



HIGH BLANTYRE PRIMARY SCHOOL

AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER



Ready Respectful Safe
"If you believe you will achieve"

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the start of the new term at High Blantyre Primary School and Nursery Class. I hope you all had a lovely summer and enjoyed spending time with your children and families. The sun always shines on the first day of school and it was great to see all our children (and parents/carers) smiling on their way into school this morning. We are delighted to welcome all of our new Primary 1 pupils to High Blantyre Primary and are looking forward to meeting all of our new nursery children over the next few weeks too! Today in school we had our first whole school assembly of the session. I spoke to all the children about the **'The High Blantyre Way,'** which includes our school values and rules: Ready, Respectful and Safe, which are clear, concise and easy to remember. There is a copy of **The High Blantyre Way** in your child's homework diary (P2-P7) and all parents will be sent a copy through Parentsportal. **'The High Blantyre Way'** is an overview of our Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy, which explains how we can all work together as partners in your child's learning. We have so much planned already for the new session, including celebrating 150 years of High Blantyre Primary! I am looking forward to sharing our plans for school improvement with you all at the Parent Council AGM on Tuesday the 23rd of September, where we will also be looking for more parents/carers to join the Parent Council. We are also looking to recruit a new Vice Chair and Secretary as both Jennifer McIntosh and Ruth Gebbie's children have moved on to Calderside. As always, please do not hesitate to contact myself or a member of the Senior Management Team if you have any questions with regards to your child's learning. Kind regards, *K. Helsby*

Teaching Staff 2025

Head Teacher	Mrs Kirsteen Helsby
Depute Head Teacher	Mrs Leeanne Sliman
Depute Head Teacher	Mrs Ciara Ferguson
Principal Teacher	Ms Linda McKinlay
Acting Equity Principal Teachers	Mrs Laura Anne Cairns
	Mrs Jennifer McAveety
Room 1 Supported Class	Miss Lauren Marshall
Room 2 Supported Class	Miss Megan Carbery
Room 3 Supported Class	Mr Andrew Dolan
Room 5 Supported Class	Mrs Gemma Alexander
Room 6 P2/3	Ms Elaine Watt
Room 7 P1	Ms Linda McKinlay
Room 8 P1/2	Mrs Gillian Brown & Mrs Joanna McLean
Room 9 P3	Miss Emily Ross/ Mrs Laura Anne Cairns
Room 10 P4	Miss Jenny Wilson
Room 11 P5	Ms Hayley McDowall
Room 12 STEM Room	Mrs Kirsty McNiven
Room 13 Supported Class	Mrs Lisa Sinclair
Room 15 P6	Mrs Lorna Gallagher
Room 16 P7	Miss Sarah Maclean
Inclusion Teachers (ASN)	Mrs Nicola Alexander Mrs Stella Falder Mrs Fiona Taylor
Raising Attainment Teacher	Mrs Laura Anne Cairns

Early Years Workers

Miss Samantha Orr (Team Leader)
Mrs Kerrin McCafferty
Ms Lyn Carol Edmond
Mrs Vicky Hunter
Miss Sallyann Wylie
Mrs Hazel Foy
Miss K. Thomas
Mrs L. McMullen
Mrs N. Montgomery
Mrs C. Baillie
Mrs Irene Hainie (Supported Classes)

School Support Staff

Team Leader	Ms Stephanie Meiklem
Clerical Assistant	Mrs Caroline Black

Support Staff

Mrs Ishbel MacBride	Mrs Linda Montgomery
Mrs Marie Hogg	Ms Ann Quail
Mrs Elaine Mangat	Mrs Clark
Mrs Louise Ronald	Mrs Deborah Elder
Mrs Faye Rodwell	Mrs Vikki Drummond
Mrs Susan McSeveny	
Miss Lynn Hutchinson	
Miss Mairead Dickson	
Miss Heather Craig	
Ms Jade McIssac	

Janitor- Mrs Kerr



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Parentsportal

Please can all Primary 1 and new parents/carers sign up for Parentsportal: <https://parentsportal.scot/home/>. If you have a mygovscot account, sign in, if not, select register. This is how we will be communicating with parents/carers and collecting our annual data returns, permission slips, etc. All existing parents/carers should already be signed up for Parentsportal.

Top 10 Things You Need to Know!

The High Blantyre Way

Our School Rules are: Ready (to learn), Respectful and Safe. We have an agreed code of conduct 'The High Blantyre Way' for children, parents and staff, focused on positive relationships and restorative practice. A copy of The High Blantyre Way is in all pupils' homework diaries, displayed on posters around the school and will be sent to all parents/carers through Parentsportal.

Attendance and Lateness

High levels of attendance at school is essential to ensure your child stays on track with their learning. We also expect all pupils to arrive at school on time, by 9am. If your child arrives after 9am, they will be marked late. If your child is ill, their absence should be reported to the school office by 9.30am. In line with South Lanarkshire Policy, holidays taken outwith term time can only be an authorised absence if accompanied by a request letter from your employer, e.g. emergency services. Attendance and late coming will be closely monitored by the Head Teacher and Senior Management Team. Improvement in pupil attendance and punctuality is once again a major focus for our school this session.

Uniform

Pupils are expected to wear full school uniform at all times: a navy jumper/cardigan (if required), blue shirt and school tie, navy trousers/skirts and shoes (no bright coloured trainers please). Polo shirts can be worn on gym days. Coloured hoodies and jumpers are not acceptable to wear in the classroom. Gym shoes are required for indoor activities and PE (no bright colours please.) Please label all clothing to avoid loss. Children should bring tracksuit bottoms to school for outdoor PE if required. Tracksuit bottoms should not be worn to school, unless there is a specific reason, which has been agreed with the school.

Water and healthy snacks

Pupils are allowed to bring a full refillable bottle of plain water which they may drink in class. We encourage children to bring a healthy snack to school each day as we are a Health Promoting School. No fizzy drinks, cans or bottles please. We are a nut free school! No nuts or food containing nuts please!

School Lunches

Please note, for P1-5 pupils, school lunch is FREE and for P6-7 it costs £2.62. We use ParentPay, a cashless system. If your child is entitled to a free meal, an application should be made to South Lanarkshire Council every year. Your child would also be entitled to free milk. Children may purchase milk daily for 30p.

Car Park

Please remember that **cars are not to be brought into the staff car park at the front of the building in the morning or at the end of the day. Only ASN transport is permitted.** We encourage walking to school wherever possible.

Playground

Our playground is a dog free (guide dogs only) and smoke/vape free zone. Children are their parent's/carer's responsibility until 9.00am and from 3.00pm. Parents are responsible for ensuring that there are arrangements in place for their child at 3pm. During ice and snow, pupils and parents should only use the treated pathway cleared to avoid unnecessary injury. In the event of extreme weather, pupils may enter school from the front entrance at 8.50am.

Communication and Partnership

We will keep you up to date with current news and events through Parentsportal. Class teachers will let you know about homework arrangements through childrens' homework diaries. Should you wish to speak with your child's class teacher or a member of the management team, please phone to make an appointment.

Parent Council

Our school has a very active, fantastic Parent Council, who play an integral part to the life and work of the school. Please contact the school office if you would like any information about joining/supporting the Parent Council and/or attend this year's AGM.

Cost of the School Day

Children do not need to bring any pens, pencils, etc, to school. Our school has a Cost of the School Day Policy and we are always looking for new ways to reduce the cost of the school day for our families.