



# Blackford Primary School

## Half term Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2-26

Happy New Year! We are delighted to share our January newsletter with you, celebrating the wonderful learning and achievements across our school this month. What a start to 2026 it has been! We're inspired by the energy, enthusiasm, and hard work shining through our school. January has set a fantastic tone for the year ahead—the Blackford spirit continues to help us learn, grow, and achieve together!



### Welcome Stephanie!

Stephanie Christie has joined our support staff team as a pupil support assistant. With over 15 years experience in early years, Stephi is a fabulous addition to Team Blackford and is already forming great relationships with our children. Rumour has it she is the Scotland Champion at hide and seek as well as pretty good with a football.

### Community Learning Assistant

We welcome back Dawn Bannerman, Community Learning Assistant, who will be joining our support team every Tuesday afternoon. The CLA team provides comprehensive support to children in numerous areas of learning and personal development. Their assistance includes helping children with **Social Skills; Self-Regulation; Attendance; Relationships and Communication; Social Interactions; Enhanced Transition; Loss and Bereavement; Participation in School; Family Relationships; Health and Wellbeing.**



### Big Hoose Perthshire

We have been registered with The Big Hoose and all our families are now able to access the service. The Big Hoose provides free essential household items to families with children and young people under 25 who are struggling with the cost of living. From nappies and toiletries to bedding, clothing and cleaning products, the service helps families stretch their income further. All referrals are private and confidential.



Anyone wishing to be referred, please get in touch with Mrs Fowler. Once requests are processed, we can arrange collection or delivery.

### School Uniform

Our school uniform helps create a strong sense of belonging, pride and equality within our school community. Wearing the same colours supports inclusion and helps children focus on learning rather than clothing choices.

Our school uniform consists of:

- Forest green jumpers or cardigan
- White polo shirts
- Black or grey bottoms, including trousers, skirts or pinafores

We are committed to being an inclusive school and understand that some learners may experience sensory sensitivities or require clothing that feels more comfortable. In these cases, baggier jumpers are fine. Where possible, we kindly encourage families to choose items in our school colours without motifs. We also ask that pupils wear black shoes or trainers where possible. Football or national tops are not permitted.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us maintain a comfortable, inclusive and shared school identity for all our children.

### Whole School Scottish Celebration

We had an amazing Scottish Celebration where we got to share all our learning with the whole school. Some of us performed our Scots poems, and others sang Gaelic songs we had been practising. We also showed off our Scottish Country Dancing—especially the tricky steps!

The band **Woodsmoke Ranters** played for us, which was super fun. They even told us all about the Highland bagpipes and the Scottish small pipes, and we got to hear the difference between them. Now everyone is saying they want to learn the pipes!

It was such a fun afternoon, and we felt really proud share our learning together, with 2 elected members who came to visit and celebrate Scotland together.



In P1/2 we've been busy bees!

In maths, we've been sharpening our adding and subtracting skills through lots of hands-on games.

In PE, we turned into mini gymnasts, practising balance, strength and super-smooth moves.

We had great fun performing *The Gruffalo* in Scots, helping us grow braver with our voices and learn new Scots words. In art, we've been mastering fine line drawing—steady hands and eagle-eye detail!

We can't wait to show off everything we've learned on **Tuesday 10th February** when we invite parents in to see our class assembly.



P3/4/5 have hit the ground running since the Christmas holidays!

We've been exploring Famous Scots and loving the music and art we've discovered—The Red Hot Chilli Pipers were a huge hit!

We worked hard to learn our Scots poems for the Scottish Celebration and even helped the younger classes master the Canadian Barn Dance. Some of us have also been creating our own story, complete with pictures and music—we can't wait to share it when it's ready!

Some of our P5 and 4 learners have been taking part in a new initiative at Blackford Primary School working with Rory Clarke, a creative arts specialist. We will have more to share after the February break but the children are overflowing with ideas for the project using music engineering, artwork, sound recording and storytelling.

With help from our P5 digital whizzes, P3/4 have been building their coding skills using Scratch Jr. and Micro:bits. Busy, busy, busy—and having great fun along the way!



## P6/7

We've had a very busy and super productive 2026 thus far. The children must have been honing their maths skills over the festive holidays because their attitude and aptitude towards numeracy learning has been brilliant! We've already covered and consolidated our knowledge around circles and their properties; we've classified and measured angles and we've now moved onto fractions, percentages and decimals.

The children are also all feeling a little bit prouder of our Scottish heritage, having researched how inventive and innovative our Scottish forefathers were. They are particularly thankful for Alexander Graham Bell and his telephonic prowess – not many of the class could imagine life nowadays without a mobile phone!!

And not content with all our learning in school, we have also made waves in the water and in the forest. Michael Phelps isn't a patch on some of our improving swimmers and the meta skills we are learning in the woods, will stand us in good stead for adulthood. Role on February...



