

# Blackwood Primary and Early Learning & Childcare

## Newsletter – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024



### School improvement

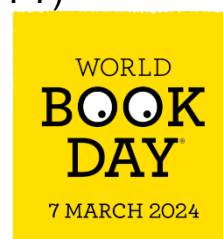
This school session, we are in the process of moving from a behaviour policy to a relational policy at Blackwood Primary School. We removed the traffic light system in school at the beginning of this term to support our restorative behaviour approach. What does this mean?

- At Blackwood Primary School in line with SLC policy, we are working towards becoming a more attachment informed school. Part of this work is to create a relational policy which will show a step-by-step approach to resolving issues and lay out the pupil, staff, and parental responsibilities ensuring this is a more collaborative approach to behaviour support across the school community. Mrs Bowman is currently leading this with the support of a working party in school.
- As part of this approach, all staff have been trained in Emotion coaching, the aim of this is to deliver a consistent approach in the language used to address children's feelings/emotions.
- We aim to recognise positive behaviour choices in school as almost all of our learners follow the school expectation each day to Be ready, Be Safe and Be Respectful. This is the ethos and culture that we promote and ask that this is instilled at home.
- A relational policy will be formed in consultation with parents/carers, pupils and staff which will be shared in due course.

### World Book Day

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day, and we have lots of activities planned to celebrate this day and our love of reading at Blackwood Primary School. This year's theme is 'Read your way' and all pupils will be gifted a WBD book token which they can redeem in selected stores. In the ELC it will be a bright and colourful day. There will be a Literacy focus on the book Elmer and children are asked to dress in clothes that are their favourite colour. School uniform as normal for school. Activities in school and ELC that day have been planned by the Reading Leadership Committee alongside Mrs Colquhoun and include:

- A book swap – Children are asked to bring a book in that they no longer read, and they can swap it to bring home a pre-loved book. (ELC – P7)
- A book bistro for (P5/4 – P7)
- A character hunt around the school and playground (ELC-P7)
- Who's that behind the book – can learners guess the staff member hiding behind the book?
- Library visit – (P1-P4/3)
- Story session from SMT (P1-P4/3)



## **Sustrans Big Travel 11<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

We have signed up to participate in Sustrans' Big Walk and Wheel which takes place between 11<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March. This initiative is the UK's largest walking, wheeling, scooting, and cycling challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

On each day of the challenge schools compete to see who can record the greatest number of pupils walking, using a wheelchair, scooting, or cycling to school. A school's best five days will determine their final position and schools at the top of their leaderboards will receive an exclusive Sustrans' Big Walk and Wheel certificate. Our JRSO leaders will survey classes each day to gather data to submit.

P1-P5's can scoot, walk, or cycle and P6 and P7's are encouraged to cycle, scoot or walk.

## **Residential**

The Primary 6 and 7's had a fantastic experience at Newby Wiske on their residential trip. Thank you to the staff who accompanied the trip as this is a huge commitment from them to leave their family at home for the week and without their dedication this experience could not have happened. The aim is for each pupil to create a ppt of their week to be put on a Google classroom for you to access at home.

"My favourite thing was the Silent Disco. The Quick Jump and Abseil was terrifying but still fun. There was so many high activities but even though I have a fear of heights, they were great." (Daniel, P6)

"I achieved many things that I have never done before at Residential like climbing an obstacle course or learning how to fire a bow. It is very fun and I highly recommend."

(Ted, P6)

"I enjoyed doing lazer tag and aeroball. I enjoyed having a room with friends and I loved the food and activities" (Charley, P7)

"I loved doing quick jump. It was so scary when you looked down but I was determined to do it, so I did!"

(Chanelle, P7)

## **RSHP – Term 4**

During Term 4 all classes will focus on the RSHP Programme Relationships, Sexual Health & Parenthood. This forms part of our Health and Well Being Curriculum and is uniform across Scotland with the launch of the national RSHP project which is linked to Curriculum for Excellence. The RSHP resource is an online resource and parents can access this at home to keep abreast of what your child is learning about in school. The attached power point is available for you to read and watch and this will provide you with an insight into this programme. If you have any questions about what your child is learning, please contact the school office for more information.

## **Forest Schools**

This term, Primary 2 have been participating in Forest Schools where they have learned the importance of risk assessment and fire safety. They have developed their team working skills when den building, cooked hot dogs on the fire, looked for and identified minibeasts, used natural materials to make arts and crafts and used marshmallows and biscuits to make s'mores. Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March will be their last session.





## **Cross Country**

Primary 5, 6 and 7 are continuing with their Cross-Country training and a team has been selected to represent the school at the Clydesdale cross country competition on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Cross Country is part of the core PE programme during term 3 and it is important that in order to meet our obligation to the Government of delivering a minimum of 2 hours of PE a week that all learners take part. It is not an opt in or out activity. We ask that parents/carers reinforce this message at home and the expectation is that unless children are unwell, they participate each week.



## **Clubs in school**

We have a number of lunchtime clubs running this term including:

- Dance (P4&P5 – Thursday lunchtime)
- Dance (P6&P7 – Tuesday lunchtime)
- Choir (P6&P7 – Friday lunchtime)
- P3 Multi Sports – led by Active Schools (Wednesday lunchtime)
- PALS – Games in the MUGA led by P6 leaders (P1-P4 across the week)
- Drama (P3 – Monday lunchtime)

## **Nut Free**

A reminder that we are a nut free school. Can you please check all snacks/packed lunches before sending them in to school that may contain nuts, Kinder Bueno, Nutella etc cannot be brought in due to allergies within school.



## **Chewing Gum**

Chewing gum should not be brought into school. Recently, there have been a number of children who are stopping at the shop on the way to school and buying chewing gum. This is a choking hazard and also leaves a mess when discarded of.

## **Scots Language**

During Term 3, the Literacy focus in school has been on Scots Language. We are planning an in-house showcase of learning at the end of term to share learning from each class to inspire others.

We have pupils from P2-P7 competing in this year's Larkhall Burns Competition this Thursday and would like to wish them the best of luck as they showcase their hard work and effort in learning a poem/song to perform. Our competitors in recitation this year are Callan (P2), Gabrielle (P3) Eva (P5) Olivia (P5) David (P6) and Brooke (P7). The soloists in singing are Oakley (P5), Piper (P6) and Aaron (P7) The choir will be singing at this event and competing in the National final in June. Good luck Team Blackwood!

## **Literacy Family Learning workshop (P1 & P2)**

Miss Colquhoun has organised a literacy family learning workshop for P1 & P2 families on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Information for this has already been shared and we look forward to welcoming many of you into school on this day. If you can look out the dictionary/thesaurus that was gifted at Christmas as this will form the focus of the session.

## **HMle Transport consultation**

In light of the proposed transport budget cuts, we have been asked to host a focus group with a representative from His Majesty's Inspectorate on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. This will take place at 9:15am and will be a chance for you to have your voice heard. It will involve P5 - P7 families, and an invitation will follow. Please save the date if you would like to be involved.

## **What is on?**

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

## **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.



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](mailto:blackwoodparentcouncil@gmail.com)

**You are invited to attend the next meeting on  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> Parentline –call free 08000 28 22 33**



### **EDUCATION SERVICES**

**Executive Director: Carole McKenzie**

**Blackwood Primary School – Acting Head Teacher: Mrs Alyson Bennie**