

# Blackwood Primary and Early Learning & Childcare Newsletter – August 2024 Head Teacher : Ms C McMillan



## ***Head Teacher's Welcome***

A very warm welcome to our first newsletter of the new school term. I hope you all had a lovely summer break. A special welcome to our new Primary 1 children and our new families joining our school and ELC community.

A special thank you to our school cleaners and janitorial staff who have been working during the holidays to ensure that we are coming back to a clean and safe environment.

Regards

***Christine McMillan***  
***Head Teacher***

## ***Entrance and Exit Points - BIG Change!!***

Families in the school before 2020 will remember all children entered and exited from the same gate. The 3 exit points were introduced in response to the covid pandemic. For operational reasons we are reverting back to **one** exit at 3pm with immediate effect. All children will be walked to the gate by their class teacher and support staff.

It would be appreciated if you could continue the existing good practice for children especially in Primary 4-7 to meet away from the exit gate at a pre-arranged meeting point within the school entrance grounds or along Carlisle Road.

Safety of your child is paramount, and staff will be on hand to supervise safe hand overs and older children will be constantly reminded that if an adult is not at a pre-arranged spot to return to the school office.

We understand that you may have alternative collection arrangements for your child at the end of the school day. Please make sure that your arrangements are well planned, and your child is aware of the arrangements. Last minute changes at the end of the day can be upsetting however, if necessary, please contact the school office by email or phone. Please complete this Google Form to inform us of your collection arrangements by Friday 16<sup>th</sup> August.

**<https://forms.gle/USAfJ39YGke6hrjD7>**

***Please be patient with this new procedure and  
support us in making it work!***

The entrance arrangements in the morning remain the same. Playground supervision begins at 8:50am. The school bell will ring at 9:00am and the gates will close promptly at this time. Children arriving after this time should enter the building via the main school entrance. Children arriving after 9:00am will be marked late.

## ***Parking***

Parent/Carers of the school and the ELC are reminded that the car park on Carlisle Road is for staff and SLC taxis from 8:30am – 9:15am and from 2:30pm - 3:15pm. This is for the safety of all pupils and staff.

Car Park facilities are available to the rear of the school and can be accessed via Southfield Road. Parking on Carlisle Road is not recommended.

Ideally, pupils should be encouraged to walk or park and stride. Our current Primary 7 year group were involved in an initiative to “*Scoot to School*” when younger, this remains an option for all children. Cycling to school is only encouraged in Primary 7 once Bikeability training has been completed. If cycling or scooting to school we recommend that children wear a suitable helmet and reflective clothing.

## ***Management Team & Staffing***

As documented previously, locally and nationally, council savings have been made. Our Senior Management Team has been reduced and we have no staffing additionality within our entitlement this year. All teaching absences will be covered by Mrs R. Colquhoun, Principal Teacher, Mrs Bowman, Depute Head Teacher or Ms McMillan, Head Teacher. This has significantly impacted on us as school community and how we operate moving forward ... more on this throughout the year. Basically, we cannot do what we have previously done and are having to revisit all our day-to-day habits and routines. Watch this space!!

## ***Classes, Staff and PE***

Indoor PE Kit includes a T Shirt / Shorts and Indoor shoes and should be brought or worn to school on indoor PE days.

Outdoor PE will take place in all weathers, therefore, it is important that a change of clothes is provided. If your child has an AM slot, please come to school dressed for outdoor PE and provide school uniform to change into. If it is at the end of the day, they should come to school with school uniform and change into outdoor PE Kit. This means they will return home in their outdoor PE kit which may be wet.

Class	Teacher	Indoor	Outdoor
Primary 1	Mrs Robinson	Monday	Thursday pm
Primary 2	Mrs Barclay / Mrs Forbes	Monday	Friday am
Primary 3	Miss Illingworth	Wednesday	Tuesday am
Primary 4/3	Mrs Forbes / Mrs Stein	Tuesday	Thursday am
Primary 4	Miss Muir	Wednesday	Monday pm
Primary 5	Miss Whitefield	Swimming – Tuesday	Friday am
Primary 6	Miss Lothian	Thursday	Monday pm
Primary 7/6	Mrs Small	Thursday	Tuesday pm
Primary 7	Mrs Kellie	Tuesday	Thursday pm
Supported Classes	Miss Colquhoun / Mrs Gray	Tuesday	Wednesday pm

***Parent Council - Invite to attend Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August at 7pm***

**All Parents / Carers are cordially invited to attend the next meeting on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August in school at 7pm.**

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 –

**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)



## ***Animals in School Grounds***

To ensure the safety of all members of the school community, only guide/assistance dogs are allowed into the school grounds. Please note that you are not permitted to enter school grounds if you are carrying an animal in your arms. Thank you for your co-operation.

## ***Black Gym Shoes***

Children are required to change into suitable indoor footwear at school. Black plimsolls are preferable. Indoor shoes that no longer fit or are 'past their best' will be sent home to let parents/carers know they need replaced.

## ***Lost Property – Please Label Everything!***

Please assist in preventing items being lost or misplaced by labelling all items of clothing, footwear, bags, packed lunch boxes etc. with your child's name. It is a good idea to label all items that children may have inside their lunch box too, (excluding food items) including smaller tubs and lids. Thank you.

## ***Water Bottles***

Children are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle to school every day and to keep hydrated during lessons. **Only plain water is permitted during class time.** It is recommended that bottles be 'BPA Free' or 'PET Free' and that they are washed with soapy water each night. Children may bring metal water bottles and flasks to school, but glass bottles are not permitted. Many of our younger children find carrying their large water bottles along with their packed lunch box quite tricky. We would suggest that these are great for class time, but that a smaller bottle or carton etc. is a better solution for lunchtimes. Children can bring small cartons of juice for drinking at playtime or lunchtime.

## ***Mobile Phones***

Children are not permitted to bring their mobile devices to school. If a mobile phone is required for use after school, mobile phones must be handed into the school office. Children are not permitted to bring any other personal electronic devices to school including Smart Watches. Despite the obvious distraction Smart Watches pose, some are camera and internet enabled and therefore present the same concerns as mobile phones in terms of safeguarding.

## ***Attendance At School***

If your child is going to be absent from school then you must let us know. The best way of doing this is by leaving a message on our answering machine before 9.00am on the first day of absence. If you know about the absence in advance please send an email to the school office: [gw14blackwoodoffice@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14blackwoodoffice@glow.sch.uk).



If your child is absent and we have no reason for the absence then you will be contacted by text message. If you receive a text message please contact the school immediately. Absences without explanation from parents/carers will be recorded as unauthorised. Thank you.

## ***Medical Information***

Please inform our office staff of any medical conditions that may affect your child in school. If your child requires prescribed medication during the school day, please discuss this with a member of our office staff.

**Children are not permitted to have any medication in school without the completion of a medical administration form. Medicines should not be sent to school in children's bags.**

## ***Important Allergy Information***

Some members of our school community have severe allergies to some food items, therefore children, staff and visitors must not bring items which contain:

- peanuts or products which may contain peanuts
- tree nuts – such as walnuts, brazil nuts, almonds and hazelnuts etc.

**Please note that this includes many chocolate spreads, Nutella products and Kinder Bueno and any items which 'may contain nuts or nut-traces.'**



## ***Breakfast Club***

Breakfast Club will be open daily from 8:15 am – 8:45 am. Children should arrive no later than 8:35 am.

A booking form was issued last week for children who require a place at Breakfast Club. If you completed this form, then your child has been allocated a place. If you DID NOT complete a form and would like to apply for a place at Breakfast Club, then please contact our school office.

## **School Lunches**

We will be serving the [2023/2024 lunch menu](#) until Friday 23rd August 2023. We will serve the week 3 menu this week.

From Monday 26th August 2024 we will be serving the [new 2024/2025 lunch menu](#).

If your child has any dietary needs, food allergies, or intolerances please pick up an **Adapted, medically prescribed diet, or intolerance registration form from our school office**. See refer to the SLC [Adapted diets](#) page for further information. Please note pupils who already have a special diet in place do not require to complete any updated forms.

Free school meals are available for all pupils from Primary 1 to 5.

Primary 6 and 7 will be charged £2.17 Parents/carers must use ParentPay to pay for their child's school meal.

**Please discuss and confirm the lunch choice with your child before school each morning as orders are placed when children enter the classroom. Thank you.**

## **School Milk**

If your child would like milk during lunch then you are required to confirm which days your child wants to have milk by booking and paying on ParentPay.

P1 parents/carers and new families will receive an activation letter for ParentPay soon. Milk cannot be booked and paid for until the ParentPay account is activated.

Children who are in receipt of Free School Meals due to family circumstances do not need to pre-order milk via Parent Pay as this is provided as part of the free meal entitlement.

All other children in P1-7 will need to book and pay for milk.

If you need any help with ParentPay, please telephone the school office.

## **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 – Head Teacher: Ms Christine McMillan**