SCHOOL LOGO.wmfSCHOOL LOGO.wmf**Blackburn Primary School**

**Hopefield Nursery Class**

**Newsletter**

**November 2017**

**Head Teacher’s Comments**

**Before Christmas is upon us we need to recognise some of the great work that the school has been involved in this session. As usual we have been involved in many activities and learning experiences and have had occasions for you to visit the school. We have been involved in Journey of the Year, Parent Consultations, Harvest, NSPCC workshops; we have set up two new Nurture groups and started our Outdoor Education Programme with our P6/7 pupils.**

**HMIe Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Education**

We had an extremely busy start to the session where the school had a HMIe Inspection, week beginning the 11th of September. The Summary of Inspection Findings have now been published on the Education Scotland website and the following were considered to be strengths and areas of improvements of the School and Nursery.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school’s work:

* The leadership of the headteacher and principal teacher who have built a vision and community, with staff, where all children are nurtured and valued.
* Strong partnership working with partners, including parents and the wider community, which is having a positive influence on the lives of children and their families.
* The teamwork in the school and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) provision which is enabling children to access learning in an environment which is sensitive to their needs.
* Improvements to the outdoors in the nursery class which are encouraging children to be more creative in their play.

The following areas for improvement were identified:

* To improve the tracking and monitoring of children’s progress in learning.
* Continue to develop further approaches to assessing children’s progress in order to raise the attainment of all.
* In the ASD provision, continue to build on the good start made this session in the development of independent learning.
* Increase opportunities for teachers to develop their expertise and confidence in standards through more regular work with teachers within and beyond their school

For a full a copy of the report for the school and nursery please see the link below:

<https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/west-lothian/5505720> and <https://education.gov.scot/inspection-reports/west-lothian/5511712>

We have a very hard working and dedicated staff at Blackburn Primary and Hopefield Nursery and I would like to thank the staff for their commitment to the education and care and wellbeing of the pupils in the school. Thankyou also to our Parent Council, parents and partners who attended meetings and helped to highlight all the great work we do in the School and Nursery. The children also were a credit to you and the school and the Inspectors were extremely impressed with the pupils’ excellent manners and willingness to learn and do their best.

Children in Need

We had many activities throughout Children in Need day and I was very impressed with all the competition entries that the children submitted and costumes that the children wore on the day. Thanks to A1, A2 and the Nurture groups for baking cakes and raising money for this good cause. Thank you also to Mrs Hamilton who organised the Children’s raffle. In total the school and nursery raised £290.90

Book Week at Blackburn Primary and Hopefield Nursery Class Week beginning the 27th of November

Throughout the week the children will be engaging in many reading activities and we have invited four authors to visit our school. Each class has also been set a challenge to create a cosy reading corner and a group of parents and pupils bought in new books for each class library.

Big Bedtime Read and CAPER Children and Parents Enjoying Reading Launch Monday the 27th of November 2017

* 5.30 pm Big Bedtime Read for Nursery pupils
* 6.30 pm CAPER for P1 to P3 pupils

As part of our School Improvement Planning and Pupil Equity Funding we are planning to launch our Big Bedtime Read for nursery pupils and CAPER for P1 to P3 pupils on Monday the 27th of November. The initiative is to promote reading for enjoyment and get you reading regularly with your child at bedtime. Each week you will be given a reading pack which will have a wide variety of reading books that includes different titles and a mixture of fiction and non-fiction books. You are invited to come along with your child to read some stories and get your first reading pack for your child/children. We will be having hot chocolate with marshmallows and will dress up in our bedtime clothes. This is your opportunity to truly explore your inner Pyjamas Mamas and Papas and find out what the Blackburn and Hopefield staff wear to bed!

Throughout the week we will also be having a Pop up Reading Café which will be run by our P6/7 pupils and we look forward to you coming along for some home baking and the chance to read a book with your child. We will also be holding a Book Week Assembly on Friday the 1st of December at 9.10 am and pupils are invited to dress up as their favourite book character.

**2018 Primary 1 Enrolment**

Our enrolment process is beginning at the end of November. If your child will be 5 years old on or before 28th February 2019, you are invited to enrol your child at Blackburn Primary School from the 27th of November to the 1st of December from 9.30 to 12 noon. Enrolment forms will be distributed from Pupil Placement to pupils at Hopefield Nursery Class and are also available at Blackburn Primary School. I look forward to meeting you on these dates and please remember to bring your child’s birth certificate.

**Smoking**

**It has been highlighted to staff that some of our parents have been smoking in the playground when dropping off and picking up their children. West Lothian Council have a No Smoking Policy and smoking within Council premises which includes the playground is strictly prohibited. For further information please see link below:**

[**https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/9517/Smoke-Free-Policy/pdf/SmokeFreePolicy.pdf**](https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/9517/Smoke-Free-Policy/pdf/SmokeFreePolicy.pdf)

**School and Nursery Parking**

**Parking in the Nursery and the school continues to be an issue for Council, Hopefield, Blackburn and Connelly staff who have been unable to obtain a parking space, carry out deliveries or drop off or pick up children attending Connelly Campus or our ASD resource. The use of the car park next to Hopefield Nursery Class and in the school is for Council staff only and should** not **be used by parents to drop off and collect children. This is a health and safety risk and children should not be in the car park unless they are taxied into school. Please use the other entrances in the school and the Nursery when dropping off and picking up your children to reduce the risk of an accident.**

**SNSA Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

**From August 2017, new, national standardised assessments will be introduced in all schools in Scotland. These assessments will provide an additional source of nationally consistent evidence for teachers to use when assessing children’s progress.**

**Ongoing and informal assessment is, and will continue to be a central part of everyday learning and teaching. Teachers will continue to draw on all of the assessment information available to them, when considering children’s progress and planning the next steps in their learning. Our teachers at Blackburn Primary remain best placed to know how the children in their class are progressing and their professional judgement will continue to be the most important way of assessing your child’s progress at school.**

* **Every child in P1, P4, P7 and S3 will undertake national standardised assessments covering some aspects of reading, writing and working with numbers.**
* **Assessments will be completed online and will be automatically marked by the online system, giving teachers immediate feedback to help children progress.**
* **The assessments will be used to help teachers understand how well your child is progressing with his or her learning and to plan next steps. There will be no pass or fail.**
* **The system will be designed so that if a child is struggling with the questions they will get easier, and if a child is doing well the questions will become more challenging.**
* **The standardised assessments will be as short as possible and will be age and stage appropriate. A time limit of 50 minutes for each assessment has been set. This is an absolute maximum, to ensure that no child feels an unnecessary time pressure when undertaking the assessments. We do not expect the majority of children to require the full 50 minutes.**
* **Your child will not be expected to take assessments covering reading, writing and working with numbers in one sitting.**
* **There will be no set day or period of time during which the national standardised assessments must be taken. Individual teachers and schools will decide the most appropriate time during the school year for your child to take the national standardised assessments.**
* **The assessments will, as far as possible, accommodate the needs of children who require additional support.**

**Further information can also be found on the Scottish Government’s website:** [**http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/NationalImprovementFramework/NatonalImprovementFramework**](http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/NationalImprovementFramework/NatonalImprovementFramework)

**Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day Wednesday the 13 th of December**

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**This year the children are asked to donate £1.00 and wear a Christmas jumper/tee-shirt or Christmas bobble hat on Wednesday the 13th of December which is the day of our Christmas lunch. All money raised will go towards Save the Children Fund.**

**Christmas Nativity, Crafts, Coffee and Cakes Thursday the 14th of December 1.15 pm**

 This Christmas we will be holding our annual Christmas Nativity, Crafts, Coffee and Cakes event. This will take place on Thursday the 14th of December starting with the Nativity A King is Born at 1.15 pm. Entry will be £2.00 which will include a lucky programme, refreshment and a mince pie. If you would like to help by contributing some home baking or donate raffle or tombola items, please contact the school office. I would appreciate if the home baking could be delivered on the morning of Thursday the 14th of December. Donations or crafts should be delivered to the school by Monday the 11th of December and your efforts will raise money for the school fund and further develop our outdoor programme. We greatly appreciated the work that the Parent Council do with the school to organise Christmas stalls, raffles and tombola. Please note that the raffles will be drawn in the afternoon of our Christmas Nativity after the cake, coffee and craft. This is a very popular event with excellent prizes so please ensure that you have bought your raffle tickets well in advance.

*Please note that we can no longer have all parents and pupils in the dining hall at the same time therefore the children will visit the fair after their performances. Please ensure that the children have their purse or money bag ready for the morning of the Nativity to spend at the fair in the afternoon.*

**Christmas is a busy time for everyone and the children are in the process of practising for the Christmas Concert and Nativity which this year is A King is Born. Like you at home it will soon be time to decorate the Christmas tree and look out all the decorations. Blackburn Primary School and Hopefield Nursery class engage in many opportunities to make this a special time of year for the children and I hope you can support the school and attend many of the events that will be running in the lead up to Christmas.**

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**Janet Clarkson**

**Head Teacher**

**Blackburn Primary School and Hopefield Nursery Class**

**Term Dates Blackburn Primary School & Hopefield Nursery Class - Session 2017/2018**

Friday the 24th of November 9.10 am P2/3 Assembly: Parents are welcome

Monday the 27th of November Book week at Blackburn Primary School

Monday the 27th of November 5.30 pm: Launch of Big Bedtime Read for Nursery pupils at Blackburn Primary School

6.30 pm Launch of CAPER (Children and Parents Enjoying Reading) for P 1 to P3 parents at Blackburn Primary School

Tuesday the 28th of November 2.00 pm – 3pm Pop up Reading Café for P1/2 pupils parents are welcome

Wednesday the 29th of November 2.00pm – 3.00 pm Pop up Reading Café for P4/5 pupils parents are welcome

Thursday the 30th of November 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm Pop up Reading Café for P2/3 pupils parents are welcome

Friday the 1st of December 10.00 am A1 and A2 pupils Reading Café in class parents are welcome

Friday the 1st of December 9.10 am Book Week Assembly parents are welcome

Children can dress up as their favourite book character

Thursday the 7th of December Nursery Pm pupils to Mossside Court 1.30 pm to sing for the elderly

Monday the 11th of December 10.00 am – 12.00 pm Whole School to Beauty and the Beast Pantomime Howden Park Centre

Tuesday the 12th of December 9.30 am Nursery Am children invited to the school to watch the Nativity dress rehearsal

Tuesday the 12th of December 1.30 pm Nursery Pm children invited to the school to watch the Nativity dress rehearsal

Wednesday the 13th of December Christmas lunch: Children to donate £1 and wear Christmas jumper/tee- shirt/bobbly hat for Save the Children

Thursday the 14th of December 1.15 pm Nativity, Christmas Concert, Craft and Cake

Monday the 18th of December Nursery Christmas Singalong and Nibbles 9.30 am for morning children and 1.30 pm for afternoon children at Blackburn Primary School parents are welcome

Tuesday the 19th of December PM P1/2, A1 pupil and P2/3 Christmas party. A special visitor has been invited and we are hopeful that he will be able to attend our party at around 2.30 pm

Tuesday the 19th of December Nursery Christmas Fair 10.30 am for morning parents and carers and 2.30 pm for afternoon parents and carers

Wednesday the 20th of December Nursery parties for AM and Pm pupils. (A special visitor has been invited for the end of each session and we are hopeful that he will be able to take time out of his busy schedule and attend the Nursery)

Wednesday the 20th of December PM: P4/5, P6/7 A1 and A2 pupils Christmas Party

Thursday the 21st of December 8.55 am Breakfast for our taxi drivers and escorts of ASD pupils. Children are welcome to have their breakfast in the school

Friday the 22nd of December 9.30 am Christmas Church Service Blackburn and Seafield Parish Church

Friday the 22nd of December 12.30 pm Pupils break up for Christmas holiday

Tuesday the 9th of January Nursery and school pupils resume