

Blackwood Primary and Early Learning & Childcare

Newsletter – September 2024

Head Teacher : Ms C McMillan



Pupil Voice

When we moved to this new building in 2012, we looked at our vision, our values and our school badge. Our vision is reviewed every 4 years and this year you will get an opportunity to share your thoughts on this when you attend Parents' Night (Thursday 10th October). Our values are constant and build on our ethos, they are shared regularly with our learners and are based on the Olympics and Paralympics:-

Friendship

Determination

Courage

Respect

Equity

Inspiration

Excellence

From the tree on our school badge and local street names we named our three school houses :-

Beech

Oak

Sycamore

At the start of the school year, our pupils vote for their House Captains and Vice Captains. This process is fair and introduces our young people to the idea of living in a democracy. Thirty-six Primary 7 pupils prepared excellent speeches and presented them to their house cohorts for voting. Immensely proud of everyone ... Well Done!!

	Beech	Oak	Sycamore
Captain	Ben Katie- Anna	Pyper Rory	Finlay Amirah
Vice Captain	Lucy Ted	Robbie Macy	Tommy Maya



Annual Calendar

Please see attached annual calendar which is also on the website. This will be updated and shared with you throughout the session.

- Fairtrade Fortnight celebrates 30 years and runs from 9th - 22nd September
- School Photographer – Individual & Family Photographs – 10th September
- Maths week Scotland runs from 23 - 29th September

Participatory Budget

Participatory Budget is an allocation of a minimum of 5 % of our school budget where the spend must be decided by learners in school and their families.

At our class meetings last week, led by our Captains and Vice Captains, discussions took place on how to best spend this money. Along with ideas gathered through the Parent Council with a focus on cost of the school day, supporting health & well being enhancing learning in school and outdoor play, the following short list has been created.

This is the 4th year of PB spending.

Year 1 & 2 we purchased the indoor snug

Year 3 we purchased outdoor games

Please complete your vote via QR code by Friday 13th September.

- A free trip for all classes
- More outdoor play equipment

Alternatively, you can use the link below to vote.



Participatory Budget 2024 / 2025

Homework

Homework this term will focus on the maths programme SUMDOG. This is a national online programme which supports numeracy development and provides online competitive challenge. Our Parent Council fundraise for this programme at an annual cost of around £900.

Furthermore, the Parent Council have a Challenge trophy which is awarded to a class per term for participation. The winning class are also gifted with a pencil.

Parent Council 2024

The first meeting of the Parent Council took place on Wednesday 28th August at 7pm. There will be a further 4 meetings throughout the year and you are invited to attend.

Wednesday 2nd October
Wednesday 27th November
Wednesday 12th February
Wednesday 7th May

.The objectives of the Parent Council are:-

- *To work in partnership with the school to create a school which is inclusive for all parents/carers.*
- *To promote partnership between school, pupils and parents/carers.*
- *To develop and engage in activities which support the education and welfare of the pupils.*
- *To identify and represent the views of parents/carers and pupils on the education provided by the school and other matters affecting the education and welfare of the pupils.*

The Parent Council is made up of 4 office bearers and I would like to thank the retiring office bearers, Mrs Wendy Thomson (P3 & P7), Mrs Jo McGuigan (P4 & P7) and Mrs Lisa Tweed (P5 & P2) for their support over the last three years.

A big welcome to our new office bearers who will be looking for your continued support.

Chair	Emma McGeachie (P7 & P5)
Vice- Chair	Laura Watt (P7)
Secretary	Kayleigh Miller (P2)
Treasurer	Donna Neeson (P7)



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

Now that 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

Cost of the School Day

This term we are hoping to publish our “Cost of the School Day” policy which is designed with fluency to respond to ongoing need. This is a document that we have worked on with our learners, families and Parent Council over a period of time. It reflects the current political and economic climate with a focus on the cost of living.

To help you plan financially please consider the following

Halloween School Party Day 31st October - This will be a dress up or dress down day and all children will be given the opportunity to participate in fun activities. The Parent Council will fund this activity and provide every child with a Glow stick band. Further Glow Sticks can be purchased on the day 3 for £1.

Reduce, Reuse & Recycle - Please hand in any Halloween Costumes you no longer need to the school office for recycling. These will be available at Parents Night on 10th October for you to take at the Parent Council Stop!

Children in Need - Friday 15th November – This is a non-uniform day. Children can dress up or dress down. The ELC will run the *Children in Need* shop during the week prior to this date. If you can, a donation for this charity can be made on the day.

Christmas – Our traditional “*Carols Around the Tree*” is a whole school performance which will take place on the afternoons of Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th of December. (Please note there is no evening performance this year!) Tickets go on sale in early December and usually cost £2.

Christmas Jumpers – During the month of December we have a Christmas Jumper month. Children can wear their Christmas jumper everyday. Again, at Parent’s Night you can visit our recycling station for pre- loved jumpers.

Chaplaincy (Following SLC Guidelines)

The School Chaplaincy is with Kirkmuirhill Parish Church and the Chaplain function is currently being carried out by Rev Stewart Cutler.

Religious and Moral Education

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 states that “there is a statutory duty on local authorities to provide religious observance and religious education (RME) in schools.”

- Religious Observance (A Time of Reflection) will take place during our school assemblies. Six assemblies across the year will have a RO focus.
- Religious and Moral Education (RME) is a curriculum focus within Curriculum for Excellence. Class notification of RME can be found termly in the home-link diary on page 39 and termly thereafter.

Parents have the statutory right to withdraw children from participation in religious and moral education. **If you wish to exercise this right, please do so in writing by Friday 13th September**

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 – Head Teacher: Ms Christine McMillan