



Blaenhonddan Primary School

Ysgol Gynradd Blaenhonddan

Main Road / Heol Fawr
Bryncoch / Bryncoch
Neath / Castell-nedd SA10 7PE

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Gwefan / Website : blaenhonddanprimary.co.uk

Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mrs Gayle Major

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Chair of Governors / Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr: Mr Andrew Collins

Blaenhonddan Bulletin 6 - January 2026

Welcome Back and Happy New Year!

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Blaenhonddan. I hope you had a restful and enjoyable winter break. It was wonderful to see the children returning with such enthusiasm and happy faces as we begin the Spring Term.

The autumn term was a very busy one, especially the second half with Christmas. Christmas was magical! It is always a privilege to be part of the journey alongside the children. Our topic Robots engaged children, and the enrichment activities supported the learning well, enabling the children to have fun! Visits to Sony UK and Bridgend College enabled the children to see how Robots were used in the workplace. Some children returned to school, stating they would like a job in computing. Marty the Robot also visited the school and our younger pupils learned about coding and cause and effect. There were also demonstrations from the Police and Lego in the use of Robotics.

Class 6 engaged in the Siarc Project and enjoyed learning about Sharks, engaging in sessions with marine biologists and learning how to use creative engineering tools to learn about marine conservation as part of a project with Swansea University. The school has been given a 3D printer for engaging in the project.

Some classes have also been out and about in the community and have visited the Bryn and Red Hill for breakfast as well as the local parks, post offices and shops.

Our youngest children also enjoyed a visit to Margam Park, and some classes went to Wiggley's Farm. Both trips were a great success and again the children enjoyed the experiences.

Enriching the children's learning is very important to us and through engaging experiences, good teaching and learning, we hope that your child enjoyed the autumn term whilst developing many new skills.

With the Autumn Term complete, we are ready to start the learning journey for the Spring Term. This term, we will be looking at Welsh Myths. The children will explore and develop a deeper understanding of Welsh Culture and Cynefin (Belonging). Children will learn about moral lessons within stories and look at the history of Wales through art, stories and drama. Enrichment activities are currently being planned, so that the children can access multi-sensory learning opportunities.

Welcome / Croeso

We are delighted that Mr Mellin has finally joined us after securing the position of Year 6 teacher and Leader of Learning for KS2 back in the Summer term. Mr Mellin will take over from Miss Price in Year



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6. Mr Mellin joins us from Abbey Primary and is an experienced teacher with an excellent track record of leading developments in teaching and learning, in line with Curriculum for Wales.

Miss Price has moved to Class 1 to replace Mrs Davies. Miss Price taught in Year 6 for part of the summer and the autumn term, where she did a fantastic job. I know that she will work extremely hard to ensure that the children in Year 1 settle well, learn the routines and more importantly love learning.

Key Reminders for January 2026

Weather Readiness – As we are amid the cold and wet weather, please ensure that all children have a coat. The children will go out every day for some fresh air, even if the weather is inclement.

Uniform – Please ensure that all uniform items meet our school policy for the new term. Jewellery and make up should not be worn to school. The spare uniform racks will be put out this Friday, so if your child needs a top up, please take what you need, we have lots of items in school.

Water Bottles – Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle with either water or squash to school every day. It is warm within the building and children need to be hydrated. Sparkling, fizzy or flavoured waters are not allowed, please provide a refillable bottle of a regular size not Stanley. We have limited space on tables and cupboards and children are unable to refill bigger bottles using the water station.

Attendance & Punctuality – Please ensure your child attends school regularly. The 'Flu' has hit the school's attendance very hard, so we need all children to be in school as often as possible. Attendance letters came home during the autumn term and there appears to be some confusion about the sessions. There are 2 sessions in a day, am and pm. If a child is off all week, 10 sessions will be missed, this does not mean he/she has had 10 days off. Apologies, I should have made this clear prior to sending the letters.

Our drop off time for pupils is 8:50am – 9:00am. Lessons start promptly a few minutes after 9. Please can you ensure that you aim to arrive at school in time for your child to be ready to start the session. During the morning sessions, teachers provide a warm welcome, check in with pupils, discuss the activities for the day and address any misconceptions from the day before. Prompt arrival ensures your child has the best start to the day.



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Important Dates for Your Diary

Monday January 5th – INSET Day
Tuesday January 6th – Return to School
Friday January 9th – Reception Hearing Test
Thursday January 15th – PC Lewis-Jones – session with Year 6
Friday 13th February – Last Day of Half Term
Monday 16th February – Friday 20th February – Half-Term break
Monday 2nd March – Celebration of St. David – Please wear Welsh costume
Monday 2nd March – Friday 6th March – Welsh Week
Wednesday 4th March – Silent disco sessions (Mentor Iaith)
Friday 6th March – School Eisteddfod – Children will wear white T-shirts that they have designed in school
Monday 9th March – Friday 13th March – Year 4 swimming
Monday 16th March – Friday 20th March – Year 3 swimming
Tuesday 17th March – Parental Consultation 1 – Face-to-Face
Monday 23rd March – Parental Consultation 2 – Face-to-Face
Tuesday 24th March – Parental Consultation 3 – Virtual
Friday 27th March – Blaenhonddan celebrates World Book Day – Last day of term
Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April – Easter Break
Thursday 21st May – Sports Day provisional date 1 – weather permitting
Friday 5th June – Sports Day provisional date 2 – weather permitting
Friday 12th June – Sports Day provisional date 3 - weather permitting
Friday 10th July – End of Year Reports sent home
Friday 10th July – Leavers Assembly 1:30pm

There will be additional dates added for trips and activities, and these will be added to the Dojo calendar as and when they arise.

The staff and I are looking forward to another productive term working in partnership with you. As always, if there is anything you are concerned about or unhappy with, please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or myself.

Many thanks for such a positive return to school.

Gayle Major
Headteacher



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