

Blackwood Primary and Early Learning & Childcare Newsletter – Thursday 25th January 2024



Staffing Update

School staff and pupils are missing Ms McMillan as she is currently absent from school. Mrs Bennie will be Acting Head Teacher during this absence and the fantastic team of staff in school will ensure that the school continues to move forward with school improvement priorities and maintain positive health and wellbeing outcomes for our young people and their families.

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Ruth Colquhoun to our school leadership team in the role of Acting Principal Teacher. Mrs Colquhoun is covering Miss Meldrum's maternity leave.

Congratulations to Miss Meldrum who welcomed baby Lewis into her family in December. We were all very excited to meet him yesterday when she came to visit.

Term 3

We have returned to school this term with a refreshed focus on our 3 school rules. Be Safe, Be Ready and Be Respectful. Assemblies and class meetings are focusing on these important rules to ensure the rights of all learners are respected. We ask that you discuss these rules at home to reinforce their importance.

School Improvement Priorities

Writing

We continue to focus on writing as part of our school improvement this session. We were fortunate to have a second visit from Stephen Graham, a professional development literacy consultant from Australia on January 11th. He was very impressed with the high standard of writing that he saw in learners' writing jotters and when working with learners during his visit. Primary 4/3, Primary 5 and Primary 6 classes worked with Mr Graham with teachers from across the school observing his lessons on exposition (to persuade the reader by giving one side of argument)



Young Leaders of Learning

Our Rights Ambassadors in school, Harry (P6) Razan (P6) Ruby (P6) and Murray (P5) are raising awareness of children's rights. They are leading a whole school assembly on Monday 29th January to share the importance of universal rights for all and aim to recruit ambassadors from P3-P6 to join their leadership team.

One of their most recent jobs was to help Miss Lothian appoint Young Leaders of Learning (YLL) They reviewed application forms from learners in Primary 4 and 5 who were interested in this new role and after discussing the skills of the applicants who applied, they appointed 8 YLL.

The YLL team attended a training day at SLC HQ in Hamilton on Wednesday morning to learn about their role and are very excited to take this initiative forward.



Masterclasses

Masterclasses for Primary 6 and 7 will begin on Friday afternoon. Each Masterclass will have a skills focus for learners to demonstrate and discuss progression of specific skills throughout. The options for this block were: Arts & Crafts, Football, STEM, Netball, Board Games and Coding (ICT)

Class information for Term 3

Class	Indoor PE	Outdoor PE
ELC	Thursday (am)	
P1 – Mrs Robinson	Monday (am)	Tuesday (pm)
SC 2/1 - Ms Colquhoun	Friday (am)	Monday (pm)
P2 – Miss Murray & Ms Stewart	Wednesday (pm)	Friday (pm)
P3/2 – Miss Illingworth	Thursday (pm)	Tuesday (am)
SC 3/2 – Miss Lothian	Thursday (pm)	Monday (pm)
P4/3 - Mrs Forbes & Mrs Stein	Tuesday (am)	Thursday (pm)
P5/4 – Miss Niddrie & Mrs Henderson	Wednesday (pm)	Monday (pm)
P5 – Miss Whitefield	Friday (am)	Cross Country - Tuesday (am)
P6 – Mrs Waugh	Tuesday (am)	Cross Country – Thursday (pm)
P7/6 – Mrs Small	Wednesday (am)	Cross Country – Thursday (pm)
P7 – Mrs Gray	Wednesday (am)	Cross Country – Thursday (pm)

Primary 2 have Forest Schools on a Thursday morning.
Primary 5 have music on a Wednesday morning.

Cross Country

Primary 5-7 have cross-country this term. Please support this by ensuring pupils bring their full outdoor kit with waterproof jacket and a change of clothes, (including spare socks and shoes). It is understandable that on occasion children may be unwell and have a note to excuse them that week from cross-country, however, we ask that all pupils participate to ensure we meet our obligation to deliver 2 hours of PE each week. Staff carry out a dynamic risk assessment on each cross-country day to ensure weather, course and route is safe as conditions change regularly throughout a day so, please send kit even if weather is unfavourable at start of day as this may change.

Drop off/pick up

A reminder that the staff car park at the main entrance on Carlisle Road is only to be used for those who have obtained permission from the school, are a funded Childcare provision, e.g. Happy Feet or are ASN registered transport for the school. The drop off carpark is on Southfield Road at the Community wing. Please communicate this message with any family members who drop off or pick up from school.

Can you help?

We are looking to enhance our loose parts play outdoors. Please see attached flyer for examples of what we are looking for and if you can help, please hand in to the school office.

If you can help at Cross Country this term, please let Mrs Park in the office know.

Thank You!

What is on?

Friday 26 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary 3/2 (Miss Illingworth) class assembly at 9:30am – all family and friends are invited to attend.• P6 and P7 masterclasses begin (pm).• Supported Classes – Inclusion Festival at Carluke Leisure Centre.
Tuesday 30 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flu Immunisation catch up.
Wednesday 7 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parent Council – On Teams (all parent forum from ELC and school are invited to attend).
Friday 9 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary 4/3 (Mrs Forbes/Mrs Stein) class assembly - all family and friends are invited to attend.•
Monday 12 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holiday - School & ELC closed.
Tuesday 13 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Holiday – School & ELC closed.
Wednesday 14 th February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• In-Service Day – School & ELC closed to pupils.
Monday 19 th February – Friday 23 rd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residential to Newby Wiske Hall – P6 and P7.
Friday 23 rd February	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary 5/4 (Miss Niddrie) class assembly at 9:30am – all family and friends are invited to attend.
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.
Thursday 28 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School closes 2:30pm for Spring Break.

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 anything. 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 7th February on Teams 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