



"United we, Empower, Nurture and Challenge."
"Wrth uno mae'n ein arfogi i feithrin a herio."

Welcome to Blackwood Primary School's End of Term Newsletter

Croeso i Becyn Cychwyn Meithrinfa Ysgol Gyn-
radd Coed Duon

- **First day back - Thursday 6th
January 2022**

- We will keep you updated with any
changes to routines following
announcements by Welsh Govern-
ment

17.12.2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have come to the end of another term where the global pandemic has affected our normal routines and practices. You can be rest assured that our staff have all been working extremely hard to make sure that the magic of Christmas has been as active as always at Blackwood Primary School. It is my favourite time of year and I feel privileged to share the excitement and awe that working with young children brings.

I would like to thank you for your understanding as we continue to work together to follow the guidance to keep our Blackwood Primary Family safe. I hope you enjoy the virtual performances that have been sent to you to celebrate Christmas.

As always we will keep you updated with any changes to routines following announcements by Welsh Government in a timely manner. Please enjoy the Christmas break with your families and friends and stay safe.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and prosperous new year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Davies

Headteacher

Blackwood Primary School

News

We are really proud of two of our Year 6 pupils. One has played for the Islwyn District Rugby team and another pupil has represented the Caerphilly Schools football team this term! Well done and keep up the hard work both!

We wish a fond farewell to Mrs Ioannou, Mrs Cassley and Mrs Hancox as they move on to pastures new. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours. We will be welcoming some new members of staff to the team in January and will share further updates with you as they join.

We would like to wish Mrs Sullivan class 3 teacher all the best as she goes on maternity leave, Ms Jones will cover her in class 4 whilst she is on leave .

Inset Days

29th April 2022

27th May 2022

24th June 2022

27th June 2022



Christmas came early to Blackwood Primary School this week thanks to a very generous donation of selection boxes from Blackwood Town Council. A huge thank you from all of our pupils!

Term Date 2021/22

Term	Start	Half Term Starts	Half Term Ends	Term Ends
Autumn	Thursday 2 September 2021	Monday 25 October 2021	Friday 29 October 2021	Friday 17 December 2021
Spring	Tuesday 4 January 2022	Monday 21 February 2022	Friday 25 February 2022	Friday 8 April 2022
Summer	Monday 25 April 2022	Monday 30 May 2022	Friday 3 June 2022	Friday 22 July 2022

How to contact the school

- Pupil Absence - 01495224111, report absences via parentmail app or email mainoffice@blackwoodprimary.org

Nursery / Meithrin

What a fantastic first term in Nursery.

All the children have settled in so well and are all following our routine and beginning to understand expectations. We have had lots of fun exploring the season of Autumn.



We have been on many walks and enjoyed exploring natural materials. We have been learning lots of new sounds and beginning to recognise numbers in the environment. We had a very special visitor in our curious cube. It was Tinsel our class elf, who brought a post box and we enjoyed writing our letters to Santa. We have sung lots of Christmas songs and we can't wait to share it with you all on seesaw.



Reception / Derbyn

We have had a very busy and fun filled term!

Our term started with our 'Learning and Growing

Together' goal. We made an iMovie to share our areas with our families. We planted bulbs all around our outdoor spaces-we hope to see them sprouting in the Spring!

Our final goal was to share Christmas with our families and friends! We had a fabulous Elf day, we visited Beatrice Webb and sang for all our friends. We had a 'Click and Collect' Christmas Market; we created a catalogue and

we made things to order so there was zero waste! Ethical Elis is very proud of us all! We gave our families a wonderful surprise by working together to create our Christmas movie- 'A Little Nativity'. We loved dressing up, singing, dancing and performing.



Your children

have smile every day

and we are so proud of them all!

We wish you all a very 'Happy Christmas!'

Take care and stay safe!

Year 1/Blwydden 1

Wow! What a fantastic start to the year we have had! We enjoyed our Learning journey - Autumn Leaves and



Pumpkin seeds and have tried to grow our very own pumpkins.

We made pumpkin soup which we sold with warm, crusty rolls.

Thank you very much for all of your support with this. We are using all of



our money raised to develop our outdoor area and are planting lots of fruit and vegetable seeds ready for the spring and summer. We can't wait to see what they taste like and use them in our cooking area. We have been busy learning all about the Christmas story and singing songs for our virtual concert in our topic, Dark Nights and Sparkly Lights. We have been making lots of Christmas craft for our virtual Christmas market. We hope that you enjoy everything we have made!

We are so proud of all of the children this term. They have worked so hard and we feel incredibly lucky to be part of their learning journey.

We would like to thank you for all of your continued support this year.

We would like to wish all of our Year One families a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.



Year 2/Blwydden 2

The Year 2 Team is so proud of everything our wonderful children have achieved this term! We began the term

with challenges linked to our first Learning Goal 'Move & Grow'. We've explored changes, healthy eating, fitness and

wellbeing challenges and

activities. We created relaxation

routines inspired by Cosmic

Yoga, explored how breathing

helps us feel calm and enjoyed

working in collaboration with

others to solve 'Commando Joe' challenges.

We've written story recounts, character descriptions and looked at how to write a

letter. We've solved mathematical problems,

money challenges and explored 2D/3D

shapes. Our Christmas

Journey was inspired by pupil voice, the children

wanted to donate to others within their community. We

drafted letters to Asda

Blackwood requesting donations, we were pleased when we received items to donate to

others within our community. We created instructions on how to make hot chocolate

and designed our own Christmas cards;

inspired by Welsh artists.

It's been a busy term, we've enjoyed every moment! Thank you for your continued support, wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Year 3/Blwydden 3

We have had a fantastic start to the school year in Year 3 and we are so proud of how well the children have settled in their transition from Year 2 to Year 3. We started the term with our learning goal of 'Harvest Helpers'. This learning goal focused on developing the outdoor area and planting vegetables that the children can use in their cooking area. The children learnt about how to plant vegetables and what they need to stay alive and grow. They also investigated the changing states of vegetables when they were exposed to different temperatures. We then moved on to our Christmas learning goal of 'A Christmas Carol'.



We have been learning some traditional Christmas carols in order to record a carol concert for parents to watch. We have been comparing Christmas traditions from past and present and a highlight of this learning goal was a visit from

The Winding House, where the children had to decide whether the Victorians saved Christmas by introducing so many new traditions or ruined Christmas by commercialising it. In addition, the children learnt about some of the more unusual Welsh Christmas traditions such as the Mari Llwyd and the Calennig. We wish all of our families a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing the children in 2022!



Year 4/Blwydden 4



We have had a brilliant first term here in Year 4 and we have settled into our new routines really well. Our first learning journey was 'How does your garden grow' and we loved exploring

all about plants and learning all the knowledge we needed to plant and grow vegetables to use in our kitchen! One of the highlights was when we carried out an investigation into how plants get their water. We used celery stalks and it was fascinating to see them change colour as they soaked up the water! Our Christmas journey has seen



us learning about Christmas trees past and present, as well as how Christmas was celebrated during WW2. We took part in some wonderful re-enactments to show what it might have been like. We have also been writing rhyming poetry, dancing, singing and creating

beautiful art using lots of different techniques. All of our hard work is to go towards our own Year 4 Eisteddfod to show our families! We have loved getting so creative and have tried really hard on all of our entries. The Year 4 team



is so proud of all the wonderful things we have achieved this term.

We would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year from all in Year 4. We can't wait to see you all again in 2022!

Year 5/Blwydden 5



What an amazing Autumn term we have had in Blwyddyn 5! We are so very proud of each and everyone of our children, they 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! Practicing and developing a positive growth mindset has been a focus for us. We love being in the learning pit as we help each grow. Through our learning experiences this term we have learnt about plants and the importance of our weather, conducted many science experiments. Remembered those who fought and fell for our freedom through Remembrance Day activities.. We have also enjoyed a few funky discos and been very productive in the creative corner and



construction area. December has been a busy month! It began with Elf day and the launch of our Christmas Journey where we learnt about the history of Christmas carolling. Diddorol iawn! As the Our value has been 'reflection', we made a video to share with you, looking back at all that we have achieved together this term, and have to admit, some of us cried tears of joy through pride! Nadolig Llawn a Blwyddyn Newydd dda i chi gyd, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our families both near and far. We are already super excited to see you all again in 2022!

Year 6/Blwydden 6



We have exceeded all expectations this term and have relished many opportunities to display

our skills doing a variety of activities! We have loved finding out about WW1 and independently and applied Literacy, Numeracy and DCF skills across other areas of the curriculum. We were really lucky to have the chance to deepen our learning of this topic through the use of the Exhibition In A Box resources. The chance to explore

authentic artefacts from the time helped us to gain a real understanding of the different aspects of war. One of our favourite lessons of the week is Commando Joes where we get the opportunity to use



our collaborative skills within a team to problem solve creatively! Another activity we enjoy is rugby with Karen from The Dragons each week where we get the chance to be like Healthy Hwyl and keep fit whilst practising our ball skills. We have also enjoyed planning, writing and producing our Christmas concert 'Jingle Past and Present'. We were like Ambitious Alys and used a variety of websites to research the history of Christmas songs through the ages. We are looking forward to enjoying the festive period with our families and then



returning to school in January for our 'New Beginnings' topic. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all in Year 6!