

Blackwood Primary and Early Learning & Childcare Newsletter – Friday 18th August 2023 (No.1) Headteacher: Ms C McMillan



Welcome!

Welcome everyone to the start of a new school year. I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer holidays. Our school staff are looking forward to working collaboratively with parents/carers and pupils to provide learning opportunities which will enable our young people to develop within the framework of *Curriculum for Excellence* and meet the national agenda to raise attainment and achievement.

A special thank you to our school cleaners and janitorial staff who have been working during the holidays to ensure that we are coming back to a clean and safe environment.

Attached to this newsletter is a diary overview with important known dates for the 2023/24 session. This hopefully will help you plan your home calendar to include important events in the school. Look out for updates which will be provided throughout the session.

We start this school year with 9 mainstream classes and 2 supported classes as well as a busy ELC. There will be daily opportunities for outdoor learning. Please see update below and PE days for this term.

Class	Number	Teacher	PE indoor	PE outdoor
Primary 1-3	16	Miss Colquhoun Miss Lothian & Mrs O'Donnell	Thursday	Tuesday
P1	25	Mrs Robinson & Mrs Barclay	Monday	Friday
P2	26	Miss Murray (Mon, Tues, Wed) Mrs Henderson (Wed, Thu, Fri)	Monday	Thursday
P3/2	24	Miss Illingworth & Mrs Barclay	Thursday	Tuesday
P4/3	25	Mrs Stein (Mon & Tues) Mrs Forbes (Tues – Friday)	Tuesday	Thursday
P5/4	23	Miss Niddrie & Miss McBride	Wednesday	Thursday
P5	30	Miss Whitefield	Swimming on a Tuesday	Thursday
P6	31	Mrs Waugh	Tuesday	Thursday
P7/6	23	Mrs Small	Tuesday	Thursday
P7	29	Mrs Gray	Wednesday	Tuesday

Year Group Activities Term 1

- Primary 5 Swimming at Larkhall Leisure Pool on a Tuesday morning
- Primary 3 Forest Schools on a Wednesday morning
- Primary 7 Bikeability (on road) Thursday afternoons

Annual Data and Permission Forms

Traditionally you would have received an envelope with Annual Data Check information, however, we are moving towards an online version which can be accessed through ParentsPortal. If you have not already signed up for ParentsPortal, please do so at your earliest convenience or contact the school office if you require assistance.

If you are signed up you will receive an email letting you know that the Annual Data Checks and Annual Permission forms are now available. However, if you have yet to do this, you will receive an email with the Google Forms for completion.

It is very important as a school that this information is completed by Friday 25th August and is kept up to date throughout the school year.

Parent Council 2023

The first meeting of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 30th August** at 7pm at which time the school improvement plan will be discussed. Our chair, Mrs Wendy Thomson, extends a warm invitation to all parents to attend and I would encourage you to come along. There are 5 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.*

Participatory Budget

Participatory Budget is an allocation of a minimum of 5% of our school budget where the spend has to be decided by learners in school and their families.

A group of P4-P6 learners have met with representatives across school and with parental volunteers to discuss options for the participatory budget allocation this year. They have discussed ideas to help with the cost of the school day, supporting health and wellbeing, encouraging outdoor play, enhancing learning and teaching in school and supporting learning at home. A shortlist has been created for families and learners in school to vote on.

Please complete the Microsoft form or scan the QR code below to vote on the shortlist by Friday 25th August –

- **Provide School Jumpers for School – to help reduce the cost of the school day for families.**
- **Purchase Outdoor Equipment and Storage for the Playground.**
- **Create Resource Packs to support learning at home across curricular areas.**



<https://forms.office.com/r/aRa8tDVt1D>

Chaplaincy (Following SLC Guidelines)

The School Chaplaincy is with Kirkmuirhill Parish Church and the Chaplain function is being carried out by Rev Andrew Rooney.

Religious and Moral Education

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.”

- Religious Observance (A Time of Reflection) will take place during our school assemblies. Six assemblies across the year will have a RO focus.
- Religious and Moral Education (RME) is a curriculum focus within Curriculum for Excellence. Class notification of RME can be found termly in the home-link diary (Page 45)

Parents have the statutory right to withdraw children from participation in religious and moral education. **If you wish to exercise this right, please do so in writing by Friday 25th August.**



EDUCATION SERVICES

Executive Director: Carole McKenzie

Blackwood Primary School - Head Teacher: Ms Christine McMillan