

Blackwood Primary and Early Learning & Childcare Newsletter – Friday 1st December (No.5) Headteacher: Ms C McMillan



Remembrance Day - 11th November

Thank you for supporting The Scottish Poppy Appeal. Our donations totalled £187.07. Thank you!



Children in Need – Friday 17th November

Thank you for supporting Children in Need. Our donations totalled £411.90. Thank you!



December ...

As we embark on the Festive Season, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.



Please remember there is no homework in the month of December.

I would like to remind all our families that we have a Cost of the School Day Policy and in consultation with the Parent Council and Parent Forum we have agreed the following ...

- *No gifts for teachers or school staff at Christmas*
- *No gifts from teachers to pupils*
- *No Birthday treats/cakes to be handed into school to be shared in class*

The Parent Council support a Christmas treat at our school parties. Our local Councillor, Ross Lambie, has made a monetary donation to the Parent Council and this will provide a treat on the last day of term.

Santa will visit our ELC and Primary 1 & 2 party and provide a gift. This has been funded by the school.

From Friday 1st December we embrace all things Christmas and Christmas jumpers can be worn throughout the month.

School closes at 2:30pm on Friday 22nd December. All ELC children should be collected by 2:15pm. Last day of term is dress down.

Rehearsals are well underway for our Christmas concert “Carols Around the Tree” and ticket sales are going well. Please confirm your child’s attendance at the evening performance on Thursday 14th December if you have not already done so via the google form at the end of this newsletter. We would encourage all children to support this event.



Happy Hollydays!

C McMillan



Acting Principal Teacher

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Colquhoun, from Newfield Primary to our staff complement as Acting Principal Teacher from Monday 18th December. She was interviewed for this post on Thursday 16th November by a SLC panel which included myself and also representation from our Pupil Leadership Team. We wish her well in her new role. (Ironically, we now have a Miss Colquhoun and a Mrs Colquhoun as our Principal Teachers - no relation!!)

The Future - This information has been shared with the Parent Council

There is a very bleak message around budget cuts within SLC at this moment in time and some of them are having an immediate impact. This term we have lost 0.3FTE (1.5 days staffing) per week and this does have an impact on what we can offer and how we operate. Looking ahead to August 2024 we will lose a DHT post and a further 1.0 FTE teacher. These cuts are being made across all schools within SLC.

Furthermore, with a reduction in per capita per pupil and the rising costs across all purchases from pencils, jotters and toilet roll, the next few years will see cost savings not experienced in my time as a HT.

Read, Write and Count – Wednesday 15th November

This family learning opportunity for Primary 1-3 is hugely popular. The activity bags provided by Book Trust Scotland provide a range of learning opportunities. Big thank you to everyone who supported this event and to Miss Colquhoun for organising!



I thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and loved watching the children be read a story first. Very impressed with the bag of goodies!

Enjoyed the afternoon and seeing my child in class, getting to spend time doing the activities. Looking forward to working our way through books at home. Useful helps and tips from teachers. Thank-you!

Authors Live – BBC Studios

Primary 3/2 (Miss Illingworth) were invited along to BBC Scotland at Pacific Quay to take part in an Authors Live session on Thursday 23rd November. Author Benji Davis read the story “*The Storm Whale*” and discussed how he illustrated the storyline. This was an amazing opportunity for our learners to experience *Skills for Learning Life and Work*. The session can be viewed on BBC iPlayer. [Benji Davies: 10 years of The Storm Whale - Scottish Book Trust](#)



(BBC Photographs from Alan Peebles)

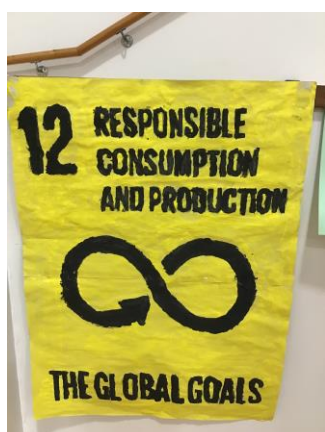
Primary 5 - Sky Academy

Primary 5 year group had the opportunity to visit Sky Academy in Livingston on Tuesday 28th November. This workshop provides a behind the scenes look at the production of Sky programmes and the technology used. With a focus on *Skills for Learning Life and Work* this visit supported our school improvement agenda.



Primary 6 Class Assembly (Mrs Waugh) – Friday 10th November

Primary 6 have been taking part in SLC Food Waste Project as part of the sustainability agenda and this was the focus for their class assembly. Blackwood Waste Warriors have done an amazing job in raising the profile of food waste and have certainly made us stop and think! A big thank you to all of Primary 6 along with Mrs Waugh and Mrs Forbes who led this initiative, reported back to SLC and shared this important message with our school community.



Primary 5 Class Assembly (Miss Whitefield) – Friday 24th November

The Swinging Sixties was the historical theme for Primary 5 to showcase their learning at their assembly. The learners worked together to script what they found interesting about this period of history ... school, fashion, politics, music tv programmes, dancing all within the context of Dr Who, who first came onto our black and white TVs at this time!

Thank-you for this history lesson Primary 5 – it was enjoyed by all your friends and family!



Primary 7 – Happy Place Workshop – Wednesday 29th November

The Happy Place workshop offers a holistic approach to promoting mental health awareness and emotional well-being in young people, while providing a safe and enjoyable environment for them to express themselves creatively.

Our Primary 7 year group, practised some mindfulness breathing and activities. Next, they discussed the importance of addressing feelings you have and how these can be managed. The highlight was listening to songs by Saint Phnx and the stories behind the lyrics, people they have toured with and the famous people they have met along the way. All the young people were enthusiastic and joined in the singing activities and the sing along.

Finally, a Q & A session and the opportunity for autographs - a fabulous time was had by all!!!

I felt happy when they were in as I liked to hear their stories about how they came up with their songs.

Brooke

I felt excited when I found out I was going to meet them as I love their music.

Kerr

I like how they told us about good and bad things that have happened and how they coped with this.

Chanelle

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 7th February at 7:30pm on TEAMS

Christmas ... it's here!!

Christmas Jumpers

These can be worn in school from Friday 1st December. We have a small supply of new or nearly new Christmas Jumpers in the school. If you have any for recycling, please hand them into the school office.

Parents/Children can access these at their own convenience via the school office.



Christmas Lunch – Friday 15th December



If you would like you child to have a Christmas Lunch this must be pre-ordered. Please use the link below to book your child / children's Christmas Lunch.

<https://forms.gle/3Nzb6osFTcva3FB68>

Carols Around the Tree - Christmas Concert

Our Carols Around the Tree will take place during the week commencing 11th December. The format is in two parts. Part 1 is the Christmas Story and Part 2 is Christmas Fun! The performance time is approx. 1hr 20 minutes (this will be confirmed once rehearsals are underway!)



We have 4 performances which means that we will be strict on ticket numbers to ensure that everyone is comfortable and the hall does not become too hot.

The showings are

- **Tuesday 12th December at 1:00 pm.**
- **Wednesday 13th December at 1:00 pm.**
- **Thursday 14th December at 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm.**

Please note – the evening performance on 14th December will have a limit of 2 tickets per family and is likely to sell out quickly. There is no limit on the number of tickets purchased for the afternoon performances.

Tickets cost £2 and raffles will be on sale for £1 a strip. Tickets are now on sale via the School Shop. Please use the link below to access.

[Shop | Blackwood Primary School \(blackwood-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk\)](http://blackwood-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

Please also confirm via google form below, whether your child will attend the evening performance on Thursday 7:00pm or not. Thank you!

<https://forms.gle/VbUtjU1pdzxXDVN36>

Friday 15th December

E.L.C. Christmas Party

Monday 18th December

Primary 7 and Primary 6 year groups

Christmas Party

Tuesday 19th December

Primary 5, Primary 4 and Primary 3 year groups Christmas Party

Wednesday 20th December

Primary 2 and Primary 1 year groups and the Supported classes Christmas Party.

Friday 22nd December

School Closes for the Winter Break at 2:30 pm.

Monday 8th January

School and ELC reopen at 9:00 am





EDUCATION SERVICES
Executive Director: Carole McKenzie
Blackwood Primary School - Head Teacher: Ms Christine McMillan