

Blackwood Primary and Early Learning & Childcare

Newsletter – Thursday 2nd October 2025

Headteacher: Ms C McMillan



Calendar Updates

- Please see attached an updated calendar.
- School finishes on Friday 10th October for half term and opens again on Monday 20th October.
- Friday 10th October is a DRESS DOWN day.

Parents' Night – Wednesday 8th October

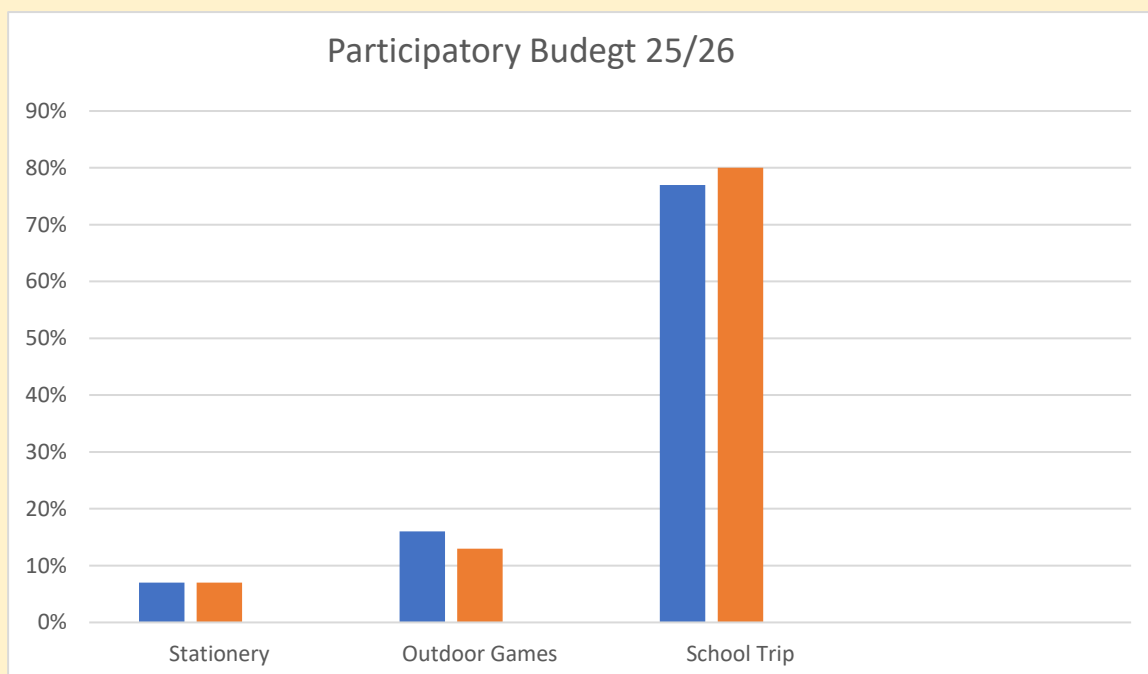
Please contact the school office if you are looking for an appointment and have not booked one yet. All meetings take place in the gym hall.

Please read the attached if you require any additional information or if this is your first time at Parents' Night.

Participatory Budget

We have now completed the consultation for the Participatory Budget spend. The choices were

- Stationery
- Outdoor Games
- Free School Trip



As you can see from the graph the school trip option was popular with the pupils and with home. 88% of our pupil forum and 25% of our parent forum took part in the consultation – Thank you!

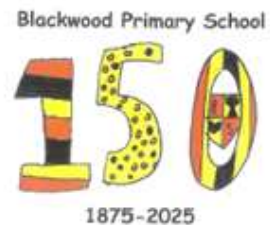
Be ready, Be respectful, Be safe

Our school expectations of **Be ready, Be safe and Be respectful** form the basis of our positive behaviour policy and are embedded in our language as we support our learners to manage their behaviour in and around the school.

This term, the staff have commented on the increased use of inappropriate language and the casual way some language is used in discussion and between pupils. Moving forward your support at home would be appreciated to talk to your child about their use of language and its appropriateness for the school environment. This will be closely monitored next session and could be grounds for a formal exclusion.

150th Celebrations

Please share this invite to all present and past pupils and friends of Blackwood Primary and ELC.



On Thursday 6th November the school is hosting an open day to celebrate 150 years!

The school will be open from
10:00am – noon
1:30pm – 5pm
6pm -9:00pm

Street Art - please refer to the letter issued on 24th September

- *If you have already replied there is no need to do so again*

To involve the community in this celebration we would like to create our 150th Street Gallery for the week of Monday 3rd November. The pupils would like their artwork displayed in the front windows of houses around our village.

You are going to ask friends, family and neighbours if they would like to take part in this initiative and complete the google form below with a number. This will give us an indication of the number of pieces we need to produce.

150th Street Gallery

On Friday 1st November we will send home the allocated number and ask you to disperse and display amongst your friends, family and neighbours for the week of Monday 3rd to Saturday 8th November. This will enable all the community to join in our celebration.

Nil by Mouth – Primary 7, Primary 7/6 and St John's Primary

It was great to welcome St Johns Primary to our school on Tuesday 2nd September for "Nil by Mouth" workshops.

nil by mouth

Challenging Sectarianism

"Nil by mouth" in the context of schools refers to the anti-sectarianism campaign and charity Nil by Mouth. Nil by Mouth's school workshops focus on raising awareness of the issues surrounding sectarianism within our society. Their interactive approach aims to draw out personal attitudes, views and experiences while encouraging people to challenge sectarianism in their own lives and in wider society.

Guessing the religion of the celebrities was tricky as we were only looking at photographs

Harrison

I enjoyed building the trolley. I had fun teammates, and we talked to each other well.

Ronald



Virgin Money Primary 5-7

<https://www.make-5-grow.co.uk>

Virgin Money visited the school on Tuesday 9th September and held a workshop for all learners in Primary 5-7.



“Make £5 Grow” is focused on financial education and helps children feel confident managing money. Within this project we will encourage our learners to embrace their entrepreneurial skills and build financial confidence which will help them succeed later in life. *Make £5 Grow* does just that. It's a fun, engaging project for primary school pupils designed to help young people draw out their enterprising skills, along with equipping them with important financial knowledge.

Watch this space ... more to come on this!

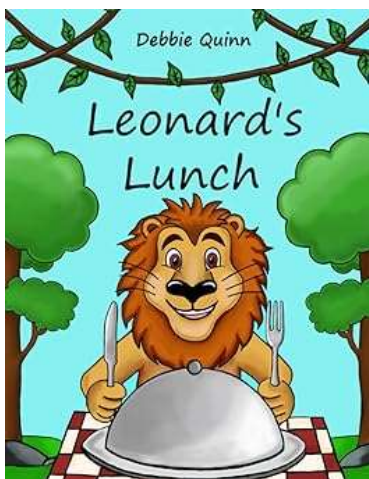
Sky Academy – Primary 5



Primary 5-year group visited Sky Academy at Livingstone on Wednesday 3rd September. During this visit the children got the opportunity to work in groups, write a script, film it and then attend the premier!

This digital experience provides an opportunity to look at different employment opportunities in the media.

Leonard's Lunch - Author Visit Primary 1 and Supported Classes



Debbie Quinn visited our school on Monday 15th September to read her story *“Leonard's Lunch”*.

This rhyming adventure teaches the importance of a healthy diet and exercise in a fun and light-hearted way. Especially exciting was the visit from Leonard who thought our young people were amazing!

Thanks to Mrs Henderson who organised this to enhance our health and wellbeing curriculum.

Maths Week Scotland



We have had great success in the recent national competition for Sumdog. Congratulations to Primary 6/5 who won the class competition and to individuals who got a shout out for their achievements

- P7 - Ahmad
- P6 - Alexander
- P5 - Lucy
- P4 - Sarah

Mrs Colquhoun, along with the pupil leadership team organised a range of games and activities to promote Maths Week Scotland. They then visited every class to encourage participation.

Maths and Numeracy features on our school improvement plan this year and staff are being upskilled through the SLC VCPA (Verbal, Concrete, Pictorial & Abstract) training.

School Improvement Plan

This term we have continued our review of our literacy curriculum and had a visit from Stephen Graham on Tuesday 16th September. The focus for this visit was Reading, and he worked with learners from Primary 4, 5 & 6 throughout the day.

All our staff have been involved in training from Stephen over several years and we have increased our teacher's confidence to teach the skill of writing and ensured continuity across our school. This approach is now being explored in our approach to Reading.

In Advance ...

Halloween Day – Friday 31st October

Halloween Day will be celebrated in school on Friday 31st October. This is a dress up or dress down day ... basically come as you please!

Classes will have a fun day with their class teacher and treats will be provided by the Parent Council.

If wearing a costume, we ask - no masks or accessories that can be easily lost. Every child will receive 2 glow sticks free and more can be purchased on the day - £1 for 2





Parent Council 2025

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

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

What can you do to help?

- Attend the meetings - only 5 per year – 2 down 3 to go!
- 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 12th November at 7:00pm
on TEAMS**



EDUCATION SERVICES

Executive Director: Lyndsay McRoberts

Blackwood Primary School - Head Teacher: Ms Christine McMillan