



Spring 1 Newsletter

THIS HALF TERM

We have had a very busy half term immersing ourselves in our contexts and learning lots of new knowledge and skills - as well as building on previous learning. We have had various experiences including drama, visiting the 5G classrooms, Science workshops and lots of sporting activities.

The children have been engaged and displayed excellent attitudes to learning.

NEWS

It has been another busy half term here at Ystruth Primary School. Many of our older children are busy preparing their 'Ystruth's Got Talent' acts which will be a brilliant opportunity for our pupils to showcase their creative flare through singing, dance, instruments, drama and stand up comedy. More details to follow soon.



CONTACT US

Mrs Melanie Miller

Headteacher

Mrs Amy Skuse

Deputy Headteacher

School Number: 01495 369239

School Website:

<https://www.ystruthprimary.co.uk/>

BLAENAU GWENT TERM HOLIDAYS

HALF TERM: 16TH - 20TH FEBRUARY

EASTER HOLIDAYS:

28TH MARCH - 12TH APRIL

HALF TERM: 25TH - 29TH MAY

SUMMER HOLIDAYS:

21ST JULY - 31ST AUGUST

MAY DAY:

MONDAY 4TH MAY 2026

INSET: MONDAY 20TH JULY 2026

NEXT HALF TERM DATES

05.03.26 - World Book Day

06.03.26 - Eisteddfod celebration - wear something green, white or red

09.02.26 - Parent Consultation week

19.03.26 - Easter Assembly with Pastor Amanda

20.03.26 - Comic Relief Day

27.03.26 - INSET DAY - Closed to pupils

30.03.26 - Easter Holiday

LANGUAGES

FRANCAIS

Un petit peu / beaucoup
A little bit / a lot



BRAWDDEG Y MIS

Tipyn bach / yn fawr iawn
A little bit / a lot



LEARNING



We have continued to use our 'Y Wal Wella' in school to help us improve our work and become more reflective of learning.

Next half term, we will continue working on the next two questions to help us in our learning:

1. How do you know?
2. How can you improve?

We are continuing our topics for next half term, along with work work on Eisteddfod,, Cynefin, World Book Day and Easter.

Nursey - My Family and My Home
Reception - Me and My Family
Year 1 and Year 2 - How I Get Around
Year 3 and Year 4 - Commotion in the Ocean
Year 5 and Year 6 - It's Our World
Robins - Our School
Owls - Our School



RIGHTS OF THE MONTH

February - Article 5 Your family has the responsibility to help you learn to exercise your rights, and to ensure that your rights are protected.

March - Article 17 Every child has the right to reliable information, including from the media. Article 2 all rights in the Convention apply to every child without discrimination, regardless of race, gender, religion, language, abilities, or family background

Spring 1 Newsletter

FRIENDS OF YSTRUTH

This half term we have supplied the resources for the Valentine 'make & take' sessions for our nursery, Robins, and Owls pupils.

We also had Mad Science coming into the school to provide some fun and informative shows for Reception to Year 6 pupils.

We're busy planning further activities for this year, including a Summer Fete and Animal Interactives.

These events are only made possible by your continued support, so thank you once again!
Friends of Ystruth

Spring 1

Newsletter

WHY SLEEP MATTERS

A good night's sleep helps children to:

- ✓ Concentrate and learn more effectively
- ✓ Manage their emotions and behaviour
- ✓ Feel calmer and happier at school
- ✓ Get up more easily in the morning
- ✓ Cope better with challenges and friendships.

SHRN Data at Ystruth Primary School

Look at the information for pupils in Ystruth Primary School showing sleep patterns

Children who are tired often find school harder, even if they are trying their best.



Sleep and Our Learners

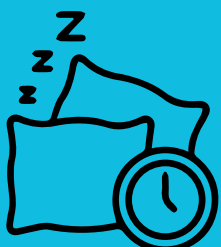
Recent SHRN survey data shows that sleep can be challenging for many children.

- **As children get older, bedtimes tend to get later,**
Around **1 in 3** children in Years 3–4 go to bed after 9pm, and **1 in 6** children in Years 5–6 go to bed after 10pm.
- **Many children report sleep problems.**
Around **three quarters** of learners say they have difficulties with sleep.

In Years 5 and 6, many children find it hard to fall asleep,
even when they go to bed on time.

Our school's results are similar to the Wales average, showing this is a common issue for families.

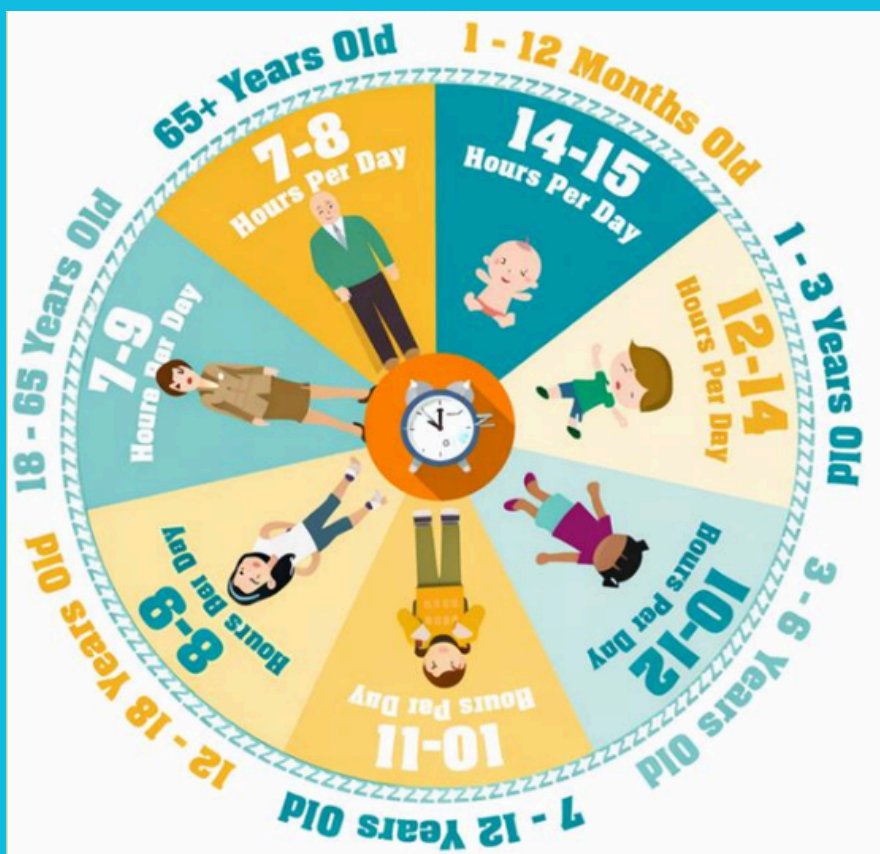
Good sleep routines, such as regular bedtimes and reducing screen time before bed, can help children feel more rested and ready to learn.



Spring 1 Newsletter

We have gathered information from our pupils that tell us how rested and how ready our pupils are for their school day. Using this information, we would love to work in partnership with our school community to ensure pupils are well rested and ready for a day of learning.

- Many children go to bed later than recommended, especially at weekends
- A large number of pupils say they feel tired in the morning and during the day
- Screen use (phones, tablets, games or TV) before bed is very common
- A minority of children find it hard to fall asleep or wake during the night
- Bedtime routines vary a lot, and some children do not have a regular routine. It is important to remember that children thrive on routines. A clear bedtime routine and earlier nights, with less screen time, will have a positive impact, regardless of their age.



Spring 1 Newsletter

Attendance Matters!



Spring 1 Newsletter

Attendance Matters!

WE ARE TACKLING
PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM.
TAKE A LOOK AT THE POSTER
BELOW.

TACKLING PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM

IS YOUR CHILD'S ATTENDANCE BELOW **89%**?

ATTENDANCE UNDER 89%

WHY ATTENDANCE MATTERS	RISKS OF CHRONIC ABSENCE	HOW TO IMPROVE ATTENDANCE
Missed Learning	Falling Behind	Set a Routine
Social Isolation	School Anxiety	Communicate with School
Lower Achievement	Future Problems	Address Health Issues

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS!

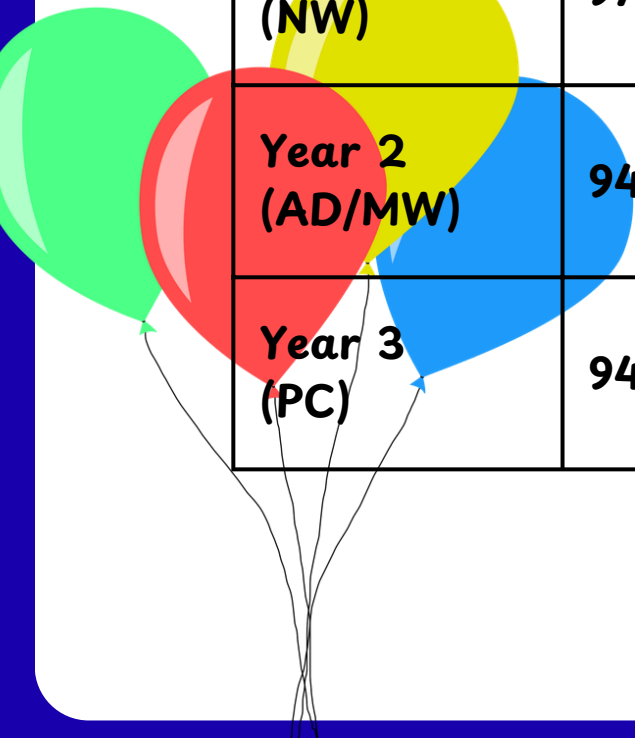
SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS!

Spring 1 Newsletter

Attendance Matters!

ATTENDANCE THIS HALF TERM

Nursery AM (EH)	84.6%	Year 3/4 (SH)	93.9%
Nursery PM (EH)	75%	Year 4 (AM)	95.4%
Reception (LC)	91.6%	Year 5 (KM)	93.5%
Year 1 (SH)	89.8%	Year 5/6 (SP)	87.4%
Year 1/2 (NW)	97.6%	Year 6 (JY)	95.9%
Year 2 (AD/MW)	94.6%	Robins (DH)	90.7%
Year 3 (PC)	94.3%	Owls (AW/HA)	88.2%



Spring 1 Newsletter

The class with the highest attendance for
Spring term so far are....

**Year 1 and 2 - Mrs
Wright's class**

YAY!

**ATTENDANCE
ACTIONS**

**We will be celebrating attendance weekly in
assembly with the winning class having an
attendance award and an extra 5 minutes of play (as
decided by our children).**

**Those that have 100% attendance for a week will
also have 2 Dojo points!**

**We will be doing attendance certificates termly
instead of half termly and there will be special
rewards for those that have 100% attendance at the
end of the year!**



What's been happening?

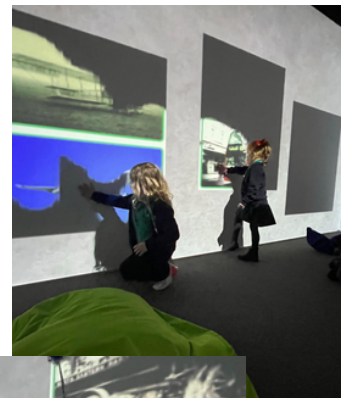


Year 2 enjoyed taking part in a learning workshop learning about money matters!



Lots of Expressive Arts going on linked to the topic in Year 3 - 'Commotion in the Ocean'.

Our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils enjoyed visiting the immersive 5G classroom to enhance their skills and knowledge on their topic 'Transport'.



Owls enjoyed their PJ Day and listening to their favourite bedtime stories as a reward for reaching their Dojo target.
Da iawn pawb!



What's been happening?



This half term we have enjoyed welcoming new children into our Nursery. We have been learning about our homes and families. We have been talking about our routines and roles in our families. In maths we have been looking at dice patterns, comparing collection and patterns. We have started our Pori Drwy Stori Nursery Rhyme Challenge and so far, enjoyed number rhymes and action rhymes.



Year 1 have enjoyed learning about different religions as part of our work on World Religions Day. They are certainly becoming more ethically informed and respectful of differences.



Congratulations!

What's been happening?



Our first 100 Dojo points winners enjoyed their hot chocolate with Mrs Miller. Da iawn - it's wonderful to see so many of our children so excited to receive their awards!!



Some of Rights Ambassadors along with our Senedd decided to visit the Senedd in Cardiff Bay to hand deliver a letter that challenged the recent budget and funding cuts affecting education and schools. Their concerns were discussed in line with Articles 28 & 29: their right to education, as enshrined in the UN convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).



SCHOOLS FAMILY ADVICE SOUTH WALES

Need support finding the right path?

Citizens Advice Caerphilly Blaenau Gwent provide free, confidential and impartial advice on issues including debt, benefits, housing, employment, family and more

Click here or scan the QR code to connect with one of our friendly advisers



[**schools@cacbg.org.uk**](mailto:schools@cacbg.org.uk)



Caerffili
Blaenau Gwent
Caerphilly
Blaenau Gwent



BLAENAU GWENT

RUGBY SCHOOL DISTRICT

26/27 SEASON TRIALS



**26/27 SEASON
TRIALS**

FREE TO ATTEND!

For children currently in Year 4 and Year 5
who attend a school in Blaenau Gwent.

Please bring a passport style photo of your child

AND it's important to attend every trial session.

- ✓ 25th April 2026 9:30am-12pm
- ✓ 2nd May 2026 9:30am-12pm
- ✓ 16th May 2026 9:30am-12pm
- ✓ 23rd May 2026 9:30am-12pm

At Brynmawr Comprehensive School on the 3G Pitch

CONTACT:

Gareth 07989615312

Jess 07932908554

Shine!

Families First Inclusive Youth Club

**Every Tuesday, 3:30pm-5:30pm
(Term time only) Newtown
Community Centre, Tre Newydd,
Newtown, Ebbw Vale. NP23 5FH**

**Does your child have a disability or needs
relating to one? Pop along and see us**

The age range is 0-25 years (under 18s
must be accompanied by a parent /
carer) Young adults (18+) can attend
independently where appropriate.

**For more information please contact the
Families First Team on Tel: 01495 369621
Email: thomas.brain@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk
Facebook: Families First - Blaenau Gwent**





Discover disability sport at
insport Series: Gwent

20th February / 1:30-4:30pm / Cwmbran Stadium

Book your FREE place:

insportseries.co.uk



BWYDO EU
BYWYDAU
FEED THEIR
FUTURE



ADDYSG CYMRU
EDUCATION WALES

canysgodys eu cymru | our national schools



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Peidiwch â cholli allan

Cymorth gyda chostau ysgol.

Don't miss out

Help with school costs.

- Gwiriwch a ydych yn gymwys i gael Prydau Ysgol Am Ddim a hawliwch yr hyn rydych yn gymwys iddo trwy Hanfodion Ysgol (PDG - Mynediad)
- Check your eligibility for Free School Meals and claim what's yours through School Essentials (PDG Access)
- Dysgwch mwy am gyflwyno Prydau Ysgol am Ddim i bob plentyn ysgol gynradd erbyn 2024
- Find out about the rollout of Free School Meals to all primary school children by 2024



Darllenwch fwy a gwiriwch a ydych chi'n gymwys:
llyw.cymru/hawliwch-help-gyda-chostau-ysgol
Neu siaradwch â staff yr ysgol neu cysylltwch
â'ch Awdurdod Lleol am ragor o wybodaeth.



Read more and check if you're eligible:
gov.wales/get-help-school-costs Or talk to
school staff or contact your Local Authority
for more information.





Datblygu Chwaraeon
Gwella Bywyd Cymunedol | Improving Community Life
Sports Development

**Ages
8-12**

FEBRUARY PLAYSCHEME

**TREDEGAR
SPORTS CENTRE**

Monday, 16 February
Call 01495 369226

**EBBW VALE
SPORTS CENTRE**

Wednesday, 18 February
Call 01495 369227

**ABERTILLERY
SPORTS CENTRE**

Friday, 20 February
Call 01495 369225



**Multi-Sports
Activities**
10am – 1.30pm



Optional
Swim
1.30pm – 3pm

Booking is Essential

Suitable footwear like trainers must be worn – no crocs, sliders or flip flops



Ymddiriedolaeth Hamdden Aneurin
Gwella Bywyd Cymunedol | Improving Community Life
Aneurin Leisure Trust

life



PARC BRYN BACH

February Half Term Activities



Every Day

Family Trail

Available 2 - 28 February
£1.50 per child
No booking necessary –
just pay at reception on arrival.

Cave & Climb

Monday to Friday 12pm – 3pm
1 activity £4.20
2 activities £7.40
No booking necessary

Mountain Bike & Go-Kart Hire

Available daily • Book online

Monday 16 February

Off-Site Activity Day

9.30am – 3pm

An exciting day of activities at a
nearby multi activity centre.

Ages: 8-14
£30 per child
(includes return transport)

Wednesday 18 February

Bushcraft

10.30am - 11.30am
Ages: 6+
£12 per child

Mountain Bike Taster Session

1pm – 2pm
Ages: 13+
£15 per child

Friday 20 February

On-Site Activity Day

9.30am – 3pm

Activities are weather dependent
and may include Caving, Climbing
Wall, Bushcraft and Orienteering
or Tiki SUP

Ages 8-14
£23.30 per child

Book online at parcbrynbach.co.uk

Please note that all events are delivered in the medium of English unless otherwise stated.





Llyfrgelloedd
Blaenau Gwent
Libraries

February Half Term

Wiggly Words

Jump into a book and make those words wiggle off the page with our interactive storytelling session!

Tuesday, 17th February

10.00 - 11.00 Tredegar Library

10.00 - 11.00 Cwm Library

11.30 - 12.30 Ebbw Vale Library

Thursday, 19th February

10.00-11.00 Abertillery Library

11.30-12.30 Blaina Library

14.30-15.30 Brynmawr Library

For ages
3-9 years

Booking is essential as spaces are limited.



Ymddiriedolaeth Hamdden Aneurin
Gwellia Bywyd Cymunedol | Improving Community Life
Aneurin Leisure Trust

Play in the Park

with the Blaenau Gwent Play Team

Join the Blaenau Gwent play team over February half term for fun filled games, outdoor play and arts & crafts activities.

Tuesday 17th February

10am - 12pm: Letchworth Road Play Area, Ebbw Vale. NP23 6LA

2pm - 4pm: St. Marys RC Primary School, Catholic Road, Brynmawr. NP23 4EF

Wednesday 18th February

10am - 12pm: Rhos-Y-Fedwen Primary School Honey field Road Rassau. NP23 4TA

2pm - 4pm: Southend Play Area, Southend, Tredegar. NP22 4JN

Thursday 19th February

10am - 12pm: William Street Play Area, Cwm. NP23 7TH

2pm - 4pm Gelli Crug Play Area, Clarence Street,
Abertillery, NP12 1HE

**FREE
Events**

**Aimed
at 5-14
years**

**Register
on the
day!**

**FREE
Snacks**



Datblygu Chwaraeon
Gwella Bwyd Cymunedol | Improving Community Life
Sports Development

February Half Term

FAMILY DISABILITY SWIM SESSIONS

TREDEGAR SPORTS CENTRE

Tuesday, 17 February
10am - 11am

EBBW VALE SPORTS CENTRE

Wednesday, 18 February
10am - 11am

ABERTILLERY SPORTS CENTRE

Friday, 20 February
11am - 12pm



FREE
access for
disabled children
and siblings with
a paying
adult/carer



Booking is Essential



Ymddiriedolaeth Hamdden Aneurin
Gwella Bwyd Cymunedol | Improving Community Life
Aneurin Leisure Trust

bglife.co.uk

life

Abertillery Sports Centre
February Half Term Swimming Timetable 2026

Monday 16 February	Tuesday 17 February	Wednesday 18 February	Thursday 19 February	Friday 20 February	Saturday 21 February	Sunday 22 February
06:00 - 08:00 Public Swim	06:00 - 08:00 Public Swim	06:00 - 08:00 Public Swim	06:00 - 08:00 Public Swim	06:00 - 08:00 Public Swim		08:15 - 10:15 Adults Only Swim
09:30 - 10:30 Trail Blazers	09:30 - 10:30 Trail Blazers	09:30 - 10:30 Trail Blazers	08:15 - 09:15 Good Boost	09:30 - 10:30 Trail Blazers		10:15 - 11:45 Public Swim
10:30 - 12:00 Public Swim	10:30 - 12:00 Public Swim	11:00 - 11:45 Aqua Fit	09:30 - 10:30 Trail Blazers	11:00 - 12:00 Disability Family Swim		
12:20 - 13:10 Adults Only Swim	12:20 - 13:10 Adults Only Swim	12:20 - 13:10 Adults Only Swim	10:30 - 12:00 Public Swim	12:30 - 13:15 Aqua Fit	13:50 - 16:00 Public Swim & Free Swim for Under 16s	
12:20 - 13:10 Parent & Toddler	12:20 - 13:10 Parent & Toddler	12:20 - 13:10 Parent & Toddler	12:20 - 13:10 Adults Only Swim	15:00 - 17:30 Public Swim		
13:30 - 15:30 Public Swim	13:30 - 15:30 Public Swim	13:30 - 15:30 Public Swim	12:20 - 13:10 Parent & Toddler	17:30 - 18:30 Inflatable Fun for Under 8s		
17:00 - 18:30 Public Swim	19:30 - 20:30 Lane Swim	20:00 - 21:00 Lane Swim	20:00 - 21:00 Lane Swim	18:30 - 19:30 Inflatable Fun for Ages 8+		
19:30 - 20:30 Lane Swim				19:30 - 20:30 Lane Swim		

For more information visit www.bglife.co.uk/temporary-swimming-timetables

life

Ebbw Vale Sports Centre
February Half Term Swimming Timetable 2026

Monday 16 February	Tuesday 17 February	Wednesday 18 February	Thursday 19 February	Friday 20 February	Saturday 21 February	Sunday 22 February
06:00 - 08:00 Lane Swim	06:00 - 08:00 Lane Swim	06:00 - 08:00 Lane Swim	06:00 - 08:00 Lane Swim	06:00 - 08:00 Lane Swim		09:00 - 10:00 Adults Only Swim
08:00 - 08:45 Aqua Aerobics	08:00 - 08:45 Aqua Aerobics	09:00 - 10:00 Adults Only Swim	08:00 - 08:45 Aqua Aerobics	09:00 - 10:00 Good Boost & Adult Swim x3 Lanes		09:00 - 10:00 Parent & Toddler
10:00 - 11:00 Adults Only Swim	09:00 - 10:00 Good Boost	10:00 - 11:00 Family Disability Swim	10:00 - 11:00 Parent & Toddler	10:00 - 11:00 SUP/Rookie Bryn Bach Park	10:00 - 11:00 Adults Only Swim	10:00 - 11:00 Public Swim Free for under 16's
11:00 - 14:30 Public Swim	10:00 - 11:00 Parent & Toddler	11:00 - 15:00 Public Swim	10:00 - 11:00 Adults Only Swim	11:00 - 15:00 Public Swim	11:00 - 15:00 Public Swim & Slides	11:00 - 15:30 Public Swim & Slides
20:00 - 21:00 Adults Only Swim	10:00 - 11:00 Adults Only Swim	19:30 - 20:15 Aqua Aerobics	11:00 - 15:00 Public Swim & Slides	17:15 - 20:00 Public Swim		
	11:00 - 15:00 Public Swim & Slides	20:15 - 21:15 Adults Only Swim		20:00 - 21:00 Adults Only Swim		
	18:00 - 20:00 Public Swim					
	20:00 - 21:00 Adults Only Swim					

For more information visit www.bglife.co.uk/temporary-swimming-timetables

life

Tredegar Sports Centre
February Half Term Swimming Timetable 2026

Monday 16 February	Tuesday 17 February	Wednesday 18 February	Thursday 19 February	Friday 20 February	Saturday 21 February	Sunday 22 February
06:05 - 07:45 Lane Swim	06:05 - 08:05 Lane Swim	06:05 - 07:45 Lane Swim	06:05 - 08:05 Lane Swim	06:05 - 07:45 Lane Swim		08:15 - 10:00 Lane Swim
07:45 - 08:30 Aqua Aerobics	10:00 - 11:00 Family Disability Swim	07:45 - 08:30 Aqua Aerobics	12:00 - 13:00 Lane Swim	07:45 - 08:30 Aqua Aerobics		11:45 - 13:45 Public Swim Free for Under 16's
12:00 - 13:00 Lane Swim	12:00 - 13:00 Lane Swim	10:00 - 11:30 Pool Inflatable	13:30 - 15:30 Public Swim	12:00 - 13:00 Lane Swim	12:35 - 13:35 Public Swim	13:45 - 15:00 Public Swim
13:30 - 16:30 Public Swim	13:30 - 15:30 Public Swim	12:00 - 13:00 Lane Swim	20:05 - 21:05 Adults Only Swim	13:30 - 15:30 Public Swim	13:45 - 14:45 Pool Inflatable	
20:05 - 21:05 Adults Only Swim	20:05 - 21:05 Adults Only Swim	13:30 - 15:30 Public Swim		19:05 - 20:05 Adults Only Swim		

For more information visit www.bglife.co.uk/temporary-swimming-timetables

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