

Blackwood Primary and Nursery Class

December 2019 Newsletter

Head Teacher: Ms C. McMillan



November 2019

Thursday 28th

- Parent Council Movie - Aladdin
P5 - 7 at 6 pm - 8:15 pm

December 2019

Tuesday 3rd

- P5 - 7 Panto visit to the Kings Theatre at 11:00am

Thursday 5th

- Nursery (RED badges) → P3 Big Read Event at 10.30 am.
Enrolment meeting for all red badge parents/carers.
- P5 Swimming at 1pm

Week beginning Monday 9th

- Blackwood Primary and Nursery Class are welcoming HMIE to the school

Thursday 12th

- School closed to pupils for General Election

Friday 13th

- P5 swimming at 1pm
- Christmas Lunch and jumper day

Monday 16th

- P1 Science Centre Trip
- P4 and P3 year group party at 1pm. Home Lunch at 12:15pm

Tuesday 17th

- P2 and P1 year group party at 1pm. Home Lunch at 12:15pm

Wednesday 18th

- Barnardos Cuppa Connect at 9:15am-10:15am – All welcome!
- School Christmas Assembly at Kirkmuirhill Parish Church at 9:30am – Please dress appropriately
- Nursery Christmas party am & pm

Thursday 19th

- P4 (Mrs Henderson & Mrs Small) Christmas assembly at Kirkmuirhill Parish at 9:30am. – All families and friends welcome!

Friday 20th

- **DRESS DOWN DAY**
- **SCHOOL CLOSING AT 2:30PM**

December ...

As we embark on the 'Tis the season to be jolly' period, I appreciate arrangements for December have been altered many times over the last few weeks.

Sincere apologies for this!

Whilst no one was expecting a December General Election, it has been some time (2006) since Blackwood Primary School and Nursery Class was last inspected. As a school community we are excited and looking forward to welcoming HMIE and having the opportunity to showcase the skills and talents of our learners.

If you have not already done so, this is a final reminder to complete the HMIE Questionnaire online – any problems with this please contact the school office.

Please remember there is no homework in the month of December. Football and Netball after school clubs stop for the month of December and will start again week beginning 20th January.

Regards

CMcMillan



Christmas Lunch and Jumper Day-Friday 13th



The Christmas Lunch has been rescheduled to Friday 13th December. Orders still have to be placed by Friday 29th November.

This is the staff charity day for Save the Children and we would encourage all children to join us

- *No expectation to donate to charity but any donations brought to school can be added to the staff collection.*

Staff News

We are delighted to share the news that Mrs Kellie, class teacher in Primary 5/4 will be leaving school towards the end of Term 3 to have a baby - Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Cost of the School Day – Reminder

As we approach the festive season please remember the outcome of The Cost of the School Day. The Cost of the School Day has been reviewed in consultation with the Parent Council and the following recommendations have been agreed: -

- *NO birthday cakes/sweets to be handed into the school to be shared in the class.*
- *NO gifts at Christmas for teachers or school staff.*
- *NO gifts from staff to pupils at Christmas.*

Primary 5 Swimming

The two remaining sessions for Primary 5 swimming have been rescheduled to

- Thursday 5th December at 1pm
- Friday 13th December at 1pm

Swimming Competitions

Following a request from swimmers, Joscelyn, Rowan, Sophie and Grace in Primary 7, 6 and 5, a swim team representing Blackwood Primary was entered into the SLC Gala Championship on Wednesday 6th November at Larkhall Leisure and again on Wednesday 20th November to Lanark Lifestyles. The swimmers collected a whole host of medals and some personal best times too!

It was a joy to share in the swimmers excitement and especially the team ethos which was evident throughout the competitions and also by the success in the relay events. Huge thank-you to the families who supported their child at these events.



Children in Need – Friday 15th November

Once again the nursery has led this fund raising activity across our school community. A grand total of £707 was raised through the selling of merchandise and from our dress down day.



The nursery would like to express their thanks to everyone who helped and supported this event.

Primary 7 (Miss Meldrum & Mrs Forbes)

Through their Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL), Primary 7 have been studying World War II. An enterprising part of this was selling poppies on behalf of The Scottish Poppy Appeal 2019, Poppy Scotland. This involved making posters to advertise the significance of wearing a poppy which were then displayed across our school community. This enterprising activity raised £109.32. The Primary 7 class would like to thank everyone who made a donation or purchased a poppy.



The school observed a two minute silence on 11th November at 11:00am during our weekly assembly.

Primary 6 (Miss Whitefield) Scotland Street Museum - Thursday 7th November

Following their educational showcase assembly on Friday 1st November, Miss Whitefield and her class visited Scotland Street Museum on Thursday 7th November as part of their Social Subjects IDL topic. The day included Victorian games which were fun, the museum which was educational and the Victorian Classroom which was scary!!

I liked the whirelgig game. I kept playing it.
Kenzie

The classroom was very different for our classroom. She had a belt that she smacked on the desks.
Harrison



Primary 6 Year Group Visit to Lanark Market - Wednesday 6th



This visit to Lanark market was organised through RHET. The first stop was the Clydesdale horses and a discussion on how farming in the past relied heavily on these creatures.

Next, it was into the auctioneering ring to see who could get the best price for their sheep. They watched sheep being sheared for their wool and heard about the different jobs involved in the farming industry. They then met a local entrepreneur who has started up his own tractor business ... did you know that a tractor is worth £65,000!!

A tasting session with the dairy farmer followed where they were shown the cheese making process. This was

followed by a visit to the Highland cows which were bred for beef and they followed the food process through to the butcher and got to taste some amazing burgers!

Finally, we visited the vegetable patch and dug up some vegetables hearing all the time how vegetable growing will become more important within the UK and Scotland as we look at food miles.



I liked the animals and learning all about the tractors!
Harrison

It was good watching the farmer shear his sheep
Cooper

Primary 4-7 Dance Club Showcase at SLC Dance Festival - Thursday 14th November



With 48 dancers at the showcase, Blackwood Primary had two opportunities to showcase the skills and talents of our young people. One dance was performed to *One More Time* and the other was performed to *Giant*. For the lunch time dance club this event is the grand finale and the children demonstrated their determination to perform successfully which they did much to the pleasure of Mrs Small and all their friends and family in the audience.

Mrs Small, along with a team of teachers, give of their time to prepare the dancers for this event and I know the families appreciate this – Thank you!



Primary 7/6 Class Assembly – The Rainforest



This showcase of learning presented a really strong message of sustainability. Primary 7/6 have looked at The Rainforest within the context of their novel 'Journey to the River Sea' which looks at the Amazon Rainforest and linked this closer to home to their STEM work on plastic pollution within the river Clyde. The class enjoyed sharing their learning with their families and friends who attended this event. Well done Primary 7/6!



Family Learning Opportunities

Primary 4-7 Reading – Flyer included with this newsletter for all families!

Primary 4-7 families were invited into the school on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st to participate in a 'Teaching of Reading' session with their child. A hand out of the reading skills taught has been enclosed with this newsletter. Families who were represented at these events found them useful and would encourage other families to attend any future events.



Yet another great workshop!
I actually learned a lot about the different reading strategies we can use at home when reading together.

This was really informative. My son loves to read and this has given us lots of strategies to use to expand his reading experience.

Primary 1-3 Read, Write and Count

This is an initiative which is supported by BookBug. Families were invited into the classroom to work with their child/ren on Thursday 21st November.



Great opportunity to spend time with the children and learn some fun activities to do together.



Really worthwhile activity - the children love having the grown-ups in the classroom and the bags are great - lots of activities to do!

A great chance to interact and do activities in our child's environment amongst her peers ... Thank you!

Primary 7 Transition

Primary 7 are beginning to take part in transition arrangements with Lesmahagow High School. The first event on Tuesday 12th of November was Science based. This involved a workshop on light and colour mixing. Learners took part in a range of experiments to explore colour.

The second event on Thursday 21st November was technical based. Mr Biggart from the technical department looked at measuring and making 3D shapes using digital technologies...WOW!

Parent Council

Movie night – Thursday 28th November

On Thursday 28th Primary 1 - 4 will have a movie afternoon organised by the Parent Council at 1pm. The Primary 5 - 7 are invited to attend a movie night at 6pm – 8:15pm.



All parents are invited to attend the next meeting on **Wednesday 5th February.**

Parent Council representatives met the Pupil Council and they have agreed the following

- The movie will be Aladdin at both showings on Thursday 28th November
- The theme for gala will be Olympics...more information will follow in January

P1 Infant Enrolment

Parent/Carers of children who are 5 years of age between 1st March 2020 and the end of February 2021 are required to register their child for school. Arrangements for registration are:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Monday 13 th January | 9:15am → 10:15am 1:00pm → 3:00pm |
| Tuesday 14 th January | 9.15 am → 12.00 pm 1.00 pm → 4.00 pm |
| Wednesday 15 th January | 9.15 am → 12.00 pm |
| Thursday 16 th January | 9.15 am → 12.00 pm 1.00 pm → 4.00 pm |

Nursery Parents please “book” a time slot in the nursery if possible to avoid lengthy delays.

What do I bring to register my child for school?

- **Full Birth** certificate of child to be registered
- 2 official documentation letters with parents’ permanent home address to clarify proof of residency. (*ie bank statement, insurance letter, tax credit etc*)



Further information can be obtained from:

- Blackwood Primary and Nursery Class 01555 892438
- SLC Helpline 01698 454102
- SLC Website www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Christmas/December ...

Christmas Plans at Blackwood Primary



| <p>There is no homework issued during the month of December. Football and Netball clubs have finished and will start back on Monday 20th January. Home lunches are collected from the main office door at 12:15pm. Santa visits the Primary 2 and 1 party and the nursery parties.</p> | | |
|---|---|---|
| Who? | When? | What? |
| Primary 1 - 4 | Thursday 28 th November in school | Organised by the Parent Council, a movie afternoon – Aladdin. |
| Primary 5 - 7 | Thursday 28 th November at 6pm-8:15pm | Organised by the Parent Council, a movie night – Aladdin. Christmas Jumpers and/or pyjamas can be worn. |
| Primary 5 - 7  | Tuesday 3 rd December | Jack and the Beanstalk at King's Theatre, Glasgow, Primary 5 - 7. Panto performance is at 11am, we aim to leave at 9:30 am. Please provide a packed lunch or opt for a cold school lunch. The approximate time of return is 3 pm. |
| Whole School and Nursery | Thursday 12 th December | CLOSED |
|  Whole School | Friday 13 th December | Christmas Lunch – wear your Christmas Jumper day. This is a normal uniform day and instead of school sweatshirts a Christmas jumper/top can be worn. The Staff donate to <i>Save the Children</i> and pupils can <u>choose</u> to make a donation also to this charity. |
| Primary 1 and LU Primary 2/1 | Monday 16 th December | Science Centre, Glasgow. |
| Primary 4 and 3 (year group) | Monday 16 th at 1pm | Christmas party. |
| Primary 2 and 1 (year group) | Tuesday 17 th at 1pm | Christmas party. |
| Whole School | Wednesday 18 th | Christmas assembly at Kirkmuirhill Parish Church. |
| Primary 4 → | Thursday 19 th at 9:30am | Primary 4 (Mrs Henderson and Mrs Small) Christmas Assembly at Kirkmuirhill Parish Church – all family and friends welcome. |
| Whole school | Friday 20 th | Dress Down Day. School Closes at 2:30pm. Nursery Closes at 2:15pm. |



EDUCATION SERVICES
Executive Director: Tony McDaid
Blackwood Primary School - Head Teacher: Ms Christine McMillan