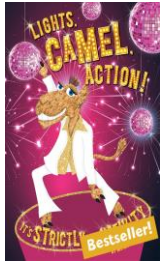


Head Teacher's Comment:

It has been great to see all the children back at school and nursery after the Christmas and New Year celebrations and I hope all of our families and friends had a good time over the festive season. The children were very excited to share their adventures over the holidays and inform us about their favourite presents they received from the 'man in the big red suit'! January is a time for new beginnings and one of the busiest terms in the year and the children are well underway with their interdisciplinary learning. I am delighted to share the details of new initiatives and learning projects which will be kicking off over the next few months within this newsletter.

Christmas School Fayre and Whole Christmas Concert



Although Christmas is but a distant memory now I would just like to let you know how proud I am of the pupils' accomplishments in this year's performance 'Lights Camel Action'. It was magnificently performed and was truly a team effort from all the staff and pupils. I would like to thank all of the parents who attended our concert and to the parent council members, staff and carers who contributed to the raffles and helped to raise money for the school and nursery fund. This was a tremendous effort by everyone and we raised a total of £800 for the school fund and £270 for the nursery fund.

Winter Readiness



During the winter months our main concern is the safety of the pupils and we appreciate everyone's patience if we need to use only one entrance and exit from the school when dropping off and picking up the children. Our janitors have a number of schools and buildings to open in the Blackburn area and it would not be possible for the janitorial team to clear every entrance into the school. In the event of wet and snowy weather please ensure that children come with a change of clothes in case they get wet when playing outside as there is nothing worse than sitting in soggy clothes! Available on the blog is a list of useful websites and activities for the children to complete if there was a school closure due to severe winter weather. Our school blog can be accessed using the following web address <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/BlackburnPrimary> and it can also be reached through our school website: www.blackburnprimary.co.uk.

Burns Week

Burns day is an excellent opportunity for pupils to learn about our Scottish culture and our National Bard. During January our pupils will be engaged in Scottish learning in preparation for our Burns Assembly on Friday 25th of January at 9.20am. All Nursery and School parents, carers and families are invited to attend our assembly as the children look forward to performing dances, songs and poetry in our Scottish dialect or of Robert Burns.



Pupil Equity Funding

Myself and the staff have been very busy planning and organising a variety of fun and engaging learning experiences for the pupils at Blackburn Primary School, which will be starting soon! These initiatives are fully funded by the school's Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) and therefore will be of no charge to the pupils.

Developing the Young Workforce



DYW –
All you need
to know....!

The pupils will have the opportunity to find out about the world of work and will be visiting various work places to get some work experience. These include visits to Sky Academy for P4/5 and P5/6/7, Pizza Express for P3/4, A1 and A2, a visit to the National Gallery for P5/6/7 and Science workshops held in the school for all pupils. Please look out for more information regarding school trips.

John Muir Award/Bikeability Training

P5/6/7 pupils will be continuing with the John Muir Award and will also be learning about the environment through Bikeability training. The children will have the opportunity to discover open spaces and learn how to be safe on the roads and on cycle paths when riding bikes. This programme will be supported by our I Bike Officer Rowanne Ness who will be able to provide training and all the equipment needed to run these Bike Sessions and at the same time explore and appreciate the great outdoors.



Literacy and Creativity



Word Boost Mrs Kinnen will be implementing Word Boost with targeted pupils in the nursery which is a programme designed to increase children's vocabulary. This initiative will also be rolled across the school especially for pupils in P1 to P4.

Box Clever – Mrs Kinnaird has been a very busy bee getting resources ready to start our Box Clever initiative in the nursery with the ante preschool children. Box Clever focusses on developing children's vocabulary. Please keep an eye out when in the nursery and use the noun, adjective and verb word clouds displayed so that you can help your child learn new words at home too!

Paired Reading – Nursery and school staff are currently organising paired reading sessions between the nursery pupils and Blackburn Primary pupils in the upper school. Some P5/6/7 pupils will be coming round to the nursery to share a story or two with the nursery children.

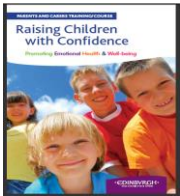
Big Bedtime Read and Caper

We had a very successful relaunch of the Big Bedtime Read and Caper during Scottish Book Week and it was great to see so many families join in with singing, storytelling and toasting marshmallows round the camp fire in our outdoor garden with the author Tony Benning. Our Reading Ambassadors have chosen some new books for each class and for our school library and will be busy in the coming months developing a reading culture in the school and the nursery. Miss Curren in the Nursery has also been busy relaunching the Big Bed Time Read and you should notice some lovely new books in the children's packs.

Therapy Dogs

A representative from West Lothian Therapy dogs will be coming in to work with some of our pupils to read with the boys and girls. He will be bringing a special visitor with four paws called Feda for the children to practise reading aloud to as she just loves listening to a story and seeing the children progress with their reading.

Raising Children with Confidence



Miss McLuckie and Mrs Valente will be starting a parent group this term called 'Raising Children with Confidence'. This programme is designed to support parents to help their child build resilience and develop a growth mindset. We aim to run the group at the end of the morning on a Friday which will make it easier for you to pick up your children at the end of the school day on a Friday. Further information on these sessions will follow.

School Clubs

The school will be running the following after school clubs this term for P4-7 pupils:

Handball Club

Wednesday the 16th of January to Wednesday the 13th of February: Handball Club (please ensure children have appropriate clothing and footwear)

Perfect Pedal Club

Tuesday the 12th of February to Tuesday the 12th of March Perfect Pedal Club (maximum of six pupils, please ensure children have appropriate clothing and footwear)

The school will be running the following lunch time clubs for P1-7 pupils:

Wednesday : P1-3 Planet Soccer Club
Thursday : P4-7 Planet Soccer Club
(Please ensure children have their full PE kit on these days).



The school will also be running the following Breakfast Time Clubs for P1-7 pupils:

Monday 14th of January to Monday the 1st of April Dance Club
Thursday the 17th of January to Thursday the 28th of March Handball Club

100th Day



Monday the 4th of February sees the 100th day of our current school year and we will mark the occasion with fun, games and activities, all associated with the number 100. The whole school will be set challenges to complete, which will be entered into a whole school competition so keep your eye on the school blog for details. We all love a wee bit of friendly competition!

Valentines Disco

This popular annual event will be held on Thursday 14th February from 5:30 – 7:00pm. Tickets will cost £3:00 and will be available from the school office at the start of February however you will be able to purchase a ticket on the night of the event. The cost of the ticket includes a drink and a snack therefore children will not need to bring any extra money on the night.



Car Parking



The school and the nursery have experienced a number of issues regarding the use of the school car parks by parents for the picking up and dropping off of pupils. The car parks in the nursery and the school are for the use of West Lothian Council staff and taxis transporting pupils to and from school. **Can I please remind parents that access to the car park is strictly prohibited and request that you do not enter the car park.** In order to maintain the health and safety of all pupils, parents and staff it is essential that policies and car park protocols are adhered to. Parents/carers dropping off children for Hopefield Nursery Class should park out-with the grounds and use the path alongside the Nursery and parents/cares dropping off children at Blackburn Primary school should park out-with the grounds and use any of the 3 gates to access the playground. **Please do not drop your child off at the front entrance of the school.**

Goodbye

Mrs Brogan will be leaving Hopefield Nursery Class on Friday the 11th of January. Mrs Brogan has worked in the school and the nursery for over seven years and we will miss her very much. Mrs Brogan has been very committed to her job and has loved working with the pupils in the school and in the nursery although I think she secretly loved working with the wee ones in the nursery more! I will miss Mrs Brogan's wonderful snacks that she makes in the nursery for the children and wish her every success in the future.

Mrs Brodzka will also be leaving us at the end of January to take up a teaching job in West Lothian. In the short time that she has been on the staff Mrs Brodzka has become a very valuable member of staff and very popular with staff, children and parents. Although we will all miss her, I am delighted that Mrs Brodzka has been successful in attaining a teaching job and wish her every success in the future.

I would like to thank both Mrs Brogan and Mrs Brodzka for all their hard work and commitment in the school and the in the Nursery.

How lucky I am to have something that
makes saying goodbyes so hard.
- Winnie the Pooh



**WHEN THE
ADULTS
CHANGE
EVERYTHING
CHANGES**
PAUL DIX
SEISMIC SHIFTS IN SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR

When Adults Change Everything Changes: Changes to Golden Time and Class Dojo

I have worked at Blackburn Primary School now for over 10 years and have been the Head Teacher since 2011 and my core beliefs have not changed since starting my career in education over thirty years ago. I have always wanted the best for the pupils, staff and families in my care which includes having high expectations for all socially, emotionally and physically and a desire for all pupils to reach their full potential and attain and achieve at the highest level. I do not treat my position in the school lightly and I feel honoured and privileged to serve the pupils and families of Blackburn Primary and Hopefield Nursery and am truly grateful working with the current team of teachers, nursery practitioners and support staff who have a high level of commitment and professionalism in delivering the best possible education to the pupils in their care. Everything that I do at Blackburn and Hopefield I feel is for the benefit of the pupils and families but with that comes **change** and at times some difficult decisions need to be made. An action in this session's School Improvement Plan is to revisit our school's behavior policy which has not been reviewed for some time and the staff are currently engaging in professional reading and research on behaviour. The staff team have been involved in several meetings and discussions about supporting children with behaviour and the decision to stop Golden time and Class Dojo was made collectively. The reasons these decisions were made are as follows:

- Golden Time is no longer fit for purpose as it does not relate to current practice and many schools in West Lothian have stopped Golden Time for a number of years
- Golden time was not inclusive, as not all children were allowed to bring in their own games or toys
- For a cohort of children it was not an incentive to improve behaviour

- The 'golden time chart' which was displayed in all classrooms could embarrass and shame some of the pupils who had lost golden time throughout the week
- Our teaching practice has changed considerably in the last few years and the children are getting many opportunities to learn through play in the early years and investigate and explore in the upper school. To allow 30 minutes of golden time is taking away from valuable and quality learning time which adds up considerably across the session
- The tightening of regulation on data protection and privacy under General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) has questioned the privacy standards and risks related to using Class Dojo and the Digital Learning Team within West Lothian worked with the Information Security Officer to undertake a Data Privacy Impact Assessment (DPIA). The outcome of this assessment highlighted a number of risks which relate to GDPR law and privacy rights for pupils and parents but also risks to Head Teachers and staff in terms of their rights. It was for data protection reasons that the decision was made to no longer use Class Dojo

Throughout the next few weeks we will be conducting a behaviour questionnaire for the pupils and when we receive these results we will work on updating our policy and use other strategies to support and improve behaviour across the school. I know that some pupils and parents have been upset and angered by these decisions and I hope that you will support myself and the staff in implementing change and improving behaviour.

Parent and Carers Comments:

Your views and opinions are important to us and will be taken into consideration. If you have anything to comment upon please use the cut off slip below and return to the school office.

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Class News

Hopefield Nursery Class -

The nursery children have started January 2019 with much enthusiasm at returning. Christmas is all forgotten they are happy to see their friends again.

From the first day the children have been interested in animals, birds and chickens. So, we have arranged for 'Living Chicks' to arrive with us in the next two weeks. 'I wonder where the eggs come from?' '... and the chickens,' asked some of the children. 'Are they yellow?' 'Can we eat the eggs?' 'How many will we have?' 'Can we keep them?'



There are many questions to answer. We hope to look at the same or different; observe the chicks hatching and investigate change; learn songs about chicks <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEey4LZLeGw> read fact and fiction stories and even count the chickens as they hatch recording information ... Wow so much to learn and we may even keep the chickens to produce our own eggs.

In addition, we will commence our Outdoor Education next week with a visit to Peat Moss, a new area for children to investigate and explore This promotes wellbeing and wholesome physical development; muscle strength, coordination and self-confidence, resilience and problem-solving. We cannot wait to start.



The Nursery will be joining the School on the 25th January for a Burns Assembly. Please come and join us and enjoy our songs.

We also have the Book Bug coming to visit us very soon, where we will have a whole day of reading books and activities, date to be confirmed.



More exciting news is the launch of LIFT, which is an initiative to improve your children's language skills. This will involve you as a partner in supporting at home with simple and fun activities. More information will follow shortly with a date to be confirmed. We will also provide training on Learning Journals on how you can read about all the wonderful experiences your children have had in their day at nursery.

Finally, we are very sad to advise that Mrs Brogan will be leaving the Nursery on Friday after many years supporting us and making delicious food. Mrs Brodzka will leave on 1st February to take up a teaching position and we will miss her very much.

P1/2 - We began the new term in January by welcoming two new pupils into our class and have been discussing ways in which we can help them to settle in to school life in Blackburn Primary and how we can all be good friends.

We have been busy working on designing and creating our new class "Recognition Board", where we hope to find every child's name by the end of each day.

This month, we will listen to and learn some Scottish songs and poems for our Robert Burns Assembly where we will celebrate his life and works.

Our IDL topic for this term is "Toys", where we hope to undertake a variety of interesting activities with cross curricular links to Literacy, Expressive Arts and Technology.

In April, we have arranged an Outdoor Education visit to Polkemet Country Park which will be led by the Ranger Service.

A1 - It hasn't taken A1 long to get straight back into the swing of things this new term! Our older pupils in the class are looking forward to taking part in the 'Rumble!' with Limelight Music alongside A2. They will be visiting us for a 10 week block that will be focusing on using our voice, body percussion and everyday objects within music. Throughout the term we will be learning about different topics such as Scotland, Scottish Inventors and starting an enterprise project. Already for many of our children the anticipation and excitement is building towards March 21st – 22nd as we are returning to Lowport following a very successful and enjoyable residential last session. We are looking forward to all the learning and experiences we are sure to have this term!

P3/4 - Newsletter

P3/4 have lots of exciting plans for this term, we are going to be going to Pizza Express in Livingston on the 17th of January as part of Developing the Young Work Force. School camp will also take place this term, we are going to Lowport for 2 nights on the 6th of February where the children have chosen to do archery and rock climbing to name but a few and an information evening will be held on the 15th of January at 2.15pm. We will be using the time machines the children created to travel back in time to 3100BC to discover the wonders of Ancient Egypt - have a look at them on our Twitter page. In literacy we will be using our IDL topic to plan and write functional pieces of writing: instructions (to build a time machine), letters and invitations. We have been learning about time in maths and will continue to practice our times tables and number talks in numeracy.

P4/5 - This term, P4/5 will be doing a topic on Healthy Eating. We are looking forward to going to Sky Academy to film a report on a Healthy Lifestyle. We will also be researching and learning about Scottish Inventors and the difference they have made to our lives. P4/5 are also excited preparing for our class assembly which will be on our Business Enterprise topic. We hope you are looking forward to it as much as we are excited about performing!

A2 - have had a great start to 2019. We have been busy reading 'The Sleekit Mr Tod' which is Roald Dahl's Fantastic Mr Fox in Scots! It has been quite tricky to read but we have had lots of fun learning new Scottish words and all about the characters in the story.

We are very much looking forward to learning about different Famous Scots this term and the skills these people needed to earn a living. We also are very excited about our up-coming return trip to Lowport on the 21st-22nd March 2019. But before that we will be getting our news reporter hats on as we prepare for our trip to the SKY Academy where there will be lights, camera, action!

P5/6/7 - This term will be a busy but exciting one for P5/6/7 as we have not one but two trips planned for this session!

After seeing the amazing modroc masks it is clear that we have some budding artists so the first of our trips will be to the National Galleries in Edinburgh. Our second trip will be a visit to Sky Academy where the children will be able to develop their own broadcasts for the big screen!

A big well done to Kanza who came runner up in the #hecanshecan competition last session. The children were asked to create a piece of work that challenged gender stereotypes and Kanza impressed the judges with her PowerPoint presentation. This term we will be developing our drawing skills to enter the John Byrne drawing competition and hopefully we will have some more prizes coming our way!

Whole School Health Group

Following on from the introduction of the daily mile the children decided that they wanted to organise a fun run. The run will take place on Red Nose Day (Friday 15th March) and both adults and children will be able to join in. The Health group have been busy working on their advertising so more details will be available soon but in the meantime... get training!

Dates for your Diary 2019



January

Monday 14 th	Author Stuart Reid Writing Workshops for all pupils
Tuesday 15 th	P3/4 and P4/5 Lowport parent's evening 2.15pm
Tuesday 22 nd	Bathgate Academy Roadshow Transition Programme for P7 pupils and parents Murrayfield Primary School 6.30 pm
Wednesday 23 rd	P4/5 visit to Sky Academy
Friday 25 th	Burns Assembly 9.20 am
Saturday 26 th	P5/6/7 Tesco Tombola
Tuesday 29 th	Generation Science Roadshow P1 – P4 pupils Day and Night workshops Generation Science Roadshow P5 – P7 pupils Body Builders workshops

February

Monday 4 th	100 days in school
Tuesday 5 th	P6/7 Bathgate Academy Transition Ceilidh 10.00 am – 12.00 pm
Thursday 14 th	P5/6/7 and A2 visit to Sky Academy
Thursday 14 th	Valentines Disco 5.30pm – 7.00pm
Friday 15 th	P4/5 class assembly
Monday 18 th	Holiday
Tuesday 19 th	Holiday
Wednesday 20 th	Dalguise Parent Evening 3.15 pm
Wednesday 27 th	Parent Consultations 3.30 pm – 7.30 pm
Thursday 28 th	A1 and A2 Lowport Parent's Evening 2.15pm

March

Friday 1 st pm	P3/4 class assembly
Friday 15 th	Red Nose Day
Monday 18 th	Author Stuart Reid Book reading assembly
Friday 29 th	A1 and A2 class assembly

April

Friday 5 th	Easter Service at Blackburn and Seafield Parish Church 9.30am
Monday 8 th	Easter Holidays Begin
Tuesday 23 rd	All staff and pupils resume

Outdoor Education Residential Experiences

February

Wednesday the 6th to Friday the 8th P3/4 and P4/5 Lowport Centre

March

Thursday the 21st to Friday the 22nd A1 and A2 Lowport Centre

April

Monday the 1st of April to Friday the 5th of April P5/6/7 Dalguise Centre