



Ready Respectful Safe
"If you believe you will achieve"

Happy New Year and Best Wishes for 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a lovely relaxing holiday with family and friends and would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! It was great to see all of your children back at school and nursery yesterday, all so eager to learn and catch up with all their teachers and friends. High Blantyre Primary School is a great place to work and learn!

Thank you to everyone who managed to attend all our Christmas activities and events throughout December. It was indeed a very busy and fun filled month for all the children and staff and I am sure you will agree your children's performances at their concerts made the festive season extra special -we are all very proud of them! Thank you as always to our Parent Council for all their hard work and support on the run up to Christmas. The Christmas Jumper Swap was once again a great success and their fundraising continued with amazing Christmas Hampers as raffle prizes. They provided all the party food, refreshments and prizes for all class and nursery parties and also contributed to the cost of the pantomime to reduce the cost for our families. This year our Parent Council also provided crackers and table cloths to set up the dining hall for the children's Christmas lunches and helped out serving the children at their tables on the day- this made everything so much more fun and enjoyable for the children (and staff). Some of the children told me it was the best school Christmas lunch ever!

We have another very busy and exciting term at High Blantyre Primary and I am looking forward to all that is planned for the next few months and year ahead.

As always, if you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education then please do not hesitate to get in touch. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards, *Kirsteen Helsby*

Winter Weather

In the event of ice or snow our school janitor, Mrs Kerr has an adverse weather plan to follow, as advised by South Lanarkshire Council. Only one pathway from the school gate to the front entrance will be gritted and we would advise all children and parents/carers to use this. The children will be able to enter and/or leave school from the front entrance on these days. Please take care travelling to school in icy and snowy weather, especially when coming out of cars at the drop off area, as it gets very slippery there. It is an exceptionally rare occurrence for a school not to open due to bad weather. If this were to happen it would be communicated through the South Lanarkshire Council website, SLC Twitter, our own Twitter Feed and a message sent from our school App. As the weather is becoming increasingly colder, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately when coming to school.

Staffing News



We are delighted to welcome Mrs Natalie Montgomery to our Early Years Team. Natalie started in our nursery class just before the holidays and will be working in our nursery class on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Miss Wilson has been on maternity leave for almost a year now, following the birth of her baby boy Henry. Miss Wilson has been keeping in touch and working in our supported classes for a day each week over the past few months and will soon be returning to work Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, teaching in our supported classes. We are still currently waiting to recruit a support staff Team Leader and will communicate any further staffing updates as soon as possible.



HIGH BLANTYRE PRIMARY SCHOOL

JANUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER



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Reading Schools Award



Work continues on our journey through the Reading Schools Award Programme and we are well on our way to achieving a Bronze Level Award. Mrs Brown and Mrs McLean are leading this work across the school and discussed our plans with the Parent Council at the last meeting in November. There has been an overwhelming amount of support and donations of money, books, cushions and beanbags to sit on whilst reading, from parents and the local community. Thank you to Paul Veverka (Blantyre Telegraph), Mac Cars and also our Parent Council for their contributions to our plans to improve the engagement and enjoyment of reading across the school. We now have an amazing school library with high quality texts and a wide range of genres, well stocked libraries in every class and lots of new reading spaces across the school. Reading for enjoyment is prioritised daily in every class for 15 minutes at ERIC time (Everyone, Reads, In, Class). Every week at assembly, reading is celebrated with one each child from each class receiving a Reader of the Week Award. Readers of the Week are encouraged to share with everyone at assembly what they are reading and talk about what they enjoy about the book. We have also arranged for classes to visit ASDA each month to enjoy reading time in the cafe and to talk about books and reading with the staff. We are also hoping to start up our after school lending library again very soon. There are lots of both children's and adult's books available at the front entrance to the school which anyone is welcome to take free of charge to enjoy reading at home.

Dates for your diary



Please be advised that these dates can be prone to change.

Monday 8/1	P1 online registration for school starts
Thursday 11/1	Parent Council Meeting @6pm
Thursday 11/1	Dance Club starts back
Week beginning 15/1	Clubs start back
Wednesday 17/1	P7 Science Centre
Friday 19/1	Dress Down Day- Scottish themed donation
Wednesday 24/1	P5 Hockey Club starts (3-4pm)
Thursday 25/1	Sports Hall Athletics
Friday 26/1	P7 ASDA cafe visit
Thursday 8/2	Parent's Night Appointments
Thursday 8/2	Scottish Show @1.30pm
Friday 9/2	Scottish Show @1.30pm
Monday 12/2&	February Holidays
Tuesday 13/2	
Wednesday 14/2	Inservice Day
Friday 23/2	P6 ASDA cafe visit
Monday 26/2	P1 and P7 dental inspections
Wednesday 28/2	Parent Council Meeting @6pm
Thursday 7/3	World Book Day
Monday 11/3	STEM visit Room 6 and 10
Wednesday 13/3-15/3	P7 Residential
Friday 22/3	P5 ASDA cafe visit
Tuesday 26/3	Parent Council Meeting @6pm
Thursday 28/3	School closes at 2.30pm
Friday 29/3	Good Friday
Monday 15/4	School starts back
Thursday 2/5	Inservice Day
Monday 6/5	Holiday
Thursday 9/5	Parent Council Meeting @6pm
Friday 24/5	Holiday
Monday 27/5	Holiday
Wednesday 5/6	Parent Council Meeting @6pm
Monday 10/6-14/6	Health Week
Tuesday 11/6	Sports Day am P1-3/pm P4-7
Tuesday 25/6	P7 Leaver's Assembly
Wednesday 26/6	School Closes at 1pm