



Blackwood Primary School & ELC Parent Council

**Blackwood Primary School, Carlisle Road,
Blackwood, Lanark, ML11 9AT**

Blackwoodparentcouncil@gmail.com

BLACKWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday 4th February 2026

Present

Lisa Tweed P6/3, Emma McGeachie P6, Jenny Bowman BPS, Vivienne Colquhoun BPS, Christine McMillan BPS, Joanne Wilson P1, Chloe Semple P1/3, Nicole MacSween P2/1, Cassandra Bekas, Ashley Canning BPS, Wendy Thomson and Marianne Stewart BPS.

Apologies

Kimberley Miller, Abbie Dunlop, Kerry Weir, Lara Macpherson, Karen Muir and Jo McGuigan

Welcome

Emma opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming and apologised for the technical difficulties.

Correspondence

No Correspondence.

Treasurer's report

Accounts;

Balance at last meeting £7,837.52

Pending payments at last meeting (Halloween, Mosaic & Sumdog Pencils) £1,341.89

Pending balance at last meeting £6,495.63

Since then...

Payments in;

Easy Fundraising £92.99

5x lottery at £59 each= £295

Total income; £387.99

Outgoings...

Lottery license renewal £20

Bank service charges £13.25

Christmas treats £118.13

Scotcrest leavers hoodies £215.10

Clickview £627

Findel Education Headphones £404.55

Total outgoing= £1398.03

Current Balance £5,485.59

Lisa has applied for a micro grant from the Coordination Group to cover the cost of the headphones. They next meet on 16th February, so we should find out after that if we have been successful.

Mrs Kellie and I have been busy applying for a grant from the SLC Renewable Energy Funds for 4x day trips to Wiston Lodge for the P7s, in the absence of a residential this year. To cover the cost of Wiston Lodge, busses and lunches for 40 participants, we required a grant of £6,944 to make these trips cost free for all the children to attend. We are excited to announce that we have been granted 100% of our requested amount and we have completed everything they have asked of us, so this money should hopefully come through to us soon.

Head teachers report

Thanks –

- Christmas parties and activities
- Part funding the P7 leavers hoodies
- Supporting the P5-7 enterprise
- To the parents & families who supported the BECA campaign and featured on STV news.
- To Mrs Kellie and Lisa Tweed, a huge thank you for the grant application to the windfarm. We have been awarded approximately £7, 000. This will enable P7 to have 3 extended day trips to Wiston Lodge fully funded in line with Our Cost of the School Day Policy.

School Improvement Plan –

- 5 of 5 VCPA Staff development sessions completed

Participatory Budget:

- All classes have participated in a school trip

Staffing News

- We wish Mrs C Forbes a happy retirement. Following her retirement, after interview her 0.6FTE was allocated as 0.4FTE to Ms Marianne Stewart and 0.2FTE to Mrs Colette Barclay.
- After interview the vacancy created by Ruth Colquhoun 0.4FTE Apt was allocated to Ms Marianne Stewart. Her backfill has been allocated temporarily to Mrs Stein 0.4FTE.
- Sadly, over the festive period Mrs Rhonda Forbes had a family bereavement and has not returned to work. This absence has been covered by existing school staff.

Ongoing :-

- Students in P7 & P3/2 at the moment as well as PE students
- P1-2 dictionary/ thesaurus family workshops this afternoon - thanks to Viv Colquhoun and Kirsty Gray for organising
- P5 & P6/5 are taking part in Clyde in the Classroom. This is funded by Blackwood Estate (BECA)
- P3/2 Class assembly on space
- Choir party took place last week
- Primary 5, following their class assembly on water safety are continuing towards national recognition in this area.

- It is anticipated that we will have a residential in February 2027 to Dalguise in Perthshire. Approximately 40 pupils have paid a deposit and committed to attending this event.
- We have enrolled 32 Primary 1 pupils for August 2026.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Emma passed on her thanks to Miss Whitefield and the P5 class for their Water Smart assembly. Primary 5 recently attended a 12-week block of swimming lessons at Larkhall Leisure Centre. To continue the children's development & their knowledge of safety in & around water, the Primary 5s have been learning about being a Water Smart School & they shared this information with us at their fantastic assembly.

Water Smart Schools is a free learning resource from the RLSS (Royal Lifesaving Society) In 2022, there was a 46% increase in the number of accidental drowning fatalities amongst children, compared to the 5-year average. 35 accidental child fatalities were reported - **the equivalent of a classroom of children.**

Developed by experts The Water Smart Schools Award programme provides a framework for schools to help them facilitate this essential knowledge and skills in their pupils to an excellent standard.

The initiative provides schools with all the necessary materials to deliver **class-based** water safety education, utilising tried and tested, adaptable lesson plans and resources. On completion, the school will receive an accreditation award certificate at one of three challenging and exciting levels: bronze, silver or gold, valid for a period of two years. The school are currently working on their Gold award.

Well done Primary 5, you were all amazing 😊 !

For further information please follow the link to the RLSS website [The Royal Life Saving Society UK \(RLSS UK\)](https://www.rlss.org.uk/)

"WHAT LOCH WOOD MEANS TO ME" CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Lisa and Emma, along with fifteen P5–P7 pupils, recently featured on STV News as part of the campaign against the proposed solar farm & BESS at Black Wood Estate. This proposed development would be detrimental to our children's Forest school experience. As a Parent Council, we are working closely with the BKCG coordination group, BECA and other Parent Councils from St Johns Primary & Bent Primary to petition against the development. Vivien Stewart has submitted a letter on our behalf to various MSPs to gain support within Scottish parliament.

As the school cannot take a political position, the Parent Council appreciate the support received from the school to enable the children to attend the event. STV news were very impressed with our Blackwood Primary young people & the children enjoyed being tv stars for the day!

*You can find our STV News piece on the STV news website:

https://news.stv.tv/v/outdoor-education-charity-facing-closure-over-solar-site-plans?fbclid=IwDGRjcAPfMK9jbGNrA98wpWV4dG4DYWVtAjExAHNydgMGYXBwX2lkDDM1MDY4NTUzMTCyOAAHBmEvMFPbHYKbQYo7Q176KJYNfVqdA7devNufPZPEKrrnczHg2P-Bi9BTdyYU_aem_VdbRvU2m9zxbxe6-GI_kkw

We are currently preparing a petition to oppose this development. There will be banners with a QR code linking directly to the petition, and several will be placed around the village to encourage residents to sign. Our target is to reach 2,000 signatures.

At present, no children's impact assessment has been carried out by the developer. By Scottish law, any development which affects the health & wellbeing of children should be considered within the consultation process. This has not been done.

Thank you to all the families who have supported this campaign. We will keep you updated of any developments.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

We are looking for volunteers who would like to help plan some fundraising events.

Already some parents have come forward with some fantastic fundraising ideas. Cassandra suggested that her bakery could donate pastries for a Mother's Day Event, with the idea of parents purchasing a box as a gift. Chloe and Cassandra will discuss this further offline. Chloe also offered to host a short meeting regarding fundraising on Monday 9th February to brainstorm some ideas.

Lisa suggested a fundraiser which would involve the school children. "Penny Wars" Each class will be given a jar, and pupils can bring in coins to fill their own class jar. Each coin type will have a different point value. Children can also 'sneak' silver coins into another class's jar to reduce that class's score. The class with the highest points wins a prize, and all money collected will go towards Parent Council funds. [Add visual](#)

It was also suggested that, once a quarter, pupils could put forward their own fundraising ideas. Christine will create a poll with these suggestions and share it with parents for wider input.

"A World Cup" theme fundraiser was proposed, including activities such as a 'Beat the Goalie' challenge, with the MUGA used as the event space. Marianne and Emma will lead this event.

After the success of last year's Car Boot Sale, this event will return on the first Sunday in June. Lisa is reaching out to local businesses for support with stalls. If anyone has a local business & would like to participate or offer support, please get in touch via our PC Facebook page.

We will compile an event calendar that will include all our PC fundraising events. In January we started our gift amnesty. We are always looking for tombola prizes so if you can donate any prizes or unwanted gifts please drop them off at the school office—your support makes a big difference!

CLICK VIEW & SUMDOG LICENCE APPLICATIONS

Clickview is an educational platform which offers 1000s of curriculum-aligned, age appropriate and diverse videos. It provides a secure way to use videos without adverts or inappropriate content. The videos can be incorporated into lessons and often have accompanying interactive quizzes and activities. Clickview has a variety of accessibility features which can be used to help learners access the content.

It is a safe educational platform and can be accessed in school and at home. This makes it a great resource when your child is absent from school or if there is an unexpected school closure.

Furthermore, to ensure equity for all our learners, in line with our school policy on "Cost of the School Day", Disney+ can be viewed through their Clickview account.

The Parent Council is happy to fund "Sumdog" for another year. This is an excellent learning tool for pupils & is used regularly by families.

Mrs Forbes has introduced a new Read & Write resource to support pupils with dyslexia and has asked whether the Parent Council can fund microphone headsets to accompany it.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 13th of May at 7pm – Face to face in the school

CLOSE

Emma again thanked everyone for coming, and for their input. For those of you who couldn't manage tonight's meeting, there will be a copy of the minutes sent out via email & if anyone has any questions feel free to contact us via the Facebook page.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 13th May 7pm, in the school. We hope to see you there 😊!

Blackwood Parent Council 2025/2026 –

Emma McGeachie (Chair), Chloe Semple (Vice-Chair), Lisa Tweed (Treasurer), Kimberley Miller (Secretary)

In support of -

Blackwood Primary School, Carlisle Road,
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In collaboration with -

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