



Brackla Primary School

Brackla Way, Brackla, Bridgend CF31 2EZ

Tel: 01656 815570

Headteacher: Mrs. K. John

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs. A. Baldrige

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Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol



Brackla Bulletin 536 (10.10.25)

Value of the month: Respect

RRS - Article 14: Your right to follow your own religion

Dear all,

This week, Mrs Baldrige and I led an assembly on our new value and right. To help the children understand what respect looks like in everyday life, we explored the lovely book 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' by Carol McCloud.

The book introduces a simple but powerful idea: everyone carries an invisible bucket that holds their feelings. When we do kind things like helping, listening, or saying something nice, we 'fill' someone's bucket (and our own!) But when we're unkind or hurtful, we 'dip' into someone's bucket, taking away their good feelings. You may have heard your child talking about 'bucket fillers' or 'bucket dippers' at home. These are the terms we have been using this week to help children reflect on their actions and how they affect others. It is a gentle way to encourage empathy, kindness, and of course—respect. We will be continuing to explore this theme in class and around the school, so feel free to ask your child how they have been filling buckets this week!

Meet our new Chair of Governors

Hello, I'm Emma Lewis and I would like to introduce myself to you as the new Chair of Governors here at Brackla Primary School. My son has attended the school for the past 7 years, and in that time he has thrived! Seeing his personal development inspired me to want to find out more about how I could help the school, and being a part of the governing body seemed a good place to start. I was given the opportunity to be a part of the governing body 3 years ago, starting as a Parent Governor and then supporting as Vice Chair.

I am looking forward to working with parents, staff, the wider community and stakeholders to upkeep the high standards of education here at Brackla Primary School. We have good links within the community, and I hope to strengthen these relationships.

As parents you also have a pivotal role in supporting the school. Please keep providing feedback and suggestions on school life, giving us suggestions on ways we can make improvements but also sharing what's working well. Please familiarise yourself with the role of the governing body and how you can contact us should you need to. If a position on the governing body becomes available, please consider applying for it, we would welcome you on board.

Catch up in next week's newsletter to learn about the school's priorities for the forthcoming year.

Attendance

Each week class attendance is celebrated in assembly and this term, we will be awarding a trophy to the class with the highest attendance. The winning class will also get an additional 5 minutes playtime on Monday. Take a look below to see how your child's class did this week:

Nursery/Reception (Mrs Whelan)	84.58%
Reception (Mrs Driscoll)	97.54%
Reception/Year 1 (Mrs Ellis)	93.33%
1/2D (Mrs Delgado)	94%
2H (Miss Helm)	98.06%
3P (Ms Pavitt)	94.55%
3/4M (Mr M ^c Namara)	97.04%
4D (Miss Dawson)	98.80%
5S (Mrs Stephens)	94.07%
5/6H (Mrs Hayter)	93.93%
6S (Mr Still)	97.24%



Birthdays this week

On behalf of all the children and staff at Brackla Primary School **Happy Birthday** to:

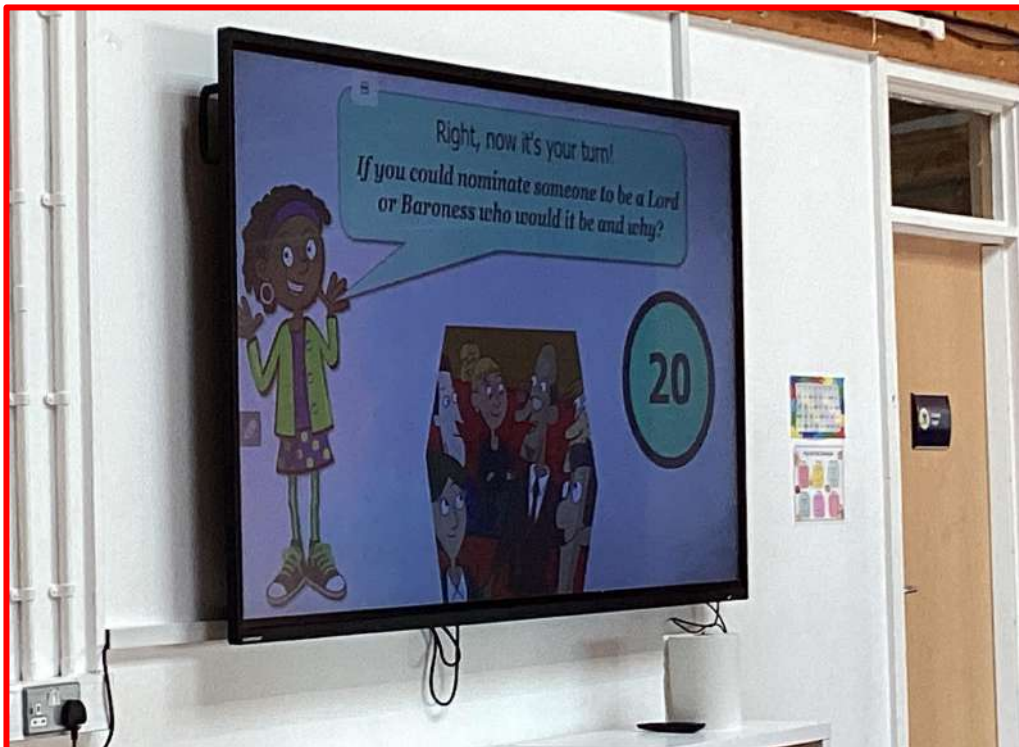
Zacary Evans, Fernando Wintermute, Harrison Williams, Oliver Lloyd, Jack Coxon, Harrison Evans.



Parliament Assembly

This week, our pupils in Years 3-6 had an opportunity to learn about democracy and the workings of government when a special visitor came to speak about the role of Parliament, including the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

The session helped children understand how laws are made, the importance of debate and discussion, and how MPs and Lords represent people across the UK. It was a great way to bring our curriculum to life and spark curiosity about how decisions are made in our country. Thank you to Patrick for coming school to share his knowledge.



Headteacher Awards

Well done to the following children on being nominated for a Headteacher Award this week. They have worked well in demonstrating the monthly value and right. Well done to: Nevaeh Rogers, Harvey Young, Peyton Farr, Griff Stothert-Wheatley, Maxx Sullivan, Matthew Freeman, Parker Cullen-Edwards, Lotti Bodnar, Annie Bebb, Jake Burnell, Lewin Mann.



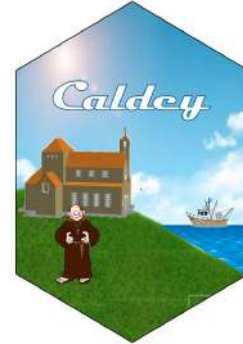
House Points Winner this week:



493
Points



483
Points



478
Points



437
Points

What's On Autumn Term A

Please take a look below at what is coming up at the beginning of the school year. These dates will be added to as the term goes on, so please keep checking.

Date	Event	Additional details
9th,10th, 13th, 14th and 15th October	Book fayre	315pm-3.45pm (small hall)
13th - 24th October	Swimming fortnight	Years 5 and 6
24th October	Break up for half term	
Monday 3rd November	INSET Day	
Tuesday 4th November	Children back to school	

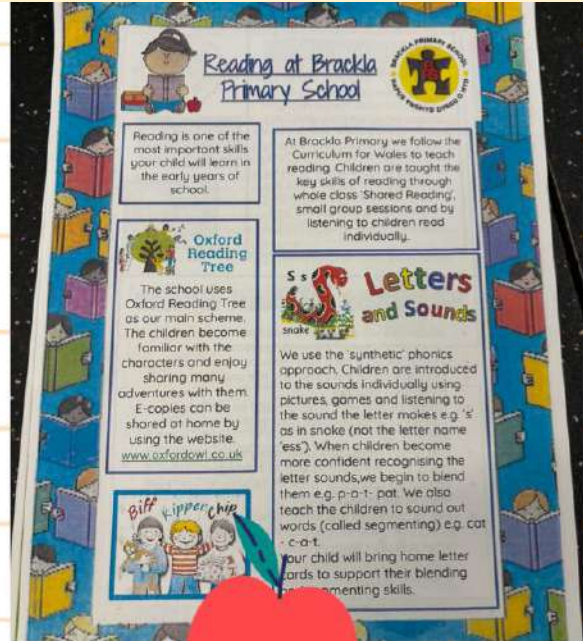
INSET Dates

The INSET dates for this year are as follows:

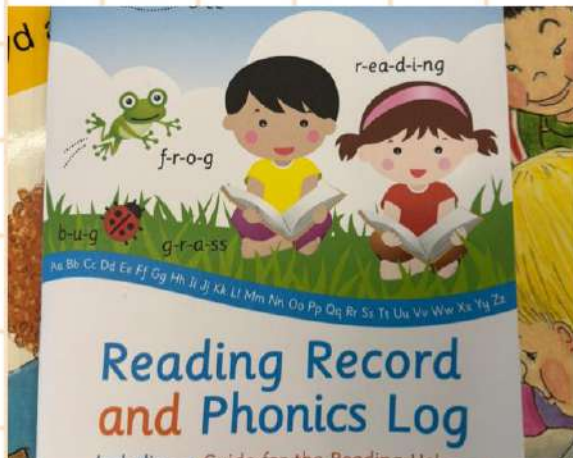
- Monday 3rd November
- Monday 23rd February
- Thursday 21st May
- Friday 22nd May
- Monday 20th July

Reception Reading Session - written by Mrs Driscoll

Thank you to all our Reception families who joined us to learn more about how we teach reading at Brackla. It was a pleasure to welcome you, and we're excited to be part of your child's reading journey ahead!



GET READY TO READ



Get Caught Reading Challenge – Winners Announced! - written by Miss K Davies

Mrs Davies and I are delighted to share that the winners of the *Get Caught Reading* challenge were announced on Wednesday, just ahead of Thursday's Book Fair.

We would like to congratulate our winning entries - we were truly impressed by the creativity and enthusiasm shown by all participants. We would also like to extend our thanks to everyone who took part. Your submissions brought us so much joy — choosing winners was no easy task! The imaginative photos had us laughing out loud and made this challenge a memorable one. Thank you once again for your fantastic contributions and for celebrating the joy of reading with us.



Finley Davies



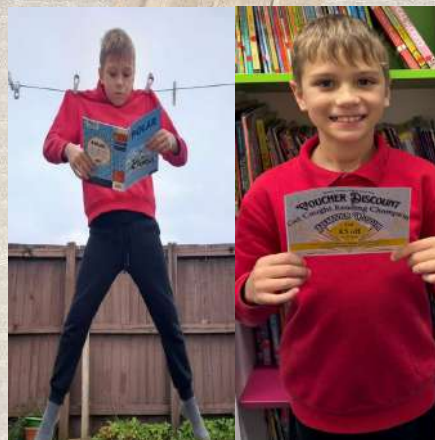
Darcie Fagher



Hope Smith



Charley Allen



Alexander Wojdyla



Elliott Abraham



Phoebe Kelland



Olha Goncharova



Emily Ashford

Get Caught Reading: Staff Edition Winners Announced! - written by Miss K Davies

A huge thank you to our student judges - [Finley](#), [Hope](#), [Charley](#), [Alexander](#), and [Elliott](#) for selecting this year's "Get Caught Reading" staff winners! Their thoughtful choices truly celebrated the joy of reading across our school. When asked what stood out to them, the winners said they loved seeing staff members "caught in the act" of reading everything from novels to cookbooks, and that it was inspiring to see adults modeling a love for books. One judge even remarked, "It made reading feel like a shared adventure." and I couldn't agree more!



Mr Still



Mr Williams

Island Farm Visit - PS3

On Monday, the children in PS3 were incredibly lucky to be visited by Brett, who taught us all about Island Farm. We were amazed to discover that 70 prisoners of war escaped from Island Farm during World War II! We also learned that our local area has a fascinating history — the South Wales Police headquarters in Bridgend was once the site of the Ammunition Factory.

Island Farm was originally built to house the women who worked in the factory, but they chose not to live there. Later, after American troops stayed at Island Farm, it was turned into a prisoner-of-war camp. Using everything we learned, we have had great fun reenacting the famous escape — with plenty of humour! Keep your eyes peeled for our video footage on our Seesaw accounts. Did you know that the German prisoners used the wood from their beds to support their escape tunnel?



Schools Family Advice

This project will provide free 1-2-1 advice sessions (of up to 1hr) for any parent/carer of a school age child within the school setting and provide practical support as well as signposting to other relevant agencies to make immediate and lasting improvements in their lives. **This is starting Friday 17th October and will take place every other Friday throughout term time.**

SCHOOLS FAMILY ADVICE

SOUTH WALES

Citizens Advice **Bridgend** provide free, confidential and impartial advice on a range of areas including debt, benefits, housing, employment and family.

If you or your family need help to find your way forward, speak to one of our advisers:

**Every other Friday at
Brackla Primary school**

CONTACT US

01656 762800

Monday - Friday 9am - 3.30pm



cyngor ar
bopeth

citizens
advice

Sirol Pen-y-Bont
ar Ogwr
Bridgend
County Borough



Harvest Celebrations

The whole school will be joining in a joyful Harvest Celebration on Tuesday 21st October, with a beautiful display of donated items from each class. If you'd like to contribute, every class has been invited to bring in specific items, all of which will go towards supporting The Pantri. Donations are completely optional, but if you'd like to take part, please send items in before the celebration so they can be included in the display. Please ensure all food items are in date and unopened. We're really sorry, but we cannot accept any fresh food. Thank you so much for all your donations so far-our trolley is overflowing. Keep the donations coming!



WE ARE SUPPORTING FARESHARE AND WOULD BE SO GRATEFUL IF YOUR CHILD COULD BRING ANY ITEMS FROM THE LIST BELOW FOR OUR SCHOOL PANTRI.

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS

TUESDAY 21ST OCTOBER

NURSERY & 3P- ANY TINNED FOOD
RECEPTION & 5/6 HJ- PASTA
RECEPTION/YEAR 1 & 5S - RICE
1/2D & 4D- CEREAL
2H & 3/4M- TOILETRIES
6S- HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS

PLEASE DROP YOUR DONATIONS INTO THE TROLLEY AT THE OFFICE OR HAND TO THE CLASS TEACHER

Upcoming events

We've got a fabulous mix of family engagement events coming your way - some during the day, some after school, and even a few in the evening, so there's something for everyone. Make sure you check your messages and emails for all the exciting details coming soon!



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
Upcoming Events
Autumn 2025

THURS 16TH OCT	Autumn Adventures: 3.15pm-4.30pm Families with children from Nursery to Year 6 are invited to an after-school celebration filled with seasonal crafts, exciting games, and cozy autumn vibes. Sign up is now open.
THURS 27TH NOV	Wreath making: 9am-10.30am Adults only and cost involved- limited numbers. More details to follow.
TUES 9TH DEC	Festive Fun: 3.15pm-4.30pm After school event for families. More details coming soon.
WED 17TH DEC	BPS Quizmas Cracker- 7pm-8.30pm Evening event for adults only full of festive cheer and fun- more details to follow

→ FAMILYENGAGEMENT@BRACKLAPRIMARY.CO.UK MRS KELLAND

Tots of Fun!

Calling all Brackla Primary families ... get ready for Tots of Fun! Every Friday at 9am - 10:30am, this brand-new baby and toddler group is your weekly dose of fun, playtime, and connection. This is something new we're trialling, so we'll see how it goes over the next few weeks and review it. Your support and feedback will help shape what comes next.

at
BPS

TOTS OF FUN

£1
PER
FAMILY

FRIDAY MORNINGS 9AM-10.30AM

A welcoming toddler group for all Brackla Primary families to bring babies and toddlers, connect with others, enjoy a cuppa and have fun with play, singing and stories.

PLAY, SING & GROW - TOGETHER AT BPS

SCHOLASTIC

COME TO THE

BOOK FAIR

9th - 15th
October

Breaktimes
and
3:15 - 3:45

FILL YOUR
SCHOOL WITH
FREE BOOKS
WHEN YOU BUY
FROM THE
BOOK FAIR*

LAST YEAR, YOUR
SUPPORT HELPED
TO DONATE OVER

£5.3M

IN BOOKS TO
SCHOOLS
NATIONWIDE

READING
GIVES YOU
SUPERPOWERS!



Wellbeing Update

Do you look after a family member or a friend who because of disability, illness, mental health condition or addiction couldn't cope without you?

If yes, you are a **Young Carer**

Things a young carer might do:

- Practical tasks, such as cooking, housework and shopping
- Physical care, such as helping someone out of bed
- Emotional support, such as talking to someone who is distressed
- Personal care, such as helping someone dress
- Collecting prescriptions and helping to dispense medicine
- Helping someone communicate
- Looking after brothers and sisters



Bridgend Young Carers ID Card

The Young Carer ID is a simple card that can be used by Young Carers to identify themselves, feel validated, and receive the support that they deserve. The Bridgend Young Carer ID Card is part of a Wales-wide scheme, funded by Welsh Government in collaboration with Carers Trust Wales and Local Authorities. The card is to help professionals including doctors, teachers and pharmacists to recognise you are a Young Carer which will help them give you the appropriate support you need and deserve.

Contact us to apply for your ID Card

If you live in Bridgend, Bridgend Young Carers Wellbeing Project team will be able to help you with your ID Card application. Email – joanne.jenkins2@bridgend.gov.uk

To help make sure we give you and the person you support the best and most appropriate information, advice and help possible please let us know about your caring responsibilities. You can do this by contacting joanne.jenkins2@bridgend.gov.uk or your school support teacher.



Safeguarding at Brackla Primary School

The Safeguarding leads at the school are Mrs Baldridge, Mrs John and Mr Still. If you are concerned about any child please come and speak with either of us at school or ring on 01656 815570. If you feel a child is at immediate risk of harm or danger ring 999.

ALL YEAR 1 & 2 PUPILS
CINEMA TRIP

ELF

PG



**FRIDAY 5TH
DECEMBER**

£12
PRICE INCLUDES:
TICKET
BUS TRANSPORT
CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

CHILDREN CAN BRING A SMALL BAG OF
SWEETS OR CRISPS AND A DRINK

SIGN UP VIA THE SCHOOL GATEWAY APP

YEARS 3-6 CINEMA TRIP

HOME ALONE PG



**FRIDAY
5TH DECEMBER**

£12

**PRICE INCLUDES:
TICKET
BUS TRANSPORT
CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES**

**CHILDREN CAN BRING A SMALL BAG OF
SWEETS OR CRISPS AND A DRINK**

SIGN UP VIA THE SCHOOL GATEWAY APP

Just to clarify this Christmas, children in Progression Step 1 will be performing Christmas concerts:



Dec 3rd 10.00 a.m. **Nursery** Children from Mrs Whelan's class

Dec 4th 10.00 a.m. **Reception** children from Mrs Whelan's, Mrs Driscoll's and Mrs Ellis' class

Dec 3rd 2.00 p.m. **Year 1** children from Mrs Ellis and Mrs Delgado's

Children in Years 2 - 6 (including Mrs Delgado's Y2) will perform for families later in the year

Christmas Fayre
Dec 12th
Stall costs and raffle

Individual photos
Sept 23rd
Various prices

Oct 13th - 24th
Swimming lessons - Y5 & 6
FREE!

November 21st
Children In need
Donations

BOOST off site activities - **FREE!**

Dec 3rd
Nursery concert
Y1 concert
Tickets £2

Dec 4th
Reception concert
Tickets £2

Christmas Discos
Dec 15th
Rec - Y2 £3
Y3 - Y6 £2 & tuck money

Dec 17th
Christmas Jumper day - recycled jumpers available

Dec 18th
Christmas parties
Bring a plate of food

Children In Need

Reindeer Jumper

Wellbeing Update



We're delighted to offer a series of parent sessions this term, covering a variety of topics designed to support **emotional wellbeing** and family life. They'll be led by Clare Blakemore from SHINE (Schools Inreach Emotional Wellbeing Service), whose expertise and warmth make these sessions both practical and empowering. Coffee and tea will be provided!

Sept 18th	2.30	Managing worries
Oct 2nd	2.15	Supporting children with emotional regulation
Oct 9th	2.15	Understanding the spectrum of mental health
Oct 16th	2.15	Promoting positive mental health

These sessions are open to all, and you're welcome to sign up on the School Gateway app



It's not too late to sign up!!

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