

Blackhall Primary School



Head Teacher: Kirsty Martin

(Tel) 0131 336 1023 / admin@blackhall.edin.sch.uk

83 Craigcrook Road
Edinburgh

Friday, 12th September, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I always love the start of a new school year and our DrEAM Assembly is a great way to round off this first few weeks, with all our creativity on display!! For those of you who managed along today, I hope you found joy in the art, dancing and music that has formed the foundation of our learning since August.



Nothing like a song about, "The Little Skull," and a Samba or two to put you in the mood for a long weekend...

And we made it ahead of the rain – just! 😊

Lagganlia

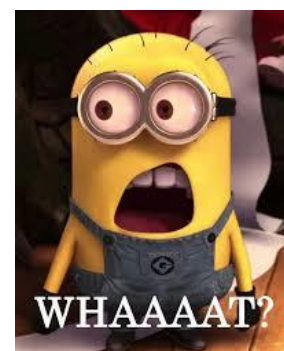
Of course, we can't do things by halves here so we had our P7 Lagganlia Assembly, immediately preceding our DrEAM Event! We had a great turn-out from our P7 Parents and Carers and learned all about Extreme Gorge Walking (!) and skiing in August. (And just how much sugar can be added to a traybake before it requires a government health warning!!)



Lots of creative retelling and re-imagining of the highlights from the Cairngorms.

Given we were there in the second full week of the new term, this was the earliest any of us had ever been to camp.

...Until we were given notice this week that next year's P7s have been allocated week beginning the 17th August – the first full week of term!! P6s, we will be in touch. Very soon!



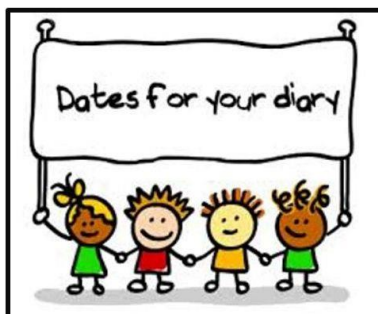
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Calendar

The table below has an outline for events happening throughout our school year. Please make a note of those relevant to you and your family. Any additions or changes will be made and shared with you as soon as possible.

SEPTEMBER	
Monday, 15th	SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY – School Closed
Wednesday, 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flu Vaccines in school JRSO Group attend City Chambers Event with Mr Jackson and Mrs Hazel-Dunn
Friday, 19th	Royal High School Open Afternoon for Parents/Carers
Friday, 26th	ASN Coffee Morning. Meet the Inclusion Support Team and hear how they are working in RHS Learning Community to support our pupils.
Sunday, 28th September	Parents Booking system open for Parent Consultation appointments
OCTOBER	
Thursday, 2nd	Parent/Carer Consultation 4-7pm
Friday, 3rd	Parent Consultation 1-4pm
Saturday, 4th	PSA Autumn Fair -
Tuesday, 7th	P7 ASN Coffee Morning in School with Laura Paterson (RHS Transition Teacher)
Friday, 10th	Autumn House Event in School – house colours encouraged
Monday, 13th – Friday, 17th	OCTOBER HOLIDAY

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Monday, 20th	School closed to pupils. INSET Day for Staff.
Tuesday, 21st October	All Pupils Return
Saturday, 25th October	Community Gardening Day! Come along and join the horticultural hi-jinks! 10am-1pm
Week Beg 27th	Termly Newsletter Home
Monday, 27th	Sports Hall Athletics Meadowbank Stadium P6 Event (30 pupils)
Tuesday, 28th	SWIMMING SESSIONS BEGIN for P5F (9 Sessions)
NOVEMBER	
Wednesday, 5th	New P1 Parents Open Day: 9:15am-10:15am and 1:15pm-2:15pm
Thursday, 6th and Friday, 7th	School Photos – Family and Individual
Friday, 7th November (TBC)	PSA Hallowe'en Discos: P1+2 – 3-4:30pm P3, 4, 5 – 5-6:30pm P6+7 – 7-8:30pm
Wednesday, 12th	P7s to the Risk Factory
DECEMBER	
Monday, 1st	House Event – Winter Banners Parent/Carers welcome to come along to help!
Friday, 5th	9:30am – P1 Nativity
Monday, 8th December	P7 Girls' Netball Competition at Meadowbank
Friday, 12th	9-10:15am Winter Wonderland Walkabout and Open Morning – all parents and carers welcome

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Monday, 15th	Whole School to Blackhall St Columba's Parish Church for Assembly (P6 Parents/Carers welcome to join us) P7 Girls' Netball Competition at The Oriam (tbc)
Tuesday, 16th	WHOLE SCHOOL TO PANTO, ALHAMBRA THEATRE (Snow White)
Friday, 19th	P7 to Interactive Nativity Trail at St Columba's END OF TERM
JANUARY	
Monday, 5th January	INSET Day for Staff – School Closed to Pupils
Tuesday, 6th	New Term Starts
Week beg 12th	Termly Newsletter home
Monday, 26th	P6 Girls' Netball Competition at Meadowbank
FEBRUARY	
Monday, 2nd	P6/P7 Wardie Cross Country Race
Monday, 9th	P6/P7 Saughton Cross Country Race
Thursday, 12th	P7 School Show at RHS, 7pm.
Monday, 16th – Friday, 20th	FEBRUARY BREAK
MARCH	
Monday, 16th	P6/P7 Mixed Netball Tournament New Meadowbank
Thursday, 26th	Swimming Gala at the Commonwealth Pool Parent Consultation, 4-7pm
Friday, 27th	Parent Consultation, 1-4pm

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APRIL	
Thursday, 2nd April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School to Blackhall St Columba's Parish Church for Spring Assembly (TBC) End of Term
Tuesday, 21st	All return to school
Thursday, 23rd April	Open Afternoon for Parents and Carers – Come in and see the learning!
Week beg 27th	Termly Newsletters home
Monday, 27th	Inverleith Cross Country Race
MAY	
Monday, 4th	MAY DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday, 5th	No Pupils – Staff INSET
Thursday, 7th (TBC)	Edinburgh Evening News to take P7 class photos
Monday, 18th	VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday, 19th	Walk to School Week – Sponsored active week at BPS (TBC)
Wednesday, 20th	New P1 Parents and Carers Induction Evening
Friday, 22nd	Sports Day
Friday, 29th	Sports Day – alternative day
Friday, 29th	P5, 6, 7 Reports home by this date
JUNE	
Monday, 1st	P7 Girls' Netball Competition
Friday, 5th	P2, P3, P4 Reports home by this date
Thursday, 11th - tbc	Parent Carer Council and Parent Staff Association AGM 7-8:30pm
Friday, 12th	"STeAM Ahead in Sports" Event for

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	Parents and Carers
Monday, 15th	P6 Girls' Netball Competition
Tuesday, 16th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P7s to transition day at RHS• New P1 Meet the Teacher Event for new Parents/Carers and children
Wednesday, 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P7s to transition day at RHS• New P1 Meet the Teacher Event for new Parents/Carers and children - tbc• New House Captains Hustings
Thursday, 18th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P7s to transition day at RHS
Friday, 19th	P1 Reports – Home by this date
Monday, 22nd	'Blackhall's Got Talent'
Wednesday, 25th	END OF TERM OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY
Friday, 26th June	LAST DAY OF TERM

We have started to post some of the sporting events planned for 2025-26 and Mr Gardner will keep you updated throughout the year.

Please note these upcoming key dates:

- **Wednesday, 17th September, 7:30pm** – Parent Staff Association (PSA) Meeting in school staff room. All welcome!
- **Friday, 19th September** – Royal High School open afternoon for all P7 parents and carers.



it's owl about teamwork

Parent Carer Council Meeting

We had a very interesting meeting on Wednesday evening and thank you to those who turned up to listen and be

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heard. We may not have got the answer we would have liked (or a big, fat cheque to go with it!) but it was positive to have views shared and to know that senior members of City of Edinburgh Council are aware of how much our Blackhall community is invested in improving the playing area for our children.

Lesley Wood, our new Business Manager, came along and it was great to introduce her to our Parent and Carer Body and welcome her input.

We were also joined by 3 of our P7s - Jessica, Faith and Tiara. They represented our school beautifully, of course, and provided a Blackhall Welcome to all who attended.

Parent Staff Association – Wednesday, 17th September at 7:30pm

Our PSA is such an active and vital part of our Blackhall Community and, with the Autumn Fair only 3 weeks away, why not come along and hear the plans to raise money in a fun way for our school and children.

There are 2 vacancies to be filled: Vice-Chair and Secretary. Many hands make light work and if either of these roles appeals to you, please come along and get involved! Thanks!



Flu Vaccines – Wednesday, 17th September

We have Flu Vaccinations next week for the whole school. This is run by the NHS School Nursing Team in our big hall.

Wednesday, 17th Sept - JRSO Group to City Chambers

Mr Jackson and Mrs Hazel Dunn are taking our JRSO (Junior Road Safety Officers) group to the City Chambers to participate in the annual launch to promote road safety. I am sure we will be reliant on this group to lead the charge in reminding our community to be safe on and around our roads.



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Staffing

Unfortunately, Aimee McIntyre (formerly, Ms Gerrard) is still absent and we are wishing her a full recovery. I am very grateful to Joanna Nisbet for stepping in to hold on to the reins until Aimee returns to us, fit and well. Thank you all for your patience and understanding while we continue to keep the office running.

Scouts

The front of our school is looking decidedly neater, cleaner and brighter of late and this is due to the dedication and commitment of some parent helpers and other volunteers.

Last weekend, our local Scout Troup also came along and cleaned the windows! To have our windows cleaned would cost thousands of pounds so I am very grateful to have our lovely Scout pupils (past and present) come in and do it for us. What a difference it has made! Thank you!!



Community Gardening Day, Saturday, 25th October 10am-1pm



To capitalise on the great work already started by our P2 Parent Helpers, Scouts and others, we are proposing some additional Gardening Days in school. If you have

some free time on **Saturday, 25th October**, why not pop in any time between 10am and 1pm and help us to tidy our landscape? Even if you don't know anything about gardening, you will be directed, instructed and given a job to do. You don't even need tools – we have those too! There will be refreshments on hand to keep the workers going.

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ASN Coffee Morning – Friday, 26th September

Our first ASN Coffee Morning of the session is scheduled for the morning of Friday, 26th September. This is an opportunity to hear about the Royal High School Learning Community Inclusion Support Team (IST) and how this team is helping to support our children.

Come along, have a refreshment and an opportunity to hear from Rob Hammersley, a member of the IST. Whether or not your child has an identified or diagnosed Additional Support Need, please come along and take part in the discussion.



Clubs at School

Clubs are starting to get up and running in the coming weeks. I am grateful to have staff and adults who are willing to give up their own time to run these for

our children.

Monday lunchtimes – Mr Gardner's chess club

Wednesday lunchtimes – Running Club is starting again with Ms Rae and Ms Fey leading the charge!

Thursday after school – We have Netball Club starting. We have a few Netball tournaments and events over this calendar year and Ms Rae and Ms Fey are once again, leading on this training. Depending on number of interested parties, we may need to conduct trials but, for just now, all are welcome.

More information will be coming soon.

Lost Property!

Thank you again to the parents and carers who are coming along to sort out the property and clothes that are being left by our children almost daily. If your child comes home with fewer clothes or water bottles or snack packs or



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shoes (!) than in the morning, please come into school and check our Lost Property bins.



We also have rails of pre-loved, branded uniform pieces that you are very welcome to peruse and take.

Thank you!

Have a lovely long weekend, Blackhall. See you on Tuesday!
Kirsty

