



Blacklaw Primary Newsletter September 2016



www.blacklaw-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk tel 01355 232064

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to Blacklaw Primary session 2016/17.



We are delighted to extend a special welcome to all our new Primary 1 pupils and families who are beginning a very exciting journey at Blacklaw Primary School.

We also wish to welcome all the new pupils and families of children who have joined us at other stages within the school. We hope you feel settled and included, and that this will be a highly successful year for all our pupils.

May I again thank you for sending your children back to school in their Blacklaw School uniforms. We always encourage our pupils to wear their school uniform every day and hope that, with your support, we can maintain a high standard of appearance throughout the year. We are very grateful for your support with shirts and ties on a daily basis for all Primary 6 and 7 pupils. Thank you all for the preparations you have made to ensure that the children are ready and equipped for the coming session.

Blacklaw's Vision & Values - Caring, Believing, Achieving

At Blacklaw Primary we have a caring ethos where everyone is valued. We believe that, working together we will provide opportunities for all members of our community to achieve their full potential and experience success.

Our school values continue to put children at the centre of all the work we do.

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|--------------------------|------------------------|
| C ommunity | F riendship |
| H onesty | I ntegrity |
| I nnovation | R esilience |
| L earning Centred | S ustainability |
| D iversity | T eam-work |
| R espect | |
| E quality | |
| N urturing | |



Our School Priorities - Keeping you Informed



Our foyer area gives further information regarding our vision and values and the priorities for our school improvement plan this session. We will also be updating our parent/carer leaflets and will be including school guidelines re: Uniform, Homework, Better Behaviour, Improved Learning etc.

Please take time when you are next visiting the school, to look at our displays and read the information provided.

Spare Clothes

At the moment we have a good supply of spare clothes. Please do not hand in any clothing meantime but remember you can use the Rag Bag bin.

Staffing

Mrs. Wright (Specialist Support Teacher) will continue to work in school with pupils and staff as part of her role in supporting pupils with additional support needs.

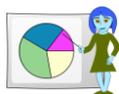
Learning and Teaching Session 2016/2017

This session learning and teaching activities will again be planned in three 'blocks'.

Block A - September to December

Block B - January to April

Block C - April to June



Class newsletters will be issued to parents during each planning block and will outline the learning focus across each curricular area as well as class information regarding homework, PE days etc.

During the first weeks of the new school session staff have been reviewing transition information from session 2015-2016 as well as conducting literacy and numeracy assessments. This will allow staff to assign pupils to working groups for literacy and numeracy. Groupings have been based on assessment and transition information gathered and will be continually reviewed throughout the school year.

Advance Notice of Christmas Pantomime

On Monday 19 December we will be taking the whole school to Motherwell Theatre. Pupils will view 'Peter Pan'. The cost of this event will be £7.50. A deposit of £5.00 should be paid by **Friday 16 September** and the balance of £2.50 should be completed by **Friday 9 December 2016**.



Shoebox Appeal



We will be joining with Claremont Parish Church for this year's Shoebox Appeal. Please start collecting empty shoeboxes (with lids if possible). By filling a shoebox with simple gifts you can give hope to someone in need this Christmas. More details to follow.

Tempest Photographer

Tempest, our school photographer, will be in school on **Monday 12 September**. The photographs will be individual/family groups. He will also take class groups of our P1's and P7's. Please ensure your child wears their **school uniform** on this day.



EV5's/Annual Data Checks



You recently received EV5 and Annual Data Check forms for updating. If you have not already returned these **Emergency** forms to the school please do so as soon as possible. Please remember to **sign and complete ALL forms**. Please also ensure that mobile phone numbers are up to date as throughout the school session we will be using a text messaging service to inform parents of forth-coming events etc.

Parents in Partnership/Parents Forum

Many thanks to the invaluable support of our Parent Council and P.T.A. Our P.T.A. very successfully supported our end of session celebrations and ceremonies. Their hard work at that busy time was very much appreciated. If you wish to support them in their work at school please come along to our PTA meeting, which takes place on Tuesday 6 September or our Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 13 September both at 7.00 p.m. Without the support of our parent forums our pupils would not have such an enhanced school experience. We recommend the following opportunity to you.

Please

Childhood Infectious Diseases, especially Chickenpox, Measles and Shingles



One of our pupils is currently taking a course of medication which suppresses his immune system. It is very important that the school is notified **immediately** if your child has contracted one of these illnesses, as appropriate action must be taken within 72 hours of contact.

Cycling to School

Please note we encourage cycling to school, however pupils should only cycle to school unsupervised if they have already passed their cycling proficiency test. All cyclists should ensure that they wear a cycle helmet when cycling to and from school.



Parent Helpers/Disclosures



Thank you to all parents who volunteered to be parent helpers. Anyone who has not yet returned the disclosure please send this form to the school office as soon as possible. Thank you.

Assemblies – General, Reflection and Gold Award Assemblies programme

Please note we have included our Gold Award assemblies for the coming session.

General and Reflection Assemblies commence at 9.15 a.m. all others commence at 9.30 a.m. on a Friday.



This session we will also have our Infant Nativity P1-3 and a Scottish Assembly. Throughout the school year there will be a variety of opportunities for your child to participate and demonstrate their skills and learning.

Save the Date – Learning Showcase – Friday 17 February 2017.

Religious Observance

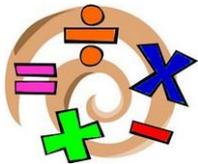
In line with South Lanarkshire Council Guidelines regarding Religious Observance and Religious and Moral Education I would like to draw your attention to the following:

- Our school chaplain is Mr. Gordon Palmer. He is the senior minister at Claremont Parish Church.
- Mr. Zach Stich will lead our reflection assemblies in Mr. Palmer's absence. Mr. Stich is the Children and Young Families Worker at Claremont. He leads our Scripture Union group, on Mondays after school. This is open to any pupils in Primary 4-7.
- There are six reflection assemblies throughout the school year led by Mr. Palmer.
- There are also Harvest, Christmas and Easter services throughout the school year.
- The theme for our reflection assemblies this session is relating Jesus' life to life today.
- An outline of religious observance events (Reflection assemblies) is available on request.



Blacklaw Primary School RME Programme

Activities are planned for early, first and second level based on the Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes.



The religions, which are included, are Christianity, Islam and Judaism. At each level pupils will learn about one or more aspects of each religion. By the end of Primary 7, pupils should have the skills to begin to make informed choices and decisions about faith and religion.

Visits are often planned to churches, synagogues or other places of interest and school chaplains, and other speakers may be invited into school to support our RME programme.

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents/carers have the right to ask for their child(ren) to be withdrawn from religious observance and/or religious and moral education. Requests should be made in writing to the Head Teacher.

If a pupil is withdrawn then arrangements will be made, in consultation with parents, for the pupil to participate in a worthwhile activity.

If you have any concerns about Religious Observance at Blacklaw Primary School then please do not hesitate to contact me.

We have also included the holiday and in-service dates for your reference. Please keep our assembly plan and holiday dates for your reference throughout the year.

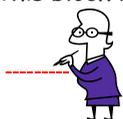
E-mail Addresses

If you have not already given us your e-mail address please send this to the office to allow us to e-mail your newsletter.



House Officials 2016/17

This block we are seeking to appoint new house officials for this session. Application forms have been issued to Primary 7 pupils and we will be interviewing pupils soon. Details of the new house officials will follow later this month.



This session we will continue to promote 'pupil voice' opportunities and involve more pupil leaders, through our new committees for pupils in Primary 3-7. More details to follow.

Health Promotion - After School Clubs

Last week I met with our Active Schools Coordinator, Marc Conroy to discuss our extra curricular programme, and to begin to plan activities for this session. **We are continuing to recruit adult volunteers to support school staff to assist with or lead after school activities for pupils**

If you have some free time at the end of a school day or during our lunch time, please contact the school office. It is not necessary for you to volunteer for a whole school session, but we would appreciate if you were able to commit to a 6-8 week block. All volunteers require to hold a PVG for Blacklaw Primary School. This can be arranged through the school office for volunteers. We hope that many parents/grandparents will become involved in leading or supporting our after school club programme this session.



Mobile Phones



It is not necessary for pupils to bring mobile phones to school, as our office staff are happy to contact you if required or take important messages on your behalf. **Please keep all mobile phones at home.** Any child who brings a mobile phone to school shall be instructed to hand it in to the school office where it will be kept throughout the school day. We would greatly appreciate your support with this necessary request.

School Lunches

Please ensure Primary 4-7 children have £1.60 with them each time they require a school lunch



Jackets



As the summer sun fades and the autumn leaves turn brown can I remind you to ensure that your child wears a jacket to school in preparation for our changeable weather. **Jackets (and all schoolwear) should be clearly named.** Thank you.

Equipment for School

I am pleased to report that the majority of pupils in school have begun this session equipped for the new term. Teaching and learning can get off to a good start each morning if pupils bring the correct equipment. Where possible children should bring two sharp pencils, a ruler, rubber, reading book, homework diary, homework due and PE equipment. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child is 'ready for learning'.



Gardening Club



We are still looking for volunteers to help with our Gardening Club. The club runs every Wednesday from 3.00 - 4.00 p.m.

If you have some free time on a Wednesday afternoon and would be interested in helping please contact the school.

Promoting Positive Behaviour - 'Success Smiles'

Some of our children can take a little time to settle again into the positive relationships they have previously enjoyed. Staff at this time encourage friendships, mutual respect and guide our pupils in fostering a supportive role with others in class and in the playground. Please continue to provide that encouragement at home. Pupils are reminded about our 'Golden Goals' and as part of our 'Rights based Learning' programme we will be working with the children to develop class, playground and lunch time charters. We will continue this session to reward children regularly who demonstrate that they are making good/great choices with their learning and behaviour through our 'Success Smiles'. Further details with regards to Success Smiles - Better Behaviour, Improved Learning will follow later this month.



Dogs in Playground

May I remind all dog owners that dogs are **not allowed** in the school playground. I would be grateful if you would ensure that this request was adhered to. Thank you.



Head Lice



All our pupils have been reminded of the importance of regular Bugbusting.

Head lice are well camouflaged and hide when disturbed by combing. They do not always cause itching, particularly when recently arrived on the head. They may also be few in number and a quick inspection is unlikely to detect them. Please support us by regularly checking your child's hair.

Bug Buster: Help Line: 020 7686 4321 **Internet:** www.chc.org/bugbusting www.nits.net

Responsible Citizens

Our Primary 1's are ready and settled in school.
Here are some comments about their first weeks of school.

Room 1

Cara;	Making the 's' snakes
Esme;	Helping each other
Megan;	I like to play with my friend and write 'a'
Ariella;	When we make the 'a' alligators
Ross;	Making the snakes
Kayla;	Playing with all of my school friends
Isla;	Making new friends
Tyler;	Making the 't' tiger masks
Anna;	Making the 's' snakes
Jamie;	The school dinners
Lucas;	I like playing games
Taylor;	Playing with my friends
Ethan;	Being in the playground
Lucy;	Playing number splat and playing in the playground
Mirren;	Ordering my lunch and getting points
Libby;	Playing with my friends, getting a point and playing outside
Aimee;	Playing with Taylor
Thomas;	Sharing with my friends
Arran;	Learning my sounds; t, a, s
James;	Making the 's' snakes
Leo;	Playing with my friends
James;	I like everything



Room 2

Lucy;	I like school dinners and tuna sandwiches, my favourite letter is 's'
Chloe;	Playtime and playing hopscotch
Jamie;	Gym and Tunnel 'tig'
Alistair;	I like school dinners and ham sandwiches
Evan;	Colouring truck and learning letter 't'
Alexander;	Reading books and playing in the playground
Reuben;	Packed lunch
Millie;	Singing songs
Allysa;	Running about in playground and drawing
Seth;	Learning numbers - number 3 is my favourite

My Summer Holiday

During the holidays I stayed with my gran, and I played football with my grandpa.

By Aaron Room 3

During the holidays I went to a caravan. It was sunny!

By Morgan Room 3

During my summer holidays I went to Greece and Spain. In Greece I had a big swimming pool that I really enjoyed playing in although it was freezing cold to begin with!

By Logan Room 4

At the summer holidays I went to Spain and every day I went to play in the pool. It was great fun. I also went to Berwick, we went to the beach and tried to make sandcastles. My favourite part was going to the mini disco every night!

By Katie Room 4

Confident Individuals

Diary

Friday 2 September	Room 1 (P1) Meet the Teacher 1.30 - 3.00 p.m.
Monday 5 September	Room 2 (P1) Meet the Teacher 1.30 - 3.00 p.m. Athletics Club - 3.00 p.m.
Tuesday 6 September	P.T.A. Meeting - 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 7 September	YMI Music Badminton Club - 3.00 p.m.
Thursday 8 September	International Literacy Day Netball Club - 3.00 p.m.
Friday 9 September	NSPCA Assemblies/Workshops P2-P7 Meet the Teacher - p.m. Football Club - 3.00 p.m.
Monday 12 September	Tempest Photographer in school - Individual, Family, P1 & P7 Class Photos Athletics Club - 3.00 p.m.
Tuesday 13 September	Parent Council Meeting - 7.00 p.m.
Wednesday 14 September	YMI Music Badminton Club - 3.00 p.m.
Thursday 15 September	Netball Club - 3.00 p.m.
Friday 16 September	£5 deposit due today for Christmas Panto Football Club - 3.00 p.m.
Monday 19 September	P7 to Ardentinn Athletics Club - 3.00 p.m. Scripture Union - 3.00 p.m.
Tuesday 20 September	P4 P.E. event at Mount Cameron Primary
Wednesday 21 September	YMI Music Badminton Club - 3.00 p.m.
Thursday 22 September	P7 return from Ardentinn Netball Club - 3.00 p.m.
Friday 23 September	School Holiday
Monday 26 September	School Holiday
Wednesday 28 September	YMI Music Badminton Club - 3.00 p.m.
Thursday 29 September	Netball Club - 3.00 p.m.
Friday 30 September	Harvest Assembly - 9.30 a.m.

Yours sincerely

Noreen Black
Head Teacher

Blacklaw Primary School

Holiday Dates 2016 - 2017

Teachers return	In service In service	Thursday 11 August 2016 Friday 12 August 2016 Monday 15 August 2016 9.00 am
Pupils return		
Local Holiday	School closes Re-open	Thursday 22 September 2016 3.00 pm Tuesday 27 September 2016 9.00 am
October Break	School closes Re-open	Friday 14 October 2016 3.00 pm Monday 24 October 2016 9.00 am
	In Service	Monday 21 November 2016
Christmas/New Year	School closes Re-open	Thursday 22 December 2016 2.30 pm Monday 9 January 2017 9.00 am
Local Holiday	School closes In Service Re-open	Friday 10 February 2017 3.00 pm Wednesday 15 February 2017 Thursday 16 February 2017 9.00 a.m.
Easter/Spring Holiday 	School closes Re-open	Friday 31 March 2017 2.30 pm Tuesday 18 April 2017 9.00 am
Local Holiday 	School closes Re-open In Service	Friday 28 April 2017 3.00 pm Tuesday 2 May 2017 9.00 am Thursday 4 May 2017
	School closes Re-open	Thursday 25 May 2017 3.00 pm Tuesday 30 May 2017 9.00 am
Summer Break	School closes	Tuesday 27 June 2017 1.00 pm

**Blacklaw Primary School
Assemblies Calendar 2016-2017**

Date	Title/Theme	Led By
Friday 19/8/16	WELCOME BACK	HT
Friday 26/8/16	REFLECTION (1) 'Special Moments'	MR PALMER
Friday 2/9/16		
Friday 9/9/16	WHOLE SCHOOL	HT
Friday 16/9/16	COMMITTEES	PUPILS
Friday 30/09/16	HARVEST 'Small Beginnings, Big Things'	MR PALMER
Friday 7/10/16	AWARDS	HT
Friday 14/10/16	LEPRA FUNDRAISER	HT
Friday 28/10/16	WHOLE SCHOOL	HT
Friday 4/11/16	COMMITTEES	PUPILS
Friday 11/11/16	REFLECTION (2) 'Listen and Do'	MR PALMER
Friday 18/11/16	AWARDS	HT
Friday 25/11/16	WHOLE SCHOOL	HT
Friday 2/12/16	COMMITTEES	PUPILS
Friday 9/12/16		
Friday 16/12/16	AWARDS	HT
Tuesday 20/12/16	CHRISTMAS SERVICE/NATIVITY 'Not Known at Home'	HT/ MR PALMER
Friday 13/1/17	COMMITTEES	PUPILS
Friday 20/1/17	REFLECTION (3) 'Some Power'	MR PALMER
Friday 27/1/17	SCOTTISH ASSEMBLY	PUPILS
Friday 3/2/17	AWARDS	HT
Friday 10/2/17	WHOLE SCHOOL	HT
Friday 17/2/17	LEARNING SHOWCASE	PUPILS

Friday 24/2/17	REFLECTION (4) 'What if Nobody Comes'	MR PALMER
Friday 3/3/17	COMMITTEES	PUPILS
Friday 10/3/17	WHOLE SCHOOL	HT
Friday 17/3/17		
Friday 24/3/17	AWARDS	HT
Thursday 30/3/17	EASTER SERVICE 'A Hard Road to Go'	MR PALMER
Friday 21/4/17	WHOLE SCHOOL	HT
Friday 28/4/17	COMMITTEES	HT
Friday 5/5/17	REFLECTION (5) 'It's Not Fair'	MR PALMER
Friday 12/5/17		
Friday 19/5/17	AWARDS	HT
Friday 2/6/17	REFLECTION (6) 'Back Again'	MR PALMER
Friday 9/6/17	R5's WELCOME ASSEMBLY	P1-P3
Friday 16/6/17	AWARDS	HT
Friday 23/6/17		
Monday 26/6/17	END OF YEAR/P7 LEAVERS SERVICE 'Still With Us'	HT/ MR PALMER

Further details regarding biblical content of Reflection Assemblies are available on request.