



Blacklaw Primary Newsletter December 2017

www.blacklaw-prim-lanark.sch.uk Tel 01355 232064



Dear Parents/Carers

Preparations for Christmas



Christmas is coming at Blacklaw. Our tree is up and many exciting events are planned. Please refer to our very busy diary attached.

During the last two weeks of term we will be holding our Christmas Parties, Pantomime and Christmas Service. Letters giving further details will be issued separately. We hope you will be able to join us as we celebrate this Christmas Season.

Videoing Christmas Events

During the course of our Christmas festivities pupils will participate in events eg nativity service to which we invite family and friends to enjoy. Videoing at these events is permitted on the understanding that any such recordings must be for sole use and must not be used for sale or reward. If you have any objection to your child being included please telephone me at the school as soon as possible.



Videos or photographs of any school activity should not be posted on social network sites ie Facebook, YouTube, Twitter etc. This is a breach of data protection and South Lanarkshire Council protocols are clear. www.ceop.gov.uk/parents. Please refer to our Social Media/Social Networking guidelines for further information.

School Christmas Post



Our internal Christmas Post Service will commence on 4 December. Post boxes will be situated in the foyer and library. If the children wish to use this service stamps can be purchased at 30 pence for eight.

This year's proceeds will be forwarded to Cash for Kids/Let us Shine along with our collections at the family Nativity and Christmas service.

Christmas Fayre

We held our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 2 December. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to help and who contributed to our tombola stall. We are happy that many families and friends from our Blacklaw community supported this event.



Emergency Closure Planning

In the event of extreme weather conditions, Fire or heating failure the school may need to close. Please be sure to read our Emergency Closure Leaflet in preparation for such an event.

Discuss alternative pick up arrangements with your child. In deep snow we may have to deny vehicular access to our turning circle. This causes disruption in Glen Arroch. Please be considerate to the residents living in the school vicinity.



Please ensure you update our office regularly with your child's local emergency contact numbers.

Sharing our Progress

The pupils will be issued with a leaflet which summarises our progress with regards to our School Improvement Plan targets last session and our priorities/targets for this session. Full copies of our Standards and Quality report and School Improvement Plan can be obtained, on request, from the school office.

Smartie Tubes - all Smartie tubes should now be returned to school. Thank you.



After School Clubs



Scripture Union will hold their Christmas Party on Monday 11 December which will be their final meeting until Monday 15 January 2018. Our Football Club is now finished until 15 January 2018. **All other after school clubs will finish week ending 8 December. All clubs (except homework club) will recommence w/c Monday 15 January 2018. The homework club will recommence on Tuesday 30 January.**

If your child walks home after a club please encourage them to walk with a friend if possible and to be vigilant at all times due to the dark nights and possible icy paths.

Parking

At this busy time of year with Christmas activities taking place in the school and possible inclement weather, it would be appreciated if you could show courtesy to our local residents by refraining from parking in the residents' bays in Glen Arroch when visiting the school. May I remind parent/carers who are dropping off or picking up children to only park in the designated parking bays. Please note that the drop off/pick up bays at the front entrance of the school building are often used for buses/coaches to pick up or drop off pupils on school excursions. We would ask that parents refrain from parking in these bays when bus/coach access is required. This is to ensure that pupils embark/disembark safely. The parking bays at the front entrance of the school are for **staff only. Please refrain from blocking in staff cars/parking/waiting in these spaces.** All pupils will be issued with a copy of our Traffic Management guidelines.



Engine Idling



South Lanarkshire Council's winter engine idling campaign is now underway. This involves officers from South Lanarkshire undertaking patrols at schools during pick up periods. Exhaust emissions from vehicles contain a range of pollutants that can affect air quality. Children are more vulnerable to air pollution. South Lanarkshire officers will be patrolling school car parks. They will warn any driver found to be engine idling and if the driver fails to turn off their engine they may be fined £20.

We would appreciate your support in ensuring that engines are not left 'idling' in the vicinity of our school car park.

Remember:

Don't make us cough, turn your engine off!

Pantomime



The PTA again are able to support our Christmas pantomime which will be 'A Belter of a Cinderella Story' in the Village Theatre on Monday 18 December. The children should wear their school uniform. A letter outlining the arrangements for this event will be issued shortly.

A Special Invitation!

Blacklaw Primary School Christmas Nativity

This year we will have two performances of our Christmas Nativity on Tuesday 12 and Thursday 14 December at 9.30 a.m. Tickets will be issued and teas/coffees served by the staff and pupils before the performances at 9.00 am at a cost of £1. **Entry to the Nativity and for teas/coffees will be by ticket only.**

Our end of year service will take place in the school gym hall on Wednesday 20 December at 9.30 a.m. All family and friends are welcome! We hope to welcome many of our senior citizens to our school at this happy time. There will be a collection taken at these events which will be shared between Radio Clyde's Cash for Kids and our own link school in Ghana.



Book Week



Blacklaw joined in these celebrations by participating in 'Drop Everything and Read' each day from 10.45 - 11.00 am. All classes took part in designing their classroom door as a book cover. All pupils were also issued with their First Minister's Reading Challenge Passports.

Infant Registration w/c 15 January 2018

Already we are preparing to register our new starts for August, 2018. If you know of anyone who will be five years of age between 1 March 2018 and 28 February 2019 and live in our catchment area, please let them know that we will be registering at Blacklaw on Monday 15, Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 January 2018 between 9.30 - 11.30 am. They should remember to bring the child's **full birth certificate** and **two pieces of proof of residency**, usually utility bills. The child should be registered by **their parent** and they would be most welcome to see around the school.

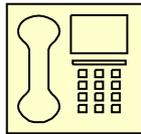


Parent Council Contacts

Please find below contact details for the Parent Council:

Chairperson Colin McLean Telephone: 07481 792472

Email: Colin.mclean09@googlemail.com



Vice Chair: Hannah Shanks

Email: hannahshanks@hotmail.com

PTA Contacts

Fiona Francis - Chair - 07941 376955

Gillian Longmire - Secretary - 07985 631041

Colin McLean - Treasurer - 07481 792472

There is a new contact email address for the **Parent Council**:

blacklawprimarypc@gmail.com Parents can email this in confidence.

Other members of the parent council are: Kathleen Claudin (Secretary), Heather Sturgeon, Karen Keeney, Liz Roy, Elaine Foster, Nicola Ryan, David Ryan, Alyson McLean, Hannah Shanks and Mrs Black.

Alert

There have been instances of head lice in the school recently - please remember to check your child's hair regularly and keep up the Bug Busting. Bug Busting is a head louse detection and eradication method that is recommended to deal with the problem instead of relying on pesticides. Bug Busting works by combining the specially designed comb with your usual shampoo and conditioner. If you require more information on this subject please visit www.nits.net.



Christmas Holiday Date

Please note the school will close for the Christmas break on **Friday 22 December at 2.30 pm**.

Absence/Sickness

When your child is absent from school please ensure you send a letter in to the class teacher on your child's return with an explanation for their absence. Thank you.



Trips/Outings



Our children regularly go out of school on a trip or outing. The children are issued with a letter for any events out of school which require your signature of authorisation. Often children do not return their signed permission slip. Class teachers will endeavour to remind pupils either orally or by note in homework/communication diaries to return their permission slips. If no signed authorization is received by the day of the trip then we will attempt to phone the **main contact only** on our records. If the main contact cannot be reached your child will not be allowed to go on the outing and will remain in school. We hope that you will support the school and ensure that written consent is

returned on time.

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Responsible Citizens

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P7 Skiing
 We go to Bellahouston Park for skiing every Monday with Mrs. Black. The first day we got split up into groups and we all got different instructors. We soon learned how to put our skis on. The skis had a number on them and we need to remember the number so that we get the correct size of skis every week. When we got on the slope we practised going up the hill then skiing down. It has been great fun so far and we are sure that we will enjoy the rest of the skiing visits.
 By Jenna and Christopher Primary 7 Room 10



Netball Festivals
 All the schools from South Lanarkshire meet at Stewartfield Community Hall for Netball Festivals. Blacklaw played 4 out of 6 games which lasted ten minutes each. There are five positions: Goal Keeper, Goal Defence, Centre, Goal Attack and Goal Shooter. At the end we played a mini game which had two lines and we had to run in to the blue semi circle for a shot at the hoop. We had two lives and if we lost them we were out! The bus brought us back to school. We all had a great time and can't wait for the next festival!
 By Charlie and Megan Primary 7 Room 10



Ice Skating
 Primary 5 went ice skating to East Kilbride Shopping Centre. It was really fun, we learned lots of valuable techniques such as skating backwards. We went for five weeks and each week we became more confident. We would highly recommend the ice rink in East Kilbride. All the Primary 5s made happy memories!
 By Anna G and Sally Primary 5 Room 6



Ice Skating
 Primary 5 had their ice skating lessons at the town centre. We learned how to skate backwards and some people found it a bit hard! We learned how to do the 'bubble' which is when you go 'in and out'. We also learned how to do it backwards. We were taught how to touch our toes and glide. On the third week we learned how to speed skate. We all loved ice skating and we will miss it!
 By Anna L and Ronin Primary 5 Room 8



Holidays 2018/19

Please find attached holiday dates for 2018/2019 and keep handy for future reference.

Diary

Saturday 2 December	PTA Christmas Fayre 10.00 - 12.30 pm
Monday 4 December	P6 Bubblegum & Fluff at Claremont Church 1.00 pm P7 to Glasgow Ski Centre Lunchtime Athletics Club Scripture Union - 3.00 pm
Tuesday 5 December	Lunchtime Gymnastics Dodgeball Club - 3.00 pm Knitting Club - 3.00 pm Homework Club - 3.00 pm
Wednesday 6 December	Lunchtime Choir Lunchtime Multi Sports Club Credit Union pm Badminton Club - 3.00 pm Gardening Club - 3.00 pm
Thursday 7 December	Lunchtime Netball Netball Club - 3.00 pm
Monday 11 December	Nativity - Dress Rehearsal - 9.30 am Scripture Union Christmas Party - 3.00 pm P7 to Glasgow Ski Centre
Tuesday 12 December	Nativity Performance - 9.45 am (9.00 am for tea/coffee) P2 & P3 Christmas Party - pm
Wednesday 13 December	Choir to St. Leonards Library - 11.00 am P4 & P5 Christmas Party - pm
Thursday 14 December	Blacklaw Nativity - 9.45 am (9.00 am for tea/coffee) Christmas Lunch P1 Christmas Party
Monday 18 December	Pantomime at Village Theatre - 10.00 am
Wednesday 20 December	Christmas Service in school - 9.30 am
Friday 22 December	School closes 2.30 pm
Monday 8 January 2018	School re-opens 9.00 am

All staff and pupils at Blacklaw would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Noreen Black
Head Teacher

Blacklaw Primary School



School Calendar!

Holiday Dates 2018 – 2019



Teachers return	In service	Tuesday 14 August 2018
	In service	Wednesday 15 August 2018
Pupils return		Thursday 16 August 2018 9.00 am
Local Holiday	School closes	Thursday 20 September 2018 3.00 pm
	Re-open	Tuesday 25 September 2018 9.00 am
October Break	School closes	Friday 12 October 2018 3.00 pm
	Re-open	Monday 22 October 2018 9.00 am
	In service	Monday 19 November 2018
Christmas/New Year	School closes	Friday 21 December 2018 2.30 pm
	Re-open	Monday 7 January 2019 9.00 am
Local Holiday	School closes	Friday 8 February 2019 3.00 pm
	In service	Wednesday 13 February 2019
	Re-open	Thursday 14 February 2019 9.00 am
Spring Holiday	School closes	Friday 29 March 2019 2.30 pm
	Re-open	Monday 15 April 2019 9.00 am
Easter	School closes	Thursday 18 April 2019 3.00 pm
	Re-open	Tuesday 23 April 2019 9.00 am
Local Holiday	School closes	Friday 3 May 2019 3.00 pm
	In service	Tuesday 7 May 2019
	Re-open	Wednesday 8 May 2019
	School closes	Thursday 23 May 2019 3.00 pm
	Re-open	Tuesday 28 May 2019 9.00 am
Summer Break	School closes	Friday 28 June 2019 1.00 pm
		