



Our Vision

"Working together to provide positive learning experiences in a safe, supported, caring environment and promoting a love of learning for all"

Ready

Respectful

Safe

"If you believe you will achieve"

Head Teacher's Report Wednesday 14/1/2026

A very Happy New Year to everyone and welcome back to Term 2. I hope 2026 is a good year for you all!

I would like to start by thanking the Parent Council for making the run up to Christmas extra special for our children (as always)! The Christmas Fayre ran so smoothly and there was an amazing turnout. I always say it gets better and better every year- and it certainly does. Thank you for the Christmas crackers for the children's Xmas lunch and party food, prizes and treats for our Christmas parties, our families are so lucky to have no extra costs running up to Christmas. The staff and children also really appreciated the extra help from our Parent Council during Christmas lunch. It certainly is a team effort at High Blantyre! A special thank you to Mr Rochead (Owen's dad) for being Santa at our nursery and P1 parties (thankfully his PVG came in just in time!!)

Bonnie Blantyre also gifted our children selection boxes donated by local businesses again prior to Christmas. They were delivered in person by a former Parent Council dad (Stuart), who has continued his role as Santa accompanied by his well-known elves.

Our children put on another great Christmas performance, just 6 weeks after our 150 year celebrations and we could not be prouder of them. We also managed to raise some money for school funds through tickets sales, which will go towards STEM resources.

Puss in Boots at Carrigans, was a fantastic way to end the term before the Christmas break and we will definitely be booking again for next year!

We have several staffing updates to share as we start the new year.

Mrs Hainie retired from working in our supported classes at the end of term. Mrs Haine came to High Blantyre when Craig Head School closed in 2006 and was part of the original supported classes team, with Ms Daley almost 20 years ago. Mrs Haine kept her plans to retire private until the last few weeks of term, we are hoping to celebrate her career together soon.



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We are delighted to welcome back our janitor Mrs Kerr and Mrs Black from the office. They both have been missed greatly and the school has not been the same without them.

Our new nursery Team Leader, Margaret Dickson has started in our nursery and is already very much part of the team. Margaret brings a wealth of experience to our nursery and we are very much looking forward to working with her.

We have a new support assistant, Linda Mckenzie, working in our mainstream school on a Tuesday and Wednesday and we are also looking forward to two new support assistants starting with us soon: Mrs Rucika Rawad in our mainstream school and Prerna Arya, who will be working in our supported classes.

On the first back at school we revisited '**The High Blantyre Way**' at assembly and the high expectations we have for our children and school. Once again, we are starting the year off with a major focus on Respect. We are working on the importance of respectful behaviour towards each other, all adults in the school, personal belongings (reducing lost property) and the school environment/resources.

Our Primary 1 enrolments started online last week and the senior leadership team are currently calling parents/carers to confirm their enrolments.

This term, all classes have an inquiry based focus on Equalities and The Environment and Sustainability (Sustainability Week is week beginning the 2nd of March.) Our Primary 7 pupils have their residential trip to Lockerbie Manor Pod Village to look forward to at the end of February.

Parents' Night is in February, followed by World Book Day on Thursday the 6th of March. There will also be a lot of ongoing school improvement work through our Pupil Voice/Leadership Groups and award programmes: Reading Schools, Rights Respecting Schools, Attachment Pledge and School Sports Awards.



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School improvement is ongoing throughout the session. We are continuing with work on our curriculum. We have a whole school overview of inquiry based learning contexts for the session and all staff are using this approach to teach social studies, linking in with other curricular areas. Work is ongoing with regards to AAC and planning in our supported classes and a group of staff are working on linking French vocabulary to Makaton signs, to enable staff to teach them together. Staff are also currently working on a new Learning and Teaching Policy and a plan for staff development.

We have lots of sports festivals this term including: Sports Hall Athletics Finals, ASN Sports Hall Festival, Hamilton Schools Cross Country Competition, Football and Netball Festivals and the P6 Euro Quiz to look forward to!

We are very much looking forward to the year ahead!