

Blackhall Primary School



Head Teacher: Kirsty Martin

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

83 Craigcrook Road
Edinburgh

Friday, 31st October, 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Another day of working with excited, colourful, creative people on Friday – some children, some a bit bigger. We had a visit from M and M Theatre Company who came to perform a live rendition of Beauty and the Beast to a crowd of costumes and colour! A good day all round! Almost...

Parking – Again.



There are times when I think the parking is improving and the message is actually starting to penetrate and then I realise that the can has just been kicked down the road. To our neighbouring Care Home. Good grief.

Stop parking in Strachan House if you are dropping off or picking up from our school.

After being told that parents/carers from our school had delayed an ambulance from answering its call and attending to one of the residents, I thought we had reached the bottom of the crazy parking barrel. Incredibly, when I spoke with Strachan House on Friday afternoon, to apologise on behalf of The Inconsiderate and Selfish, I was informed that a member of Strachan House staff had her brand new car reversed into that morning by an unknown vehicle.

If you have a blue vehicle with a new bit of rear end damage, it could have been you. If you were unaware that you had reversed into a parked vehicle in Strachan House on Friday morning and now realise it was you, do the basic, decent thing and return to the scene of the crime (on foot, preferably) to exchange details and ensure this innocent party has her brand new car returned to its recent, former glory.

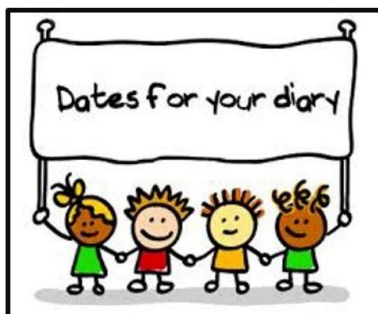


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Calendar

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.

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	PSA Hallowe'en Discos: P1+2 – 3-4pm P3, 4, 5 – 4:30-6pm P6+7 – 6:30-8pm
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	
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

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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
Monday, 9th	P6/P7 Saughton Cross Country Race

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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
Friday, 22nd	Sports Day
Friday, 29th	Sports Day – alternative day

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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

Please note these upcoming key dates:

- Wednesday, 5th November – Open Morning for P1 intake, August, 2026, 9:15-10:15am and 1:15-2:15pm.** This Open Morning and Open Afternoon event is hosted across the city for all new P1 Parents/Carers, to visit their **catchment** school before enrolling their children.

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- **Thursday, 6th and Friday, 7th November** – Individual and Family photo days. Have smiles, siblings and school colours at the ready!
- **Friday, 7th November** – PSA Autumn Discos at Blackhall!

Autumn Discos

This is always a very well-attended and fun evening for our children, which raises funds for our school as well. *If you are available to help, please contact your Year Group Rep or Natalie Moffat (PSA Chair), as volunteers are still needed to help run the discos.*



There is not a Hallowe'en theme for the discos, per se (given they are taking place the week after) but the children are welcome to attend in fancy dress for Hallowe'en, Autumn or any other theme, if they would like. Of course, general party-disco gear is also welcomed!

However they are dressed, the children are bound to have a wonderful time. (There is a high bar from last year, as Orla did proclaim it was, "the best day of her life!" Lots to live up to!!)



The amazing Fee Eardley-Brown has kindly agreed to DJ again. There will be prizes and tuck-shop goodies available and a wee welcome gift for each ticket.

Ticket prices are £3 for the P1/2 disco and £5 for P3-7.

Timings are:

P1+2 - 3-4pm

P3+4 - 4:30-6pm

P5-7 - 6:30-8pm

Staffing

- We are all delighted to have Aimee McIntyre (formerly Gerrard) back with us, following an extended absence. Mrs McIntyre is building



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back up to full time but is with us for a couple of hours each day.

- Mrs Nibett will continue to support in the office until Mrs McIntyre has returned to her full-time hours. (And we continue to be grateful to have her skillset available to us!)
- PSA – Mrs Girdwood-Reid has been temporarily moved to the role of School Support Assistant to support in P4G. This means a temporary vacancy has been created in our PSA team. The post is now live.



Sharing Information with school

Please phone the school or use the absence line if you have a message for the school about a child's absence or lateness or early departure from school. Email is not the best way to share this information. As per council policy, an email can expect a response within 10 working days (5 working days for a complaint).

Food Banks

Once again, we have been approached by Edinburgh Food Project, at this time of 'harvest' to ask if we would like to contribute to their food banks. This food bank is used to build packages of essential food items for those families most in need. If you can donate any non-perishable items to the cause, we will begin collecting soon.

Here is the list of those items most requested:

**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)

Edinburgh Food Project
Registered Charity in Scotland SC043330

Many thanks, Blackhall!

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Community Gardening Day last weekend

We were so lucky with the weather and the turnout was amazing. Thank you, thank you to everyone who gave up part of their precious weekend to come in and help to

make a difference to our school grounds. There was digging, sweeping, weeding, wheelbarrowing and all with a camaraderie that was hard to beat. Thank you to those who made sure the workers had home baking, biscuits, juice, tea and coffee to keep everyone going. Thankfully, the children (and some adults) made sure there was very little to clear up at the end!

There was lots of encouragement from local residents. Many of our elderly neighbours were particularly pleased to have the pavement cleared and tidied, making it easier and safer on the newspaper run!

There was one resident whose own children had planted the trees in the Wonder Woods 30 years ago and asked if he could have some of their leaves for his compost bin. Hey presto, 3 bags of nostalgia were delivered to help compost for the cycle of life! Lovely.



Coffee, Chat and Collaborate (formerly, "ASN Coffee Morning") Friday, 14th November: Zones of Regulation

We will be joined again by Rob Hammersley, our Inclusion Support Team teacher, to lead parents and carers through the Zones of Regulation and how we use these across our school to help our children name and address their emotions. If you have a child whose emotions are 'big' or hard to articulate, then you may find this useful.

All are welcome on Friday, 14th November, 9-10am

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 some control, anxious, confused, stressed, distracted	angry, annoyed, jealous, terrified, yelling/hitting, elated, out of control

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Joke

It may be a little late for guising repertoires but there is never a bad time to add a new joke to one's lexicon!

Q – "Why do seagulls fly across the sea?"

A - "Because, if they flew across the bay, they would be BAGELS!!!"



Thank you, Darcy! 😊

Finally...

There were one or two requests for recipe run downs on the Salted Caramel Brownies supplied for gardening morning. It was a BBC Good Food Recipe and, for those who are interested, can be found here:

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/salted-caramel-brownies>

(I would suggest a little sprinkle or 2 more salt, but that's just me. If I could follow the logic of a parent from another time – and another school – who was gently asked not to provide quite the truckload of sugar that was coming with their child's snacks each day, only to be told, "Don't worry, we are giving him extra salt to make up for the sugar..." Hmmm.)

Have a great week and happy healthy baking, Blackhall!

Kirsty

