



# Blacklaw Primary Newsletter December 2018



[www.blacklaw-primary-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.blacklaw-primary-lanark.sch.uk) Tel 01355 232064

**Aim**  
Working together, as a community, to achieve the best outcomes for all learners.

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 next three 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](http://www.ceop.gov.uk/parents). Please refer to our Social Media/Social Networking guidelines for further information.

## Christmas Fayre



We held our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 1 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.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

This year each class are creating a reverse advent calendar to support East Kilbride Community Food Bank. The concept of the reverse advent calendar is to take a box and, instead of taking something out everyday during the Christmas season, to put something in to help those in our community in food poverty.



After advent the boxes will be delivered to East Kilbride Community Food Bank. Thank you for your support during this Christmas season.

## 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. Our pupils are currently working on a 'pupil friendly' improvement plan. This will be issued early in the new year.



## After School Clubs



Scripture Union will hold their Christmas Party on Monday 10 December which will be their final meeting until Monday 14 January 2019.

**Our Netball Club is now finished and all other after school clubs will finish week ending 7 December.**

**All clubs will recommence w/c Monday 14 January 2019.**

**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.**

**Credit Union - Our Credit Union will restart on Monday 14 January 2019.**

## 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.**



## 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 'Snow White and the Seven Wee Muppets' in the Village Theatre on Monday 17 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 11 and Thursday 13 December at 9.30 am. 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 19 December at 9.30 am. All family and friends are welcome! 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.



## Infant Registration w/c 14 January 2019

Already we are preparing to register our new starts for August, 2019. If you know of anyone who will be five years of age between 1 March 2019 and 28 February 2020 and live in our catchment area, please let them know that we will be registering at Blacklaw on Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 January 2019 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.

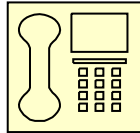


### Parent Council Contacts

Please find below contact details for the Parent Council:

**Chairperson** Hannah Shanks Telephone: 07968 818189

Email: [hannahmshanks@hotmail.com](mailto:hannahmshanks@hotmail.com)



**Vice Chair:** Karen Keeney

Email: [karenmkeeney@gmail.com](mailto:karenmkeeney@gmail.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](mailto:blacklawprimarypc@gmail.com)** Parents can email this in confidence.

Other members of the parent council are: David Ryan, Heather Sturgeon, Kathleen Claudin, Karen Keeney, Liz Roy, Nicola Ryan and Colin McLean

### 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](http://www.nits.net).



### Christmas Holiday Date

Please note the school will close for the Christmas break on Friday 21 December at 2.30 pm.

### Absence/Sickness

When your child is absent from school please ensure you **phone the school by 9.30 am** stating the reason for absence and 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.

# Responsible Citizens

## P7 Skiing

Skiing is a really fun sport, we enjoy going on Mondays. We go to Bellahouston Ski Centre and are split in to 3 different groups. The instructors have been teaching us pizza shape, chips and side step. We use the pizza as a starting position and to turn. We use chip shape as the basic way to go down the slope. The side step is used to get up the slope. The first week we were all nervous, but the instructors are friendly and you get used to it over the weeks. We can't wait to be able to go to the top of the slope and ski down. The ski boots are not the most comfortable things in the world! We arrive at the slopes at 4.00 pm and return to school at 6.00 pm so we end up pretty hungry!

By Isla and Marcus Primary 7 Room 9



## Netball Festivals

Currently we have attended two netball festivals. At our last festival we won 6 out of 8 games, we were so happy. The team members are Olivia, Koral, Abigail, Ava, Tia, Neve, Robyn, Kayla, Cailyn, Katie F, Katie A, Sophie, Ajooni, Isla, Abi and Amber. We are so happy to be part of the netball team and can't wait for the next festival!

By Abigail and Koral Primary 7 Room 9



## Primary 5 Ice Skating

The first thing we learned was the safety rules. The rules were no kicking, hitting or screaming. We learned to skate backwards, keep balance, slaloms and bubbles!

By Cole, Sam, Max and Harris

**Ross:** I learned to ski backwards.

**Daniella:** I learned how to skate.

**Aaron:** I learned how to do bubbles.

**Heather:** I learned backwards bubbles.

**Callum:** I learned how to do bubbles and skate.

**Emma:** I learned how to stop, do bubbles, get back up if I fall and how to skate.

**Murray:** I learned how to skate and do bubbles.

We learned how to skate backwards, how to stop, how to get back up and how to make bubbles.

By Jenna, Nimrit and Callum

We learned how to skate backwards and do bubbles. We learned how to skate on one foot and do an 'S' with both feet together. We learned how to play a game called 'Tall Man and Tiny Man'.

By Emily, Chaya, Sophie and Jamie

We learned how to do the bubble on ice, how to skate slow and skate backwards. We learned to ice skate without the barrier and how to get up when we have fallen down. We learned 'Tall Man Tiny Man'.

By Amy and Katie



## Holidays 2019/20

Please find attached proposed holiday dates for 2019/2020 and keep handy for future reference.



### Diary

Saturday 1 December	PTA Christmas Fayre 10.00 - 12.30 pm
Monday 3 December	Air Quality Workshops Lunchtime Choir Lunchtime Gymnastics Athletics Club 3.00 pm Scripture Union 3.00 pm P7 to Bellahouston Ski Centre 3.00 pm
Tuesday 4 December	P2/3 Multisports Lunchtime Club Knitting Club 3.00 pm
Wednesday 5 December	Football Club 3.00 pm
Thursday 6 December	Room 4 to St. Leonards Library 1.30 pm
Friday 7 December	Room 2 Class Assembly P6 & P7 Christmas Party 1.30 pm
Monday 10 December	Infant Nativity Dress Rehearsal P6 Bubblegum & Fluff at Claremont Church 1.30 pm Choir to sing at Tesco 1.00 pm and Library 1.30 pm P2 & P3 Christmas Party - 1.30 pm Scripture Union Christmas Party 3.00 pm P7 to Bellahouston Ski Centre 3.00 pm
Tuesday 11 December	Nativity Performance - <b>9.30 am for 9.45 am (9.00 am for tea/coffee)</b> SL Gymnastics Regional Heats - John Wright Sports Centre 9.30 am P2/3 Multisports Lunchtime Club
Wednesday 12 December	P1 & P7 Dental Inspections P4 & P5 Christmas Party - 1.30pm
Thursday 13 December	Blacklaw Nativity - <b>9.30 am for 9.45 am (9.00 am for tea/coffee)</b> P1 Christmas Party - 1.30 pm
Friday 14 December	Room 7 Class Assembly Christmas Lunch/Wear a Christmas Jumper
Monday 17 December	Pantomime at Village Theatre - 10.00 am
Wednesday 19 December	Christmas Service in school - <b>10.00 am</b>
Friday 21 December	School closes <b>2.30 pm</b>
Monday 7 January 2019	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



## Proposed Holiday Dates 2019 – 2020

Teachers return	In service	Tuesday 13 August 2019
	In service	Wednesday 14 August 2019
Pupils return		Thursday 15 August 2019
Local Holiday 	School closes	Thursday 26 September 2019 <b>3.00 pm</b>
	Re-open	Tuesday 1 October 2019
October Break 	School closes	Friday 11 October 2019 <b>3.00 pm</b>
	Re-open	Monday 21 October 2019
	In service	Monday 18 November 2019
Christmas/New Year 	School closes	Thursday 19 December 2019 <b>2.30 pm</b>
	Re-open	Monday 6 January 2020
Local Holiday 	School closes	Friday 7 February 2020 <b>3.00 pm</b>
	In service	Wednesday 12 February 2020
	Re-open	Thursday 13 February 2020
Spring Holiday /Easter 	School closes	Friday 3 April 2020 <b>2.30 pm</b>
	Re-open	Monday 20 April 2020
Local Holiday 	School closes	Friday 1 May 2020 <b>3.00 pm</b>
	In service	Tuesday 5 May 2020
	Re-open	Wednesday 6 May 2020
	School closes	Thursday 21 May 2020 <b>3.00 pm</b>
	Re-open	Tuesday 26 May 2020
Summer Break 	School close	Thursday 25 June 2020 <b>1.00 pm</b>