



Teaching and Learning
in a supportive environment
where all
feel valued, happy and
successful.

Blaydon West Primary School
Blaydon Bank
Blaydon on Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE214PY
Tel: 01914143286

www.blaydonwestprimary.org

Weekly Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been another busy and productive week at Blaydon West Primary, with lots happening both in and out of the classroom.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to join us for our **Meet the Teacher** evening this week. We appreciate that finding the time to attend school events can often be difficult with work and family commitments, so we were very pleased to see so many of you.

The evening was a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher, find out more about the year ahead and hear about the expectations, routines and learning that will take place over the coming months.

If you were unable to attend, don't worry. The information and materials that were shared with parents are available on our website:

[Termly Year Group Plans – Blaydon West Primary School](#)

We hope these resources will help you to get a good understanding of what your child will be learning this term and how you can support them at home.

At the bottom of this newsletter you will find **Supporting English at Home**

This is our **"English at a Glance"** guides for each year group. These simple guides are designed to help parents understand the key spelling, handwriting, reading and speaking skills that children are developing in school and how these can be supported at home.

Each guide includes:

- Important spelling words for your child's year group.
- Practical spelling and handwriting tips.
- Simple ways to develop speaking, listening and vocabulary.
- Ideas for short activities that can easily be built into everyday family life.

Please don't feel that you need to spend hours practising. Research and experience show that **little and often is best**. Just 5-10 minutes a few times each week, alongside regular reading and conversation, can make a significant difference to your child's confidence and progress in English.

We hope these guides help you feel more confident in supporting your child's learning at home. Thank you for your continued support in helping us ensure that every child becomes a successful reader, writer and communicator.

At Blaydon West, we are our best! 

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Our minibuses have been busy this week!

As well as our **weekly Year 5 swimming lessons**, which are now well underway, our **Year 2 children travelled to Chopwell Woods** for a science lesson.

Taking learning outside the classroom gives children the opportunity to experience things first-hand and put some of their classroom learning into practice. Year 2 had a fantastic opportunity to explore the woodland environment, make observations and develop their scientific understanding in a very different setting.

We are fortunate to have access to our minibuses, which allow us to provide children with these additional experiences throughout the school year.

Jeans for Genes Day

Today, Friday, we have been supporting **Jeans for Genes Day**.

The children were invited to come to school wearing jeans, and this provided a great opportunity to combine our fundraising and awareness-raising with some science learning.

Throughout the day, children took part in a range of **science investigations and activities linked to genes**, helping them to understand more about what genes are, how they influence our characteristics and why differences between people occur.

It was a great example of how we can use a national event to provide children with meaningful learning experiences across the curriculum.

Thank you to everyone who took part and helped us to make the day such a success.

GB Our New British Values Certificates

You may notice a slight change to our weekly **Star Badge** certificates.

The certificates have now evolved into our **British Values certificates**, and over the coming weeks we will be placing a particular focus on helping children to understand and demonstrate the values that underpin life in modern Britain.

These include:

- **Democracy**
- **The rule of law**
- **Individual liberty**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs**



Teaching and Learning
in a supportive environment
where all
feel valued, happy and
successful.

Blaydon West Primary School
Blaydon Bank
Blaydon on Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE214PY
Tel: 01914143286

www.blaydonwestprimary.org

These aren't simply ideas that we want children to learn about — they are values that we want them to see in action every day around school.

Over the next few weeks, we will be reinforcing children's understanding through assemblies, discussions, classroom activities and examples from everyday school life. Each week, we will identify children who have particularly demonstrated one or more of these values and they will receive a **British Values certificate in our Friday assembly**.

We want to recognise children not only for their academic achievements, but also for the way they contribute to our school community, treat others and demonstrate the values we expect from everyone at Blaydon West.

Reading - Last year, our children achieved an incredible reading total of 2,500 books and 7,591,000 words. This year, we are setting ourselves an even bigger challenge: 3,000 books and 8 million words! We would love your support in helping us reach this goal. Reading at home, sharing stories together, listening to your child read, or encouraging independent reading all make a huge difference. Every page, every book, and every minute spent reading counts towards our target. Thank you for supporting your child's reading journey and helping us create a community of confident, enthusiastic readers. 📖🌟

☆ Another Great Week

As always, there has been plenty happening across school, and it has been fantastic to see the children settling into their new classes and routines so well.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support. The partnership between home and school is incredibly important, and we look forward to continuing to work together throughout the year.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Brown
Headteacher
Blaydon West Primary School



YEAR 1

ENGLISH AT A GLANCE

Spelling • Handwriting • English • Oracy

In Year 1, children build secure phonics knowledge while learning common exception words.

Practise little and often, and encourage children to use the words in sentences.

→ SPELLING • Say the word, then spell it aloud. • Look → cover → write → check. • Spot the tricky part of the word. • Use the word in a spoken and written sentence.	✎ HANDWRITING • Form letters correctly before worrying about speed. • Keep letters sitting on the line and use consistent size. • Use a comfortable pencil grip and light, controlled pressure. • Practise tricky spellings in short, neat bursts.	💬 ORACY & ENGLISH • Ask your child to explain an idea in a full sentence. • Encourage turn-taking and listening to others. • Build vocabulary through daily reading and conversation. • Model interesting words and ask, "What does that word mean?"
---	---	---

COMMON EXCEPTION WORDS

the	a	do	to	today
of	said	says	are	were
was	is	his	has	I
you	your	they	be	he
me	she	we	no	go
so	by	my	here	there
where	love	come	some	one
once	ask	friend	school	put
push	pull	full	house	our

At home: Read together, talk about what you have read, practise spellings little and often, and celebrate clear, careful communication.

Blaydon West Primary School
"At Blaydon West, we are our best!"



Teaching and Learning
in a supportive environment
where all
feel valued, happy and
successful.

Blaydon West Primary School
Blaydon Bank
Blaydon on Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE214PY
Tel: 01914143286

www.blaydonwestprimary.org



YEAR 2

ENGLISH AT A GLANCE

Spelling • Handwriting • English • Oracy

Year 2 children continue to secure common exception words while developing spelling patterns, grammar and joined handwriting. Regular reading is one of the best ways to reinforce spelling.

— SPELLING

- Learn words in small groups rather than all at once.
- Say the word, identify the tricky part, then spell it.
- Use new words in sentences.
- Practise spelling from memory, then check.

✎ HANDWRITING

- Joined handwriting should become the norm when letter formation is secure.
- Keep letters correctly sized and spaced.
- Practise joins slowly first, then increase fluency.
- Remember the 3Ps: paper position, posture and pen/pencil pressure.

💬 ORACY & ENGLISH

- Encourage complete answers rather than one-word responses.
- Ask “Why?” and “How do you know?”
- Encourage children to listen, respond and build on ideas.
- Read aloud together and talk about unfamiliar vocabulary.

COMMON EXCEPTION WORDS

door	floor	poor	because	find
kind	mind	behind	child	children
wild	climb	most	only	both
old	cold	gold	hold	told
every	everybody	even	great	break
steak	pretty	beautiful	after	fast
last	past	father	class	grass
pass	plant	path	bath	hour
move	prove	improve	sure	sugar
eye	could	should	would	who
whole	any	many	clothes	busy
people	water	again	half	money
Mr	Mrs	parents	Christmas	

At home: Read together, talk about what you have read, practise spellings little and often, and celebrate clear, careful communication.

Blaydon West Primary School
“At Blaydon West, we are our best!”



YEAR 3

ENGLISH AT A GLANCE

Spelling • Handwriting • English • Oracy

Years 3 and 4 share a statutory list of 100 words. Schools teach these across the two years alongside spelling patterns, morphology and words linked to the wider curriculum.

— SPELLING

- Learn words through patterns, roots and word families where possible.
- Break longer words into syllables and meaningful parts.
- Use the word in context rather than memorising it in isolation.
- Check spellings independently using a dictionary when appropriate.

✎ HANDWRITING

- Aim for fluent, legible joined handwriting.
- Keep ascenders and descenders consistent.
- Use the correct size, spacing and joins.
- Remember the 3Ps: paper position, posture and pen/pencil pressure.

💬 ORACY & ENGLISH

- Encourage children to explain their thinking clearly.
- Use sentence stems such as “I agree because...” and “I would add...”
- Ask children to justify answers and consider another viewpoint.
- Build vocabulary by discussing word meanings and alternatives.

STATUTORY SPELLING WORDS

accidentally	actual	address	answer	appear
arrive	believe	bicycle	breath	breathe
build	busy	business	calendar	caught
centre	century	certain	circle	complete
consider	continue	decide	describe	different
difficult	disappear	early	earth	eight
eighth	enough	exercise	experience	experiment
extreme	famous	favourite	February	forwards
fruit	grammar	group	guard	guide
heard	heart	height	history	imagine
increase	important	interest	island	knowledge
learn	length	library	material	medicine
mention	minute	natural	naughty	notice
occasionally	often	opposite	ordinary	particular
peculiar	perhaps	popular	position	possess
possession	possible	potatoes	pressure	probably
promise	purpose	quarter	question	recent
regular	reign	remember	sentence	separate
special	straight	strange	strength	suppose
surprise	therefore	though	although	thought
through	various	weight	woman	women

At home: Read together, talk about what you have read, practise spellings little and often, and celebrate clear, careful communication.



Teaching and Learning
in a supportive environment
where all
feel valued, happy and
successful.

Blaydon West Primary School
Blaydon Bank
Blaydon on Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE214PY
Tel: 01914143286

www.blaydonwestprimary.org

Blaydon West Primary School • “At Blaydon West, we are our best!”



YEAR 4

ENGLISH AT A GLANCE

Spelling • Handwriting • English • Oracy

Year 4 continues the statutory Years 3–4 list. By this stage, children should increasingly apply spelling knowledge independently and use accurate spelling in everyday writing.

→ SPELLING

- Revisit words regularly so they become automatic.
- Explore prefixes, suffixes, roots and word families.
- Practise words in sentences and short paragraphs.
- Proofread carefully and correct taught spellings.

✎ HANDWRITING

- Writing should be fluent enough to keep pace with ideas.
- Use consistent joins, letter size and spacing.
- Choose a writing implement that supports neat, comfortable writing.
- Remember the 3Ps: paper position, posture and pen/pencil pressure.

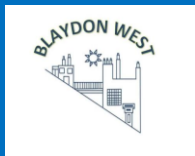
💬 ORACY & ENGLISH

- Encourage children to speak in full, well-structured sentences.
- Ask them to clarify and expand their ideas.
- Encourage respectful disagreement: “I see it differently because...”
- Talk about books, news and everyday experiences to develop vocabulary.

STATUTORY SPELLING WORDS

accidentally	actual	address	answer	appear
arrive	believe	bicycle	breath	breathe
build	busy	business	calendar	caught
centre	century	certain	circle	complete
consider	continue	decide	describe	different
difficult	disappear	early	earth	eight
eighth	enough	exercise	experience	experiment
extreme	famous	favourite	February	forwards
fruit	grammar	group	guard	guide
heard	heart	height	history	imagine
increase	important	interest	island	knowledge
learn	length	library	material	medicine
mention	minute	natural	naughty	notice
occasionally	often	opposite	ordinary	particular
peculiar	perhaps	popular	position	possess
possession	possible	potatoes	pressure	probably
promise	purpose	quarter	question	recent
regular	reign	remember	sentence	separate
special	straight	strange	strength	suppose
surprise	therefore	though	although	thought
through	various	weight	woman	women

At home: Read together, talk about what you have read, practise spellings little and often, and celebrate clear, careful communication.



YEAR 5

ENGLISH AT A GLANCE

Spelling • Handwriting • English • Oracy

Years 5 and 6 share a statutory list of 100 words. These are taught across the two years alongside increasingly complex spelling rules, morphology, etymology and vocabulary.

→ SPELLING • Use word roots and word families to support spelling. • Look for prefixes, suffixes and meaningful word parts. • Practise the words in authentic sentences. • Proofread independently and use dictionaries/thesauruses when useful.	✎ HANDWRITING • Write legibly, fluently and with increasing speed. • Choose whether to join letters when appropriate. • Maintain consistent size, spacing and presentation. • Remember the 3Ps: paper position, posture and pen/pencil pressure.	💬 ORACY & ENGLISH • Expect children to explain, justify and evaluate ideas. • Encourage precise vocabulary rather than vague words. • Use stems such as “My evidence is...” and “An alternative view is...” • Discuss books, current events and curriculum learning to strengthen spoken language.
--	--	--

STATUTORY SPELLING WORDS

accommodate	accompany	according	achieve	aggressive
amateur	ancient	apparent	appreciate	attached
available	average	awkward	bargain	bruise
category	cemetery	committee	communicate	community
competition	conscience	conscious	controversy	convenience
correspond	criticise	curiosity	definite	desperate
determined	develop	dictionary	disastrous	embarrass
environment	equip	especially	exaggerate	excellent
existence	explanation	familiar	foreign	forty
frequently	government	guarantee	harass	hindrance
identity	immediately	individual	interfere	interrupt
language	leisure	lightning	marvellous	mischievous
muscle	necessary	neighbour	nuisance	occupy
occur	opportunity	parliament	persuade	physical
prejudice	privilege	profession	programme	pronunciation
queue	recognise	recommend	relevant	restaurant
rhyme	rhythm	sacrifice	secretary	shoulder
signature	sincerely	soldier	stomach	sufficient
suggest	symbol	system	temperature	thorough
twelfth	variety	vegetable	vehicle	yacht

At home: Read together, talk about what you have read, practise spellings little and often, and celebrate clear, careful communication.



Teaching and Learning
in a supportive environment
where all
feel valued, happy and
successful.

Blaydon West Primary School
Blaydon Bank
Blaydon on Tyne
Tyne and Wear
NE214PY
Tel: 01914143286

www.blaydonwestprimary.org



YEAR 6

ENGLISH AT A GLANCE

Spelling • Handwriting • English • Oracy

Year 6 continues the statutory Years 5–6 list. Children should be applying spelling knowledge independently, proofreading accurately and selecting vocabulary carefully in preparation for secondary school.

— SPELLING

- Practise words in meaningful contexts, not just lists.
- Explore etymology and word families to remember difficult spellings.
- Use independent checking strategies.
- Encourage accurate spelling in everyday writing, messages and homework.

✎ HANDWRITING

- Aim for fluent, legible and increasingly speedy handwriting.
- Presentation should be consistent across subjects.
- Choose the most appropriate writing implement for the task.
- Remember the 3Ps: paper position, posture and pen/pencil pressure.

💬 ORACY & ENGLISH

- Encourage confident, articulate contributions to discussion.
- Ask children to support opinions with reasons or evidence.
- Practise respectful challenge and building on others' ideas.
- Encourage children to use ambitious, precise vocabulary when speaking.

STATUTORY SPELLING WORDS

accommodate	accompany	according	achieve	aggressive
amateur	ancient	apparent	appreciate	attached
available	average	awkward	bargain	bruise
category	cemetery	committee	communicate	community
competition	conscience	conscious	controversy	convenience
correspond	criticise	curiosity	definite	desperate
determined	develop	dictionary	disastrous	embarrass
environment	equip	especially	exaggerate	excellent
existence	explanation	familiar	foreign	forty
frequently	government	guarantee	harass	hindrance
identity	immediately	individual	interfere	interrupt
language	leisure	lightning	marvellous	mischievous
muscle	necessary	neighbour	nuisance	occupy
occur	opportunity	parliament	persuade	physical
prejudice	privilege	profession	programme	pronunciation
queue	recognise	recommend	relevant	restaurant
rhyme	rhythm	sacrifice	secretary	shoulder
signature	sincerely	soldier	stomach	sufficient
suggest	symbol	system	temperature	thorough
twelfth	variety	vegetable	vehicle	yacht

At home: Read together, talk about what you have read, practise spellings little and often, and celebrate clear, careful communication.

Blaydon West Primary School • “At Blaydon West, we are our best!”