

Blackwood Primary and Early Learning & Childcare Newsletter – Friday 23rd February



We have had an extremely busy term to date with class assemblies, Safer Internet day, Children's Mental Health Week, lunchtime clubs, masterclasses, cross country training and residential.

School improvement

All staff in the ELC, teaching staff and support staff attended Emotion Coaching training at Coalburn Primary on the Inservice day delivered by Psychological Services. This approach supports the development of emotional regulation with children as it helps young people understand the different emotions they experience, why they occur and how to handle them. Developing a consistent approach strengthens relationships across the school and ELC which supports our attachment informed schools approach and our aim to be a Rights Respecting School.

Numeracy & Maths

Alyson Bennie has recently completed the Multiply project training to deliver family learning and parental Numeracy sessions. The training will be delivered in 6 week blocks and will equip parents with the skills and knowledge required to support their child's learning in Numeracy and Maths regardless of developmental stage. This first block will run after the Spring break on a Tuesday afternoon at 2pm. Initially this will be offered to P3 and P4 families and sign-up information will be sent out shortly. This is a very exciting opportunity and feedback from pilot schools has been very inspiring.

Sumdog

All learners in school have a Sumdog account which can be accessed in school and at home. We are very grateful to the Parent Council who have funded this excellent resource for us. Please encourage your child to access this on a weekly basis as it enhances number sense which has a significant impact on numeracy development. The next South Lanarkshire Contest starts on Friday 15th March and pupils have 1 week to answer 1000 questions which are set at their developmental level. It would be fantastic to see Blackwood Primary School on the leaderboard. The Parent Council have also provided a trophy and 'Sumdog' champion pencils which are awarded monthly to the class who have the highest engagement with Sumdog each month. Thus far, P4/3, P3/2 and P6 have all been awarded this trophy.

Playground and Participatory Budget

Thanks to the results from the Participatory Budget survey at the beginning of the school session being in favour of playground equipment, the pupil voice group in school have been able to purchase resources for the playground to create new play zones. Initial excitement during this introductory period has been amazing and we are hoping it will greatly impact on enjoyment and ensure positive playtime experiences. Primary 5 have taken on a leadership role to help with the organisation and management of resources and trying to ensure resources are respected and looked after.

I love playing frisbee and playing on the stilts (P3 pupil)



I liked playing in different parts of the playground with my friends. (P2 pupil)

Homework

We held a consultation last session in regards to homework and it was very close with 51% of parents/carers requesting homework was provided. Teachers spend time preparing homework in line with children's learning to ensure consolidation of class learning. Homework returns are monitored and will be commented on in reports. Please encourage your child to complete allocated tasks to help support teaching and learning.

Residential

As I write this newsletter, 52 Primary 6 and 7 children are currently creating life-long memories at PGL centre, Newby Wiske on their residential experience. Thank you to Mrs Bowman, Mrs Colquhoun, Mrs Forbes, Miss Stewart, Miss Illingworth, Miss Cowan and Mrs Postma who have accompanied the pupils on this trip. Without their commitment, this opportunity would not have been possible. We are looking forward to hearing all about their experiences when they return.



B.P.S – Blackwood Postal Service

Introducing Blackwood's very special postal service which was launched at assembly this week. We have been focusing on our 3 school rules/expectations this term.

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe



Special positive postcards have been created which all staff working across the school can post. The postcards are in recognition of pupils who always strive to be the best that they can be and have been observed as a role model to others in modelling our school expectations.

Communication

We strive to communicate clearly with families through school and ELC newsletters, updates on Twitter (X), school website and via home link diary. A reminder that if you wish to communicate with your child's teacher there are allocated pages in the home/link diary to do so, alternatively you can contact the school office to pass on a message. If you do not already follow us on Twitter (X) the handle is - BlackwoodPS_SLC

Assemblies

Since the last newsletter we have had 3 class assemblies. Miss Illingworth's P3/2 class shared an important sustainability message during their assembly on the importance of bees. Mrs Stein and Mrs Forbes' P4/3 class showcased their learning about Egypt and Miss Niddrie's P5/4 class shared their learning from their 'farm to fork' focus. The confidence, enthusiasm and knowledge shared by our learners has been amazing and we are very proud of each and every one of our confident individuals who entertained and educated friends, family members, the ELC and school during their performances. Thank you to all friends and family who were in the audience, your support and encouragement is invaluable.



What is on?

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| Friday 1 st March | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dental Checks P1 & P7 |
| Thursday 7 th March | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Host School for Larkhall Burns competition |
| Wednesday 13 th March | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cross Country Competition – Lanark |
| Friday 15 th March | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary 2 (Miss Murray & Ms Stewart) class assembly at 9:30am – all family and friends are invited to attend.• Sumdog competition starts |
| Wednesday 20 th March | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• P1 & P2 Literacy family learning am or pm |
| Thursday 28 th March | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School closes 2:30pm for Spring Break |
| Wednesday 17 th April | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent Council 7pm – Blackwood Primary |
| Thursday 25 th April | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parental consultations in school |
| Thursday 2 nd May | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In Service Day |

Parent Council

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

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



anything.

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

**You are invited to attend the next meeting on
Wednesday 17th April in person at Blackwood Primary School at 7pm**

Here to Help!

As a school we are committed to helping our families and it is always worthwhile asking!
Please be assured any requests will be treated in confidence.

Looking for help

SLC have also launched the Community Wellbeing Helpline on **0303 123 1009**.

Children 1st Parentline –call free 08000 28 22 33



EDUCATION SERVICES

Executive Director: Carole McKenzie

Blackwood Primary School – Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Alyson Bennie