

# Blaendulais News

"Making a Difference"

## Green support schools



Highly effective schools

Track record in sustaining a high level of learner outcomes

Demonstrate resilience at all levels

Challenged to move towards or sustain excellence



## It's good to be 'Green'!

The school is proud to report that, for the very first time, we are a 'Green' school! Read on to find out more about our new 'status'...

Just over a year ago, Estyn judged standards, wellbeing, teaching, care & support and management of the school to be 'Good'. Whilst this is the ultimate test of a school, every year we are also visited by LA/ERW officials. These visits are designed to evaluate the effectiveness of schools, determine pupil progress and ability to improve.

We are delighted to finally announce (we've known since October!), that Blaendulais Primary is now a 'Green' school, placing it in with the most effective schools in Wales... (continued overleaf)

## INSET Day - Monday, 20th April 2020

### ATTENDANCE

Let's work together to reach our attendance target of 95%! In school = Achieving!

### PARTNERSHIPS

Positive relationships are key to successful futures for our children.

### TEAMWORK

Let's build a team ethos by wearing uniform to school - it makes a real difference!



### Relationship Policy

Over the next few months, the school will be looking to develop a 'Relationship Policy' to run alongside its Behaviour and Child Protection policies. Look out for further information to get involved in its development.



### St. David's Day

To celebrate the national day, the school will be setting a series of Eisteddfod challenges over the half term period. Please encourage and support your child in playing a full part in the celebrations - diolch!

## Welsh Government School Categorisation

### Blaendulais Primary - Green Band

This achievement represents an enormous effort from all at the school - pupils, parents/carers, governors and staff.

On a personal note, I am delighted for the staff of the school. Having worked in many schools over the past twenty years, I have not experienced such a hard working group of people who, quite literally, everyday give their very best for every single pupil in school - 'thank you'.

**"Across the school the quality of teaching is strong. Teachers know their pupils well and have a clear range of strategies in place to enable pupils to succeed"**

Of course, we know we are not perfect - no one is...! On a daily basis we come against bumps and lumps in the road ahead. Part of the 'Green' status is how we cope with these challenges and overcome them. Sometimes, they are not 'conquered' in a week or two. All too often, the school is required to provide sustained, consistent, unrelenting support to overcome these challenges - the resilience of this school is incredible and, I believe, that is a key factor in our recent successes.

So, whilst I am delighted that we are a highly effective school, with a track record of high level outcomes that demonstrates resilience, the school's next challenge is to continue toward 'excellence' and support other schools develop on their journeys toward 'Green'. Let's continue to make Blaendulais Primary School a happy place, where children thrive in a safe, stimulating & uplifting environment!

#### HIGHLY EFFECTIVE

- \* Well run school with strong leadership
- \* Clear about priorities for improvement
- \* A track record in raising standards
- \* Has the capacity to support other schools

**4 days support**

#### EFFECTIVE

- \* Already doing well
- \* Knows the areas needed to improve
- \* By identifying the right support and taking action has the potential to do even better

**10 days support**

#### IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENT

- \* Needs help to identify the steps to improve
- \* Changes to be made through discussions with regional improvement service and local authority
- \* Will receive full package of support

**15 days support**

#### IN NEED OF GREATEST IMPROVEMENT

- \* Will receive immediate, intensive support
- \* Progress will be closely monitored to make sure needed improvements happen as quickly as possible

**25 days support**

### DATES FOR THE DIARY...

10/02/20	-	Planetarium visits to school
17/02 to 21/02	-	Half Term
25/02 (9am)	-	Steve Jenkins (Team Around the Family)
05/03/20	-	Fluoride Application (Whole School)
25/03/20	-	Year 6 Transition Day (Llangatwg)
20/04/20	-	INSET Day