

Parent Carer Council Head Teacher and Pupil Council Report



Wednesday, 2nd April 2025

What we do at pupil council

Robyn, Muir, Clara and Leonard

- At Pupil Council, we chat about improving our school and give everyone a chance to talk about the things that affect them in our school.



Gym-hall



We have been asking to repaint our changing room as their colours are very sexist because the boy changing room is blue and the girl changing room is pink. Mr McCutcheon our janitor is kindly offering to repaint the walls. we have chosen the colour white so it is equal to all genders .

Wonder Woods

The Wonder Woods was a highlight of our playground as it had wooden platforms to play on, but it has recently been removed as it was rotting.

Mrs Cross was a French teacher at Blackhall who loved our school and now has sadly passed away.

Mrs Cross left our school a generous amount of money that we are planning to use to develop some of this area and our Sensory Garden, in memory of her.



School dinners & Packed lunches

The school lunches and packed lunches used to be divided, apart from the odd pack lunches in the school lunch hall, but that got dealt with quickly and now we can all sit together when we please!



Thank you! Any questions for us???



That's all!
Thanks for listening :)



Parent Carer Council Head Teacher Report



Wednesday, 2nd April 2025

Current School Roll

A little bit of movement but Blackhall currently has a roll of 370 pupils.

Average class size is 24.7 pupils.

P1 and P2 remain the only stages that are full. (P3 - only 3 spaces in the year group)

We are dropping a class for next session, 2025-26 and dropping roll (around 350, we hope...).



Staffing

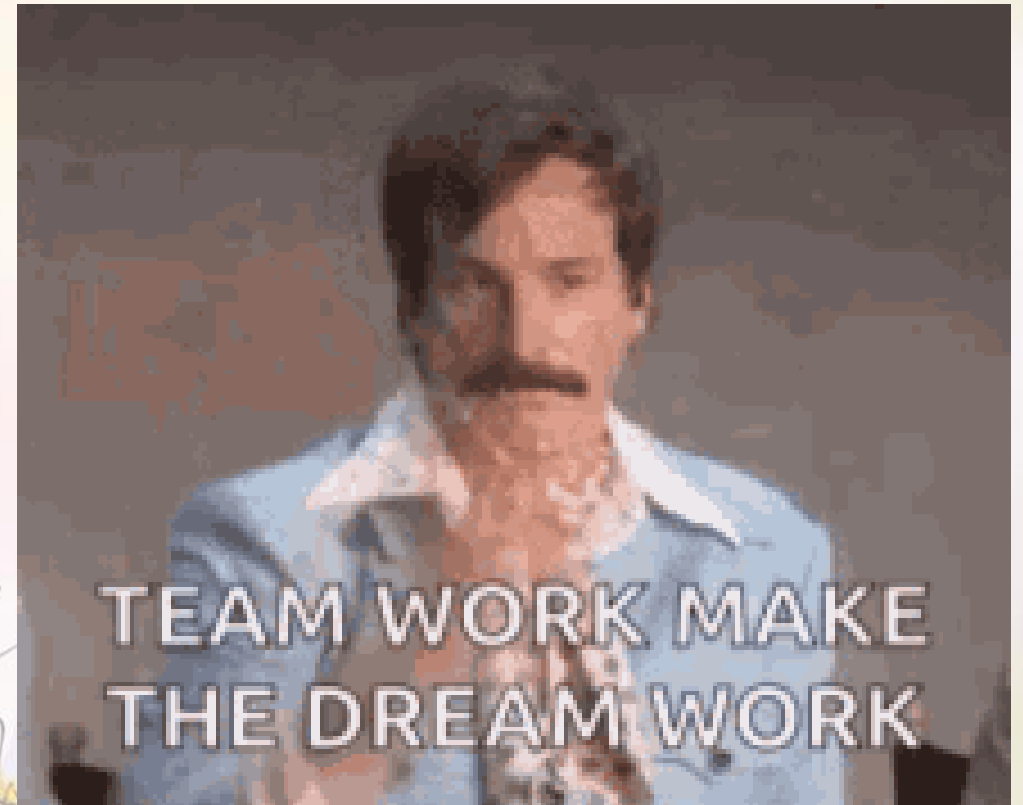
TEAM WORK!



- Eric Jackson, PSA, has temporarily reduced his days to Wednesday, Thursday, Friday.
- Sam Noble, PSA, has temporarily reduced her days and is now with us on Mondays and Tuesdays
- We will not be replacing Anita Ashcroft in the office - as if we could!

Staffing

- Megan McKinney has officially resigned her post with CEC.
- Steven Smith, Business Manager, has also resigned his post. He is reducing his hours and his last day with us will be Friday, May 2nd.
- Tim Glasby has been matched with Blackhall as a permanent member of staff
- Kirsty Trail has extended her career break for another year. She is due to return to Blackhall in August 2027.



Staffing



- Stef Jeffs is taking a 2-year career break and will be returning to us in August, 2027
- Mrs Paterson is not returning to work just yet. This absence is covered by NQT. Mrs Paterson is hoping to be back in August. She is opting to reduce her hours for at least a year.
- Mrs Noonan will be returning, after her Maternity Leave, in January 2026.

Staffing

- We are being allocated another 2 NQTs for next session.
- Other vacancies are likely to be filled centrally. CEC has a pool of teachers needing to be placed.
- Edinburgh is down by 100 classes across the whole estate, coming into next session.



Money and stuff...



- Finance Committee met last Friday – thank you to Sine Munro for representing Parents and Carers.
- Amazing, generous gift to school – pretty much allocated, with remainder going towards next phase of playground development.

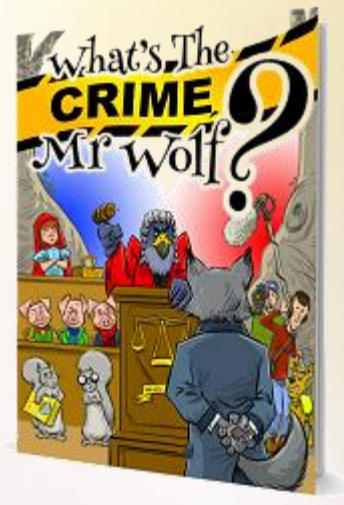
Money and stuff...



- Staffing is our greatest cost. We have had some absence in both teaching and support staff.
- We are currently estimating an overspend of £3k, going into next session. Can easily account for/explain/defend this.
- Our roll needs to stay above 350 pupils and is projected at around this for next session.
- If it drops, we are cut by a further £24k (approx.)

Recently

- P7 Show!
Amazing success!
- World Book Day 2025
Thursday, 6th March
- ASN Coffee Morning returned - Focus was
Numeracy/Maths Support and Dyscalculia – well attended
and well-received.
- World Down Syndrome Day – Great fun, great singing,
great dancing, great socks, great opportunity to highlight
diversity!
- Thursday evening and Friday afternoon for Parent Carer
Consultations - Teachers found it preferable, overall. How
did parents/carers find it?



Recently– Online Safety Information Session for Parents and Carers

Help your kids stay safe online.
Work as a **TEAM**



Talk



Explore



Agree



Manage

- Very well-attended session on 10th March.
- Main message – keep ourselves informed to keep our children safe.

Recently– Online Safety Information Session for Parents and Carers

- Some concerns over Mobile Phone policy and use.
- As discussed in Online Safety Session, we need parents/carers support with this.
- We continue to ask for no mobile phones in school or playground and continue to teach our children about staying safe online.



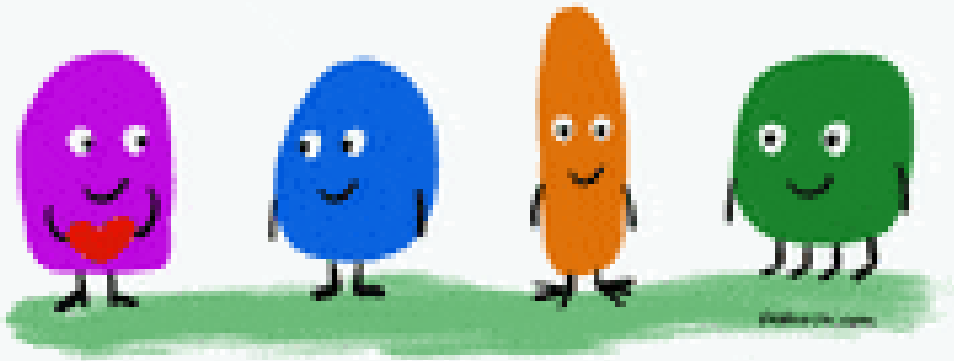
Sports and Activities

- Lots of sporting events.
 - Netball; Running; Swimming; Athletics – well done to all competitors!
- Thank you so much to our Parents and Carers who made it all possible.



Coming up - TOMORROW!

End of Term Assembly



- We are heading along to Blackhall St Columba's Church for our Spring Assembly.
- Our P7s are leading the way with stories and songs.
- P7 Parents and Carers (and parent/carer helpers) are welcome!

COMING UP VERY SOON!

Parent/Carer Open Afternoon

Thursday, 24th April



- Our First Week Back, we are inviting parents and carers to come in and share the learning in your child's class.
- We are going with the Afternoon this time: anytime between 1:45-2:45pm.
- Please come in, mingle, and share in the learning!

COMING UP VERY SOON!

Trialling a new P3 lunchtime

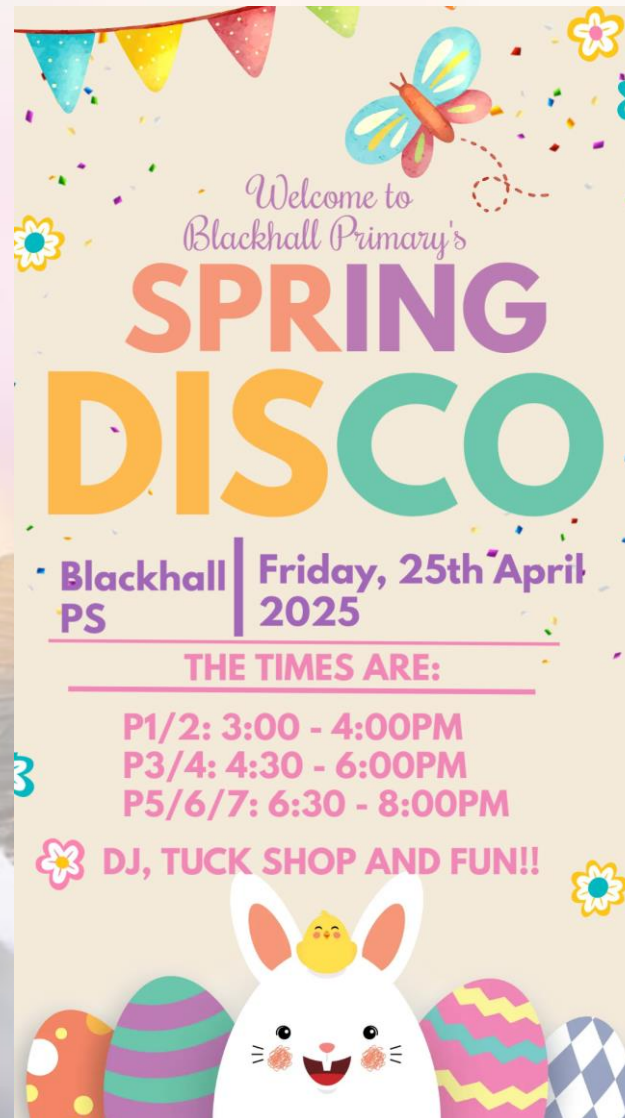
- After the Spring Holiday, we are going to make a slight move to the P3 afternoon schedule.
- The afternoons were feeling quite long for our P3s so we are going to try moving lunchtime from:

12:20-1:05pm to 12:30-1:15pm





COMING UP VERY SOON!
Spring Discos!



Coming Up...



- **ASN Coffee Morning on Friday, 9th May – Menu Taster session for new P1s and their Parents/Carers and anyone else who is interested in knowing what “Bubble Fish” tastes like!**
- **Royal Highland Show for P2-6 on Thursday, 19th June (Parent/Carer helpers very welcome!)**
- **Camp very early in next school session – August 25th-29th**

Coming Up...



ROYAL
HIGHLAND
SHOW 2025
19 - 22 JUNE

PARTNER SINCE 1981

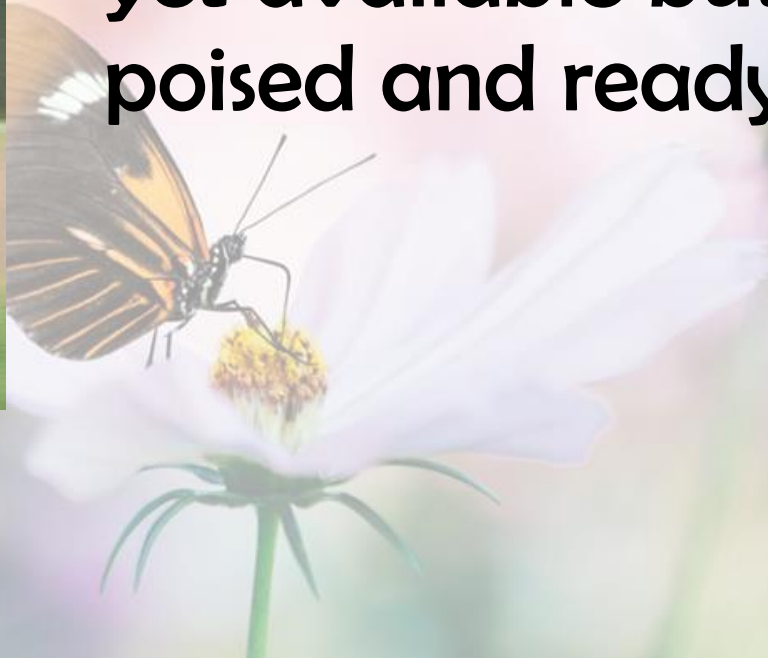


Royal Bank
of Scotland

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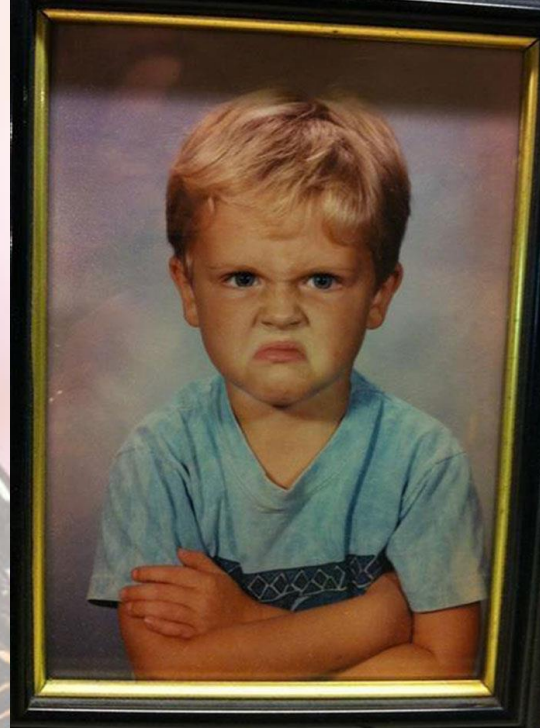
Coming up

- **Royal Highland Show – Parent/Carer Helpers welcomed! (Workshops not yet available but we are poised and ready to book!)**



Photographers - Change

- We are changing from Tempest to Clear Photography for our Class Photos.
- Photographs are booked for 12th May.
- This is the same day as Interscholastics – trying to make that work.
- (Whole Year Group Photo and requesting that photographer starts earlier than 9:30am)



Parking

- Mrs Hazel-Dunn and Mrs Martin trying to be outside at beginning and end of school day.
- New signs on school fence as reminder/deterrent.
- CEC being chased to move forward on traffic calming measures for Craigcrook Park.
- Police presence/Parking Wardens at times.



Thank you for listening!

