



# Blackwood Primary School

Senedd Newsletter January 2025



## Pupil Leadership Team

What an amazing start to the year our Pupil Leadership have had! They are such good role models to the rest of the school and have been so polite, mature and informative when showing visitors around the school! They have given presentations to visiting teachers and teaching assistants from other schools as well as newly qualified teachers, students and our Governors.

Our Pupil Leadership Team created a dance to 'Life's a happy song' that we sing every morning as we enter assembly. They also report on attendance each week and are continuing their work with Mr Grandin to further improve attendance.

Next term The Pupil Leadership Team will continue to work on improving unstructured times through utilising equipment, setting up different zones as well as a buddy system. Our amazing F@B group are donating some funds to purchase some more equipment and the Pupil Leadership Team will carry out a survey to find out what equipment is wanted.

A huge well done to our Pupil Leadership team - keep up the good work!

## Criw Cymraeg

We began the new term by setting the targets for the year related to improving the use of the Welsh language throughout the school year. At half term we were ready to do the tocyn iaith draw whereby the names of pupils who have spoken lots of Welsh are drawn from a hat to receive a Welsh gift. Two pupils in Y5 and Reception were the lucky winners. Well done to Mrs Shand who was the staff winner.

Llongyfarchiadau! I wonder who will be the lucky winner next time?

In October we ran a Family Zone session to invite parents to come and play games to improve the use of Welsh with the support of their children. We had lots of fun playing lots of games including Welsh bingo, Snakes and Ladders and Zap Eisteddwch. Thank you to all those who attended. We hope you had fun and thank you to the Criw Cymraeg who helped set up and organise the games. We hope to see you all again soon.

We have a very enthusiastic team of Criw Cymraeg this year and at last the new badges have arrived! We are about to venture into a very busy term for Welsh- We can't wait!

### ECO Council

We are excited to share the progress we've made this term in working towards our action plan targets. Our commitment to protecting the environment and creating a sustainable community remains stronger than ever!

Last term, we have continued:

Undertaking regular litter picks, ensuring our school grounds remain clean and welcoming for all.

Following our recycling timetable, helping us reduce waste and care for our planet.

We are incredibly proud to announce that our hard work has been recognized with the Green Flag Award!

This prestigious achievement reflects the dedication, teamwork, and passion of everyone involved.

Let's keep up the momentum as we continue our eco journey together. Thank you for your support in making a difference!

### Digital Leaders

Last term the Digi leaders have supported Mr Turner preparing presentations and resources for the Family Zone session on "Cool apps". We looked at the applications that we currently use across the school and picked a range that cover computational thinking, expressive arts and animation. All the apps that we selected were age appropriate for 4+ years and all free to download and use. Parents had a great time being shown digital skills and how we use them in authentic learning experiences. The digi leaders organised all the resources from apps, ipads and stands plus supported with any questions.

We have begun to prepare an online safety Assembly for January where we are going to collaborate with the ABC crew to reinforce the importance of digital footprints and being safe online. Our next step will be to create a survey to see the impact the assembly has.

We are looking forward to the new year and making preparation for internet safety day.

### STEM

Last term we have been busy ensuring the woodwork areas are well established in all year groups. We have completed audits and ordered resources for the areas.

As part of our commitment to developing ambitious and capable learners, we have ensured the tasks in all areas are progressive and have exciting tasks planned.

### Languages

Our Languages Pupil Parliament had a busy and productive term! We've recorded videos for the 'Phrase of the Week,' which will be shared in assemblies in the new year to help everyone learn and use more languages around school. We've also been checking that the 'Phrase of the Week' posters are displayed in classrooms and being used effectively. In addition, we recorded a virtual assembly all about Christmas traditions around the world, which will be shared with classes to celebrate cultural diversity. Looking ahead, we've been busy planning an exciting enterprise project to raise money for new language books for our classrooms—watch this space for more updates!

## Anti-bullying Crew

This term, our Anti-Bullying Crew (ABC) has been working hard to promote kindness, inclusivity, and awareness throughout our school community. ABC led a whole-school assembly to kick off Anti-Bullying Week, spreading an important message about standing up to bullying and fostering kindness.

They inspired everyone to think about how their actions can positively impact others.

ABC proposed a school-wide challenge to encourage spreading kind messages. Each child designed a postcard with a positive and encouraging message for a pupil in another class. This initiative brought smiles and a sense of connection across the school. During Anti-Bullying Week, ABC participated in a live lesson using Adobe Express to create impactful digital posters. These posters highlighted the importance of standing against bullying and promoting respect for all.

As part of our commitment to diversity and inclusion, the school created a class-by-class paper chain to promote anti-racism. Each link contained a message of friendship, unity, or standing against racism. The individual class chains were then connected to form a powerful school-wide chain, symbolising our shared commitment to kindness and equality. We are incredibly proud of the dedication and creativity our ABC has shown this term. Their work is making a real difference in building a more compassionate and inclusive school environment.



## Sports Council

Our Sports Council has met to discuss roles and targets for the year. One action is to compete in sporting events after school against other schools. We have competed regularly after school and will continue to do so in the Spring term.

During Spring term Sports Council has decided they would like to support the running of in school competitions. Dates will follow in Spring.

Sports council has booked another special athlete visit for the summer term to raise money for extra PE/Sports equipment.

We are also working on providing an opportunity for families to compete/join in with pupils during sessions in the summer term.

We look forward to providing more sporting opportunities in the Spring term.

## Rights of the Child

It was a great first term for our Rights of the Child Super Ambassadors! In October we attended a virtual meeting with the Children's Commissioner for Wales. She shared lots of information about the work she does along with her team. The Children's Commissioner also spoke to us about what we can do to help the promotion of children's rights.

We hosted an assembly where we shared our roles and responsibilities with the rest of the school. We have been meeting to discuss our 'Monthly Matters' questions. This is one of our tasks where we conduct surveys to ask for pupil voice about issues raised by the Children's Commissioner.

This year, we have extended the role of Super Ambassadors to pupils from Year 2 to Year 6 and this is making a big difference in raising the profile and promoting children's rights throughout the school. We are looking forward to continuing with our important work in the new year.

Well done to our Super Ambassadors - you really are super!!



## Heddlu Bach

During the Autumn term our mini police group have been busy taking part in a range of experiences to develop their understanding of UK law and ways to keep our community safe. We took part in 'operation Bang Bang' where we created safety advice during the Autumn months linked to bonfire night and being safe outside during Halloween.

Next, we have been sharing our role and action plan with the school community by leading assemblies in school, as well as creating our own presentations about dog safety after taking part in our workshops with community support officer Hayley in November. We have also been thinking about ways we can help the community deal with antisocial behaviour by creating posters to teach others about what antisocial behaviour can look like. During **Spring term we are hoping to continue to support our school & community to help make Blackwood Primary an even safer and happier place for all!**

