# Blackawton Primary School NEWSLETTER

Creative - Confident - Caring



Friday 5th December 2025

#### The last two weeks

At Blackawton Primary, the countdown is here, The sparkle is building—our favourite time of year! We're festive and ready, all excitement in swing, With rehearsals and glitter and carols we sing.

The hall fills with twinkles, soft shimmering light, As nativities shine and warm hearts every night. Together we gather, sharing moments so sweet, A time filled with kindness and memories to keep.

So come join the journey—there's still more to do, Fun activities waiting and surprises for you. The pantos bring laughter, applause and delight, With costumes and chorus that brighten the night.

At Blackawton Primary, we treasure it all, From practising songs to decking the hall. These final two weeks will be joyful and fun, Making memories together—each and every one.

| Attendance to date   |     |  |
|----------------------|-----|--|
| Class 1              | 95% |  |
| Class 2              | 96% |  |
| Class 3              | 96% |  |
| Class 4              | 95% |  |
| Class 5              | 90% |  |
| National expectation | 96% |  |



We educate children so they can lead great lives





| Monday 8 December 2025     | Yr5 parents: residential talk, 3:30pm   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Monday 8 December 2025     | Wreath making evening (book your place via fobs.org.uk)   |
| Tuesday 9 December 2025    | EYFS Christmas trip (please pay via fobs.org.uk)  |
| Wednesday 10 December 2025 | Whole school Christmas lunch  |
| Wednesday 10 December 2025 | Parent / Carer forum, 5:30pm  |
| Thursday 11 December 2025  | EYFS Christmas fun run  |
| Tuesday 16 December 2025   | Nursery and Reception nativity in the church, 2:15 to 3pm   |
| Wednesday 17 December 2025 | Panto trip (Yr1 to Yr6) (please pay via fobs.org.uk)  |
| Thursday 18 December 2025  | Toddler playgroup Christmas party, 10:00 in the Nursery hut   |
| Thursday 18 December 2025  | EYFS Christmas party  |
| Thursday 18 December 2025  | Class Christmas tree trail, school hall, 2:30 to 3pm  |
| Thursday 18 December 2025  | Class 2, 3, 4 and 5 Candlelit Service in the church, 6pm (meet in school hall from 5:30pm, details tbc) |
| Friday 19 December 2025    | Last day of term  |
| Monday 5 January 2026      | Back to school  |

Please note: new dates could be added after this version of the calendar is published and all dates are subject to cancellation / change.



# CLASS 'SNAPPY' NEWS

#### "Countdown to Christmas"

#### **Nursery**

Children have enjoyed the classic gingerbread tale and

even acted it out, running, chasing and repeating the famous line, "Run, run as fast as you can".

Our room smelled like a bakery as the children explored the spiced ginger play dough and made their own gingerbread person biscuit. They rolled, shaped and added the features to bake their creations.



#### Class 1

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas in Class 1! We have put up our tree and the Class 1 elves in Santa's workshop

have been busy creating their own decorations for it. The children are looking forward to a trip to the Drum Theatre in Plymouth next week to see Raymond Brigg's Father Christmas show. They have also been in training for our sponsored Santa Run, when the children will be raising money for Devon Air Ambulance. If you would like to support them the link to our Just Giving Page is: Blackawton Primary School Early Years children is fundraising for Devon Air Ambulance Trust



#### Class 2

We have been makers this week in Class 2. We have made swing sets out of modelling equipment and focussed on how we can use cuts to make effective joins. We have realised that effective joins are not only those that have been made with lots of masking tape, but ones that are secure. In maths we have explored symmetry and locating vertical lines of symmetry. We have in English explored nouns and adjectives in our class poem 'Cold' by Shirely Hughes. In PE we have used tag rugby belts to explore attacking and defending.





#### Class 3

We have truly enjoyed getting into the Christmas spirit! Our focus has been on celebrating kindness, new beginnings, and generosity and the children have shown these values beautifully in everything they've done. One of the highlights has been seeing the children share their playtimes with different peers. Mixing with new friends has helped everyone grow in confidence, show kindness, and build a stronger classroom community. We've also discovered some amazing chess players among us! It has been wonderful to see the children challenge themselves, think strategically, and support one another during games. Another special moment this week was taking part in the STAR Trail at the church. The class explored the greatest story of all time – The Christmas Story – through a range of creative and reflective activities. The children spoke with members of the community and learned more about the powerful messages of generosity and kindness at the heart of Christmas. It has been a joyful and heart-warming week, and we are so proud of Class 3 for embracing the Christmas spirit so warmly.

#### Class 4

It has been a busy and very Christmassy week in Class 4. The children have now finished their persuasive letters and should feel really proud of how hard they worked on them. There were some brilliant ideas and plenty of thoughtful reasoning on show.

We also had great fun decorating the school Christmas tree with our own handmade decorations. The children took such care with every piece and you can really see their pride in how lovely the tree looks now. To finish the week, we joined the Christmas Star Trail organised by the wonderful church volunteers. The children moved around a range of festive activities that brought a real sense of calm and joy, which was a lovely moment in an otherwise busy December week

All in all, a super few days of hard work, teamwork and plenty of Christmas spirit.

#### Class 5

Class 5 have been absolutely amazing this week. We have been sitting some 'mock' SATs tests so that we know where we are up to, how much progress has been made and what we are doing next. The children's attitudes to learning have been brilliant throughout - well done all of you!

We have also had an amazing time at The Star Trail in church; making cookies, listening to stories and creating paper craft angels.





#### **Forest School News**

#### **Festive Fun at Forest School**

With December arriving this week, the countdown to the holidays has definitely begun. It's amazing how quickly the festive spirit settles in, and Forest School has been full of activity.

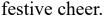
Every class—including nursery—worked together to make a Christmas wreath for their classroom door. The children gathered natural materials and layered the foliage step by step, creating a brilliant wreath to take pride in.

Some children also set out to make what might be the world's longest paper chain using last year's wrapping paper. Others printed festive cards, and many enjoyed making decoupage Christmas tree decorations using recycled jar lids and patterned paper.

Our youngest groups had a great time playing the "squirrel and mice" game, full of cheeky laughs, pinecone collecting, and the occasional dramatic moment when the "squirrel" threw all the 'treasure' out!

In between all the fun, we even managed to sit together and listen to the story of *Belle and Boo* get ready for Christmas. and helping woodland animals have a very merry time too.

It's been a lovely start to December in our Forest School—busy, creative, and full of







#### Thank you FOBS

Thank you to FOBS for buying us new PE equipment.

We are really enjoying learning to play sports using the new footballs and netball bibs.





#### **CONGRATULATIONS!**

Big congratulations to Harriet - Caroline Voaden MP has chosen Harriet's design for her official Christmas card! Harriet's design was chosen from entries received from all primary schools in South Devon. Very well done Harriet!



#### **Music News**

This week classes 1, 2 and 3 have all enjoyed learning the story of The Nutcracker.

Class 1 and 2 have followed play along percussion instructions for Trepak and danced to the Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy. They have played Christmassy sounding percussion to play along to various Christmas songs.

Class 3 played recorders in 2 parts to Jingle Bells then watched some performance excerpts of the Nutcracker Ballet, followed by some expert Christmas body percussion.

Classes 4 and 5 have finished their Christmas songwriting. We have seen some amazing performances which have all been recorded.

Huge well done to all children in those classes.



#### **Christmas Fun Run**

Nursery and Class 1 will be holding a mini Christmas fun run on:

#### Thursday, 11 December 2025

They are raising money for Devon Air Ambulance and if you are able to, any donation you can make (maybe with an encouraging message for the children), would be gratefully received via this <u>Just Giving link</u>.





Vicky Llewellyn SENDCo

# **SEND Signpost**



Children, Young Person, and Families'
Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team

#### Understanding ADHD Parent/Carer Workshop

An interactive workshop for parents and carers of children and young people with a diagnosis of ADHD, or on the diagnosis pathway



Including topics such as, but not limited to

- Explaining Common Symptoms
- Support Strategies
- · Understanding Behaviours
- Awesome Qualities of ADHD

To book a place, give us a call on 01752 435404 or email livewell.neurowellbeing.enquiries@nhs.net

We support people to lead independent, healthy lives



Children, Young People, and Families'
Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team

# Understanding Autism Parent/Carer Workshop

An interactive workshop for parents and carers of children with diagnosed ASC or on a diagnosis pathway



Including topics such as, but not limited to:

- · Understanding Autistic Traits
- Communication and Language Interpretation
- Sensory Experiences and Self Regulation
- Practical Positive Strategies and Tips

To book a place, give us a call on 01752 435404 or email livewell.neurowellbeing.enquiries@nhs.net

We support people to lead independent, healthy lives

Children, Young People, and Families' Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team

# Navigating the Journey Parent/Carer Workshop

An interactive workshop for parents and carers of children on a neurodiversity waiting list



Including topics such as, but not limited to:

- . Gaining a Clear Understanding of the Process
- . Guidance for both CAMHS and CDC Pathways
- Empowerment and Support

To book a place, give us a call on 01752 435404 or email livewell.neurowellbeing.enquiries@nhs.net

We support people to lead independent, healthy lives

Children, Young People, and Families'
Neurodiversity Wellbeing Team

#### Behavioural Toolkit Parent/Carer Workshop

An interactive workshop for parents and carers of children with neurodiversity related behavioural difficulties



Including topics such as, but not limited to:

- Understanding Behaviour as Communication
- Practical Proactive Strategies for Behaviour

  Management
- Fostering Family Support and Management

To book a place, give us a call on 01752 435404 or email livewell.neurowellbeing.enquiries@nhs.net

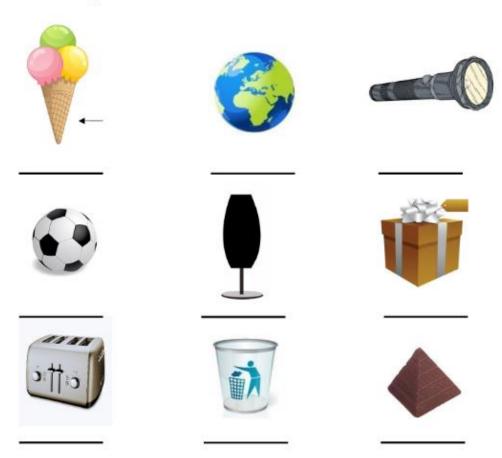
We support people to lead independent, healthy lives

#### Maths puzzle of the week - family fun

Try this mathematical thinking to get maths conversations happening at home

Can you name these 3D shapes?

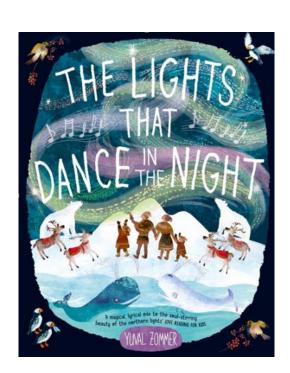
Can you find any other objects around your home or in the environment, that are similar?



#### Miss Burt's recommended read

The lights that dance in the Night, by Yuval Zommer

In this wonderfully festive picture book, Yuval Zommer imagines the Northern Lights' fleeting journey from space to Earth and how they weave a special magic for the animals and people living in the frozen lands below. From tiny specs of dust to gleaming rays in the dark, the Northern Lights travel across the Arctic, uniting every creature in a celebration that reverberates through land and sea.



#### **After School Club News**

On Thursday afternoon in sports club the children enjoyed lots of games - the top 3 favourites were;

Domes and cones, Bench ball and an obstacle course!













For breakfast club & after school club bookings, please contact the school office - 01803 712363

#### Devon Wildlife Trust have a festive nature challenge for you!

Devon Wildlife are encouraging people to do one wild thing a day from the 25th December to the 5th January each year. In those quiet days between Christmas and New Year, winter wildlife is just waiting to be explored!

These wild acts could be little things to help nature - like recycling a Christmas tree or feeding the birds – or ways to connect to the natural world, like trying stargazing.

Parents and carers can sign up to receive a digital pack to help them to take part. The link is below. Please share with your school community as it's a great activity to get families involved and engaged with nature over the Christmas holidays.

12 Days Wild | The Wildlife Trusts

Our Christmas tree is looking glorious with all the children's homemade decorations proudly in place.

Thank you so much to <u>Garden Time</u> for donating us this special tree - it is the centre piece of our Christmas celebrations.

We had such a joyful start to the festive season with our Christmas Tree Decorating Assembly this week. The children had all made their own decorations, each one completely unique and full of personality, and we would like to say a big thank you to parents for helping at home to create such wonderful pieces. The excitement in the hall as they arrived with their decorations was lovely to see.

As is our Blackawton tradition, the Year 6 children took the lead and supported the younger pupils in placing their decorations on the tree. They were so patient and encouraging, and it was heartwarming to see those small moments of teamwork and kindness between the year groups. Jacob proudly placed the angel at the very top of the tree, which earned a lovely round of applause from everyone watching.

Once the final decoration was in place, we rounded everything off with a cheerful sing along of Feliz Navidad which filled the hall with smiles and plenty of festive energy.

A really special way to begin the countdown to Christmas.















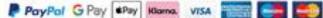
Designed at Blackawton Primary School

Order unique, personalised cards, gifts and keepsakes designed by YOUR child!

**Blackawton Primary** School will receive 20% commission on all product sales!

To order, login to the parent order portal at www.mychildsart.co.uk/order Login details for the portal will be issued/Ji2/RORFet

01530 887650 | customerservice@mychildsart.co.uk www.mychildsart.co.uk/order

















**Order portals** open NOW until the 31st December





After School Club is available from Mondays to Thursdays for pupils in Reception to Year 6
3:20pm to 4:30pm: £6
3:20pm to 5:30pm: £8

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

# TIMETABLE



#### **TERM DATES**

Monday 3 November 2025

to

Thursday 18 December 2025







| Monday    | Games Club   |
|-----------|--------------|
| Tuesday   | Film Club    |
| Wednesday | Cooking Club |
| Thursday  | Sports Club  |

To book your child (Reception to Yr6) in to after school club, please email admin@blackawtonprimary.org.uk or call 01803 712363



**TUESDAY MORNINGS** 

FROM 10:00 to 11:00am



# **NURSERY HUT**



at Blackawton Primary School

Playing / Arts & Crafts / Making Friends

A session of fun and educational activities for you and your child(ren).

Led by Jo Mitchell, our Nursery Leader

Refreshments provided for children and adults

£2 per family





Sustainable Blackawton

Welcome

to

# Blackawton Community Composting Site

Sunday 7th December 2025 10am -1pm Blackawton Village Hall

Come and find out all about it.

Refreshments







# SPORTIVAS TRAIL RUNNING RETURNS TO TOARTINGTON

Chip Timing / Professional photographs & friendly marshals / Family-friendly atmosphere / Medals for all finishers / Well-marked courses
Free hot drink or beer when you finish + food options at Green Table Cafe

Friday 21st Nov, 9am-3pm

# DART CHALLENGE

Choose your challenge: run a marathon, a 10K or as many 5K laps as you can fit into six hours!



Saturday 22nd Nov 5.30pm



Head torches on! Take on a thrilling night-time trail run (10K, 5K & kids races) through Dartington's beautiful grounds. Expect twisting trails, glowing markers, and a post-race buzz like no other. Podiums & Prizes including best fancy dress!



Location: Dartington Estate, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EE

Sign up online: sportivaevents.co.uk



Get your hats, your spirits, and your running shoes ready for a jolly dash!

# Saturday 13 December 2025

Sign-in from 1.30pm, Race begins at 2.00pm

Things Happen Here, Meadowbrook Community Centre, Shinners Bridge, Dartington, TQ9 6JD



- · A fun Santa Run/Walk for all ages and abilities
- Distance options from 1 mile (1 lap) up to 5 mlaps)
- Kids up to age 10: FREE! Adults (10+): E10
- Fancy dress is most definitely encouraged (but pot co)
- Treat yourself to a pint and pizza at Things Happen Here
- Free toasted treats around the fire

Book now via Dynamic Adventures website

Father and Son weekend, 31 January - 1 February 2026:

<u>Father And Son Weekend — Dynamic Adventures</u>







# SWIM HAPPY, SWIM WITH CONFIDENCE

Learn to swim with Fusion Lifestyle

- Preschool, junior & adult lessons available
- Kids swim for FREE\* in general swim sessions
- ✓ Track your child's progress online



Scan the QR code to find out more

Swim School







fusion-lifestyle.com/swimschool



#### Available in school!



# Piano lessons with Jess Heywood, available in school

(with option to work towards accredited piano exams)

# Contact: jess\_h\_heywood@yahoo.co.uk

Jess is the Director of the Youth Festival,
Dartmouth Music Festival
and is available for new bookings

Please book your child's place by contacting Jess directly or get in touch with the school office.

# Let's Keep Blackawton Clean and Beautiful

We all love walking our dogs around our lovely village, but please remember to always carry waste bags and clean up after your pets.

Dog mess left on paths, verges, and play areas **isn't just unpleasant** – it's a health risk, especially for children.

South Hams District Council is asking all dog owners to do their bit by **bagging and binning** their dog's waste responsibly.

Anyone caught not cleaning up after their dog could face a £100 fine.

If you notice dog mess or have information that could help identify repeat offenders, please report it on the South Hams District Council website – just search "report dog fouling".

Together, we can keep Blackawton clean, safe, and a place we can all be proud of.

Bag it. Bin it. Keep Blackawton beautiful!



www.southhams.gov.uk/report-it

#### Making Christmas Manageable

# citizens advice South Hams

#### Citizens Advice

#### Simple ways to enjoy the festive season without overspending

Christmas can be a great time to relax and spend time with family, but it often comes with extra costs and pressure to spend more than we'd like. With household budgets already stretched, a bit of planning can make a real difference.

#### 1. Set a Realistic Budget

Work out what you can comfortably afford to spend and stick to it. It's easy for small extras to add up, so keep a list of what you need — and what you don't. If you can, set aside a small amount each week to spread the cost.

#### 2. Keep Gifts Simple

Children often remember the fun and attention more than what's under the tree. Lowcost or homemade <u>gifts</u>, <u>or</u> pooling together for a "Secret Santa" within the family, can keep things fair and affordable for everyone.

#### 3. Plan Food Carefully

Christmas dinner doesn't need to be over the top. Planning meals in advance helps avoid waste, and sharing the cooking with friends or relatives can save both time and money.

#### 4. Make the Most of What's Local

There are plenty of free or low-cost events in Teignbridge over the festive period from school fairs to community activities. These can be a great way to get into the Christmas spirit without spending much.

#### 5. Don't Feel Pressured

It's fine to say no to things that stretch your budget. A walk to see the lights, a film night at home, or a board game with family can make just as good memories as anything that costs money.

#### Need a Bit of Advice?

If you're worried about money or would like some support with budgeting, benefits, or local services, the Citizens Advice Schools Project can help. You can speak to your school for a direct referral.



NHS



01392 342678
Kernowhealthcic.schoolimmsdevon@nhs.net

# flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



1. Protect your child

The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia

2. Protect you, your family and friends

Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family

No injection needed
 The nasal spray is painless and easy to have

4. It's better than having flu
The nasal spray helps protect

The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record

Avoid costs
 If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the resal spray vectors which is the preferred vectors. A vectors injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu







Should I keep my

# child off school?



#### Until...

| Chickenpox  | at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over   |
|---|---|
| Diarrhoea and Vomiting                            | 48 hours after their last episode   |
| Cold and Flu-like illness<br>(including COVID-19) | they no longer have a high temperature and<br>feel well enough to attend. Follow the national<br>guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19 |
| Impetigo  | their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics   |
| Measles   | 4 days after the rash first appeared  |
| Mumps   | 5 days after the swelling started   |
| Scabies   | they've had their first treatment   |
| Scarlet Fever                                     | 24 hours after they started taking antibiotics  |
| Whooping Cough                                    | 48 hours after they started taking antibiotics  |



but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

| Hand, foot and mouth | Glandular fever |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Head lice            | Tonsillitis     |
| Threadworms          | Slapped cheek   |





Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit https://grco.de/minfec.

# Join our school on Classlist

Classlist is the parent app that brings you into the heart of our school community.

- Get in touch with parents in our school
- Ask questions to the parents in your child's class
- See what's coming up for you and your child
- Find like-minded friends in our community
- Organise meet-ups and birthday parties



It helps me to see who's who at my school and see who lives nearby

I can organise my child's birthday party and see who's coming



I can stay in the loop with important school info & PTA events coming up

Now I know who my child is friends with, I can get in touch with their parents

Round-up emails help me keep up with what's going on even when I'm busy

#### Is Classlist moderated?

Yes! This keeps our community friendly, welcoming and useful.

#### How much information do I need to share?

You're in control! You decide how much information to share and what notifications you want.

#### Is Classlist safe?

Yes! It's fully GDPRcompliant, private and secure.

## Sign up today! It's easy and completely free



Download the Classlist app on iOs or Android



Select our school and sign up



Classlist Smarter together.

www.classlist.com