

Blackwood Primary and Early Learning & Childcare

Newsletter – Friday 14th February

Headteacher: Ms C McMillan



Holiday and Inset - Monday 17th – Wednesday 19th February

School is closed on Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th for holiday and closed to pupils on Wednesday 19th for in-service.

Staff

We welcome back Mrs Canning (Miss Meldrum) from maternity leave. Her work pattern is Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

School Improvement Update

Attendance

Improving attendance at school is a National and SLC Priority. This initiative in school is led by Mrs Bowman. As of today 14% of our children have been in school every day since August. These children have received a certificate recognising this achievement.

Behaviour Pathways

As per SLC guidance we have reviewed our behaviour pathway and shared our school expectations with you.

Be ready, Be respectful, Be Safe

Today, notes in the diary have been placed as a Well Done or as a Reminder. Thank you for your support as we implement this new approach.

Participatory Budget

The participatory budget this year has been spent on offering all children a free trip. This fund is now closed for 24/25. Trips included, Biggar Puppet Theatre, Glasgow Science Centre and the Playhouse Edinburgh.

This money is allocated from SLC as a percentage of our PEF budget and the spend is voted on by the pupils and families in our school community.

Expressive Arts

Primary 7 (Mrs Kellie) and Primary 7/6 (Mrs Small) have taken part in a series of art lessons online offered by West OS Art. These live lessons have encouraged the children to look at a range of skills and submit completed pieces of art.



In a recent competition their artwork was commended, and they won 1st place which included a £125 gift of art resources for the school. Awesome!

Sumdog

We have had amazing success with the recent SLC competition for Sumdog Maths. Primary 7/6 (Mrs Small) took 1st place in the class competition– an amazing achievement for an authority wide event.

Furthermore, we had 7 individual prizes in the top 10! Big shout out to Rory in Primary 7 who came in 1st!



This educational online resource is funded through the Parent Council. They have purchased a licence for every child to use on any device at home and in school. This resource supports both literacy and numeracy and activities are set to support learning that takes place in school. This is our online platform along with ClickView (includes Disney +) that supports home learning when school is closed in emergency circumstances ie storm on 25th January.

If you have any issues accessing these at home, please contact the school office.



Parent Council 2025

The Parent Council work tirelessly to support all the young people in this school and ELC. Recent activities that your child has benefitted from are-

- ***Sumdog subscription***
- ***ClickView subscription (inc Disney +)***
- ***Christmas treats***
- ***Subsidised Primary 7 Leavers Hoodies***

What can you do to help?

- Attend the meetings - only 5 per year
- Support the events and help fundraise

From the comfort of your own home ...

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



As 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

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 7th May at 7:00pm in person

Dalquise - (24th- 28th February) Primary 7 and Primary 6 Residential

During the week of the school residential the following arrangements are in place as Ms McMillan, Mrs Colquhoun, Mrs Kellie, Miss Lothian, Miss Illingworth and Ms McArthur support this activity week. Hopefully, all will go according to plan!

- Mrs Bowman (DHT) will be the first point of contact
- Mrs Small will work with her class and any remaining Primary 7 pupils from Mrs Kellie's class
- Ms Stewart will cover Primary 3 for the week
- Miss Murray and Mrs Canning will cover in Primary 6 (Miss Lothian)

Primary 2 Assembly - Friday 7th February



Primary 2 showcased their skills and talents in the retelling of the well-known story of "The Three Billy Goats Gruff". This linked to their literacy work carried out in class. A huge thank-you to all their family and friends who attended this event and recognised all the hard work that had taken place.

Planning ahead ...

5.3.25 & 6.3.25	Dogs Trust will visit all classes
6.3.25	World Book Day - class based activities – no dressing up
11.3.25	Host school for Burns Competition
14.3.25	P7 & P7/6 Class Assembly at 1:00 pm
19.3.25	Dance Festival at Lanark
1.4.25	Choir performing at Kirkmuirhill Parish Church at 7pm
4.4.25	School & ELC close at 2:30 pm for Spring Break



EDUCATION SERVICES

Interim Executive Director: Anne Donaldson

Blackwood Primary School – Head Teacher: Ms Christine McMillan