



# Blacklaw Primary Newsletter September 2018



[www.blacklaw-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.blacklaw-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk) tel 01355 232064

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Blacklaw Primary session 2018/19.



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. Please can I remind you of the importance of labelling clothing in particular jackets/blazers/shoes and sweatshirts (cardigans).

### 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.

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



### Improving our School



Our **Standards and Quality Report** outlines our progress in achieving our priorities for last session.

Our **School Improvement Plan** includes details of our plans to continue to raise attainment. Both documents can be viewed on our school website.

### 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.**



### Parent Helpers/Disclosures



We often require parent helpers to support pupils both within and outwith the classroom. A separate letter outlining the support required will be issued shortly.

## Staffing

Mr. Williamson has moved on after 14 years at Blacklaw to explore new teaching opportunities within South Lanarkshire Council. We would like to thank Mr. Williamson for his dedication and commitment to teaching and learning at Blacklaw. We wish him every success for the future.

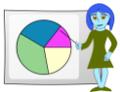
Mrs Wright (Specialist Support Teacher) has now retired. Mrs Janice Nicol will work in school with pupils and staff as part of her role in supporting pupils with additional support needs. We would also like to welcome the following new staff to our school this session:

- Mrs Bignall (Class Teacher)
- Mrs McMurdo (Class Teacher)
- Mrs Rafferty (School Support Assistant)



## Learning and Teaching Session 2018/2019

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 2017-2018 as well as conducting literacy and numeracy assessments. This will allow staff to assign pupils to working groups for literacy and numeracy. Groupings are based on assessment and transition information gathered and will be continually reviewed throughout the school year.

## Christmas Pantomime



On Monday 17 December we will be taking the whole school to the Village Theatre. Pupils will view 'Snow White and the Seven Wee Muppets'. The cost of this event will be £8.00. Please note that the full payment of £8.00 needs to be paid by **Friday 14 September and should be included when the permission slip is returned** (please **DO NOT** send money and permission slips separately). Please telephone the school if you have any concerns/issues regarding this request.

## Tempest Photographer

Tempest, our school photographer, will be in school on **Monday 10 September**. The photographs will be individual/family groups. He will also take class groups of our P1s and P7s. Please ensure your child wears their **school uniform** on this day.



## EV5s/Annual Data Checks



You recently received EV5 and Annual Data Check forms for updating. If you have not already returned these 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 forthcoming events etc.

## Parents in Partnership/Parents Forum

Many thanks to the invaluable support of our Parent Council and PTA. Our PTA 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 Parent Council meeting which takes place on **Wednesday 5 September** or our PTA meeting on **Tuesday 11 September** both at 7.00 pm. Without the support of our parent forums our pupils would not have such an enhanced school experience.

**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. Children should dismount from their bicycles and 'park' them at the cycle rack. Children should not ride their cycles in the school playground.

### Scootering to School

We now have a scooter rack where pupils can leave their scooters, if they scooter to school. Thanks to our Pupil Council and Mrs. Mercer for their hard work organising fundraising so the rack could be purchased and installed.



### Assemblies – General, Reflection and Gold Award Assemblies programme



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

**Whole school, House and Reflection Assemblies commence at 9.30 am on a Friday.**

This session we will also have our Infant Nativity P1-3, Scottish Assembly and Class Assemblies. These events provide opportunities for your child to participate and demonstrate their skills and learning.

### 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 Alasdair Scott will lead our reflection assemblies in Mr Palmer's absence. Mr Scott is the Assistant Minister at Claremont. Mrs Karen Palmer will continue to lead our Scripture Union group, on Mondays after school. This is open to any pupils in Primary 4-7.
- There are four 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 'Stories Jesus told'.
- 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

As an Eco-School we strive to make Blacklaw as 'green' as we can and this includes emailing rather than sending paper copies of correspondence when possible. If you have received a copy of this newsletter on paper and would be happy to receive it by email instead, please contact the school office with your email address and you will be added to our mailing list.



## House Officials 2018/19

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.



## 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'.



## 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 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 in a parent leaflet.

## Dogs in School Grounds

May I remind all dog owners that dogs are **not allowed** in the school grounds. 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](http://www.chc.org/bugbusting) [www.nits.net](http://www.nits.net)

# Responsible Citizens

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

## Room 1

**Alistair** - Golden Time  
**Angel-Leigh** - Writing my name  
**Beth** - Learning and the gym hall  
**Daniel** - I like learning  
**Adam** - Drawing and writing my name  
**Miah** - Playing with my friends  
**Sarah-Jayne** - Getting points  
**Zara** - Drawing and playing with my friends  
**Sophia** - Drawing  
**Olivia J** - Going to gym  
**Jassimar** - Playing with toys at Golden Time  
**Georgie** - Playing with playdoh  
**Mila** - Playing with friends and getting points  
**Archie** - Painting  
**Isla** - Playing with Archie  
**Stephanie** - Painting, drawing and playing outside  
**Holly** - Listening to Mrs. Reid  
**Michael** - Playing with my sister  
**Ronik** - Playing with my brother  
**Ruairidh** - Reading the Tortoise and the Hare  
**Eiva** - Listening to Mrs. Reid  
**Jack** - Listening to Mrs. Reid  
**Olivia Y** - Playing in the Rainbow Room



## My Summer Holiday

During my summer holidays I went to see 'The Incredibles' and this made me feel happy.

**By Max Room 2**

During my summer holiday I went out for dinner. I also went on holiday to Lanzarote. This made me feel happy.

**By Freya Room 2**

I went to Spain and enjoyed watching the Spanish dancers.

**By Anna Room 3**

I played with my friends in Gleneagles.

**By Lochlyn Room 3**

I enjoyed going swimming.

**By Kyle Room 3**

During the summer I went to M & D's with my friend Morgan.

**By Madison Room 4**

During the summer holidays I got my gran a cute kitten.

**By Chloe Room 4**

# Confident Individuals

## Diary

Wednesday 5 September	Gardening Club - 3.00 pm (one off) Parent Council Meeting - 7.00 pm
Friday 7 September	Ardentinny balance to be complete 'House' Assembly Class Newsletters to parents
Monday 10 September	Tempest Photographer - 9.00 am (Individual & Family Photos) Athletics Club starts - 3.00 pm (tbc)
Tuesday 11 September	PTA Meeting - 7.00 pm
Monday 17 September	P7 to Ardentinny
Thursday 20 September	P7 return from Ardentinny
Friday 21 September	<b>School Holiday</b>
Monday 24 September	<b>School Holiday</b>
Friday 28 September	Awards Assembly - 9.30 am Sports Hall Athletics - John Wright's

Yours sincerely

**Noreen Black**  
**Head Teacher**

**All other after school clubs being offered this session will commence in October 2018.**

# Blacklaw Primary School



## Holiday Dates 2018 – 2019



Teachers return	In service	Tuesday 14 August 2018
Pupils return 	In service	Wednesday 15 August 2018
		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 close	Friday 28 June 2019 1.00 pm

**Blacklaw Primary School  
Assemblies Calendar 2018-2019**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title/Theme</b>	<b>Led By</b>
Friday 17/08/18	WELCOME BACK	HT
Friday 24/08/18	REFLECTION (1) 'Who's Listening'	MR PALMER
Friday 31/08/18		
Friday 07/09/18	HOUSE*	HT
Friday 14/09/18		
Friday 28/09/18	AWARDS	HT
Friday 05/10/18		
Friday 12/10/18	HARVEST 'Small Things, Big Impact'	MR PALMER
Friday 26/10/18	3 x 45 MINS WORKSHOPS	FISHY MUSIC
Friday 02/11/18		
Friday 09/11/18	REFLECTION (2) 'It's not all for you'	MR PALMER
Friday 16/11/18		
Friday 23/11/18	AWARDS	HT
Friday 30/11/18	HOUSE*	HT
Friday 07/12/18	R2 CLASS ASSEMBLY	
Friday 14/12/18	R7 CLASS ASSEMBLY	
Wednesday 19/12/18	CHRISTMAS SERVICE 'More than a message'	HT/ MR PALMER
Friday 11/01/19	WHOLE SCHOOL	HT
Friday 18/01/19		
Friday 25/01/19	SCOTTISH ASSEMBLY	PUPILS
Friday 01/02/19	HOUSE*	HT
Friday 08/02/19	R9 CLASS ASSEMBLY	
Friday 15/02/19	AWARDS	HT
Friday 22/02/19	REFLECTION (3) 'Neighbours'	MR PALMER

Friday 01/03/19	R8 CLASS ASSEMBLY	
Friday 08/03/19	R6 CLASS ASSEMBLY	
Friday 15/03/19	R3 CLASS ASSEMBLY	
Friday 22/03/19	AWARDS	HT
Friday 29/03/19	EASTER SERVICE 'Who is the good guy'	MR PALMER
Friday 26/04/19	WHOLE SCHOOL	HT
Friday 03/05/19	R5 CLASS ASSEMBLY	
Friday 10/05/19	AWARDS	HT
Friday 17/05/19	REFLECTION (4) 'A happy thing'	MR PALMER
Friday 31/05/19	R4 CLASS ASSEMBLY	
Friday 07/06/19	HOUSE*	HT
Friday 14/06/19	R5's WELCOME ASSEMBLY	P1-P3
Friday 21/06/19	AWARDS	HT
Wednesday 26/06/19	END OF YEAR/P7 LEAVERS SERVICE 'Fresh start - and not'	HT/ MR PALMER

Further details regarding biblical content of Reflection Assemblies/Religious Observance Services are available on request.