

Blackwood Primary School

End of Term Newsletter

October 2024

"United we Empower, Nurture, Challenge"



General reminders....

Please make sure that if you change home address/phone number or email address, you update school as soon as possible.

If your child is going to be absent from school any day please contact the school either by telephone - 01495 224111 and leave a voicemail by 9:00 am on day of absence or use the absences section our Parentmail app and provide a reason.

Please park considerately around the neighbouring properties to the school. According to the highway code it is an offence to park across driveways, dropped kerbs or double yellow lines.

Please ensure that children arriving for breakfast club or the start of the school day are accompanied by a responsible adult, who will wait with them until a member of staff opens the gate.

Please be reminded that children should only be collected by someone over the age of 16.

Please leave the school site as soon as you have collected your child. Children should not be climbing trees, playing on the gym equipment or on the grass verge surrounding the staff car park.

PE DAYS:

Reception	Thursday
Year 1	Wednesday
Year 2	Monday
Year 3/4	Thursday/ Friday
Year 5	Monday/ Tuesday
Year 6	Monday/ Tuesday

SCHOOL TERM DATES

TERM ENDS FRIDAY 20 DECEMBER 2024

SPRING TERM 2025

- Term starts Monday 6 January 2025
- Half term starts Monday 24 February 2025
- Half term ends Friday 28 February 2025

Term ends Friday 11th April 2025

SUMMER TERM 2025

- Term starts Monday 28 April 2025
- Half term starts Monday 26 May 2025
- Half term ends Friday 30 May 2025

Last day of term 23rd July 2025

INSET DAYS

Friday 2nd May 2025

Friday 20th June 2025

Monday 23rd June 2025

Monday 23rd July 2025

Attendance

Our whole school attendance is currently 91%

We need your support to meet our target of **95%.**

We can only do this with your support, so please make every effort to ensure that your children are in school every day.

Attendance awards have started again from September 2024, where all prizes must be collected within the academic year.

As usual pupils will be reminded during the final week of term to collect their chosen prize.

A message from the Headteacher Mrs Davies...

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the academic year, I cannot quite believe that we have completed half of the Autumn term already. The weeks are most definitely racing by with lots of busy learning occurring all around the school. As I walk around, I am grateful to have witnessed those 'wow' moments in both our indoor and outdoor classrooms. It has been a very busy and fun-packed half-term, and I would like to thank you all for your continued positivity. I have been honoured to see Nursery and Reception children flourishing in their new environments, settling happily into the routines of school life and enjoying their learning. I am proud of how all pupils within the Blackwood Primary family have given their all right to the end of term, demonstrating excellent attitudes to learning whilst negotiating the expectations of a new academic year group. Da iawn!

I also loved seeing so many children wearing red last Friday to show their support for anti-racism. Across the school we have been learning what anti-racism means and how we can use our voices for change. Last week Reverend Heulwen Rees led an assembly talking to us all about the festival of Harvest. This is a time when people give thanks for the food and the things we have. She talked to us about food, how it is grown, and how we can make sure to not waste food, thank you Reverend Rees for such an interesting assembly. I would also personally like to thank everyone for your overwhelming generosity in donating to Blackwood and District Foodbank through our Harvest collection. It was an honour to be able to present the collection to Jeremy Steele, Blackwood and District Foodbank Manager, who joined us for our Harvest Festival assembly. Thank you all so much.

What a way to finish the half-term with this week's fun Autumn Discos organised by the wonderful Friends@Blackwood, please join me in thanking F@B for their hard work. Please do make sure you follow our Seesaw, X (Twitter) and can access ParentMail, where we share regular updates and will soon be letting you know more about our exciting events in the build up to my favourite time in the school calendar.....our Christmas activities!

I do hope during the coming week you are able to take some time to rest and recharge, ready for another busy half term. Have a super half term break and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 4th November.

Kindest regards,

Mrs Davies
Headteacher
Blackwood Primary School

NURSERY

MEITHRIN

What a great start to the academic year Nursery has had. Everyone has settled into nursery participating in the life of the setting. This term our big question has been 'What does Autumn mean?'

We have explored how the season changes and all it has to offer. We began with an Autumn walk around the school, taking in the sights and sounds, looking for changes. We have collected lots of Autumn treasures, pinecones, conkers, and leaves and used them to make patterns, count and decorate block area creations. We have learned about the wonderful foods available that make Autumn special and found new skills in the cooking area. We have learned how to chop, roll and decorate, when creating, Pizza faces, Sunflower seed cookies, apple pies, and Autumn leaf biscuits. We celebrated the Harvest by gathering all of our vegetables that have grown in our nursery garden, sweetcorn, carrots, onions and beetroot and made an Autumn Harvest soup which we ate with our Harvest loaf it was delicious. We had grown so many carrots we also made a carrot cake. We explored pumpkins noticing its shape, colour and size. We have created observational drawings and paintings. We all discovered what makes a pumpkin grow and have collected pumpkin seeds ready to plant in our nursery garden. We have been talking about hedgehogs and squirrels and what they do through the autumn to prepare for winter. We have loved creating hedgehog bread and playdough hedgehogs rolling and pinching the dough, this will help strengthen our finger muscles ready for writing.

A big thank you to all of our Nursery families for joining in with our first family engagement session. We have loved hearing your wishes for the school year which are now hung on our wishing tree.

We would like to wish you all a lovely half term break and look forward to welcoming you back for what will be a fun filled new term.



Follow us on X : @NurseryBPS

RECEPTION

DERBYN

Our Reception pupils have settled in beautifully! We shared what we do with family and friends by creating an iMovie showing all of our independent learning areas. We have learned to 'Try, try, try 'til we can, can, can!' and 'We never give up!' Our learning characters, and Enfys our dragon, help us to be healthy, confident and creative learners who persevere and put effort into all challenges!

We love our indoor and outdoor environments; lots of children have learned to ride a two wheeler bike already! We have weeded our garden and we've all planted bulbs that should grow in the Spring. We are super gardeners and enjoy keeping our garden beautiful!

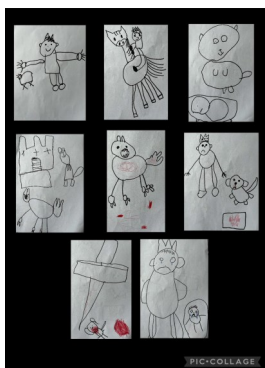
We have been spotting signs of Autumn. We collected plums and chopped them up to make delicious plum jam. Then we made yummy jam tarts in our kitchen-we are all experts at creating a jam tart!

We celebrated Harvest with our Blackwood friends and sang so well for the whole school! We have learned all about hedgehogs and we were so lucky to have visitors from @CaerphillyHog, the hedgehog hospital. Thank you for the donations of cat and dog food- this will help hedgehogs to get better and to have the food they need to make them strong so they can be released back into the wild.

We made hedgehog bread rolls-they tasted amazing!

Our theme is 'Marvellous Me' and we are discovering 'What makes me special?' We have created portraits and pictures of ourselves, our teachers and our friends. We celebrated similarities and differences. We can sequence and retell the story of 'Handa's Surprise'. We loved tasting all the exotic fruits she put into her basket. Miss Samuel is so proud of our Welsh skills-we can say what we like...Dw i'n hoffi ____! Our mark making skills are impressive. We are learning about special places in Blackwood and in Wales-we have a map of Wales-if you visit somewhere special, please share a photo on Seesaw or send in a postcard to add to our display. We are proud to live in Wales. We enjoyed the legend of Gelert, Prince Llewelyn's brave and faithful dog.

We learn letter sounds every day and practice using our sounds to blend/ read words. We are also learning to use Fred Fingers to spell. We can write our names and we are beginning to write sentences about ourselves.



Follow us on X : @ReceptionBPS

YEAR 1 BLYDDWYN UN

What a great start to Year One we have had! We have all settled in so well and we have worked so hard. We are using our learning environments confidently and independently. We have been looking at our local area and people who help us. We have been so lucky to have parents coming into school to help us look after our environment and helped us plant flowers, seeds and bulbs to grow.

We had the opportunity to learn all about hedgehogs when we had a visit from Caerphilly Hedgehog Rescue and learned all about how we look after hedgehogs and what we can do to keep them safe in our environment. They were extremely thankful for your kind donations and these will go a long way in helping the hedgehogs over the winter months.

We loved learning our harvest songs and learning why harvest is so important. We sang beautifully in our harvest assembly and listened really well to Blackwood Food Bank who told us how our donations would be used in our community.

Every Wednesday we have enjoyed forest school with Mr Grandin. Thank you for sending wellies in as it can get very muddy. We have been taking part in team building games and working together in our outdoor areas.

A gentle reminder that reading books are to be sent in every Monday. These will be returned at Wednesday. A big thank you to everyone who attended our spelling and reading workshop on Monday! We hope it was useful to best support your child on their early reading journey.

We have had such a busy half term and are looking forward to another busy few weeks in the run up to our festive season. Keep checking our X (Twitter) account for updates on our learning. Thank you again for your continued support! We look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 4th November for another busy half term in Year One!



Follow us on X : @YearOneBPS

YEAR 2

BLYDDWYN DAU

We have all settled into our new learning environment and are becoming more familiar to Year 2 routines every day. We've gained confidence when taking part in a range of learning experiences and are eager to learn new skills!

We started our Year 2 journey, Cynefin (Belonging) and have been looking at our local area, Blackwood. We developed maths skills by collecting data on the clubs we belong to and the types of houses we live in. We presented our findings in tally charts and bar charts. We used a map of Wales to locate Blackwood and have looked at the similarities and differences between our hometown and the capital of Wales, Cardiff. We used key buildings and landmarks as inspiration for sketches, sculptures, and charcoal art. We've looked at who's within our circle of trust, in school and at home and enjoyed using clay to sculpt our faces. October is recognised as Black History Month and we learned about and wrote reports on the inspirational Betty Campbell, who was Wales' first black headteacher. We discovered how determined she was and never gave up on her dream of becoming a teacher and campaigning for human rights. We listened to the story of 'The Good Samaritan' and used our literacy skills to write a story retell using different sentence openers. As part of numeracy lessons we've looked at the properties of 2D and 3D shapes, explored fact families, right angles, place value, addition and subtraction skills. Our literacy journeys have included writing stories, a set of instructions and poetry. We are working hard to learn our sounds and use the correct letter and number formation to present our work neatly.

Our Helpwr Heddiw system is up and running, and we're encouraging everyone to siarad Cymraeg. Ask us about our Cymraeg games; we love playing these prior to lunch, although it can get very competitive!

We've all enjoyed exploring the Year 2 authentic independent areas and are developing a range of numeracy and literacy skills across the curriculum. We use so many different skills, from writing reports to designing and building in the block areas. We collaborate to problem solve in the outdoor areas, where we are learning to share, cooperate and take turns to share our ideas and resources. In Year 2, we access our new Google accounts on the Chromebooks and have become quite independent with logging on and off and using Mathletics. We've also talked about internet safety and understand the importance of staying safe online.

Our wellbeing area is a calm and quiet place to visit; we even have our very own Worry Monsters! Every week we take part in Wellbeing Jigsaw sessions where we reflect on the importance of working as a team, building resilience, and sharing worries.

Each week we enjoy PE with Mr Grandin and Commando Joes with Miss Fisher and Mr Jones. As the sessions are physical, we appreciate your support with our uniform policy, including removing jewellery, and providing appropriate PE kits. We also have Forest School sessions each week, so please can we make sure we have a pair of wellies (or other appropriate footwear) in school so we can change our shoes for the sessions.

We have had such a busy half term and are looking forward to another busy few weeks in the run up to our festive season. Keep checking our X (Twitter) account for updates on our learning. Thank you again for your continued support!



Follow us on X : @YearTwoBPS

YEAR 3/4

BLYDDWYN TRI/PEDWAR

It's been a wonderful start to the school year and we have all settled really well into our new routines and learning environments. As we reach the midpoint of the term, we are excited to share some of the incredible learning experiences our students have been engaged in!

In our INSPIRE lessons, we have delved into the concept of sustainable tourism, exploring how we can protect our planet while enjoying its beauty. Alongside this, we've learned about the inspiring life of Betty Campbell, reflecting on her contributions and the impact she has had on our community.

In our maths and numeracy session, we have been developing our skills in place value and the four mathematical operations. This work is crucial in helping us tackle more complex problems with confidence.

Our literacy lessons have been buzzing with creativity! We have been writing clear and concise instructions, crafting beautiful haiku poems, and retelling the touching story of Gelert. It's been wonderful to be able to let our imaginations flourish through these diverse writing activities.

We have continued to make the most of our authentic learning areas to develop our independent skills by applying our numeracy and literacy skills across the curriculum. We have started to develop new independent skills in our sewing area and have enjoyed planning and creating our own products in our authentic learning time.

In our UpBeat lessons, we've also picked up the glockenspiel, learning to play melodies and rhythm patterns that enhance our musical skills. The joy of making music together has been a highlight for many. We have also been exploring the pBuzz with Mrs Morgan, learning new musical patterns in our groups.

We have been thoroughly enjoying our weekly PE sessions with Mr Grandin and greatly appreciate your support with the 3-weekly timetable and uniform policy, ensuring all children are provided with the correct PE kit each week. Just a gentle reminder to ensure all pupils are wearing appropriate jewellery (i.e. studs for earrings) for their safety.

As part of our Jigsaw journey, we have been focusing on the "Being in My World" piece, which encourages students to explore their feelings about school and their place in the world. We've discussed the importance of teamwork, empathy, and respect, fostering a supportive classroom environment. Additionally, students have reflected on their personal goals and aspirations, learning how to contribute positively to their community. Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this exciting journey of learning and discovery. We look forward to sharing more achievements as the year progresses!



Follow us on X :
[@YearFourBPS](#)



YEAR 5

BLYDDWYN PUMP

What an amazing Autumn term we have had in Blyddwyn 5 so far! 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.

In Blyddwyn 5, we have developed our understanding of Cynefin through our big question "Who are the heroes of our world? To begin we gathered all of our ideas digitally using Jamboard, where we decided we wanted to explore a Welsh Castle.

Before our trip to Cardiff Castle we looked at Welsh history and the stand out events, later focusing on Prince Llewelyn v Owain Glyndwr. We really kicked our theme off with a visit to Cardiff Castle where we explored the Castle and its grounds, took part in an awesome workshop where we looked at different types of weapons and chainmail, finally we took a guided tour looking at the history of the castle. What a fantastic day, that generated lots of ideas and questions to be used later in our learning.

Following our trip from Cardiff Castle we created a database, using Google Sheets, to gather information about British and European Castle, including country, date built and cost of entry for an adult. We used this information to calculate the average cost of entry to Castles in different countries and compared them to Wales. Using our numeracy skills across the curriculum we sorted castles according to their country and cost of entry using Carroll diagrams and compared Motte and Bailey v Stone using Venn diagrams.

In literacy we wrote some fantastic mystery stories based on the Mysteries of Harris Burdick.

Later we would use our Science focus or Forces to write explanation texts. In Math we have explored place value, multiplication, division, inverse, 2 and 3D shapes, measure and classification using Venn and Carroll diagrams.

Our INSPIRE lessons have included a range of authentic learning. Initially we explored the rights of the child, using a diamond 9 to rank which Rights are the most important to us and why. This led us on to creating our on class charter, using the things that are important to us and our teachers. With our first value of the month being cooperation, we created a digital poem using Google slides to show our understanding, using our editing skills to improve our presentation.

As part of Cynefin we looked at public figures that influence us such as Kings and Queens. We decided to develop our animation skills further by creating animations linked to Coronations. We used a storyboard to plan our digital work before creating firework shows using sequences, match sticks, stars and pompoms. We upload our finished work to Google Drive before creating QR codes to present our work. We have already completed a range of digital work and the question arose, What is a digital footprint? We learned about how all the data we generate on the internet is linked to us for life.

In awe and Wonder we have written reports about Betty Campbell and what a huge influential character she was. As part of Black history week we later learned about Mary Seacole, creating a digital biography. In construction we have designed and built a castle to certain specifications, using perseverance and collaboration.

As always thank you to all the parents, carers and guardians for the continued support. Enjoy a safe and restful half term, we look forward to the run into Christmas!



Follow us on X; @YearFiveBPS



YEAR 6

BLWYDDYN CHWECH

We have had a fantastic start in Blwyddyn 6 and can't believe it's our final year in Primary School! We all have roles around the school or within year 6 and are setting an excellent example to the younger pupils in terms of our behaviour and attitude to learning.

Our first Autumn theme was 'Cynefin' and our authentic question was 'What does it take to be a champion?' We discussed champions in our families and the wider world which led us to research the Olympics now and then. We learnt that a great deal has changed since the very first Olympics and we made comparisons using a venn diagram.

We were invited to take part in a virtual assembly with Welsh footballer Lili Jones who plays for Wrexham. We thought of questions to ask her and we had a shout-out in the assembly! Da iawn Blwyddyn 6!

In Science we have looked at how forces act upon a variety of objects including paper aeroplanes and wind turbines. We were able to apply our maths skills through these tasks to create tables and graphs. We created spreadsheets about a variety of Olympic games using a database and our DCF skills are really improving!

We looked at a range of Olympic mascots and then considered what a mascot could look like if the Olympics came to Cardiff. We thought about landmarks in Cardiff as well as famous Welsh people and emblems.

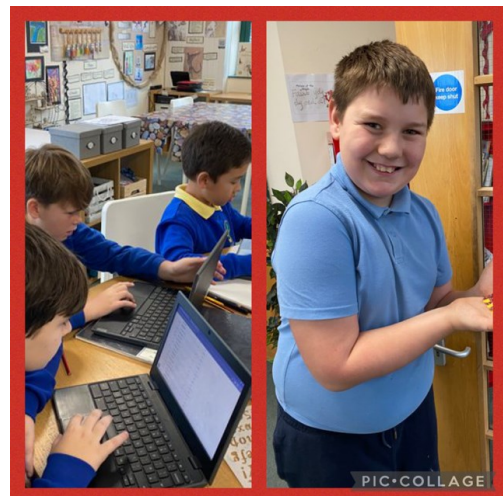
In our authentic areas we have cooked a range of protein-based meals for athletes, made clay wildlife badges, written non-chronological reports about famous Greek landmarks and learnt how to sketch the movement of athletes. We have also begun to make puppets and will take these to Nursery to teach some simple nursery rhymes!

In English this term we used the text 'Rose Blanche' to write diaries, persuasive letters and poems. We then transferred our skills across the curriculum to write diaries as Rosa Parks. Mrs Davies set some exciting Headteacher challenges this term including a Roald Dahl book review, Welsh wildlife sketches, Welsh Black History leaflets and a Jigsaw poster - keep listening out for the next challenges as we would encourage these to be completed at home when possible!

We have begun an authentic challenge in our woodwork area as we have unfortunately had a few hedgehog injuries on the school site. Therefore we are designing hedgehog hotels to keep our prickly friends safe over the Winter months.

We are looking forward to our next term when our theme will be 'Dathlu' or 'Celebrations.' Thank you for your continued support as we continue on our exciting journey of learning. We look forward to sharing more achievements as the year progresses!

Follow us on X: @YearSix_BPS





Blackwood Primary Sports News

It has been a busy start to the year and we would like to thank all pupils who have represented the school so far competing in the following events:

- Urdd football event Y5 & Y6
- Cross country
- Football cluster league round 1
- Urdd football year Y3 & Y4
- Girls football friendly V Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary
- Friendly netball match V Markham

We look forward to another busy 7 weeks full of sports events and fixtures.

WHAT'S ON OVER HALF TERM....



OCTOBER HALF TERM SWIMMING

28th OCTOBER - 1st NOVEMBER

BEDWAS	CAERPHILLY	CEFN FFOREST	HEOLDDU	RISCA
Free Swim Under 16's Monday 11am - 12pm Wednesday 2pm - 3pm Friday 4pm - 6pm Fun Sessions Monday 1pm - 3pm Wednesday 11am - 1pm & 6pm - 7pm Thursday 10am - 1pm Friday 12pm - 2pm Sunday 2pm - 3.30pm Inflatable Fun session Tuesday 1.30pm - 2.30pm Free Swim Over 60's Wednesday 10am - 11am Friday 3pm - 4pm	Free Swim Under 16's Tuesday 2pm-4pm Friday 4pm-6pm Inflatable Fun Session Wednesday 1:15pm - 2:15pm Free Swim Over 60's Thursday 12pm-1pm Saturday 12pm 2pm	Floats, Toys & Sprinkles Under 16's Free Monday & Wednesday 11am - 12pm Floats, Toys & Sprinkles Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 11am - 12pm Monday - Friday 1pm - 2pm Free Swim Friday Free Under 16s 4pm - 5pm 5pm - 6pm Free Swim Over 60's Saturday 12:30pm - 2pm	Intensive Swimming Lesson Course Monday - Friday 10am - 11am Inflatable Fun Session Monday 1pm - 1:45pm Free Swim under 16's Tuesday & Thursday 11am - 12pm Additional Needs Swim Tuesday & Thursday 1pm - 1:45pm Family Float Session Wednesday & Friday 1pm - 1:45pm Free Swim Over 60's Saturday 12pm - 1:30pm Sunday 3pm - 3:55pm	Inflatable Fun Session Tuesday 2:30pm - 3:30pm Family Swim with Floats balls & Toys Thursday 2pm - 4pm Family Swim Under 16's Free Friday 11am - 12pm Public Swim Under 16's Free Saturday 9am - 10am Free Swim Over 60's Saturday & Sunday 1pm - 1.45pm



HALLOWEEN WORKSHOP

2024



29-30TH
OCTOBER
9AM-3PM

£30 PER
CHILD
MORE INFORMATION:
WWW.BLACKWOODLITTLETHEATRE.COM



Smuggler's Equestrian
Centre Manmoel

OCTOBER HALF TERM ACTIVITIES

BOOK VIA THE APP

KIDS TRICK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN HACK	MON 28TH
KIDS STABLE MANAGEMENT OWN A PONY AFTERNOON	MON 28TH PM
AUTUMN PONY DAY	TUES 29TH
HALLOWEEN PARTY	WED 30TH
ADULTS HALLOWEEN PARTY	WED PM
ADULTS AUTUMN HACK	FRI 1ST





PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE OCTOBER HALF TERM 2024

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



FRANKIE & BENNY'S

Kids Eat Free deal from Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November.

MORRISONS

Spend £5 from the hot menu and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

COCONUT TREE

One child (under 10) eats free every day Monday 21st Oct- Sunday 3rd Nov 2024

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 All Day, Every Day at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

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

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

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

SIZZLING PUBS

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

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)

PRETO

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

EMBER INNS

Kids eat for £1 from Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2024 (excludes weekends)

YO! SUSHI

Monday 14th October - Friday 1st November 2024
kids eat free with every £10 adult spend

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

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

BILLS

2 kids eat FREE Mon - Fri from Monday 21st October - Friday 1st November 2024

PIZZA HUT

Free Kids buffet Monday 14th Oct - Tuesday 5th Nov daily until 3pm with code **SPOOKY**

BELLA ITALIA

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

WHITBREAD INNS

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

TABLE TABLE

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

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

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

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

