



"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."

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

Welcome to Blackwood Primary School's October Half Term Newsletter

Croeso I Gylchlythyr
Hanner Tymor yr Hydref
Ysgol Gynrad Coed Duon

- Following the announcement made by the First Minister on 19th October we will return to school as planned on Monday 2nd November 2020
- Staggered times will remain the same. Siblings may arrive together at the earlier slot and will leave together at the earliest collection time
- 2nd November - school meals will resume. Lunchtime provisions will continue to operate within children's bubbles
- 3rd/4th November - Virtual Parent/Carer Consultations via Microsoft Teams (Hwb login details have been sent home with your child)

Dear Parents /Carers,

This half term has really made us realise how lucky we are at Blackwood Primary to be a school whose parents/carers, staff, pupils, governors and community work together to keep our children safe. The old saying 'it takes a village to raise a child' really comes to mind as we have pulled together at this unprecedented and uncertain time for us all. I would like to thank everyone who has put every effort into keeping us safe by socially distancing outside the school. We have procedures in school that we are following to keep us as safe as possible. Please remember that although we are unable to physically see you every day, as we are used to, doesn't mean we are not listening. Please use our email or telephone to inform us of any issues you wish to bring to our attention. I would like to remind you that sharing information on social media is not an effective way of communication as we may not see or hear of any problems you may be having and therefore will be unable to help. We really do have our children at the heart of everything we do and as we continue to move towards delivering the new Curriculum for Wales. We are constantly reviewing and improving educational experiences, whilst keeping our children's emotional well-being firmly at the forefront of everything we do.

Let's celebrate our successes so far! Our children are a credit to you and they have met this experience head on and with smiles on their faces. I am so proud to be the head teacher at Blackwood Primary School and wish you all a lovely half term break. I look forward to seeing you all on 2nd November. I certainly have a 'cwtch down and enjoy family time' planned for this national firebreak lockdown. I hope that we can all look at this period as a time to enjoy the simpler things in life.

Take care and stay safe,

Mrs K Davies
Headteacher

Nursery / Meithrin

All the children have settled really well into Nursery and they are very happy and enjoying all the activities both inside and outside the classroom.

We have based lots of our activities on the book 'Owl Babies' and we have been painting owls, drawing owls, making owls, learning about owls, counting owls, reciting owl poems and rhymes and retelling the story in different ways. We have also been learning about Autumn and we enjoyed our Autumn walk around the school grounds collecting leaves and conkers and looking at all the beautiful colours. We love to be outside whatever the weather and the children have become so much more independent with putting on coats, shoes and wellies - we are very proud of them!

A big thank you to all the parents and carers for your support this half term and we can't wait for next half term and, of course, Christmas!!!

Year 1 / Blwydden 1

We have been so proud of all of the children this term. We are so impressed with how well they have settled and how hard they have worked.

We have loved exploring Autumn, going on Autumn walks and creating beautiful Autumn pictures.

Recently we have read the book 'Leaf' about a Polar Bear who has lost his family. We decided to cheer him up and invite him to a party. We have been busy writing invitations, making soup for him and writing lists.

We have been practising our Welsh in our Siop Fferm.

We have had such a busy half term. We would like to thank you for all of your continued support.

Have a lovely half term!

Reception / Derbyn

In Reception we have been busy getting to know each other through our theme Marvellous Me and My Family.

We made self portraits and talked about things we like in English and in Welsh. We have explored Autumn and collected conkers and leaves and got creative with them/

We have learned how to use our areas independently and love trying new things out and sharing them on Seesaw.

We celebrated Black History month, dressing up to show racism the red card, and enjoyed using the story of Handa's Surprise to use lots of the skills we've been learning.

Look at our Twitter feed and our Seesaw folders to see our work.

Year 2 / Blwydden 2

All the children settled readily and well back into school life.

The children have been learning new skills and enjoying exploring provision areas within the Year 2 environment. When sketching leaves, pumpkins and other autumnal objects, the children included great detail. They use their individual Practise Packs to reinforce spelling strategies, numeracy, reading and maths skills. It has been a pleasure to see the children developing their independence.

We look forward to gathering the children's ideas after half term in preparation for our new Authentic Learning Goal.

Have a lovely half term!

Year 3/Blwydden 3

The children have worked so hard and have settled back into Year 3 really well!

This term we have been focusing on the text, George's Marvellous Medicine. We have been writing character descriptions, instructional texts to make a potion and enjoyed listening to the story each day.

In maths, we have been exploring the different number operations practically and in problem solving.

Independently we have been making drinks using measuring skills, building the Chartist Bridge and exploring the artwork of LS Lowry.

A busy but wonderful half term with Year 3. Da iawn.

We are so proud of you!

Year 5/Blwydden 5

Year 5 have been working extremely hard and we are so proud of them all.

They have been developing their skills in Maths, concentrating on the four operations. They have been taking part in lots of times table challenges and have impressed us with their skills. In English, the children have been working on a writing journey linked to Lotte's Diary. This is the story of a young girl in the Victorian era who worked in the coal mines. They have been particularly engaged by this and this has led to the development of our learning goal following October half term called 'A Victorian Christmas'.

The children have been put through their paces in our circuit training sessions in PE and they have developed their creative and STEM skills whilst working in the independent areas across Year 5.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting half term after the holidays.

Year 4/Blwydden 4

Year 4 have been busy getting back into school life!

We have been enjoying seeing our friends and teachers again! As well as this we have been revising and consolidating lots of work that we did back in Year 3.

In English, we have been planning and writing a recount about the Dreamgiver and in Maths we have been revising all of the four operations and applying them to problems! In addition to this, we have been applying skills across the curriculum, finding out facts about Harvest and Guy Fawkes!

We hope you all have a lovely half term break!

Year 6/Blwydden 6

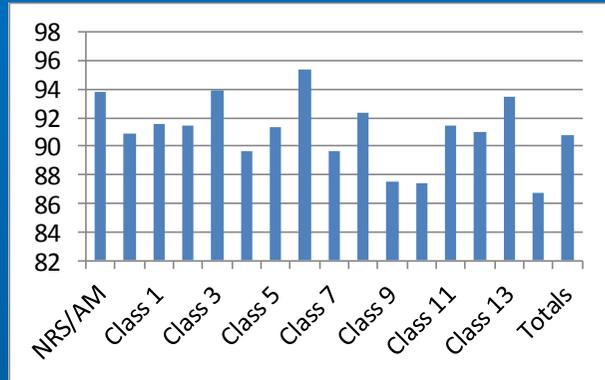
Year 6 have had an amazing first half term!

We have enjoyed our English writing journey about World War 2 using the text Rose Blanche as a stimulus. We have written descriptions, letters and diaries, working really hard on producing high quality handwriting. In Maths, we have been practising the four operations and are really enjoying using Mathematics in school and at home. In our Mission Books we have produced high quality work on Learning Pits, Growth Mindset, Black History Month and The Rights of the Child. We have welcomed visitors PC George, Mr Lush who has taught us to play the Ukulele and Nathan Sheet who made clay tiles with us. We are looking forward to next half term!

Thank you to all Parents and Carers for your support this term! Please follow us on Twitter to see lots of photos of us and our work.



Attendance / Presentoldob



Overall Attendance—90.8%

We are using the hand sanitiser in school that is minimum 60/70% alcohol content as advised by Health and Safety. This is only used when children enter the site or enter the toilets. At all other times we ask the children to wash their hands using soap and water. Please help us by reminding your child to thoroughly dry their hands after washing. We are going to provide e45 cream in classrooms to support any children who are finding that the extra hand washing is making their hands too dry and/or chapped. This cream will be used under adult supervision. Please let us know if you do not want your child to use this cream.

Please could all parents/carers stick to the allocated time slots and queuing points to drop off and collect their children at school, there is no need to arrive early. Once your child has entered or left the school gates you must leave the area **immediately** so others can access the school gates. If you remain outside the school gates you are causing a serious Health and Safety issue. In addition we would also like to remind you of your responsibility to social distance by remaining 2 metres away from other parents/carers at all times.

News and Updates

- Change of times to the school day have been agreed by our Governing body. However, the current staggered start and finish times will continue after half term. We will keep you updated when there are any changes to these times
- Keep an eye out for our Christmas Calendar of events after half term. Elf day will go ahead as normal and we look forward to giving all the children a Christmas treat!
- Thank you to the Friends @ Blackwood Primary team for supporting the school in providing goodies for the half term disco for the children. They all had a wonderful time showing off their dance moves and enjoyed their treats!!
- Please can anyone waiting outside the school site, refrain from smoking as per CCBC Non-Smoking Policy
- Reminder to all parents/carers to adhere to the 2 metre social distancing guidelines. We cannot beat the virus unless we all work together!

