

Blackhall Primary School



Head Teacher: Kirsty Martin

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

83 Craigcrook Road
Edinburgh

Friday, 15th August, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers of Blackhall,



Welcome, welcome, welcome!

Welcome to all our families, old and new, and to our new cohort of P1s who were in for their first full and proper day today. We have had fewer raw emotions on display this year. Obviously, parents and carers can't help themselves, but the children have really held it together!



We are also welcoming a record number of new families to our Blackhall Community across several stages. It is a wonderful reminder of how warm and inclusive our children are when new faces join the fold. They go out of their way to make everyone feel welcome and this is a beautiful thing – not to mention an indispensable life skill.

The start of a school year has a real quality all its own. In a Primary School, we see your children every day and it is always quite special to see them again, after a few weeks away – we really notice how much they have grown and changed. Once we get into adulthood, the changes are rarely so exciting...



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.

AUGUST	
Wednesday, 13 th	ALL RETURN TO SCHOOL Lagganlia Info Meeting for Parents and Carers (Teams) 4:30pm-5:pm

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Tuesday, 19th	P5 Swimming sessions start – P5C (9 sessions)
Week Beg Monday, 18th	Termly Newsletter home
Monday, 25th – Friday, 29th	P7 to Lagganlia camp!
SEPTEMBER	
Tuesday, 2nd September	4-5pm – Meet the Teacher for P7
Wednesday, 3rd	4-5pm – Meet the Teacher for P1-6
Friday, 5th	ASN Coffee Morning in Staff Room
Wednesday, 10th tbc	Parent Carer Council Meeting at 7pm in Blackhall Staff Room – all parents and carers welcome!
Friday, 12th September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11am – P7 Parents and Carers invited to the Lagganlia Assembly in the big hall “DREAM About Festivals” - All Parents and Carers invited to see the learning, 11:30am in the playground.
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
Sunday, 28th September	Parents Booking system open for Parent Consultation appointments
OCTOBER	
	P7 ASN Coffee Morning in School with Laura Paterson (RHS Transition Teacher)
Thursday, 2nd	Parent/Carer Consultation 4-7pm

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Friday, 3rd	Parent Consultation 1-4pm
Saturday, 4th	PSA Autumn Fair - tbc
Tuesday, 7th (TBC)	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
Monday, 20th	School closed to pupils. INSET Day for Staff.
Tuesday, 22nd	All Pupils Return
Week Beg 27th	Termly Newsletter Home
Tuesday, 28th	SWIMMING SESSIONS BEGIN – P5F (9 Sessions)
NOVEMBER	
Wednesday, 5th (TBC)	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 tbc
Friday, 12th	9-10:30am 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)
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	
Tuesday, 6th	New Term Starts
Week beg 12th	Termly Newsletter home
FEBRUARY	
Thursday, 12th	P7 School Show at RHS, 7pm.
Monday, 16th – Friday, 20th	FEBRUARY BREAK
MARCH	
Thursday, 26th	Parent Consultation, 4-7pm
Friday, 27th	Parent Consultation, 1-4pm
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

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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	
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 Parents and Carers
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 • P2-6 pupils to Royal Highland Show!

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Friday, 19th	P1 Reports – Home by this date
Monday, 22nd	'Blackhall's Got Talent'
Wednesday, 24th	END OF TERM OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY
Friday, 26th June	LAST DAY OF TERM

As with last year, you will notice there are not yet any sporting events added to our calendar. We are waiting for EPSSA to release their schedule and then we will be signed up! Our Spring and Summer terms tend to be where the majority of sporting events appear and we will keep you posted.

Please note these upcoming key dates:

- **Tuesday, 19th August** - P5C pupils will be first to the 9 week swimming block. Any parents or carers who are available to help with any of these visits to the pool, please contact the school.
- **Tuesday, 2nd September, 4-5pm** – P7 only for Meet the Teacher
- **Wednesday, 3rd September, 4-5pm** – P1-6 Meet the Teacher Event. All Parents and Carers welcome into school to meet your child's new teacher. We are trialling a slightly earlier time and will be asking for your feedback on that evening.
- **Wednesday, 10th September, 7pm** – Parent Carer Council Meeting in school staff room. All welcome!
- **Friday, 12th September** – Whole School DREAM Assembly in our playground at 11:30am to share our Drama, Expressive Arts and Music learning. Our theme this year is: "DREAM About Festivals!"



Staffing

We are starting our school year with fewer new faces than we have had in the past with only 2 new teachers, 1 new Business Manager and 0 new PSAs!

Welcome to Ellie Rae, who is leading P2R and to Natalie Fey who is leading P5F. We are also very pleased to have Lesley Wood join the team as our Business Manager. All three new colleagues are

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very happy to be with us and have had nothing but great things to say about the team of staff and pupils we have here. Mais, bien sur!



Amazing Community

Many of you will have noticed the changes at the front of our school. Sarah Mitchell, our outdoor learning teacher, and a group of Adobe Volunteers and parents spent some time over the summer holidays to tidy up the entrance to our school. Kate Chandler has been instrumental in gathering the resources and people. Clare Mackersie and Sheryl Weurman have also been front and centre in helping spruce up our 'kerb appeal' with grants, tools, paint and painters! There is chat of 'regular and often' tidying and we are currently trying to work out ways to get power washers to work as well.



We are supposed to make hay while the sun shines and weed, sweep, clean and paint too, it would seem!

Thank you so much!

Uniform

Now that we have started a new school year, this seems like a good time to redress our dress code! Most of our children come to school dressed in colours and items that are clearly identifiable within Blackhall uniform – particularly at the start of a new year.

Our uniform is fairly straightforward and comprises a combination of:



- Navy Blue/Grey/Black bottoms (trousers/skirts/leggings/shorts);
- Royal Blue or Jade Green Jumpers/Sweatshirts (Branded with school logo or not);
- White or Jade Green polo shirts (branded with school logo or not);
- White shirt and Blackhall School tie;
- The checked blue or green dresses

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- Suitable shoes (please avoid white or coloured trainers, if possible).

Our children are part of a team and a thriving community at Blackhall. Uniform helps to reinforce that sense of school spirit and shared identity. When our children reach P7, they get to wear a special, chosen colour of hoodie (with Blackhall logo) that identifies them easily as our senior pupils.- This year, they have opted for a pale blue... (presumably, without consulting the doer of laundry in their households) and they look great!

We have a substantial amount of pre-loved uniform items and we will have racks available at regular intervals throughout the school year. These items are free but if you wish to make a small donation, that would be fine.

Why not keep the multi-colours, expensive and big brands and super-duper trainers for the weekend?

Indoor Shoes

If your child is in P1-3, it would be greatly appreciated if they could bring some suitable indoor shoes to protect our carpets and floors from the playground that can be brought in following break times. Our children in these stages spend time learning and playing on the floor and we want to keep it as clean for them as possible.

Thank you!



P4-7, we will continue to encourage and teach about wiping feet properly!

Thank you!



Lunches

As you may know, our lunch choices have been limited by the lack of a working hotplate in our serving kitchen.

Thankfully, the warm weather has meant that salad options have worked well until the problem is resolved – which we hope is soon.

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Thank you for your patience and understanding while the catering team works to bring us back up to par.



Football News!

Heart of Midlothian Women v Hibernian Women at Tynecastle on Sunday, 7th September, 1:10pm



Mr Gardner has been contacted by Heart of Midlothian FC and they are very generously providing tickets for this match at no cost. Please contact the school if you would like some tickets for you and your family and friends.



Lagganlia

Our P7s are heading off to camp a week on Monday. For the first time since I have been at Blackhall, we have 100% of our children coming along for the unforgettable fun and frolics of this special trip. The staff and I could not be more delighted that no child is left behind this year.

Can't wait!



Captains' Log!

I met with our House Captains today and we have agreed that they will contribute to our Newsletters each fortnight with their own unique insights into school life and their roles in it. It was decided to name this 'segment', "Captains' Log!"

Once again, we have House Captains who are enthusiastic, positive and full of ideas for the year ahead. I can't wait to see what directions they will move our school in their final year with us.

"Hi, we are Blackhall House Captains for 2025-26. In our Captains' Log, we are going to be telling you what has been going on for us and other pupils at Blackhall. We will have a riddle or a joke (Holly has loads of riddles!) for you as well."

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Some of us would like a school pet but Mrs Martin does not seem keen on having a Blackhall Tiger... or on borrowing Haggis the Hippo from Edinburgh Zoo.

We have plans for 'Crazy Hair Day', more sports things, a graffiti wall and a few other ideas.

We are going to be the best House Captains and be a good influence on the younger generation of kids in our school."



Edie, Holly, Jessica, Faith, Sam, Rory, Fraser and Henry

Have a lovely weekend and we will be back on Monday for the first full week of our new school year.

Kirsty

