

Blackhall Primary School



Head Teacher: Kirsty Martin

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

83 Craigcrook Road
Edinburgh

Friday, 12th December, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



I know I am out of kilter! How did you cope without the last newsletter? So much to tell, so many things happening!!

Today has been one of the busiest, jam-packedest days of the year with our Nativity, our Winter Walkabout and our Open Morning! It's always brilliant to have our families in and around the school to see and share in the learning and festivities at this time of year.



I hope you enjoyed sharing the learning, seeing the beautiful artwork and hearing our lovely violaists. Basically, there are few more joyful places to be at this time of year.



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.

DECEMBER	
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

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	(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	
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
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

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	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
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

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	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:

Monday, 15th December – P6 Christmas Assembly in Blackhall St Columba's Church at 9:30am.

P6 Parents and Carers are welcome to join us.

Tuesday, 16th December – Snow White at the Alhambra Theatre

Whole school off to Dunfermline for our seasonal fun!

Friday, 19th December – End of Term

School finishes at normal finishing time.

IN-HOUSE HAPPENINGS

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1. P5 Enterprise

What a fabulous morning we had last week with our P5 Enterprise Endeavours!



A morning of the most creative, dynamic, ambitious groups of children who got together to show their business moxie! Not only did they secure a profit of over £1,000, but they had great fun doing it. Thank you, Emma, for sharing your experience so descriptively. These are the things remembered when the capital cities and historical dates are forgotten...

"As I walked in last Friday, I was overjoyed with excitement. We have been working so hard. I felt nervous as I stepped in the hall but was quickly reminded how supportive and kind my group was.

We started to set up and it looked incredible! By now, my nerves had gone away and the first classes started to appear. We were so busy selling, I didn't even notice the time!

Enterprise was over and the day was so much fun! My favourite part was seeing the reactions of the school and families seeing the products."

Emma, P5



2. Winter House Event

Our House Captains and Events Coordinators did a great job of organising, distributing and supporting these activities for our Houses on Wednesday, 3rd December. Thank you to the parents and carers who gave up their time to come in and join the fun.

The children were delighted with their creations to take home and it was a lovely, festive way to spend an hour across our stages in our own houses. A special thank you again to Blackhall PSA who funded the whole enterprise for us. We also produced the biggest paper chain ever! Hanging it around the hall and in the corridor was a team effort and it was a very impressive and festive way to use spare/scrap paper.



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3. Netball Naturals

Ms Fey took our team of Netballers to Meadowbank for their first tournament last week. The team did very well: first in their group and 4th overall! Not bad for the first time out!

We were also considering entering a second tournament on the 15th but Ms Fey and Ms Rae felt our new team was better suited for the event on the 8th. I am sure there are other Netball festivals in the future.

A very special thank you to the posse of parents who gave their time and vehicles to transport the team – and Ms Fey – to ensure they could attend.



4. P1 Nativity - "A Miracle in Town"

Well, it happened again. Our story for the season, told in the way that only 4 and 5 year olds can - with charm, sincerity and unabashed cuteness! It was a triumph! The cattle were lowing and the baby was very well behaved! Our

P7s and siblings saw the dress rehearsal yesterday and here's what some of the siblings had to say about the performance:

Emily – I didn't really care about the mistakes! It was a great show! I was an angel in P1.

Maeve – I think it was amazing because everybody was speaking really clear. I was a narrator in P1 and I think I was clear.

Robyn – I think they put the full effort into it. I enjoyed it very much. I was a wise man in my old school. (The group agreed he is still a wise man!) My brother was a shepherd but I was better – too wise for him!!

Keir – I was a shepherd in my nativity. It feels like it was about 7 years ago.

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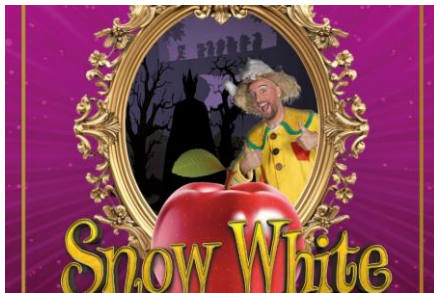
Izzy – It feels like you were watching yourself because some of them are so tall! My sister was really clear. I told her she would be amazing and she went up and gave it her best!

Olivia – When I hear the P1s speaking their lines, I was suddenly like, “I remember my line and it was: “Mary and Joseph travelled a long, long way to Bethlehem.”

I wonder how many of our current P1s will be thinking back to today's performance in future years. Love it!



For those of us who saw it today, it was a beautiful way to spend a little time. For the season of peace on Earth, peace can sometimes be hard to come by. Today's performance gave us that for a window of time. Thank you to the Mrs Bonar, Ms Chrystie, Mrs Adam and pupils who worked so hard to make it all look so effortless! (And thank you to Mrs Hazel-Dunn who stepped in this morning to fill in for Ms Chrystie and a couple of indisposed narrators..!)



5. Panto Time!

We are very excited about our trip to see “**Snow White**” on Tuesday. Getting the whole school into 7 buses, over the bridge, out of 7 buses and into the Circle at the theatre is no small task but our staff and pupils manage it beautifully.

It's always such a great way to celebrate the season together.

Please remember there is no opportunity to visit the concession stand so the children should bring their **own snack to eat at the interval**. It will be a later lunch time than usual so you may wish to send your child with a *slightly* bigger snack. Water should be the only drink supplied: absolutely no fizzy or sugary drinks.

We are hoping to return to school at around 1:30pm when the children will have their packed lunches together.

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PUTTING THE UNITY IN COMMUNITY!

1. Edinburgh Food Project

Thank you to everyone who made a contribution to the Edinburgh Food Project collection on the 28th November and thank you to Mr Gardner for organising. It was the biggest (and heaviest) donation made for 3 years and they were delighted and grateful for Blackhall's generosity.

Many thanks everyone. These parcels will hopefully help to make sure more families can avoid hunger over this season.



Tamsin from EFP sent the following message:

"Your donation this year has weighed in at 172.2kg which is your highest in 3 years well done – that's about the same weight as a lion!"



Your gift will help local people when they are struggling to put food on the table. In a city like ours, no one should be hungry at Christmas and your compassion ensures a warm meal and comfort for someone facing crisis. Difficult times can fall upon anyone and you've helped someone rebuild stability and independence – you've all made a real difference.

Thank you to everyone at Blackhall primary for supporting those in your community this festive season. We wish you and those you care about a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

With heartfelt gratitude,

Tamsin and everyone at EFP''

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2. Gathering together at Blackhall St Columba's



We are getting together to mark the end of this term on Monday at 9:30am in St Columba's Parish Church. Fergus Cook and his team are opening their doors again and we are always delighted to have the special setting (and comfy seats) to celebrate the end of another successful term together.

P6s are leading the assembly with stories and singing and P6 Families are warmly invited to come along and join us.

3. Seasonal Singing at Strachan House

Our children are planning a day of festive cheer at our neighbour's next week! On Thursday, 18th, our classes are taking it in turns to head over to Strachan House to sing some songs and share



some smiles. Each stage has selected a couple of carols or Christmas tunes to perform, with our P1s revisiting some nativity festivity!

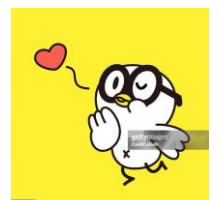
We are very much looking forward to our visits and I know the staff and residents at Strachan House will enjoy seeing our amazing children come with all their gusto and goodwill!

STAFFING



PSA Team - We are making our way back to full complement on our PSA team and we have recruited a new PSA for a year. Vanessa Poroska is delighted to be joining our team and can't wait to get started. Ms Poroska is sure to be a welcome addition to our team and children at Blackhall. Fingers crossed the paperwork goes through in time for the New Year.

Our Mr Jackson is also retiring at the end of next week after being at Blackhall for 16 years. He will be leaving a very big, Mr Jackson-sized hole when he goes and we hope his last week with us will be special.



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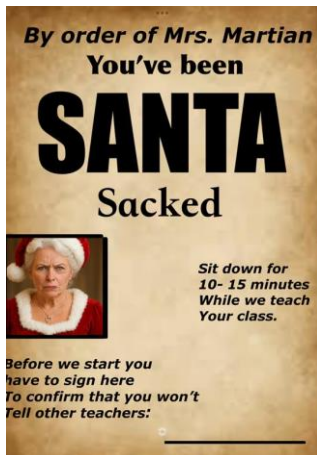


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PUPIL VOICE – CAPTAINS’ LOG



Our House Captains have been kept pretty busy over these past weeks. Not only have they organised and helped deliver the house event for the whole school but they were they welcoming, guiding and offering hot chocolate and biscuits to our visitors today. (Some biscuits and hot chocolate may have been consumed on commission basis...)

They have also been systematically going to the classes with a festive, "You've Been Santa Sacked!" The teacher is "sacked" for 10 minutes (with a seat at the side and a biscuit), while our P7 team leads the class in a seasonal quiz. The children then get a little treat.

The talented bunch made a scroll for teachers to sign and produced a little photo of 'me' as a Mrs Claus figure. (Holly promises me that "Mrs Martian" was a mistake...!!)

Final Word



This time of year can be tricky for a lot of people as the 'perfection pressure' mounts, the children become more excited and the flashing lights, changes of routine and little differences everywhere all amount to over-stimulation and a special kind of tired. Please take a moment to join me in appreciating our wonderful staff at Blackhall who are themselves experiencing all these things but still work so hard to ensure our children remain included, engaged and involved right up until the end of term. (Then they are all yours!!)

Best wishes for a wonderful week,

Kirsty



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