

Parent Carer Council Head Teacher's Report

Wednesday, 10th September



School Session so far...



- Meet the Teacher – New Time (Thoughts?)
- P5 Swimming
- DREAM About Festivals (on Friday)
- Attainment Meetings for whole school
- P7 Lagganlia Camp has been already!
- AI (Aesthetic Improvement) for our school grounds!

And coming up...



- Autumn Fair – 4th October
- Parent and Carer Consultations – 2nd and 3rd October (Thursday and Friday)
- Open Day for new P1 Parents and Carers – Wed, 5th Nov

And coming up...



- Maths Week from 8th Dec
- P1 Nativity – 12th Dec
- Open Morning and Winter Walkabout – 12th Dec
- End of Term Church Service (P6 Parents and Carers Welcome) – 15th Dec
- Whole School to the Pantomime! (16th Dec)
- P7 Nativity Trail (Escape Room!) – 19th Dec

Staffing

- Lesley Wood has joined us as our Business Manager;
- We have 2 NQTs this year – Ellie Rae, P2; Natalie Fey, P5
- Aimee McIntyre (Gerrard) is absent at the moment. We have Joanna Nisbet in the office, helping out.
- We have some additional absence in our support team that is being covered by our current staff and some supply.
- Terry McCutcheon, FT, is on holiday until 24th Sept



Staffing – PSA Team



- We have 14 PSAs at Blackhall but only 5 with us every day (of these, only 3 are full time)
- PSAs heavily allocated to support individual pupil needs
- Some resignations and retirements that have not been replaced.
- Very little general classroom support.
- School is working on ways to make best use of this valuable resource.

Current School Roll



Blackhall currently has a roll of 364 pupils.

Very small drop from last year (from 368) but one class fewer (15 classes – 14 classes)

Average class size is 26 pupils (up slightly from 24.5 last year).

No stages are full.

We enrolled between 15 and 20 new families in the first week of term.

~~Priorities~~ Things to make better at Blackhall this year.



- Assessing Writing
- Embedding Numeracy Pathways
- Introducing Literacy Pathways (Planning)
- Resilience

Parent/Carer Questions.



- **P1 - Photo Permissions.**
- Evening News Photo has now been retaken for both classes.
- Photo Permissions were clarified.
- Apologies have been made for this oversight.

Parent/Carer Questions

P3 - Private Assessments

- This is Council Guidance.
- It is only very recently that Private Diagnoses were ratified by NHS and other CEC Partner Providers.
- We received quite a number of requests on day one of this new session. Each of these requests has been actioned, as they were ongoing and before HT Email went out.
- *In exceptional cases, the school will consider.*



Parent/Carer Questions



- P4 - Break and lunch times: 1. Can they be longer?; 2. Lunchtime Rushing/Queuing longer (similar concern from P5).

1. This would make the school day longer. Creates further problems with logistics and staffing.
2. Children are playing before and after lunch. They are encouraged to eat properly, using cutlery and good table manners.

We have approximately 200 pupils going through our lunch hall each day. We work closely with our Catering Team to make sure this is run smoothly.

Parent/Carer Questions



- P5 - Outdoor Learning: PE Teacher instead?
- Learning for Sustainability and Outdoor Learning are priorities for City of Edinburgh Council and remain in our school development plan.
- As a school, we value our Outdoor Learning Experiences. Any concerns re the quality or delivery of any learning experience would be tackled through Quality Assurance.
- There is no budget for a PE Specialist and no data that identifies this as a need or priority for us at the moment.
- If that changes, it will be considered.

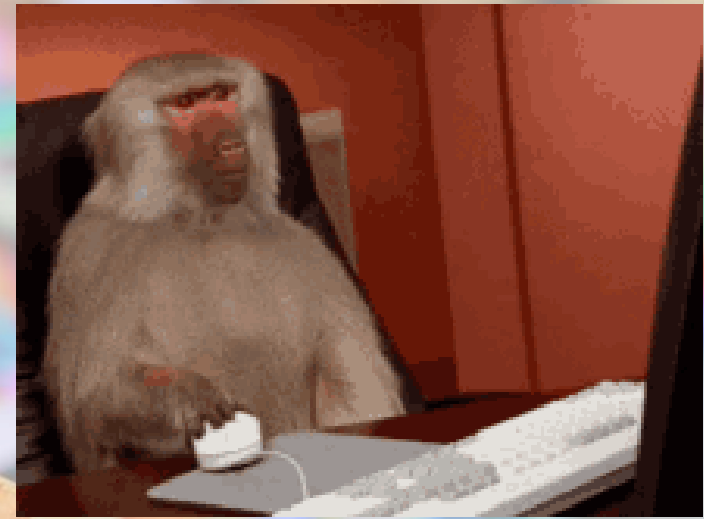
Parent/Carer Questions



P5 - Nothing to do in the playground/footballs being stuck up on the roof leading to fights.

- It is our job (home and school) to encourage and teach our children to play.
- Toys and Balls are brought out each lunchtime, as agreed with Playground Group.
- Mr Jackson and Mrs Deane run the Playground Group and will be meeting again next week.

Parent/Carer Questions



P6 – Youtube – Inappropriate Adverts

- The Firewalls in place should be enough to filter out inappropriate content and adverts. HT has spoken to the Digital Learning Team who will continue to raise the problem with CEC Digital Education Manager.
- In the meantime, HT has advised that all teaching staff should use Clickview as a source for video content, rather than Youtube.



Parent/Carer Questions

• P6 – iPads During “Free Time”

- iPads have not yet been issued in P6 yet. Not sure when they will be here.
- HT is addressing the notion of “Free Time” for our children and what this looks like. Teachers have been reminded about the appropriate use of iPads as tools for learning.

Parent/Carer Questions

P7 – Communication from Lagganlia

- The children are there to be immersed in the Camp Experience. Staff members work incredibly hard all day and late into each night. Priority will be to remain present with the children.
- A mid-week check in (photo or similar) will be considered for next year.
- Trust that the school will always inform you of any problems or challenges.



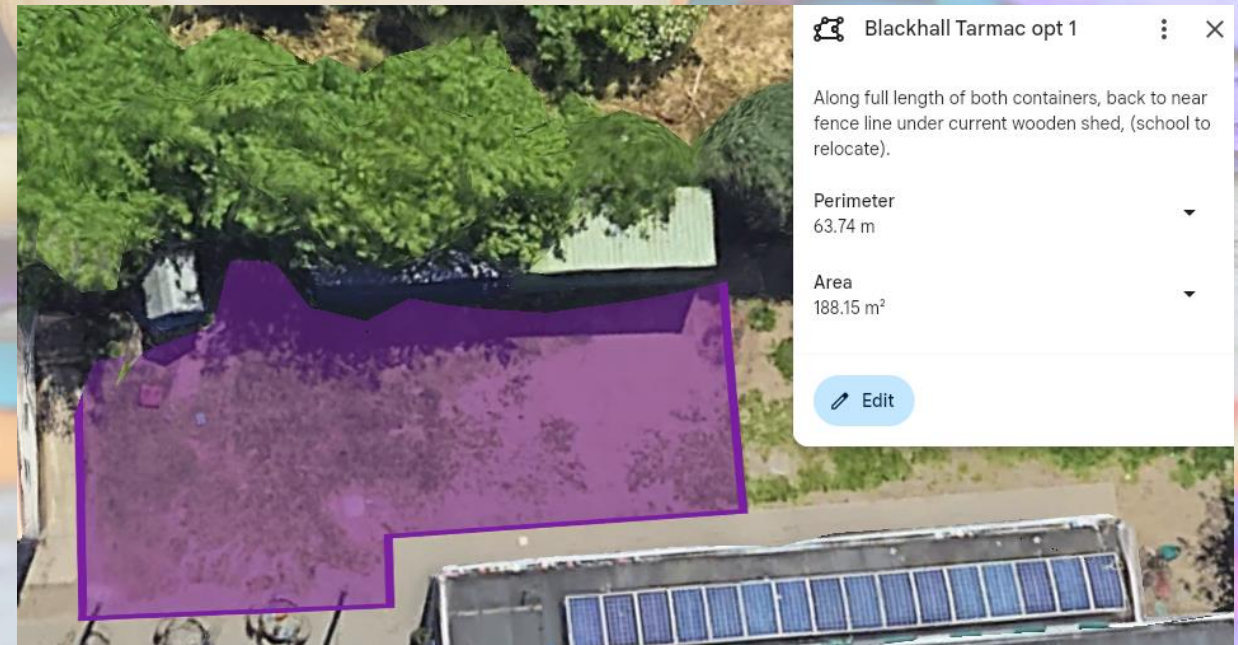
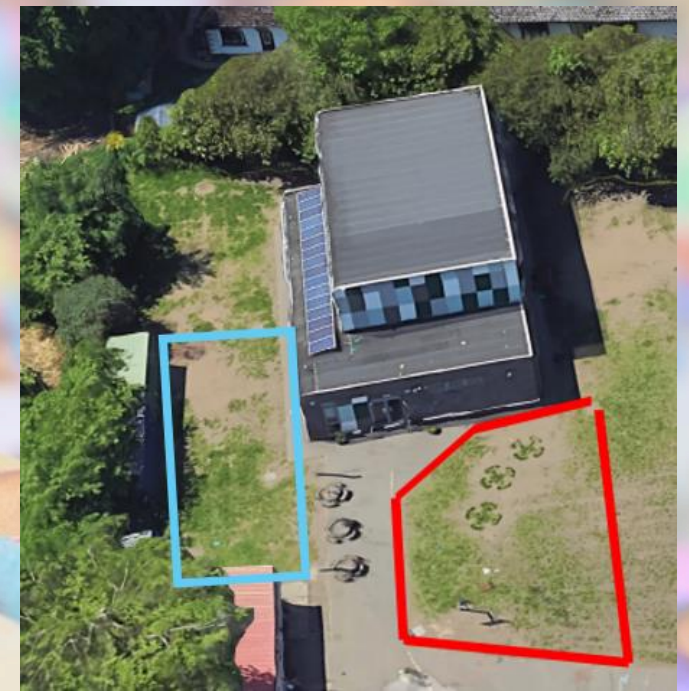
Pupil Tracking Programme

- Attainment Data continues to be tracked and recorded on Pupil Tracking.
- Raising attainment remains the goal but gathering and analysing data helps inform our practice.



Playground Improvement Phase 1

- Plans are submitted.
- Waiting for CEC to give us a date for work.



THE END.

