



Blackwood Primary School End of Term Newsletter December 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 considerably 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

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 21st July 2025 (please note that school will not be open to pupils on this day as it is an INSET day).

INSET DAYS

Friday 2nd May 2025

Friday 20th June 2025

Monday 23rd June 2025

Monday 21st July 2025

Attendance

Our whole school attendance is currently 90%

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 Mrs Davies,
Headteacher**

As we reach the end of an incredibly eventful term, I find myself primarily sending a message of overwhelming thanks to every member of the Blackwood Primary School community. This time of year is particularly dear to my heart, I cherish the festive sounds and sights that fill our school with joy, from wonderful outfits to delightful Christmas concerts.

However, many of you have kindly reached out following my unexpected absence from this year's festive events. It is difficult for me to share, but I am currently on bereavement leave due to the passing of a close family member. While I may not have been able to attend in person, I take comfort in knowing that the community you have all helped build has come together beautifully to create magical moments for our children, especially with the eagerly awaited visit from Father Christmas.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your support and understanding during this challenging time. A special thank you to our Governors, The Friends of Blackwood Primary (F@B) PTA, our dedicated teachers, and the wider support staff for making Blackwood Primary such a fantastic family.

Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas holiday, and as a team we look forward to welcoming your children back in the New Year.

Kind regards,

**Mrs Davies
Headteacher
Blackwood Primary School**





NURSERY

MEITHRIN

Wow! What a jam packed term we've had. We started off with Bonfire night and explored different ways to create firework art. We used a range of mark making tools to fill our pictures with all the colours we had seen in the sky. We were inspired by bonfires and made them out of blocks using orange, red and yellow scarves to add detail to our bonfires. We looked at light and dark and talked about Diwali, the festival of light- we created our own diva lamps using repeating patterns. We also made diva light biscuits and decorated them with 3 different coloured jam fillings, we independently followed the picture recipe to create a yummy treat. We have taken lots of walks to the forest school area; we were super happy when we saw a squirrel. It sparked some lovely conversations about wildlife around us. We decided we wanted to paint the squirrel with a bushy tail and we also made some delicious cheese and broccoli squirrels.

We then started our Christmas celebrations which started with Elf Day. We enjoyed hot chocolate and cookies and used our mark-making skills to create Christmas cards, tree decorations and snow globes. We were so impressed by everyone's hand drawn Christmas cards ranging from Father Christmas, a Christmas tree and a snowman. We also learned so many new songs in preparation for our Christmas concert "Ready Steady Elf". The children were absolutely fantastic in remembering their lines, acting and lots of amazing singing that filled the hall. They were absolute superstars! We hope you all enjoyed watching it and having those memories to look back on in the future. Thank you so much for your support during this term. We can't wait to welcome you all back in the new year.

The Nursery team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Follow us on X : @NurseryBPS



RECEPTION

DERBYN

After half term we launched straight into the celebration of bonfire night where we learnt all about Guy Fawkes and did lots of indoor and outdoor activities such as learning songs and building pretend bonfires outdoors, making hotdogs and drinking hot chocolate with marshmallows. Then we learnt all about Diwali- The Hindu festival of light. First we were able to retell the story of Rama and Sita and made rangoli patterns and painted mehndi patterns on our hands. We made beautiful diva lamps and gave them to our families as gifts.

Next we began the theme of 'Dathlu' on Elf day when we all came to school dressed up as elves or in a Christmas themed costume. We have learnt so many new skills, We made and designed cards and calendars and made Christmas decorations for 'someone special'.

We have been busy in the kitchen making Christmas tree toast, reindeer crispy cakes and gingerbread cookies. We were lucky enough to watch the pantomime 'Beauty and the Beast' at the Miner's Institute. We were so grown up and sensible as we walked there with our friends.

We learnt lots of new songs for our Christmas play 'Bethlehem's Ballroom'. Our teachers and parents were so proud of us; we dressed in our costumes and performed the Nativity with such confidence and enthusiasm. We had so much fun on the stage. We hope you all enjoyed it too! We can now retell the story of the First Christmas beautifully; we love dressing up, enacting our favourite parts and creating videos.

We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year. Until then... Nadolig Llawn a blwyddyn Newydd Dda!





YEAR 1 BLYDDWYN UN

Wow! What a busy term we have had; we can't believe it's the end of the Autumn term already! We are so proud of our pupils and what they have achieved so far! This term we enjoyed our trip to Llancaiach Fawr and Blackwood Miners Institute, where we watched the pantomime. We loved watching the show and singing along to the songs. We had a great morning!

We have been busy rehearsing for our Christmas nativity concert - Bethlehem's Ballroom. We have enjoyed learning our lines and practising all the songs from the

We hope you enjoyed watching our show.

We have also been busy designing and preparing our lovely ideas to sell at the Dathlu enterprise sale on Thursday 12th December. We are so excited to sell our Christmas themed gifts!

The Year 1 team would like to thank all parents and guardians for your continued help and support so far this year. It has been a true pleasure watching the children flourish throughout the Autumn term! We hope you have a lovely Christmas break.
See you in the New Year!

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YEAR 2

BLYDDWYN DAU

What a busy autumn term! We cannot believe how quickly the time has passed and that it's December already. During the autumn term we enjoyed learning lots of new skills through our two school themes, starting with 'Cynefin' (belonging) and then "Dathlu" (celebration) in the final few weeks before Christmas.

December has been a magical time learning lots of new skills. We began our Christmas journey celebrating Elf Day; it was so much fun! We looked at features of formal and informal letters, wrote letters to Santa explaining why we would make handy helpers, and created story mountains inspired by 'The First Christmas' story.

We developed our understanding of money when working out costs as part of our Christmas enterprise project. When designing and making Christmas crafts, we selected items we wanted to use and totalled the amount our design would cost in pounds and pence. In the cooking area we measured amounts to help make reindeer food. We designed a Christmas decoration frame and will be so proud displaying these in our homes as part of the festive celebrations!

We were so proud singing Christmas songs and sharing the First Christmas story in our Carol Service; we hope you liked our dance moves! Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and New Year, we look forward to seeing you in 2025!



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YEAR 3/4

BLYDDWYN TRI/PEDWAR

As we come to the end of this term, we would like to share some of the highlights of our learning journey with you. In Maths, the children have been exploring the properties of 2D shapes, developing their understanding of times tables, and learning about money. They have been working hard to calculate totals and manage budgets, and we are proud of the progress they've made. In Literacy, we have focused on writing persuasive posters, looking at real-world examples to inspire our work. The children have enjoyed using their creativity to convince others of their ideas. Our Theme work has been particularly exciting this term. We've loved planning our Enterprise Project, following the DT design wheel to guide our planning and the development of our products. Each group worked on different crafts, including homemade wooden Santa key rings, clay coasters, and hand-sewn purses. We also found additional ways to raise money by selling delicious hot chocolate and handmade bracelets at the Christmas fayre. Da iawn, everyone!

In Music, the children continue to enjoy learning the Glockenspiels and P-Buzz, developing their musical skills and confidence. During PE, we have been working on improving our hockey skills and are beginning to explore the game of basketball, learning new techniques and teamwork. Finally, we have enjoyed learning about the true meaning of Christmas through our concerts. We hope you all enjoyed the performances as much as we did. A big thank you for your continued support and for attending the concert. We would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful New Year.

We look forward to seeing you in the new term.

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[@YearthreefourBPS](#)





YEAR 5

BLYDDWYN PUMP

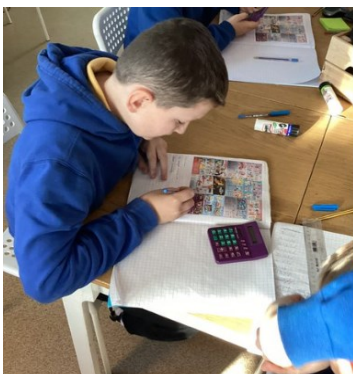
We cannot quite believe we are already coming to the end of our first full term in Year 5! It has been an exciting and busy Autumn term of learning through our two school themes, starting with 'Cynefin' (belonging) and then "Dathlu" (Celebration) in the final few weeks before Christmas.

While we have so many fantastic memories already in Year 5, some highlights include our educational visit to Cardiff Castle as we learned more about heroes of Wales and the world, developing our physical skills through Commando Joe and Forest School, as well as becoming more digitally competent through coding and data handling to name a few! We have recently enjoyed a fire safety visit from our local Fire Service, which gave us an opportunity to ask some really good questions about the challenges faced by our emergency services in Wales. During Autumn term we also loved creating our own Harvest Loaves from scratch, following a simple recipe and learning how to prove dough correctly before baking.

We have also learned all about our rights and school values across the curriculum while also recently developing our financial literacy skills as we cost, purchase, plan and build a range of craft items to sell at our Dathlu Enterprise Sale. We have also been developing our expressive arts skills as we prepare for our end of term Christmas Carol Concert at Mount Pleasant church.

We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

We look forward to seeing you all again safe and well in 2025!





YEAR 6

BLWYDDYN CHWECH

What a packed and fun filled term it has been! Through our topic of Cynefin we have been finding out about what it takes to be a champion. Our first line of enquiry took us on a journey to Ancient Greece and the very first Olympics. We researched many aspects of this event and were shocked to find out some gruesome facts about what took place in Olympia 776 BC! We then created a venn diagram where we compared these events to the modern day Olympics. Thankfully it is now much more civilised! We used this new knowledge to help us write a detailed description of an image from that time. We interpreted a variety of past authentic Olympic data and identified the most successful countries to gain Olympic medals.

We also linked up with Lilli Jones (A female Welsh footballer) on an online assembly. We had the opportunity to ask her questions about her life and Wrexham football club. Our science focus this term was forces. We had good fun making and testing a variety of different shaped paper aeroplanes and recorded how far each one travelled!

It was great to welcome visitors from Barclays bank as they told us lots about how to look after our money! We also loved completing the coding activities they showed us too! We used some of these new skills in our Enterprise sale where we learnt about making and selling items to make a profit! One of our main highlights this term was our trip to Blackwood Miners Institute to watch the pantomime! It was amazing!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to seeing you again next year!



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Blackwood Primary Sports News

What a busy Autumn term this has been! We have competed in so many events this term and wouldn't have been possible without the support of you all. We have built a relationship with Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary in competing regularly in girls football after school. We look forward to continuing these events after Christmas.

This term we have competed in the following events:

Urdd Football (years 5&6)

Cross Country (years 3-6)

Football Cluster League Round 1&2 (currently 2nd place in the league)

Girls Football v Rhiw Syr Dafydd Primary (years 5&6)

Netball fixture v Markham & Pengam Primary (years 5&6)

Urdd Football (years 3&4)

Netball Cluster League Round 1 (years 5&6)

Girls Football fixture v Rhiw Syr Dafydd (year 5)

Girls Football Cluster League Round 1

Girls football fixture v Rhiw Syr Dafydd (Years 3&4)

Basketball event (years 5&6)

Game On Girls Football (Years 5&6)

Thank you for your continued support.

A message from Friends at Blackwood Primary School

The Autumn term has gone by in a flash for Friends@Blackwood Primary (F@B group), and we would like to thank everyone for their continued support. Without your support, our events would not be as successful as they are.

The Autumn disco held before half term was enjoyed by all. It was our first after school disco and it was well supported by both pupils and staff. It was lovely to see the children having fun with their friends whilst raising funds for the school. The event raised a whopping £600 which is wonderful.

The Supper with Santa event was a resounding success! We had a variety of stalls attend the event along with F@B group stalls. Thanks to all the F@B Group members who worked so hard on this event and thanks to the staff who helped make the event possible. It was wonderful to see all the children's smiling faces when they met Santa and it got everyone in the Christmas spirit.

The event generated over £1000!! Thanks again to everyone who attend and we hope you all enjoyed the sessions.

Since September we have supported the school in the purchase of two new sets of goals for the children to use on the yard during break time. We have provided funds for the Blackwood in Bloom, gardening session at the start of term, Elf Day and also the 100% attendance rewards.

In the new year we plan to meet up with the pupil leadership team, to discuss where they feel we could spend out funds, so we will keep you posted on the outcome of that.

Thanks again for your support this term and we look forward to holding further events in the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from F@B Group



Nadolig Llawen
a Blwyddyn
Newydd Dda!

