

Blackwood Primary and Early Learning & Childcare Newsletter – Friday 1st September (No.2) Headteacher: Ms C McMillan



School Improvement Plan

Please see attached our School Improvement Plan (SIP on a Page) for the session 2023/24. This is also available on the website.

Annual Calendar - Updates

School and ELC Photographer on Tuesday 12th September
FLU vaccinations on Wednesday 20th December

School Captains



When we moved to our new school in 2012, we looked at our vision, our values and our school badge. From the tree on our badge and local street names we named our school houses - Beech, Oak and Sycamore.

During recent times, these houses have helped us manage restrictions at the end of the day with our 3 exit points.



At the start of the school year, our pupils in school vote for their House Captains and Vice Captains. This process is fair and introduces our young people to the idea of living in a democracy. Twenty-nine pupils in Primary 7 prepared excellent speeches and presented them to their house cohorts for voting. Well done to all!

| | Beech | Oak | Sycamore |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Captain | Megan Cameron | Poppy Kerr | Brooke Noah |
| Vice-Captain | Jamie Logan | Kayleigh Jack | Kayden Chanelle |



Homework

Last year we completed a whole school survey with our parent forum on homework. The purpose of homework is to consolidate and extend learning in school. Accurate spelling of common words and quick recall of number facts enable our learners to be successful in class.

Each term we will issue a school overview – Please see attached for Term 1.

Any questions just ask!

Sustainability - Food Waste



Sustainability is a school improvement focus for this year and Primary 6 are leading our school this term in a SLC project from Zero Waste Scotland to monitor food waste in the dining hall at lunch time.

The Scottish Government has set the target of reducing 33% of food waste by 2025.

Primary 6, supported by Mrs Waugh and Mrs Forbes have established a Waste Warrior Team. Primary 6 launched this

initiative at our weekly assembly and presented “An Autopsy of Food Waste” which highlighted the negative impacts of food waste and how it can be avoided.

The Waste Warrior Team will spend the lunchtime helping to collect all the food waste for measuring. Once all lunches are finished, they can start to weigh and measure the food and the liquid waste. The measurements are recorded for later analysis.

Interesting Fact – The food waste collected on one day weighs more than a Primary 6 Waste Warrior!!!

Just a Reminder ...

Primary 1-5 receive a free school meal funded by the Scottish Government.

Primary 6-7 must pay £2.05 per meal and this can be done through ParentPay. ParentPay accounts are monitored to ensure that sufficient funds are available. If you have any issue with payment, please speak to the Head Teacher in confidence.

ParentsPortal

In support of South Lanarkshire Council's ambition to continue to improve in parental engagement, we have now partnered with the Scottish Government's Improvement Service to bring you parentsportal.scot.

Parentsportal.scot is a new digital service to help replace the traditional 'school bag run' by providing direct communication to parents and carers through a growing suite of online services. Through parentsportal.scot parents and carers will be able to grant permissions for school trips, view school lunch menus, view attendance, complete the annual data check, book parents evening and link directly to ParentPay to make payment for school meals, to name but a few.

If you have still to register your ParentsPortal Account, please contact the school office for assistance.

Traffic on Carlisle Road!

Parked cars on Carlisle Road are becoming a major problem for the safety of children and school staff. We will revisit this throughout the school year and look at ways to manage this more effectively to ensure that everyone is safe.



In response to a discussion at our Parent Council meeting, and with the support of Councillor Ross Lambie, there was a Police presence at the end of the day on Thursday on Carlisle Road. The Police will endeavour to be more vigilant and will take action where necessary. Furthermore, we have asked for an update on the road markings which appeared and are not yet finished.

Please consider walking to school, Park and Stride and using the carpark on Southfield Road.

Parent Council 2023

You can support the Parent Council when you shop online using easyfundraising.

As we shop more readily on the internet this is a great way to support the school and ELC without having to do anything. Our cause is listed as –



Blackwood Primary Parent Council - Lanark.



Click on the link below to register your account :

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/register-your-good-cause/?invite=49bjqz&referral-campaign=s2c>

Contact details for the Parent Council are
blackwoodparentcouncil@gmail.com

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 4th October- Everyone welcome!



EDUCATION SERVICES

Executive Director: Carole McKenzie

Blackwood Primary School - Head Teacher: Ms Christine McMillan