



Blackridge Primary School

Main Street

Blackridge

West Lothian

EH48 3RJ

Tel. No. 01501 751223

14/04/2016

Blackridge Primary School Newsletter

April/May 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. We are now beginning the last and very busy term of this academic year with lots to be planning and preparing for including the P4-P7 School Show, P1 and P7 transition, Health Week, P7 Leavers Assembly and Modern Languages week to name a few. Please see the end of this newsletter for the calendar of events for this term.

Mrs Bell has now been appointed as Principal Teacher on a permanent basis and we welcome back Mrs Wynne from maternity leave who will be working Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday in various classes this term.

As always if you have any questions, concerns or queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child’s teacher, Mrs Bell, Principal Teacher or myself to discuss these.

Mrs J Ross (Head Teacher)

Communication

The office try and pass on all messages received from parents/carers by telephone to pupils in a timely manner. It can be difficult ensuring messages get passed on if we receive calls during the school day. Could all parents/carers ensure their collection arrangements are made clear to their child before school starts and that phone calls are made to the school in the event of an emergency when arrangements may understandably change.

Please be reminded that for the majority of this term after 3.15pm the school can be contacted for emergencies only until 4.00pm on 07825 340 212.

Newsletters and class and school based learning will continue to be posted on our School and Nursery Blogs:

PRIMARY: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/blackridgeps/>

NURSERY: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/blackridgenurseryclass/>

School Bus

In line with West Lothian Council Transport Policy we have to insist that pupils buy a school bus ticket from the office priced at £5.15 (price increase as of April 2016) for 10 journeys.

If pupils continue to ride on the bus without paying we will have to refuse admission.

If your child does use the school bus we gratefully ask that you reinforce the importance of keeping their seatbelt on as the bus had to pull in on one occasion before the holidays when an individual intentionally took their seat best off while the bus was in motion.

Dress Up/Down Days

Our next dress down day for pupils is Friday 29 April and Thursday 28 April for the Nursery class for a £1 donation to school fund.

**Parent Council**

A School Garden Day has been planned for Thursday 28th April 2016. There is a lot to be done from weeding to painting and planting to moving. Any help is appreciated, during the day or in the evening whether its 20 minutes or 2 hours! Please come along and help us make the school and nursery grounds an area to be enjoyed and proud of.

We would also really appreciate any donations of plants, bulbs, seeds, bird feeders, compost, canes...anything! Please contact us if you have anything that you would like to donate.

The Parent Council are looking to plan a sport / outdoor based fundraising event in June and we would be delighted to hear suggestions for activities. We can be contacted via our Facebook page or email at [bpsparentcouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:bpsparentcouncil@hotmail.com) or by leaving us a note in our tray at the school office.

Building Work

Parking on main road

We kindly request that all parents and carers park with consideration and care when dropping off in the morning for breakfast club. If inconsiderate and unsafe parking continues to become an issue we will unfortunately have to contact the community police. We have also been alerted that due to an increase in accidents in the Lothains, Borders and Fife that they will be in attendance at schools monitoring pupil safety.

Lunches

Lunch arrangements will resume on Monday 18 April. We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time.

P6 Blog Post

Primary 6 held their second question and answer session with the site manager before the holidays. Their update report is availabe on the school’s blog. April’s update will be coming soon!

School Access

We remind all parents and carers that there is no vehicular access along the back road to the school from Farquhar Square. This can cause obstructions to residents and to services including refuse collection. We thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Transition Information

This term we will be busy planning for Nursery-P1 and P7-S1 transition. Please see below for some dates for your diary. Please contact the school if you have any questions about the arrangements for your child. If your child is starting P1 in August a separate letter is being issued with further details shortly.

School Dinners

Please be aware that the price of school dinners for P4-P7 is now £1.97.

Sun Cream

While the weather has not yet warmed up for the spring yet we keep our fingers crossed that the sun might eventually come out this term so I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that all pupils including our Nursery children go outside daily (weather permitting). On sunny days we advise that all children come to school already wearing sun cream and that Nursery children also bring a sun hat. For our Nursery children we do have some sun cream available for you to apply to your child if you forget! School and Nursery staff are not permitted to apply sun cream to children.

Further information can be found at:

<http://www.sunaware.scot.nhs.uk/>

**Eco Schools**

**National Spring Clean**

As part of our Eco Schools Programme the Primary 3 class took part in the National Spring Clean initiative on the morning of Tuesday 8th March. They were supported by WLC Nets, Land and Countryside Services and Keep Scotland Beautiful. They collected 20 bags of litter! It is now our job to keep our grounds tidy.

**#2minutecleanup**

This initiative encourages everyone to pick up litter little and often in our school, homes and communities. Some pupils have already litter picked in the community and received 10 extra house points for their efforts. If you have a spare 2 minutes and a camera please help by picking up litter for two minutes (even in your own garden), take a photograph to bring in to school and your child will be awarded 10 extra house points!

School Uniform

Please support our school’s high standards by providing your child/children with school uniform. This includes black footwear with no coloured logos or markings. The coloured footwear that a number of pupils are currently wearing to school is not the school image and message that we wish to be sending to community members and visitors. School uniform helps build a sense of a school community and promotes equality amoungst our pupils. We are working with the Parent Council to write a school uniform policy and this will be shared with you in due course. Thank you to all of you who took part in our survey during parent/carer consultations and this information will be used to help to formluate this policy.

Access to fresh drinking water

We encourage all pupils to have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day and pupils are permitted to bring in a water bottle which can be refilled. Our school water fountains have been adapted so pupils can no longer drink directly from the fountains but will have ease of use for refilling.

We sell water bottles from our tuck trolley for £1.

Messy Activities

As you will no doubt be aware pupils can from time to time come home with paint and glue on items of school clothing despite our best efforts to cover them with painting pinafores. However the best cover up is an old shirt worn backwards!

We will gladly accept any donations of these to be kept in class to be used for arts and craft activities.

Sport’s Relief

Primary 4 held a Sports Relief fund raising week with activities including a toy bring and buy sale, run/walk a mile, guess the teddy’s birthday, how many sweets in a jar, face painting of Sports Relief logo, 10p mile of coins and a cake sale.

Thank you very much for all of your help, donations and support as this event raised over £800 for Sports Relief. Well done Primary 4!

Masterclasses

The pupils in P4-P7 will have the opportunity this term to experience a Masterclass for 4 weeks in one of the following:

* School Newspaper – learn about, write, print and sell copies of their own school newspaper
* Sewing - learn how to make their own embroidered cushion
* Movie making – plan, make and film their own movie
* Science – try not to blow the teacher up as they experiment with chemical reactions!
* Futsal – experience this exciting, small sided and fast paced football game
* Cake decorating – learn the art of cake decorating and perhaps even eat some!

Staff will plan for these sessions focussing on skills for learning, life and work including literacy, numeracy, higher order thinking skills, health and wellbeing, personal learning planning, working with others, leadership, physical co-ordination and movement, enterprise and employability and ICT.

Each pupil will pick three classes and we hope to offer each pupil one of their top three choices.

If this proves to be successful we plan to roll this out to all pupils with varying choices next academic year.

iPayimpact

Schools are currently receiving training on iPayimpact. This system allows parents and carers to make payments for items such as lunches and trips on line. More information will follow once available.

Dates for the diary

Monday 18 April: Modern Languages Week

Wednesday 20 April: Armadale Primary School Cluster Sports Event for 4 P6 pupils

Wednesday 20 April: Homework Club resumes

Thursday 21 April: Masterclasses begin for P4-P7 pupils

Monday 25 April: Academy Music Department Concert for P6 and P7

Tuesday 26 April: P1 trip to the Museum

Thursday 28 April: Gardening Day 9.00am-7.00pm

Monday 2 May and Tuesday 3 May: Holiday

Thursday 5 May: P6 pupils begin P1 Buddy application process

Friday 6 May 9.15am: P5 Assembly

Monday 9 May: P7 class photograph

Monday 9 May: iPayimpact goes live for lunch ordering (TBC)

Wednesday 11 May 8.45am and 12.15pm: Pre School Nursery Parents P1 coffee morning

Thursday 12 May: P7 trip to the Museum

Friday 13 May 9.15am: P3 Assembly

Monday 16 May: Global Citizenship Week

Monday 23 May – holiday

Wednesday 25 May 1.30pm: The Little Mermaid Show performance

Thursday 26 May: 6.00pm: The Little Mermaid Show performance

Friday 27 May 9.15am: P4 Assembly

Sunday 29 May: P7 pupils to Kingswood for Residential Trip

Monday 30 May: P2-P7 pupil profiles to go home and return on Wednesday 1 June

Monday 30 May: M and M productions

Friday 3 June 9.15am: P2 Assembly

Wednesday 8 June: P7 pupils to Armadale Academy until Friday 17 June

Friday 10 June: Armadale Cluster Pupil Summer Fayre at Academy – TBC

Monday 13 June: P1 transition 8.50am-11.00am with parent/carer meeting at 9.15am in the GP room

Tuesday 14 June: P1 transition 8.50-12.00 midday

Wednesday 15 June: Nursery Sports Day

Friday 17 June: 9.15am: P1 Assembly

Monday 20 June: Health Week

Thursday 23 June: P1-P7 Sports Day

Friday 24 June: Pre School pupils and P1-P7 end of year reports home

Monday 17 June: Nursery End of Year Assembly

Tuesaday 28 June: New P2-P7 meet the teacher and P7 leaver’s meal

Wednesday 29 June: P7 Leavers Assembly and all fiish at 3.15pm

All resume: Tuesday 23 August 2016