



Blaenavon Heritage Voluntary Controlled Primary School

*Middle Coed Cae Road, Blaenavon. Torfaen NP4 9AW
Tel. No: 01495 766500/766501*

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Please visit our website: www.bhvcprimary.co.uk

26th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers
Annwyl Rhieni

Summer is behind us and another school year has started: pupils have settled well into their new classes. A special welcome to all new pupils and parents that have transferred from other schools and to all our new nursery parents. We hope you build strong relationships with staff and that your child has an amazing experience whilst at our school.



If you have any problems, or any good news to share, please don't hesitate to contact us. Class teachers are always available at the end of the school day. Myself, my deputy Headteacher (Mrs Jane Howells) or Mrs Macdonald are always on hand to deal with any worries or concerns you may have.

We are looking forward to a positive 2017/18 and to seeing you engage at many of our parental events over the school year.

Please find below a few reminders you may find useful. The school calendar for the school year 2017/18 is attached – please make a note of the dates in your diary/calendar. The information is also available on the school website. We endeavour not to change dates over the year; however, there may be times when unforeseen circumstances affect our dates, so please check the updates as they continue to come to you.

HEALTHY EATING

We promote healthy eating at school, an initiative promoted by Welsh Government. As a result, parents are requested not to send their children into school with chocolate, sweets, crisps, or with drinks containing lots of sugar. Instead, we encourage parents to provide only healthy snacks for their children (eg fruit and water).

At school meals we aim to provide only healthy options, including vegetables and fruit. Pupils in foundation phase are also provided with a bottle of milk daily.

VALUE - RESPECT

Our Value for this term is RESPECT. Attached to this newsletter is information we hope you will be able to share with your family as you explore this value together.

MEASLES: Please find attached a leaflet informing you of how to stay safe and spot the signs of measles.

SCHOOL DINNERS: If your child brings their own school lunch, please could you encourage them to put all their uneaten and unused food back into their lunch bag so parents can see what has been eaten during lunch. Please also encourage them not to throw unwanted food on the floor or in the bin.



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Agor y drws i'ch dyfodol!



ActiveMark
MarcActif
Cymru





SCHOOL TRIPS: Please make every effort to return slips to school by the given date. Please could you also ensure that asthma pumps and other medication are in school and in date.

ATTENDANCE

Good attendance patterns start from nursery. Please encourage your child to attend regularly and on time. Welsh Government is encouraging all schools to work towards a target of 95%. Last year our attendance was 94.5%. I am hoping this year that we can improve significantly and have a year where all pupils and staff remain well so we can work towards our 95% target.

All research proves pupils who attend school regularly make better progress!
So Remember - miss it and miss out!

A few reminders for parents include:

If your child has a medical appointment, please ensure (where possible) they come into school for their mark before attending the appointment. Please also provide a copy of appointment letters.

When leaving a message on the school answerphone about your child's absence, please provide a clear message including: Child's FULL name; Reason for absence: (eg cold, sickness) – please don't just indicate feeling unwell.

If your child is attending any sporting events with local clubs we can authorise this as a sporting absence so please let us know if your child requires this type of absence.

PARENTAL PERMISSIONS

You will have recently received the annual Data Collection Sheet from school, requesting up-to-date information about your child. It is very important that school has telephone contact details so we are able to get in touch if needed. Please provide as many contacts as possible so we are able to contact an 'alternative named contact' if you are unavailable.

If you do not return the sheet, the permissions you have previously given for offsite visits remain as for the last academic year.

Parents are politely reminded that it is their responsibility to make sure we always have a contact number in case of emergency. If we are unable to contact you or anyone on the emergency contact list, then we seek advice from Torfaen Children's Services Department.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

Our School Improvement Priorities for 2017/18 are:

Continue to improve standards in Maths, including development of the new digital competency framework;
Continue to improve standards in English, including development of the new digital competency framework;
Continue to improve consistency of Assessment for Learning strategies, including marking;
Continue to improve standards of More able and talented pupils;
Continuing our work as a Welsh Government Pioneer School and professional learning community.
Continue to provide training for other teachers and continue to developing a brand new curriculum and professional learning model for a new curriculum in 2018.

Improve standards in Welsh; RE and our Christian ethos; Pupil wellbeing, including behavior, attendance and reducing exclusions.

TWITTER & SCHOOL WEBSITE

Please follow us on Twitter to see updates about daily activities at school.
All letters are now available on the school website – please check for information.



Find us on twitter @bhvcprimary.

School website: www.bhvcprimary.co.uk

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CLASS DOJO

Please can all parents sign up to Class Dojo for direct access and messaging to the class teacher and information about class activities. You should have received a letter from your child's class teacher at the beginning of the year with the relevant information.

STAFFING

After 4 years in Blaenavon, Miss Walters has secured promotion. We were very sorry to see her leave but send congratulations and best wishes for the future. Welcome to Miss Tara Stanley who has joined us in the school office.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES and **FACEBOOK PAGES** are in the process of being updated for the current academic year. Please sign up to the Facebook page for updates and communication about school.

MUSIC FEES are now due for this term - £38.00 and should be paid direct to Gwent Music online.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS will start on Monday, 25th September.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

The school shares a purpose with parents to educate and keep children safe from harm and to have their welfare promoted. If parents are worried a child is at risk of harm they can access information from: www.nspcc.org.uk; www.ceop.gov.uk or contact Torfaen Children's Services Department (01495 762200).

We are committed to working with parents positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy. We respect parents' rights to privacy and confidentiality and will not share sensitive information unless we have permission, or it is necessary to do so in order to protect a child.

Blaenavon Heritage VC Primary School will share with parents any concerns we may have about their child unless to do so may place a child at risk of harm. We encourage parents to discuss any concerns they may have with Mrs D Woodward, Designated Child Protection Officer.

We make parents aware of our policy in the prospectus, newsletters and on the school website: parents are made aware that they can view this policy on request or via the school website.

Parents are also reminded that if they wish to speak to staff, teachers are available at the end of the day to discuss any issues you may want to raise. Staff are generally available before 8.45 am, after which all staff are on duty supervising pupils, or after 3.15 pm. If you wish to make an appointment outside these times, please contact the school office. Mrs Woodward and Mrs Howells are also available to meet parents; an appointment is not always necessary – if they are free they will meet with you in person whenever possible. However, if you wish to make an appointment, then this is also available – please contact Mrs Whitcombe in the school office.

Mrs Macdonald is also available to meet with parents to discuss issues related to pupil wellbeing, including behaviour, if you need any help, support or guidance for your child, or as a family.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CHURCH IN WALES

You may see events in our newsletter that are promoting local links with our parish churches - St Peter's And St Paul's. We are hoping pupils and parents will support local events and become more active in engaging in these events. If you need to contact Father Rufus he would love to hear from you. He can be contacted on 01495 524599.



WHAT IS MY CHILD LEARNING ABOUT IN SCHOOL?

Last year we began a new way of planning English across the school and the pupils' work was focussed around a book which was based on their interests. Following teachers talking to children about what they would like to learn, we are continuing this focus this term and each year group is working on a special text. Please encourage your child to talk to you about their focus book and try and to encourage them to read, write and talk at home; every little helps them make as much progress as possible.



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Topics for this half term:

Nursery	Autumn
Reception	Mini Beasts
Year 1	Into the Forest
Year 2	Once Upon a Time
Year 3	Community Values
Year 4	World War 2
Year 5	Dinosaurs
Year 6	Animals
Red Class	Up, Down and Inbetween

HOW WELL ARE OUR PUPILS PROGRESSING?

I am pleased to report that, last year, our year 6 and year 2 pupils made excellent progress. This data was shared in school reports at the end of last term. If you have any concerns about your child's progress then please discuss this with the class teacher, in the first instance, or with Mrs Howells, who is our additional learning needs leader across the school.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Did you know ... our school is compared against schools with a similar free school meal percentage? We need every child who is eligible for free school meals to be signed up. The number of free schools meals pupils affect how much funding we get as a school and who we are compared against. If you want us to check whether you are eligible please pop into the school office and speak to Miss Tara Stanley who can help you find out. This makes a high difference to us at school, so please help us and sign up - even if your child doesn't want to have school dinners! We will always keep this information confidential.

FINAL PLEA!

Please return all outstanding reading books and homework books.

We still have a number of reading books and homework books that have not been returned to school. Please can you return them to school as soon as possible as we don't have money to replace missing resources. Thank you.

As ever, please do not hesitate to contact me in person, via telephone or email if you wish to discuss anything at all, including any concerns you may have.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs D Woodward
HEADTEACHER**

Attached:

- 1 School Calendar
- 2 School Value – Respect
- 3 Measles: How to Stay Safe

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