



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 – Weekly Newsletter

Friday 16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we head towards the final week of this half-term, there is plenty happening at Blaydon West! We have lots to look forward to, from school photographs and flu vaccinations to our Halloween Disco and Year 3 family learning event. It is also a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the fantastic learning taking place across our school.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Working together makes such a difference to our children, and we are grateful for the many ways in which our families support school life.

School finishes next Thursday for half-term!

A reminder that school finishes on Thursday 22nd October for the half-term holiday. We have a busy final week planned, so please take a moment to check the important dates and arrangements below to ensure that you don't miss anything.

We hope all our families enjoy a restful half-term break when it arrives. In the meantime, let's make the most of our final few days of learning, activities and opportunities to celebrate everything the children have achieved this half-term.

School photographs – Monday

Our school photographer will be visiting us on the morning of Monday 19th October, taking photographs of children from Nursery to Year 6. Children who have PE that day should come in their usual full school uniform, not PE kit.

This is a lovely opportunity to capture a special memory of your child's time at Blaydon West, and we look forward to seeing the photographs.

Photographs of younger siblings who do not attend Blaydon West. If you would like a photograph taken with a younger sibling who does not attend our school, or a Nursery child who does not normally attend on a Monday morning, please bring them to school at 8:30am on Monday so that their photograph can be taken.

Please arrive promptly to help us organise the photographs smoothly and minimise disruption to the school day.

Head Teacher – Simon Brown

Chair of Governors – Chris Robson

Flu vaccinations – Tuesday

Our flu vaccination session takes place on Tuesday 20th October.

Parents and carers should already have completed the consent process through the NHS website. If you have signed your child up, please ensure they are in school as usual and ready for the vaccination team.

Flu vaccinations help protect children against seasonal influenza and can also help reduce the spread of flu within families and the wider community. Thank you to everyone who has completed the arrangements in advance.

If you have any questions about consent or your child's vaccination, please refer to the information provided through the NHS vaccination service.

Halloween Disco – Thursday!

Our Halloween Disco takes place on Thursday 22nd October, and we are looking forward to giving the children a fun and memorable way to finish the half-term!

Tickets must be purchased through Arbor, so please ensure that you have booked your child's place in advance (we need to know how many hot dogs to buy!)

We know that many children love dressing up and enjoying the excitement of Halloween. However, we would like to draw particular attention to our younger children, especially those in Nursery.

Halloween discos can involve loud music, flashing or changing lights, spooky decorations and people wearing scary masks or make-up. While some children will absolutely love this, others may find the experience overwhelming or frightening.

We warmly welcome younger children, including our Nursery children, but parents and carers must carefully consider whether their child will be comfortable in this environment before purchasing a ticket. Please think about how your child responds to loud noises, unfamiliar surroundings and scary faces.

Our priority is that every child who attends can enjoy the event safely and happily. We want the disco to be a positive experience for everyone!

Thank you to everyone who supports our school events. They provide valuable opportunities for the children to make memories, spend time with their friends and enjoy being part of the Blaydon West community.

Year 3 Spooky Family Learning – Thursday

Our Year 3 children and their families will also be taking part in our Spooky Family Learning session on Thursday 22nd October.

Families have already received their invitation directly from the Year 3 team, so please refer to that communication for the specific arrangements.

Family learning is a valuable part of school life. It gives children the opportunity to share their learning with the important people in their lives, while giving parents and carers a chance to see the activities and experiences that help their children develop. We hope our Year 3 families enjoy this special opportunity to learn together and embrace the Halloween theme!



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Cauliflower Cards – extended ordering deadline!

We have some good news for families who would like to order their child's Christmas artwork through Cauliflower Cards.

We have successfully secured an extension to the ordering deadline. The new deadline is Tuesday 20th October.

If you would like to order cards or other products featuring your child's artwork, please use the unique code that was sent home with your child's work and follow the ordering instructions provided.

Please remember that we only send off artwork for orders that have actually been placed.

If you have been meaning to place an order, please don't leave it until the last minute! These personalised products can make lovely keepsakes and thoughtful Christmas gifts for family members.

Thank you for supporting this activity and helping us celebrate the children's creativity.

Christmas Fayre – Friday 4th December

It might seem a little early to be talking about Christmas, but preparations for our Blaydon West Christmas Fayre on Friday 4th December are already underway!

Our Christmas Fayre is an important event in the school calendar. It brings our families and wider community together and provides a wonderful opportunity for the children to enjoy the festive season.

To help make this year's fayre as successful as possible, we are now urgently seeking donations for our Christmas Fayre raffle.

Can you help with a raffle prize?

We would be delighted to hear from any parents, carers, family members or local businesses who may be able to donate a prize.

Donations could come from:

- Local businesses that are able to offer a gift, voucher or experience.
- Employers who may be willing to contribute a prize.
- Families who have suitable new items to donate.
- Anyone in our wider community who would like to support our school.

Every donation, whatever its size, is greatly appreciated. A small contribution can make a real difference to our raffle and help us create an exciting event for our children and families.

If you are able to help, please contact us at:

events@blaydonwest.gateshead.sch.uk

Please share this request with anyone you think may be able to support us. The generosity of our community helps make events like this possible, and we are always grateful for the support we receive.

We look forward to sharing more details about the fayre as our preparations continue!

 **WORDS READ – over 1,000,000 words already!**

We have some absolutely fantastic news to celebrate!

Our children have already read over 1,000,000 words this half-term (1,146,354 to be precise!)

That is an incredible achievement and something of which our whole school community should be proud. Reading is one of the most important skills our children develop. It builds vocabulary, strengthens comprehension, develops imagination and opens doors to learning across every subject.

Every book finished, every page read and every opportunity taken to practise reading contributes to this success. Whether children are enjoying a picture book, discovering a new author, reading a longer chapter book or sharing a story with an adult, it all counts.

This achievement reflects the effort our children are putting into their reading and the encouragement they receive from staff and families.

Let's keep those words coming!

We want to maintain this fantastic momentum right through to the end of the half-term and beyond.

Please continue to encourage your child to read regularly at home. Just a little reading each day can make a significant difference over time. Talk about the story, ask questions about the characters, discuss unfamiliar words and, most importantly, help your child develop a genuine enjoyment of reading.

A huge well done to all our readers. One million words is a brilliant milestone – let's see how far we can go!

 Thank you, Blaydon West!



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As we approach the end of another busy half-term, I would like to thank our parents and carers for your continued support, encouragement and involvement in school life.

There is so much more to a successful school than what happens in the classroom. It is the partnership between children, families and staff that helps create a community where children feel supported, valued and ready to learn.

From encouraging reading at home to attending family learning events, supporting our fundraising activities and helping children arrive ready for the school day, your contribution matters.

We are proud of the children at Blaydon West and the progress they continue to make. Let's finish this half-term positively, celebrate their achievements and look forward to everything still to come.

Thank you, as always, for being part of our school community.

Have a lovely weekend, and we look forward to seeing everyone for our final week before half-term!

Simon Brown

Dates for Your Diary – Please note these are subject to change,

October 2026

 Harvest Festival Week

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 19 th October |  School Photographs |
| 21 st October |  KS2 Spooky Science Morning |
| 22 nd October |  KS1 Spooky Science Morning |
| |  Y3 Pedestrian Training |
| |  Y3 Family Halloween-Themed Science Workshop |
| |  Halloween Disco (4:00pm-5:15pm) |

23rd October SCHOOL CLOSED INSET DAY

November 2026

- | | |
|---|--|
| 5 th November |  Y3 Pedestrian Training |
| 9 th November |  Diwali Celebrations in School |
| 10 th November |  Y5 Sikh Temple Visit |
| |  Buddhist Visitor for Y3/4 |
| 11 th November |  Remembrance Day |
| |  Y3 & Y4 Waste and Recycling Workshops |
| 12 th -17 th November |  Scholastic Book Fair |
| 12 th November |  Y3 Pedestrian Training |
| 13 th November |  Y6 Hindu Temple Visit |
| |  Br. Khadim Visit to KS1 |
| 23 rd November |  Y4 Shibdon Pond Visit (Weather Permitting) |
| 30 th November |     Parents' Evening |

December 2026

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1 st December |     Parents' Evening |
| 4 th December |  Christmas Fayre |
| 8 th December |  KS2 Christmas Show (9:15am) |
| |  EYFS Nativity (11:00am) |
| 9 th December |  KS1 Christmas Show (9:15am) |
| |  KS2 Christmas Show (2:00pm) |
| 10 th December |  KS2 Christmas Show - Relaxed Performance (9:15am) |
| |  EYFS Nativity - Relaxed Performance (11:00am) |
| |  KS1 Christmas Show - Relaxed Performance (2:00pm) |
| 11 th December |  Christmas Film & Pyjama Day |
| 14 th December |  KS1 Christmas Party |
| 15 th December |  KS2 Christmas Party |
| 16 th December |  EYFS Christmas Party |
| 17 th December |  Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day |
| 18 th December |  Christmas Service at St Cuthbert's Church |