm-3pm</p> <p>Fun Floats Mon & Wed 2pm-3pm</p>	<p>Free Under 16 Swim Session Mon-Fri 1pm-1:55pm</p> <p>Free Swimming Lessons Mon-Fri 9am-11am</p> <p>Free Over 60s Swim Session Mon-Fri 11am-11:55am</p>	<p>Free Under 16 Swim Session Mon-Fri 11am-12pm</p> <p>Free Swimming Lessons Mon-Fri 9am-9:30am 9:30am-10am</p> <p>Free Over 60s Swim Session Saturday 12:30-2pm</p>

OCTOBER HALF TERM SWIMMING
Monday 31st October - Friday 4th November 2022

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

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

AGE 7-12

NETBALL CAMP

£10.60

9.00am - 3.00pm

1st November St Cenydd Leisure Centre

2nd November Newbridge Leisure Centre

3rd November 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 Laura Thomas: 01443 863072 willil17@caerphilly.gov.uk

sportcaerphilly
 @sport_leisure

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

Nursery / Meithrin

The end of the term is here and what a busy Autumn Term we have had in Nursery. We have Seized the Season and been learning as much as we can about Autumn and all that it has to offer. We have collected apples on our Autumn walk and made a delicious apple crumble. We have been learning how apples grow from a seed and planting our own. Pumpkins have been investigated. We have used lots of math language to describe size and weight, cut them open to see what's inside using all our senses including taste when we tried the delicious Pumpkin soup we made. Our final week sees us celebrating the Autumn Harvest Festival. We have been learning songs to share with our families and baking Harvest loaves. All children have settled really well into the routines of Nursery and we can not wait to welcome them back after half term and prepare for the lead up to Christmas.

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 wet weather gear and has a pair of labelled wellies to be left in school.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support.



Reception / Derbyn

Wow! We cannot believe it is half term already! We have been busy in Reception. Over the last half term we have been developing our mathematical skills by looking at 2D and 3D shapes.

We have started to use our knowledge of shapes in our block area where we have been talking about what shapes we are using to build our models.

We have been looking at various different books including 'Handa's Surprise' which ties into our journey of 'Cynefin' looking at the importance of Black History Month. We can order and retell Handa's Surprise and have created a picture of Handa using 2D shapes.

Also, we have looked at the book 'Pumpkin Soup' which led Reception to make their own pumpkin soup.

We had to chop and peel our pumpkin and count how many pieces were going into our soup. We used our measuring skills to measure out the liquid that we needed for our soup. After this, we were able to taste our soup at our pumpkin party. We had lots and lots of fun!

To end our half term, we all enjoyed dancing and singing at our autumn disco!

Thank you to all for your continued support and we wish you all a safe half term and cannot wait to welcome you back to Reception!

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 at the end of the school day please ask a member of staff.



Year 1 / Blwyddyn Un

Wow! What a busy half term we have had. We have really enjoyed our journey 'Cynefin' and have loved investigating different houses and talking about our families and where we live.

We have explored habitats of Hedgehogs and Squirrels and have produced some fantastic pieces of art using watercolours, pastels and paints. We have been practising our sounds every day and have developed lots of new literacy skills which have helped us write stories and non chronological reports. Our garden area will be beautiful in the spring and summer as we have been busy planting bulbs and seeds in our planters outside the windows.

We have been so busy learning new independent skills and have been weighing and measuring food to eat in our cooking area. We are fantastic at using weighing scales and measuring jugs!

We thank you for all of your continued support this half term and wish you all a lovely and relaxing break.

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 Dau

We cannot believe it's half term already, we've all been working extremely hard and have learnt so many new skills!

Our snack money helps provide us with fresh fruit, we have access to our snacks throughout the day. It's wonderful spending time with our friends whilst enjoying a range of delicious fruit.

It's been fun using our woodwork area and tools, we're busy designing and making some interesting items, parents will find out more about this closer to Christmas.

The Mighty Writer display helps us develop new literacy skills, we've been learning about using different sentence openers and interesting adjectives. We've learnt how to use bullet-points when recording facts we've researched.

Maths Box sessions help us learn new mathematical skills. We've been looking at place value, money, number patterns, 2D and 3D shapes. At home you could help us by practising the 2x, 5x and 10x tables, this will help us when we're completing challenges in school.

We've discussed who we consider to be in our circle of trust, how different people help us and created family trees.

We enjoyed a wonderful Harvest assembly. We sang songs, listened to poetry and listened to our special guests.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful half term, we cannot wait to welcome our Year 2 family back after the half term when we'll be preparing for the lead up to Christmas and learning lots of 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 / Blwyddyn Tri

We've had the most wonderful half-term together in year 3. We are so proud of how well our pupils have

settled into their new environments and routines.

In literacy, we have written a story-retell of *Stellaluna*, written instructions linked to 'The Tin Forest' and a firework acrostic poem.

In maths, we have been developing our sense of number and place value by adding, subtracting and solving number problems.

This half term we have explored our sense of belonging through the theme, *Cynefin*.

We have been learning about how Blackwood has physically changed over time and celebrated why our locality is special to us as individuals. We've loved painting our landscape, in the style of Kyffin Williams, and experimenting with how to use water colour paints.

This month we have also discussed and recognised the importance of the value respect and have looked at the life of Rosa Parks.

In our cooking area we have been developing our measuring skills by making delicious banana pancakes, and in our

investigation area have been using our measuring skills to investigate the question, 'Does the tallest pupil in the class have the biggest feet?'.

In our outdoor area we have been planting daffodil bulbs and building structures familiar to us in Blackwood.

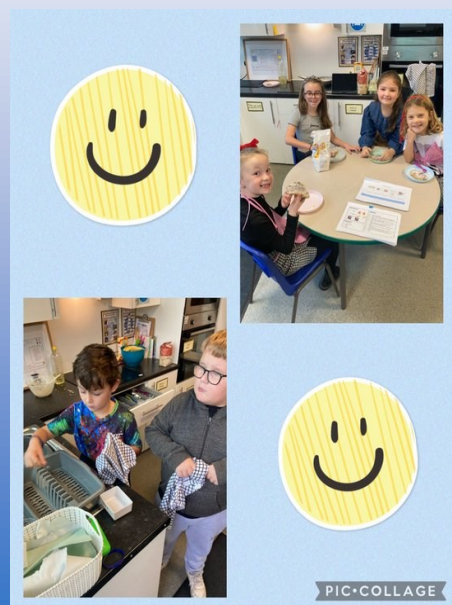
We hope that next term we will continue to develop our outdoor area and gardening skills!

A huge thank you for to all our parents and guardians for their ongoing support and to those who attended our 'Meet the Team' event earlier in the term. We look forward to welcoming you into the classroom again soon.

Diolch!

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



Year 4 / Blwyddyn Pedwar

Wow! That's the first half term done! Our Cynefin theme started with creating our learning environments and has continued with finding out more about us and where we belong. We have been plotting familiar places on maps and have collected data about the extra curricular clubs we belong to using Google spreadsheets to present our findings in graphs. Our English journeys have included a narrative based on the story of Gelert, instructions of how to catch a dragon and Haiku poetry. The maths skills we developed through concepts such as place value, times tables, adding, subtracting, doubling and halving and problem solving. We continue to use our areas of learning and experience to develop literacy and numeracy skills independently. In the kitchen, our reading and numeracy skills are put to the test when we have been following recipes and measuring ingredients to make beans on toast, porridge and banana pudding. As October is Black History month, we have been finding out about and creating presentations on famous people. To finish off a busy half term, we enjoyed a lovely Harvest assembly where we sang songs and presented a poem to the rest of the school and special guests. The next half term promises to be just as busy. We are looking to improve our outdoor area and are planning to plant seeds, bulbs as well as vegetables that can be grown and used in our kitchens. If anyone has any spare gardening equipment, seeds or bulbs they would like to donate, we would be very grateful.

We wish you a restful half term break and thank you for your continued support.

Helpful information

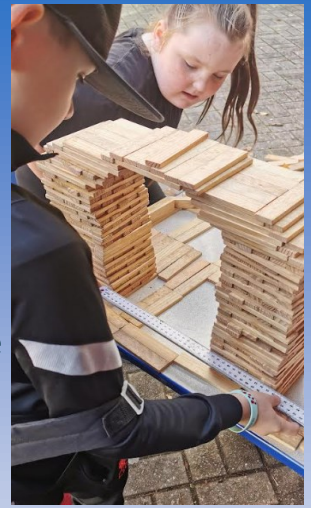
- PE day is every Thursday. Please can pupils come into school dressed in appropriate PE kit (tracksuit / t-shirt / shorts / joggers / leggings / daps or trainers).
- As the weather becomes colder and wetter, please can you ensure that your child brings a coat to school every day.
- Polite reminder that 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.
 - **Follow us on Twitter; @YearfourBPS**





Year 5 / Blwyddyn Pump

We can't believe it is half term already, time flies when you are enjoying learning! We are so very proud of each and everyone of our children that have settled so well back into school routines with their friends after the challenges we have faced together. At the beginning of the term we made a video to share our learning environment with you all, hope you enjoyed it! Practising and developing a positive growth mindset has been a focus for us. We love being in the learning pit as we help each grow academically, emotionally and socially.



In English we have written the ending to a Mystery story and are currently creating an Information Leaflet "Visit Blackwood". We are looking forward to applying our skills across the curriculum, writing a Mystery story about the Chartist Cave and creating an information leaflet about Keeping Safe online. We are always developing our digital competence skills, looking at sources of information, editing multimedia components and more recently creating databases. We are developing our number skills in Math and developing our Databases in digital competence, ready to apply them to running our own cafe in collaboration with Year 6. We will shortly be looking to gather



information for our menu using Google forms, analyse our database to see what people will buy, then run a profitable business on a budget.

We have really enjoyed our Commando Joe Missions. Using our collaboration skills effectively as a team means we are successful in our challenges. Through honest reflection we are continually improving. As always, thanks to all parents/guardians for your continued support. Make sure you follow us on Twitter **@YearFiveBPS** if you haven't already. Diolch



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 Reader.



Year 6 / Blwyddyn Chwech

Well, what a busy half term we have had in Year 6! Your children have settled really well into their routines and are enjoying the blend of focussed, independent and facilitated lessons. In English we have used 'Rose Blanche' as a stimulus for writing a historical story ending and a persuasive letter to Chartist member William Ferriday. In Maths we have looked at real-life problems such as budgeting for a trip to the Football World Cup and calculating the cost of fireworks, comparing different shops.

In our creative area we made portraits of ourselves and Queen Elizabeth II as well as creating landscapes using charcoal and pastels. We have used pulse oximeters to measure our heart rate before and after exercise when using our Outdoor Gym. Our Inspire Radio Crew have begun recording radio shows on Fridays, with birthday shout outs, weather and local news.

We have welcomed visits from Dragons Rugby, P.C George and Bike Wales.

We now need to further develop our outdoor areas including our planters and allotment.

If you have any seeds or bulbs that you could spare we would love to have them for the children to plant and then hopefully use next year in our creative and cooking areas.

As always, thanks to all parents/guardians for your continued support.

Make sure you follow us on Twitter @YearSixBPS if you haven't already. Diolch



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.

