



# Blaenhonddan Primary School

## Ysgol Gynradd Blaenhonddan

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

Tel / Ffôn: 01639 644366  
E-mail / E-bost: [blaenhonddanprimary@npt.school](mailto:blaenhonddanprimary@npt.school)  
Gwefan / Website : [blaenhonddanprimary.co.uk](http://blaenhonddanprimary.co.uk)

Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mrs Gayle Major

E-mail / E-bost: [MajorG4@hwbcymru.net](mailto:MajorG4@hwbcymru.net)

Chair of Governors / Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr: Mr Andrew Collins

### *Blaenhonddan Bulletin (2) - 24th September 2025*

Dear Blaenhonddan families,

I would like to say thank you to everyone for such a positive return to school. The first few weeks have gone by in a flash, and it has been lovely to see the children settling into their new classes and routines. The children appear to be very happy in school and are engaging well with learning. If there are any issues concerning your child, please speak to the class teacher.

#### *Head Boy and Head Girl*

Year 6 pupils have been busy casting their votes for Head Boy and Head Girl.

The pupils discussed the qualities, skills and attributes that would be needed to fulfil the roles.

Staff set the children off to think about their decision, prior to the secret ballot taking place.

I am delighted to announce that **BROOKE LEWIS** and **EVAN MORGAN** are Head Girl and Head Boy for the academic year 2025/2026. Congratulations to you both and I am looking forward to working with you throughout the year.

#### *Teaching and Learning*

The children have returned to school enthusiastically and they have engaged in learning brilliantly.

They have familiarised themselves with their new classrooms, new staff and new routines. The

learning opportunities around the topics, All About Me and Robots are underway, and staff are finding out what the children know, but more importantly what they want to learn more about.

Year 6 have visited Sony to see the robots in action and Marty the Robot is causing a lot of excitement across the school.

Phonic, spelling and reading assessments are underway and the results will be communicated during the parental consultations.

This year we will be continuing to encourage the children to make more choices about how and what they want to learn. Our aim is to empower the children so that they build a sense of independence and confidence. We know that when the children are allowed to make and reflect on choices, they develop critical thinking skills and learn to evaluate actions and consequences.

As the children move through the school, staff will gradually increase the complexity of opportunities for decision making.



**Work Together, Play Together, Succeed Together**

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-Nedd Port Talbot



# Blaenhonddan Primary School

## Ysgol Gynradd Blaenhonddan

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

Tel / Ffôn: 01639 644366  
E-mail / E-bost: [blaenhonddanprimary@npt.school](mailto:blaenhonddanprimary@npt.school)  
Gwefan / Website : [blaenhonddanprimary.co.uk](http://blaenhonddanprimary.co.uk)

*Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mrs Gayle Major*

*E-mail / E-bost: [MajorG4@hwbcymru.net](mailto:MajorG4@hwbcymru.net)*

*Chair of Governors / Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr: Mr Andrew Collins*

Following feedback and discussions with the children, there has been a request for us to increase workspaces. Therefore, pupils have been given the choice to carry out activities inside the classroom, in the corridor, or in outdoor areas. The expectations for learning and behaviour remain high and it has been great to see our learners, working with greater independence, choice and freedom.

**Homework** – Reading, Phonic and Spelling work will continue to be provided weekly. It is important that by the end of Year 6, that all children achieve the highest possible reading and spelling ages, based on their ability. Books need to be returned to school on reading days, for staff to listen to the children read and change the books. Spelling challenges will also be completed weekly, where applicable. Once again, it is important that children are supported at home to become familiar with the patterns. We expect children to get high marks in the tests, but more importantly, we need to see that the children are writing words correctly in their independent writing.

This year, we will not be sending home Maths and English homework on a weekly basis. Instead, we will provide a homework menu for the half-term. Pupils will be able to choose from the menu. Homework will need to be returned on a Friday, and the children will be encouraged to talk about their work to the class. Dojo's will be given as rewards. We are aiming for the children in KS2 to demonstrate that they can be responsible and complete work with greater choice and independence.

### **Additional Learning Needs (ALN)**

Currently, the school has 61 children on the additional learning needs register, which makes up 23% of the school. We endeavour to provide rich, purposeful and inclusive learning opportunities, which will enable the children to make progress from their starting points.

As we begin the year, Miss Baker is working hard to ensure that timetables, provision and support is accessible to all. With so many children to support, the setting up and running of all the new provisions will take time. All children on the ALN Register will be catered for via our inclusive learning provision for the first 4-6 weeks of term, whilst bespoke timetables are being created.

Person Centred Reviews will take place throughout the year and parents of children in Year 5 with an LA Individual Development Plan will be invited to attend a meeting during the Autumn Term. Pupils who could potentially be put onto a School Based IDP will also be invited to a meeting this term.



**Work Together, Play Together, Succeed Together**

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-Nedd Port Talbot



# Blaenhonddan Primary School

## Ysgol Gynradd Blaenhonddan

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

Tel / Ffôn: 01639 644366  
E-mail / E-bost: [blaenhonddanprimary@npt.school](mailto:blaenhonddanprimary@npt.school)  
Gwefan / Website : [blaenhonddanprimary.co.uk](http://blaenhonddanprimary.co.uk)

*Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mrs Gayle Major*

*E-mail / E-bost: [MajorG4@hwbcymru.net](mailto:MajorG4@hwbcymru.net)*

*Chair of Governors / Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr: Mr Andrew Collins*

### **Year 6 Roles & Responsibilities**

The first round of Buddies and Prefects have been selected for this term and pupils are carrying out their roles brilliantly. As a Buddy, the children visit the classes in Foundation Phase and play, help and support the children during breaktimes. Year 6 pupils, really enjoy the responsibility and our younger children look forward to the visits daily.

Prefects for this half term have also been chosen, and the children are wearing their badges proudly.

**ALL** children in Year 6 will be given the opportunity to Buddy and become a Prefect throughout the year, and the next selection will be the week before half-term, in preparation for the return to school in November.

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Please can you ensure that your child is in school by 9am. Lessons start promptly between 9:05-9:10 and it is very important that all children are in the class and ready to learn. If your child arrives after this time, please sign your child in at the office.

### **FABs**

Thank you to our fantastic FAB for arranging the inflatables today. The children and staff absolutely love this activity, and it is a great way for the children to finish the week. The tip-tops were also needed to cool down.

I hope that you all have a great weekend, and we are looking forward to welcoming you to the school on Monday for our open afternoon.

Classrooms will be open from 3:20pm – 4:00pm. Please encourage your child to give you a tour of the school too.

Gayle Major  
Headteacher



**Work Together, Play Together, Succeed Together**

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-Nedd Port Talbot



# Blaenhonddan Primary School

## Ysgol Gynradd Blaenhonddan

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

Tel / Ffôn: 01639 644366  
E-mail / E-bost: [blaenhonddanprimary@npt.school](mailto:blaenhonddanprimary@npt.school)  
Gwefan / Website : [blaenhonddanprimary.co.uk](http://blaenhonddanprimary.co.uk)

Headteacher / Pennaeth: Mrs Gayle Major

E-mail / E-bost: [MajorG4@hwbcymru.net](mailto:MajorG4@hwbcymru.net)

Chair of Governors / Cadeirydd y Llywodraethwyr: Mr Andrew Collins

### INSET DAYS for 2025/2026

3<sup>rd</sup> November – Cluster Welsh Training with Swansea University

13<sup>th</sup> April

22<sup>nd</sup> June

20<sup>th</sup> July

#### Autumn term 2025

- Monday, 1 September - Friday, 24 October
- Half-term holiday: Monday, 27 - Friday, 31 October
- Monday, 3 November - Friday, 19 December
- Christmas holiday: Monday, 22 December - Friday, 2 January

#### Spring term 2026

- Monday, 5 January - Friday, 13 February
- Half-term holiday: Monday, 16 - Friday, 20 February
- Monday, 23 February - Friday, 27 March
- Easter holiday: Monday, 30 March - Friday, 10 April

#### Summer term 2026

- Monday, 13 April - Friday, 22 May
- Half-term holiday: Monday, 25 - Friday, 29 May
- Monday, 1 June - Monday, 20 July
- Summer holiday: Tuesday, 21 July - Monday, 31 August

Schools will be closed to pupils for [INSET/staff preparation \(2025\)](#) on up to six days between Monday, 1 September 2025 and Monday, 20 July 2026.



Work Together, Play Together, Succeed Together

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council  
Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Castell-Nedd Port Talbot