



Blaendulais Primary School

Standard Terrace, Seven Sisters, Neath, SA10 9AA
(01639) 700261

Headteacher: Mrs. R. Dawson
Deputy Headteacher: Mr. C. Fulford-Astley
Email: office@blaendulaisprimary.npt.school

'Making a Difference' 'Gwneud y Gwahaniaeth'

October 2025 Newsletter/Llythyr Newyddio



Dear Parents / Carers,

As we approach the end of a very busy first half term, our October newsletter celebrates our achievements and reminds about key dates, upcoming events and general school information.

Open door afternoon with Mrs Dawson

An open afternoon has been organised to come into school on Thursday 23rd October at 2.00pm and then again at 4.00pm. This is an opportunity for you to pop into school, share your ideas, discuss your concerns or ask any questions.

Behaviour

Following discussions with children, staff, parents, carers and Governors and through the completion of our recent behaviour questionnaires, we are implementing changes to further strengthen our school's approach to behaviour.

Through clear expectations and positive relationships, our shared goal is to create a calm, supportive and inclusive learning environment where every child feels safe, valued and happy. By working together, we will ensure that our school is a place where all children can learn, thrive and have fun.

Over the next few weeks our new 'Relationship Policy' and School Behaviour Chart will be developed and shared with all. This will be used consistently across the school to support the improvement of behaviour.

Thank you for your support and to everyone already helping us to make this positive change.

Safeguarding

If you ever have a concern about a child's welfare or safety, please speak to us straight away. We have safeguarding posters around school so children know who they can talk to.

Safeguarding Lead: Mrs. R. Dawson (Headteacher)

Safeguarding Governor: Ms. T. James (Chair of Governors)

Deputy Safeguarding Leads:

- Mr. C. Fulford-Astley (Deputy Headteacher)
- Mrs. A. Totterdale (ALNCo / LSC1)
- Mrs. H. Jones (Year 2/3)
-

Single Point of Contact (SPOC): 01639 686802 – for anyone needing advice or support about children, families or adults please phone this number.

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**



RWI updates

We're very proud that Blaendulais was highlighted in a recent Local Authority report for the fantastic progress children have made since introducing Read Write Inc, our new phonics and reading programme. A huge well done to all the children and staff!



Talk for Writing

Changing the way we learn Literacy

We are really excited to share that our school has started using a new and creative way of teaching Literacy called 'Talk for Writing'. This approach helps children learn to write stories and other types of texts in a fun, imaginative and active way.

What is Talk for Writing?

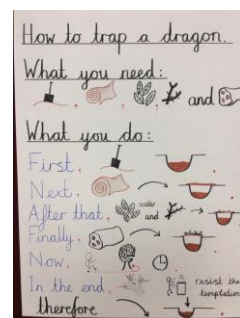
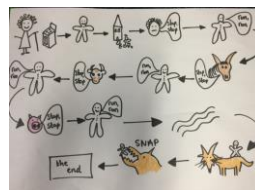
'Talk for Writing' helps every child become a confident storyteller and writer — by talking, using actions and pictures, and writing in their own words. It gives every child the chance to succeed and enjoy writing.

How does it work?

1. We begin by finding out what the children already know — through talking, drawing or writing.
2. Then, as a class, we learn and act out a "model text" (a story or example piece of writing) using actions to help everyone remember it.
3. Next, children practise new skills and vocabulary before changing parts of the story to create their very own versions.

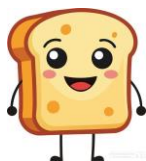
What we have been learning -

- **Nursery, Reception & Year 1:** The Gingerbread Man
- **Years 2 & 3 / LSC2:** The Papaya that Spoke
- **Years 4, 5 & 6:** Zelda's Class
- **LSC1:** Handa's Surprise



What's Next?

For the next few weeks, we are learning how to write instructions — such as how to catch a dragon, monster, wolf or troll! We can't wait to see what creative ideas the children come up with.



Breakfast Club

Doors open at 8.10am. Doors close at 8.25am. Please ensure your children are always supervised for their own safety when waiting for the doors to open.

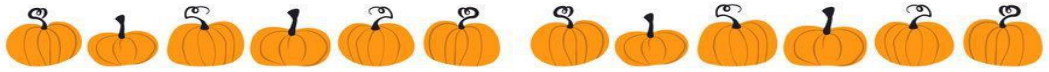
Breakfast Club is run by the 'School Meals Service' and any issues should be reported to that Service at Neath Port Talbot CBC and not the school.

🚫 Polite reminder - As with school, poor behaviour and rudeness will not be tolerated in Breakfast Club and we ask that all parents and children are respectful to our dedicated Breakfast Club staff.

Family Engagement Officer

Our Family Engagement Officer, Ceri-Marie Jones is with us every Monday and Wednesday and currently working with our children in our Nursery, getting to know the children and parents.

A Spooktacular Week of Spooky Fun



You are invited to join our Pumpkin Painting Paint-Off: Wednesday 22nd October

Come and paint a pumpkin with your child. Parents, Carers and Grandparents welcome.

Nursery: 10.30am – 11.30am (This will be held in our Family Room, but please come to the classroom first)

Reception & Year 1: 1.45pm – end of day (In class)

Years 2–6 / LSC1 & LSC2: 1.45pm – end of day (In classes)

Our wonderful PTA will be providing all pumpkins and materials.

Please send children in **old clothes** (it may get messy!).



Halloween Disco – Thursday 23rd October (School Hall)

Our fantastic PTA have organised a very spooky Halloween Disco from **4.30pm - 6.00pm**.

£1 entry on the night.

All children must be accompanied and supervised by an adult.

Fancy dress encouraged – it's going to be spooky fun!



You are invited to our Painted Pumpkin Parade: Friday 24th October at 2:30pm

A Painted Pumpkin Parade is then scheduled for Friday 24th October at 2:30pm where all classes from Reception - Year 6 will show off their amazing painted pumpkins.

Weather permitting, our parade will be held the parade in the school yard with parents invited to watch. If wet, we will use the School Hall.

Prizes for the best painted pumpkin!



Clubs

Our After School Clubs will be organised for after half term. Clubs will be run by school staff after school hours. Further details to follow.

Attendance

Our School has an Attendance Officer who visits the school regularly to monitor registers and who regularly checks-in with families where attendance is becoming a concern to offer advice and support.

Our target attendance is **95%**. Our current attendance is **92%**.



Lateness - Please sign your child in at the Main Office if you arrive after 8.50am.

Sickness - If your child is unwell, please contact the school on the first day of absence.



🚫 All unexplained absences will be followed up for safeguarding reasons as we need to know all is ok.

Appointments - whenever possible, please try to arrange these outside of school hours. If your child does need to attend an appointment during the school day, just share a letter or text confirming the appointment so we can authorise the absence.

Holidays - All are unauthorised under the Neath Port Talbot Council policy – please complete a holiday form to keep your child's attendance record accurate. Available from the school office.

Please speak to us if you are finding it difficult to get your child to school – we are always here to help.

The School Day

Doors open	8:40am
Doors close/start of the school day	8:50am
End of Nursery session	11:40am
End of school day for LSC pupils	3.00pm
End of the school day	3:15pm

Important dates for your diary

- **From Monday 13th October** – Parents/Carers Evening Week
- **Wednesday 15th October** – Shwmae Day (Wear red or Welsh colours or rugby/football tops)
- **Friday 17th October** – “Show Racism the Red Card” (wear something red)
- **Monday 20th October** – INSET Day
- **Tuesday 21st October** – Nasal Flu Spray (Reception–Y6, not Nursery)
- **Wednesday 22nd October** - Pumpkin Painting Paint-Off
- **Thursday 23rd October** – PTA School Disco 4.30pm-6.00pm (£1.00 entry on the night)
- **Friday 24th October** – Pumpkin Parade: Main School Yard @ 2.30pm. All families welcome.
- **Friday 24th October** – Last day of half term
- **Monday 3rd November** – First day back

Have a lovely half term break.

Mrs. R. Dawson
Headteacher