

Blackhall Primary School



Head Teacher: Kirsty Martin
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83 Craigcrook Road
Edinburgh



Friday, 26th September, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

The weeks are getting busier (yay!) and the mornings are getting darker (boo!).



I hate to start on such a negative but, sadly, the bad, selfish and inconsiderate parking has made a return. I received an email from a Blackhall resident, describing some dreadful behaviours from parents and carers in our school. The non-sensical and illegal parking meant that 3 of our children were almost hit by a car because visibility was blocked. This is why the double yellow lines exist. They are legislative, not decorative and exist to keep pedestrians and road users safe.

As if this is not bad enough – and it is! – I was also told that one of the offending drivers was blatantly rude and confrontational when asked to move from blocking a resident's driveway.

How can we expect our children to be civilised, fair and considerate if adults are showing such disrespect and disregard for the law and the safety of others?

Park a little further away and walk. Don't be the reason one of our children is hurt.

As ever, thank you to those of you who continue to place our children's safety above your own convenience.

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Arthur and Harrison's Gardening Club! (So much nicer!)

Arthur and Harrison in P4 have started a gardening club, with the help of Ms Mitchell. They are going to be growing all sorts of vegetables and plants and have enlisted the help of staff and other children in their endeavours.

I have been lucky enough to sample one of Arthur's courgettes from home and can vouch for his green thumb!

It is a special thing when our children develop an interest that we can nurture at Blackhall. Amazing!

Can't wait to see what goodies are grown.

Coffee, Chat and Collaborate (formerly, "ASN Coffee Morning")

Our first gathering was this morning and it was lovely to welcome some of you in for the first of the session.



It was a great turnout and gave us an opportunity to hear about the Inclusion Support Team (IST) that we share with our Royal High School Learning Community and how this team is helping to support our children. We heard from Rob Hammersley and WaiMun, from the IST. Whether or not your child has an identified or diagnosed Additional Support Need, it was a useful session to share all the ways that we work together to support the children in our school. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 7th October and is looking at the ways in which we support our children in their transition from Primary to Royal High School. We will be joined by Laura Paterson, RHS Transition Teacher. This session may be of most interest to those parents and carers in P7 and P6 but all are welcome.

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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	
Wednesday, 24th September	Parents Booking system open for Parent Consultation appointments
Friday, 26th	ASN Coffee Morning. Meet the Inclusion Support Team and hear how they are working in RHS Learning Community to support our pupils.
OCTOBER	
Wednesday, 1st October	P3MP Parent Carer Consultations
Thursday, 2nd	Parent/Carer Consultation 4-7pm
Friday, 3rd	Parent Consultation 1-4pm (not P3MP)
Saturday, 4th	PSA Autumn Fair – 11:30-1pm
Tuesday, 7th	Coffee, Chat and Collaborate (Formerly, ASN Coffee Morning) in School with Laura Paterson (RHS Transition Teacher) P7 and P6 Focus
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, 21st October	All Pupils Return
Saturday, 25th October	Community Gardening Day! Come

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	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
Friday, 14th	9-10am - "Coffee, Chat and Collaborate": Zones of Regulation, Explained and Explored! - Led by Rob Hammersley, Inclusion Support Team.
DECEMBER	
Monday, 1st	House Event – Winter Banners Parent/Carers welcome to come along to help!
Friday, 5th	9-10am - "Coffee, Chat and Collaborate": Coping with Christmas!

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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 9:30am – P1 Nativity
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
Friday, 16th	9-10am - "Coffee, Chat and Collaborate": Sharing experiences of accessing supports and services for children with Additional Support Needs - led by parents and carers
Monday, 26th	P6 Girls' Netball Competition at Meadowbank
FEBRUARY	
Monday, 2nd	P6/P7 Wardie Cross Country Race

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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
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

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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 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.

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Please note these upcoming key dates:

- **Wednesday, 1st October, 4-7pm** – Parent Carer Consultation for P3MP (instead of Friday's timeslot)
- **Thursday, 2nd October, 4-7pm** – Parent Carer Consultation for all classes
- **Friday, 3rd October, 1-4pm** - Parent Carer Consultation for all classes except P3MP
- **SATURDAY, 4TH OCTOBER, 11am – 1:30pm – Come along and join the fun!**
- **Tuesday, 7th October, 9-10am – Coffee, Chat and Collaborate (Formerly, "ASN Coffee Morning") to share details of transition to high school.**



Staffing

Unfortunately, Aimee McIntyre (nee, Ms Gerrard) is still absent from our school office. I continue to be very grateful to Joanna Nisbet for stepping in to hold on to the reins until Aimee returns to us, fit and well. The knock-on effect of this cover, however, means our PSA team is depleted. I have been able to book some supply PSA staff to make sure our children are given the necessary support to manage the demands of our busy school. Thank you all for your patience and understanding as we continue to work through these staff shortages.

Parent/Carer Consultations

Thank you to Mrs Nisbet for opening Parent Booking System for appointments to be made.

Apologies for any glitches encountered and

thank you for your patience and understanding while we navigate the many hurdles that are inevitable with a complex system. If there are significant issues with your appointment schedules, please let us know and we will do our very best to sort them out.

Some pointers for our Parent/Carer Evenings (especially if this is your first one!):

- Our Parent/Carer Consultations take place in our big hall



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- The classrooms are free for you to take your time looking through your own child's learning, both in jotters and on walls. You may wish to peruse the learning before or after your consultation time with your child's teacher.
- If an interpreter would make your consultation easier, please contact the school as soon as possible so that we can arrange this for you.
- Please be respectful of the time allotted. There may be other parents/carers waiting and if there is more than one teacher to see, this can have a significant impact on other timetables.
- If you require longer than your allotted time (without an interpreter, this would be 10 minutes), please arrange another time with the teacher or come and speak to Mrs Hazel-Dunn or me. We are on hand!
- These meetings are not intended for new information to be shared. This is an opportunity to hear how your child is progressing and settling in to a new stage, teacher, friendships. If there is a significant concern, your child's teacher will have shared this prior to the Parent/Carer Consultation.

Blackhall PSA (Parent Staff Association) Meeting

Thank you to those who came along to join the discussion and planning for our school community.

Blackhall PSA is still looking for a Vice-Chair and a Secretary. No previous experience necessary – you will be welcomed and there are lots of people here who can guide and support.



it's owl about teamwork



AUTUMN FAIR 2025 – Saturday, 4th October

Autumn Fair was a hot topic and we are getting ready for another successful fund-raising Saturday. Info from Blackhall PSA has already been sent out but here are more details:

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's almost time for our Autumn Fair – it's happening in the school and playground on Saturday, 4th October from 11am to 1:30pm. Expect a fun mix of stalls to browse and buy from — but first, we need your help to stock them!

From Monday, a donation point will be set up at the front of the school outside the office. If you're having a weekend tidy-up, we'd be incredibly grateful for any of the following contributions:

- Decorated goodie jars – Let your child get creative by decorating a jam jar and filling it with wrapped sweets or small toys*
- Raffle and tombola prizes – Suitable for both adults and children*
- Pre-loved toys, games, and puzzles – in good condition****
- Books – Fiction and non-fiction for primary-aged children; fiction only for adults and teens – in good condition****
- Seasonal clothing – Halloween costumes and Christmas jumpers – in good condition****
- Home baking – Clearly labelled with allergens, to be dropped off on Friday 3rd afternoon or Saturday 4th from 10am*

****Please only donate items you'd be happy to welcome into your own home. If they're a little too well-loved, they might not be suitable for the fair. Thank you for your thoughtfulness!*

✿ On the day, you'll also be able to enjoy hot drinks, face painting, glitter tattoos, colourful hairspray, beat the goalie and the ever-popular Soak the teacher — don't forget to bring your own water pistols for maximum splash!

We can't wait to see you there!

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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 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. These will be available during our Parent/Carer Consultation Evenings and Afternoon.



Thank you!



Captains' Log!

Here is our House Captains update on how things are going at Blackhall.

This week, we did most of our work in our Folio Jotters. These jotters are passed on through the years as a record of what we have done in each year of Primary school. It was interesting for us to look back and see our learning at different stages.

Our wonderful Events Coordinators are looking forward to planning and leading the House Event with us on Friday, 10th October (the last day before our October holiday). At the House Event, we will be doing arts, crafts and learning a new song (with actions!). Remember to wear house colours on the day – we will have to see if Holly will be wearing her banana costume!

Down in P1, all the P7s are really enjoying bonding with their buddies. We've had so much fun playing families and digging holes with plastic fish!

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That's all from the House Captains for now. We'll have more updates in the next Newsletter. See you next time!



Pupil Council 25-26

I also had the pleasure of meeting our brilliant new Pupil Council team this week. They are primed and ready to bring me all the requests and reports from their classes on how we can work together to improve our school. It is sure to be an interesting year with another involved bunch!

Final Word

Lunch duty has its perks. Apart from spending time with our children while they eat, chat and work that cutlery, I also get to hear some brilliant riddles and jokes. This week, the best joke is courtesy of Simran, P7:

***"What did the Sushi say to the Bee?
Wa-sa-bi??!"***



(If you are not sharing that joke at the weekend, you may want to check your sense of humour chip is still working!!)

Have a lovely weekend, Blackhall!

Kirsty

