

Blackhall Primary School



Head Teacher: Kirsty Martin

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

83 Craigcrook Road
Edinburgh

Friday, 14th November, 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

The days are becoming dramatically colder and shorter and darker: serving as a reminder of how far we are getting from the sun and how close we are getting to the festive season. (Yes, we have all been spotting Christmas Trees already. And yes, it is too soon. Even for me!)



We are asking the children to stay off the 'grass' when it is too muddy and to wear the coats they have brought when they are outside (which is every day). We will always opt for outdoor play unless the weather is really unforgiving in its temperature or precipitation. Please make sure your child has suitable outdoor wear for these conditions. We have many extra jackets or layers here, if needed.



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.

| NOVEMBER | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, 19th | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• P6 iPad Launch for P6 Parents and Carers in Small Hall, 6:30pm• Parent Carer Council Meeting, 7pm – All welcome! |

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| DECEMBER | |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday, 3rd December | House Event – Winter Banners Parent/Carers welcome to come along to help! |
| Friday, 5th | 9-10am - "Coffee, Chat and Collaborate": Coping with Christmas! |
| 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 |

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| | 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 |
| 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 |

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| 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 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' |

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| Wednesday, 25th | END OF TERM OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY |
| Friday, 26th June | LAST DAY OF TERM |

Please note these upcoming key dates:

Wednesday, 19th November at 6:30pm – P6 iPad Launch Event. P6 Parents/Carers and pupils welcome along to hear about Empowered Learning and what it means for our P6 pupils, before the devices go home. Andrew Gardner, Principal Teacher, will be leading the session.

Wednesday, 19th November at 7pm - Parent Carer Council Meeting. Come along and join the discussion!

PARENT FORUM



PSA - Autumn Discos, last Friday

Another fabulous, sparkly success for our children who came along and had loads of sugar-fuelled fun as they jumped, squealed, danced (and sweated!) their way through each of the discos. A fabulous effort from Fi Eardley-Brown, who, once again, DJ-ed through all 3 discos, keeping energies high and beats thumping. The same could be said for Holly, who lasted the pace of the whole shebang from 3pm-8pm, helping to lead the dancing and fun throughout. Holly, I *will* get the hang of The Macarena – don't give up on me!!

Thank you to the PSA and all parents and carers who came along to support and help. Same again next year??



Parent Carer Council (PCC) this week on Wednesday, 19th at 7pm

Second Parent Carer Council Meeting of the Session is happening on Wednesday, 19th in the Small Hall, following on directly from the P6 iPad

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Launch Event.

All welcome to come along and join the discussion. Please see previous minutes on our school's website to give you a flavour of the content:

<https://blackhallprimary.co.uk/parent-council/>

IN-HOUSE HAPPENINGS

- 1. Open Day for August 2026 P1s –** Our P6s (next year's P7 buddies) did a sterling job of welcoming and leading our new families last week. The P6s were terrific ambassadors for our school and this was fed back, in glowing terms, without exception.



CAN YOU DONATE TO THE FOODBANKS?



- UHT Milk
- Long Life Fruit Juice
- Cereal
- Tinned Cold Meat
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Vegetables
- Rice
- Pasta/Curry Sauces
- Jam
- Biscuits
- Toilet Roll
- Ready Meals (pot noodles/cheesy pasta)



2. Food Bank Collection – Monday, 24th – Friday, 28th November

Remember, Edinburgh Food Project, is looking for donations of any non-perishable items to the cause and we will begin collecting during the week beginning 24th November. The collection day will be Friday, 28th November. Please see the list of those items most requested.

Many thanks, Blackhall!

3. Coffee, Chat and Collaborate

Thank you to those of you who came by this morning to learn about the Zones of Regulation with Rob Hammersley. It was a very useful and informative session. If you wanted to be here but couldn't

ZONES OF REGULATION

| BLUE ZONE | GREEN ZONE | YELLOW ZONE | RED ZONE |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| tired, sad, sick, moving slowly, disappointed, lonely | happy, calm, focused, content, proud, excited, relaxed, feeling settled | frustrated, worried, overexcited, loss of control, anxious, confused, stressed, distracted | angry, annoyed, jealous, terrified, yelling/hitting, elated, out of control |

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make it, please contact the school and Mrs Hazel-Dunn or I will pass some information your way.



The next Coffee, Chat and Collaborate morning takes place on **Friday, 5th December, 9-10am.**

The focus of this session is, "Coping with Christmas" and aims to provide helpful strategies to support your child through the breaks in

routines, added stimuli and many changes of sights and sounds that the weeks in December can bring.

4. Fearless Women in Science – Our P6 girls were invited along to St George's school to learn all about the inspiring women who have contributed to our world through STEM research and action. Some of our girls featured in the North Edinburgh News and the Edinburgh Evening News as

"Picture of the Day".
John, our faithful Crossing Guard, is always happy to share Blackhall News that makes it into the paper! Well done, future inspirers!

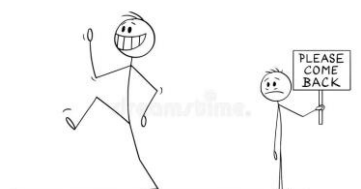


Staffing



- One of our wonderful PSAs, Eric Jackson has made the decision to step out of the high-viz playground jacket and into something more stylish (we hope!) as he joins the fortunate ranks of The Retired!

Thankfully, Mr Jackson is staying with us until the end of term and we shall have to make the most of his time with us until then.



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- In other sad news, Laura Culshaw, PSA, is also leaving us to move on to a Pupil Support Officer role for another Learning Community in our city. Mrs Culshaw is incredibly intuitive, helpful and important to many of our children and will be greatly missed by the pupils, families and staff she supports. We have Mrs Culshaw with us until Friday, 28th November. We wish her the very best in her new role and her new Learning Community is very lucky to have her.



PUPIL VOICE – CAPTAINS’ LOG

Unfortunately, our lovely House Captains were too busy this week with Risk Factory visit and a trip to Parliament (I look forward to hearing how Mr Swinney is revising the running of the country on the back of their advice and guidance!), even to write a wee catch up for you all. But I can report on their behalf that they are busy working with the Events Coordinators to plan the Christmas House Event for the school. They are finding resources and planning activities that will keep their Houses busy – as well as operating within a budget. (Who knew Sharpies were soooo expensive??)



We are incredibly grateful to have such a supportive PSA who is funding this event to ensure a fun and productive time is had by all.

If anyone is free on the morning of Wednesday, 3rd December, you are welcome to come in and join in the fun with your family house! Details will follow.

Have a lovely weekend and keep cosy, warm and dry!

Kirsty

