Blackburn Primary School

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**Wednesday the 23rd June 2021**

**Head Teacher Comment**

We are now in our final days of session 2020/2021 in what can only be described as one of the most challenging years for us all both on a personal and professional level. We have been working under extraordinary conditions to keep schools open whilst ensuring that we have put in all the necessary measures and mitigations to be safe. Despite the challenges and interruptions to learning we have managed to pull through and have had many positive experiences this session. As before, Mrs McCarney and I have been in awe by the strength and resolve of the people around us, the way staff and families have rallied and engaged in many rich remote learning opportunities despite the stop start nature of education this session.

One of our most memorable achievements this session has been the partnership working with the National Galleries of Scotland and the ‘Better Together Project’ with St Thomas’ in Addiewell. This was completed during the most recent lockdown and therefore made it harder to liaise with pupils and their learning. However the project that was led by Mrs Dunlop (née Anderson) and Miss McLuckie has been awarded a Pearson Trust Teaching Bronze Award for partnership working with the staff and pupils of St Thomas’. This achievement is testament to the dedication and commitment that staff have to provide positive rich learning experiences for the children in the school and the promotion of agile learning.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the teaching, support and nursery staff for their hard work and commitment to the life and work of the school especially throughout the lock down period. I am looking forward to our school community being freer and the day when there will be no restrictions on numbers visiting the school. I am also looking forward to the school community getting on with the core business of learning and teaching and supporting our pupils to achieve their full potential without any setbacks or interruptions.

**Say hello wave goodbye**

This session we have had a number of staff who have been on maternity leave. Mrs Lund has already returned from maternity leave and we are looking forward to welcoming back Mrs McMillan and Mrs Smith who will all be working in the ASD resource next session. We are also saying goodbye to a number of staff who have been with us this session and they are Miss Kyle, Mrs Crookston, Miss Gilhooley and Mr Burgoyne. Their contribution to the working of the school has been fully appreciated and I wish them every success in their future careers. We will be welcoming Miss Wallace to the Blackburn Primary School team and I am sure she will be made very welcome.

Finally and definitely not least we will be saying goodbye to Miss Gilbert who has worked in the school as a Pupil Support Worker for 17 years! In her time at the school she has made many positive friendships with staff and has supported many pupils with their learning across the years. Miss Gilbert has taken on many roles and has supported them with targeted interventions and she will be greatly missed! However Miss Gilbert is ready for a new challenge and I am delighted to say that Miss Gilbert will be taking up a new post at Bankton Primary School in Livingston as an Administration Assistant. Our loss is Bankton’s gain. I know she will be superb working in the office at Bankton Primary. Miss Gilbert’s contribution to the school has been immense and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for being an excellent colleague and for all the work that she has done across the years. Good luck Miss Gilbert and all very best wishes from the staff and pupils of Blackburn Primary and Hopefield Nursery. We will also be saying good bye to our P 7 pupils and I wish then every success at secondary school.

**Changes to the management of Hopefield Nursery**

West Lothian Council have changed the management structure of Hopefield Nursery and this will now be transferring from the Senior Leadership Team of Blackburn Primary School to Our Lady of Lourdes at the start of the new session. Mrs McCarney and I would like to thank all the staff that work at Hopefield Nursery for their hard work and commitment to the children and families in their care and although they will no longer be part of the Blackburn family we have maintained strong relationships across the years and we will remain in close contact. We have had many wonderful moments working together across the years and Mrs Eileen Brennan the Head Teacher of Our Lady of Lourdes and Miss Anna Glencourse the Principal Teacher are looking forward to working in partnership with the staff and the Hopefield Community in the future.

On a positive note I am delighted to inform you that Blackburn Primary School are getting their own nursery and the plans for this have just been finalised with the work starting over the summer holidays. We are all really excited about getting a custom built nursery and are looking forward to the completion in 2022. We will keep you updated as the building works progress throughout the summer holidays and at the start of the new session.

Nest session we are making some changes to the classes and staffing structure. Please see below the table highlighting what class teacher and classroom your child will be in session 2021/2022.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class  | Class room  | Teaching staff  | Support staff  |
| A2 | 1 | Mrs Lund  | Mrs Hamilton and Mrs McMillan  |
| A1 | 4 | Mrs Kinnen | Miss Meikle and Mrs Smith  |
| P1/2 | 5 | Miss Miller  | TBC |
| P3/4 | 6 | Miss Wallace and Mrs Topping (Tuesday) | TBC |
| P5/6 | 7 | Mr Riding  | Mrs Anderson  |
| P6/7 | 8 | Mrs Dunlop | Miss Robertson |
| Non-Contact cover |  | Mrs McLuckie  |  |
| Support for Learning  |  | Mrs Topping  |  |
| Small class setting  |  | Mrs Bryce  | Mrs Wilmott  |

**School Uniform**

This session there has been a relaxation of wearing school uniform due to the Covid Pandemic and increased opportunities for outdoor learning. For the start of next session please ensure your child is wearing their polo shirt and sweatshirt to school and black or grey trousers/joggers/leggings/skirt.

I would like to thank you for all the support that you have given me and the staff at Blackburn Primary School and Hopefield Nursery throughout the session. I would especially like to thank Mrs McCarney for supporting our families and school community this session and everything that she does to support the effective running of the school. I know this has been a long haul and I wish you all a pleasant summer and I look forward to seeing you in August. I hope the sun shines brightly on you all and you manage to get some time to relax.

Miss Clarkson

Head Teacher

