



# Autumn 1 Newsletter

## THIS HALF TERM

Welcome Back!

It's been a busy half term. We've been our learning classroom routines and creating our class charters. It was all about getting comfortable and ready for a great and successful year.

## NEWS

Please note that applications for Nursery & Secondary placements for 2026 are currently open. Please click here to apply for a place in our Nursery or to Secondary school.

## CONTACT US

**Mrs Melanie Miller**

*Headteacher*

**Mrs Amy Skuse**

*Deputy Headteacher*

**School Number:** 01495 369239

**School Website:** <https://www.ystruthprimary.co.uk/>



## NEXT HALF TERM DATES

**14.11.25 - Children in Need - more details to follow**

**2.12.25 - 4 School Christmas Concert**

**3.12.25 - Christmas Dinner Day**

**8.12.25 - Nursery Christmas PACT and singalong 9:30am/1:30pm**

**9.12.25 - Reception Christmas PACT and singalong 1:30pm**

**10.12.25 - Y5 and Y6 Christmas Play @1:30pm**

**11.12.25 - Y3 and Y4 Christmas Play @1:30pm**

**12.12.25 - Y1 and Y2 Christmas Play @1:30pm**

**19.12.25 - Last day of term**



# Autumn 1 Newsletter

## LANGUAGES

FRANCAIS

Bonjour  
Hello



BRAWDDEG Y MIS

Shwmae  
Hello



## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Thank you for your kind  
donations for our local  
Foodbank this year!

## LEARNING

We have launched some new initiatives in our school this year. One is called 'Y Wal Wella' which means 'Bump it Up'. It's a way for us to look at success criteria and make sure we do our very best. Another initiative is our learning questions. We have worked on the first two questions so far:

1. What are you learning and why?
2. How are you doing in your learning?



## RIGHTS OF THE MONTH



**Nov - Article 2** All children have rights, no matter who they are, where they live, what their parents do, what language they speak, their religion and culture or if they have a disability. No child should be treated unfairly.

**Dec - Article 41** If the laws of your country provide better protection of your rights than the articles in this convention, then those laws apply.



# Autumn 1 Newsletter

## Attendance Matters!

**AS YOU ARE AWARE, THE SCHOOL ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO MAINTAINING HIGH LEVELS OF ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY.**

**AS PART OF THE WELSH GOVERNMENT'S DRIVE TO INCREASE ATTENDANCE LEVELS ACROSS ALL SCHOOLS IN WALES, WE ARE MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT ALL OUR PUPILS BENEFIT FROM REGULAR ATTENDANCE.**

**OUR ASPIRATIONAL ATTENDANCE TARGET FOR THIS ACADEMIC YEAR IS **92%**.**

**BELOW IS A TABLE THAT SHOWS HOW MUCH LEARNING CAN BE MISSED IN ONE SCHOOL YEAR. THE EDUCATION WELFARE TEAM WORKS CLOSELY WITH THE SCHOOL, AND EWOS ARE UNDERTAKING VISITS TO DISCUSS PUPIL ATTENDANCE.**

Attendance	Learning missed in ONE school year
100% attendance	0 days of learning missed - best chance of success!
95% attendance	2 weeks of learning missed
90% attendance	4 weeks of learning missed – poor attendance
85% attendance	5 ½ weeks of learning missed – very poor attendance
80% attendance	At least 7 ½ weeks of learning missed. You are at risk of prosecution



# Autumn 1 Newsletter

**ATTENDANCE  
THIS HALF TERM**

## Attendance Matters!

<b>Nursery AM (EH)</b>	<b>87.2%</b>	<b>Year 3/4 (SH)</b>	<b>90.5%</b>
<b>Nursery PM (EH)</b>	<b>75.8%</b>	<b>Year 4 (AM)</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Reception (LC)</b>	<b>96.2%</b>	<b>Year 5 (KM)</b>	<b>90.5%</b>
<b>Year 1 (SH)</b>	<b>89.8%</b>	<b>Year 5/6 (SP)</b>	<b>92.1%</b>
<b>Year 1/2 (NW)</b>	<b>93.6%</b>	<b>Year 6 (JY)</b>	<b>89.1%</b>
<b>Year 2 (AD/MW)</b>	<b>88.9%</b>	<b>Robins (DH)</b>	<b>93.8%</b>
<b>Year 3 (RK)</b>	<b>91.9%</b>	<b>Owls (AW/HA)</b>	<b>89.5%</b>



# Autumn 1 Newsletter

## ATTENDANCE ACTIONS

## Attendance Matters!



**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.**



# What's been happening?



Some of our Year 5 and 6 took part in a football tournament and had a great time showing their skills and working as a team!



Year 3 and 4 have been immersing themselves in their new context all about themselves and how they 'Express' themselves.



Friends of Ystruth organised a 'Spooky Day' where all pupils enjoyed a disco and other fun activities.

We had a performance and workshop for pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 called 'Jack and the Beanwalk' encouraging pupils to take part in active travel.



Your Ref. / Eich Cyf.

Date. / Dyddiad. Oct 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

**Re: Mobile Phone / Digital Devices in school**

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to inform you about important guidance that will be implemented across Blaenau Gwent schools from 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025, immediately after the half term break.

From 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025, all schools will be supported by the Local Authority to implement policy placing restrictions on the use of mobile phones and digital devices across the whole school day. Schools will determine what their individual policies will include and will implement sanctions for non-compliance in line with their own behaviour policy.

Each school policy will recognise that when there are extenuating circumstances, such as the need to use mobile phone or digital devices for medical or accessibility reasons, that appropriate arrangements will be put in place.

The reason for this guidance is due to the high number of representations and reports regarding increasing behaviours in school, which in turn has a negative impact on teaching, learning, safeguarding, and the overall wellbeing of staff and pupils. By implementing this guidance, we aim to ensure all staff and pupils are safeguarded, and that pupils have better learning experiences with positive outcomes.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Dr Luisa Munro-Morris  
Deputy Chief Executive Blaenau Gwent and Strategic Director Children, Young People and Families

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn cyfalvnebu gyda chi yn eich dewis iaith, dim ond i chi rhoi gwybod i ni pa un sydd well genych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

The Council welcomes correspondence in Welsh and English and we will communicate with you in the language of your choice, as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.