

Blackwood Primary and Nursery Class

September 2019 Newsletter

Head Teacher: Ms C. McMillan



September 2019

Thursday 12th

- P1 trip to New Lanark - Reading Festival
- Come and spell family learning at 9:30am P2-7

Tuesday 17th

- P5 Swimming wk 5
- P1 Bookbug at 3:15pm wk 5

Wednesday 18th

- Barnardos - Cuppa Connect for Parent/Carers at 9:15am-10:15am

Friday 20th

- MacMillan Cancer Care Coffee Morning in Kirkmuirhill Parish Church at 10am –noon.

Tuesday 24th

- P5 Swimming wk 6
- P1 Bookbug at 3:15pm wk 6

Thursday 26th

- Sponsor Bounce in School

Friday 27th and Monday 30th

- HOLIDAY!

**FAMILY LEARNING
MATHS WEEK 1ST - 4TH OCTOBER**

October 2019

Tuesday 1st

- P5 Swimming wk 7

Thursday 10th

- Parents Night 3:30pm-5:30pm & 5:30pm -8:30pm

Friday 11th

- P7 (Miss Meldrum & Mrs Forbes) class assembly at 9:30am

**SCHOOL IS CLOSED 14th- 18th
OCTOBER – HOLIDAY**

Tuesday 22nd

- P5 Swimming wk 8

Thank – you!

Thank-you for returning all the data forms for the new session.

Please check dates in this newsletter and add them to your parental school calendar at home so this is up to date. Remember to check the home link diary for class specific information and reminders.

Parents' Night

A letter has already been issued for you to book a slot at Parents' Night on Thursday 10th October.

House Captains

Congratulations to the House Captains and Vice Captains who were democratically elected by their peers. I am confident that they will serve their respective house – Beech, Oak and Sycamore – with enthusiasm.

This year as part of our school improvement agenda we are looking at pupil participation. This will be led by the House Captains and Vice Captains across our school community. They have already drawn up a working agenda and are eager to lead this initiative.



Absence Cover at Bent Primary School

The Head Teacher at Bent Primary School is absent and all the schools in the Lesmahagow Learning Community have been asked, by SLC, to cover specific days. This means that on these days a member of the Senior Management Team from Blackwood will work from Bent Primary. This is a temporary arrangement until Mrs Fleming returns to work.

Sponsored Bounce – Thursday 26th September

The school has arranged a sponsored bounce on Thursday 26th September. Please see attached Sponsor form for you to collect donations from family and friends. This is our only in-house fundraiser for the year.



Chaplaincy (Following SLC Guidelines)

Parental information :-

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 states that there is a statutory duty on local authorities to provide religious observance and religious education (RME) in schools.

- The School Chaplaincy is with Kirkmuirhill Parish Church and the Chaplain function is being carried out by Rev Andrew Rooney.
- Religious Observance (A Time of Reflection) will take place during the following assemblies

Monday 23 rd September	Monday 7 th October Visit to Kirkmuirhill Parish Church	Monday 2 nd December
Monday 9 th December	Monday 20 th January	Monday 30 th March
Tuesday 26 th May		

- Class notification of RME can be found termly in the home-link diaries

Parents have the statutory right to withdraw children from participation in religious and moral education. **If you wish to exercise this right and have not done so already please do so in writing at your earliest convenience.**

The Uniformed Organisations

In our school community we are fortunate that all our children are offered the opportunity to join one of the uniformed organisations – Scouts, Brownies, Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade. These organisations welcome all children of primary school age (and older). The Community Centre hosts the Scouts and the Brownies. Kirkmuirhill Parish Church hosts the Girls Brigade and the Boys Brigade. These organisations can play an important role in developing social and life skills.



Organisation	Where	When	Further Information
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Community Centre	Monday 6:00pm	Community Centre
Rainbows	Community Centre	Monday 6:00pm	Community Centre
Brownies & Guides	Community Centre	Tuesday 6:00pm	Community Centre
Girls Brigade	Kirkmuirhill Parish Church	Mondays from 6:15pm	Kirkmuirhill Parish Church
Boys Bridgade	Kirkmuirhill Parish Church	Thursdays from 6:15pm	Kirkmuirhill Parish Church

Parent Council 2019



The first meeting of the Parent Council took place on Wednesday 28th August at 7pm at which time the school improvement plan was discussed. All parents are invited to attend the next meeting on **Wednesday 25th September**. I would encourage you to come along. There are 5 or 6 meetings throughout the year. The objectives of the Parent Council are:-

- To work in partnership with the school to create a school which is inclusive for all parents/carers.
- To promote partnership between school, pupils and parents/carers.
- To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils.
- To identify and represent the views of parents/carers and pupils on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils.

The office bearers for 2019/20 are:

Chair: Pauline Ward

Vice Chair: Jane Campbell

Treasurer: Gail Hutchison

Secretary: Louise Grattan

I would like to thank retiring Chair, Gillian Brown, for all her work as a parent of Blackwood Primary and Nursery class. Gillian joined the Nursery Circle in 2011/12 and continued as an office bearer within the Parent Council. She has been an active voice for the parents throughout this time. I'm sure Lesmahagow High School will make use of all her skills!!!

Please look out for a flyer from the Parent Council who are looking for support to take forward their agenda for 2019/20. These events will only take place with the support of parents, family and/or friends.

- **Gala day - 50th year celebration – June 2020**
- **Halloween Disco – Tuesday 29th October**
- **Movie night – Thursday 29th November**

Come and Spell – Family Learning Primary 2-7

The school has been working on a range of literacy strategies over the last few years and this was recognised nationally at the Scottish Education Awards in June 2019 in the category Raising Attainment in Literacy. We would like to offer families the opportunity to come into class to work with their child and learn some of the strategies so that you can continue to help your child at home. The following times are available for you to accept this invitation

- Thursday 12th September at 9:30am - 10:30am

Family Learning (HGIOS 2.5)

Our next planned family learning session is on Wednesday 2nd October.

Who?	What?	Where?	When?
Parents/Carers/Family Adult of Primary 1-7 along with their child	Numeracy workshops	In Gym Hall	Wednesday 2 nd October at 3pm-4pm

Maths Week Scotland (1st - 4th October)

Your child will be participating in a range of activities throughout the week which will develop their skills for life, learning and work. Formal Invitations to a family learning opportunity on Wednesday 2nd October at 3pm will be with you shortly. This event will be delivered by A.S. Creatives and has been funded by the Parent Council. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your child to learn together.



The Health Committee – Do you shop in Aldi?

The Health Committee have signed up and are collecting Team GB Stickers. If you, friends or work colleagues could collect the rewards and send them in to school that would be appreciated.

The Olympic theme will be evident in the work the Health Committee do this year as Japan 2020 becomes more high profile in the media.



British Triathlon Big Weekend - Joscelyn Kennedy



As a school we are absolutely delighted that one of our Primary 7 pupils has represented Scotland at the British Triathlon – Big Weekend. Joscelyn reported she had a fabulous time and met lots of different athletes from Wales, France, Ireland and England. We wish Joscelyn continued success on this international platform!



NUT FREE SCHOOL



Blackwood Primary and Nursery Class is a NUT FREE ZONE. Please check all snacks and packed lunches and ensure that food containing nuts or has traces of nuts is not sent to school.

Fairtrade Tuckshop

Supporting our commitment to Fairtrade, there is a Fairtrade tuck-shop which is organised on a Monday and a Friday by the Fairtrade Committee. All items cost 50p.



Congratulations to the FAIRTRADE Committee who have successfully achieved FAIRTRADE status for Blackwood Primary for another year. Amazing!

The role of this committee this year is going to extend to include our outdoor learning and our outdoor space which is requiring a bit of maintenance if this is of interest to you please contact the school office as your help would be much appreciated.



Coffee Morning



McMillan Cancer Care Coffee Morning is on Friday 20th September in Kirkmuirhill Parish Church at 10:00am – noon. It would be great if our school community could support this worthwhile event – Thank you!

School Improvement Plan

This is a summary of our School Improvement Priorities for the session 2019/20. This was discussed in detail at the Parent Council meeting on Wednesday 28th August. A full copy of the Improvement Plan is available in the school office and on our school website. If you wish to discuss any aspect please contact a member of the Senior Management Team.



Improvement Plan Priorities for 2019/20

Continue to raise attainment in Literacy by introducing active literacy strategies to Primary **Nursery**→7 and Talk to Write **Nursery** → Primary 7

- Phase 2 of SLC Active Literacy Implementation Group
- Family Learning - Spelling P2→7 ... September 2019
- First Ministers Reading Challenge (P5-7)
- Read Write and Count (P1-3)
- Book Bug (**N**)
- Peer visits to observe and engage in professional dialogue
- Talk to Write (**N**→ P7)
- Moderation of writing - review policy and procedure taking into account the benchmarks
- Literacy position statement



Improvement Plan Priorities for 2019/20

Participate in Tapestry and Self Improving Schools (SIS)

- Working in partnership with Netherburn Primary School to lead the teaching community through the Tapestry Programme (Year 2 of 2)
- To participate in SIS within a family group of NLC and SLC schools
 - Woodlands, Cumbernauld
 - St Gerald's, Bellshill
 - Our Lady & St Francis, Motherwell
 - Machanhill, Larkhall
 - Crosshouse, East Kilbride



Improvement Plan Priorities for 2019/20

Continue to raise attainment and achievement in numeracy and mathematics by reviewing our planning and resources **Nursery**
→ Primary 7



- Maths Week Scotland
 - Family Learning ... Wednesday 2nd October
- Professional Development
 - Catch up
 - Number Talks
 - Maths Recovery
- **Play based numeracy opportunities in the playroom and outdoors**



Improvement Plan Priorities for 2019/20 Actions from Self- Evaluation



- HGIOS 3.3 & 2.7 - creativity and employability
- HGIOS 2.2 - curriculum rationale
- HGIOS 1.1,1.2 & 1.3 - pupil participation



EDUCATION SERVICES

Executive Director: Tony McDaid

Blackwood Primary School - Head Teacher: Ms Christine McMillan