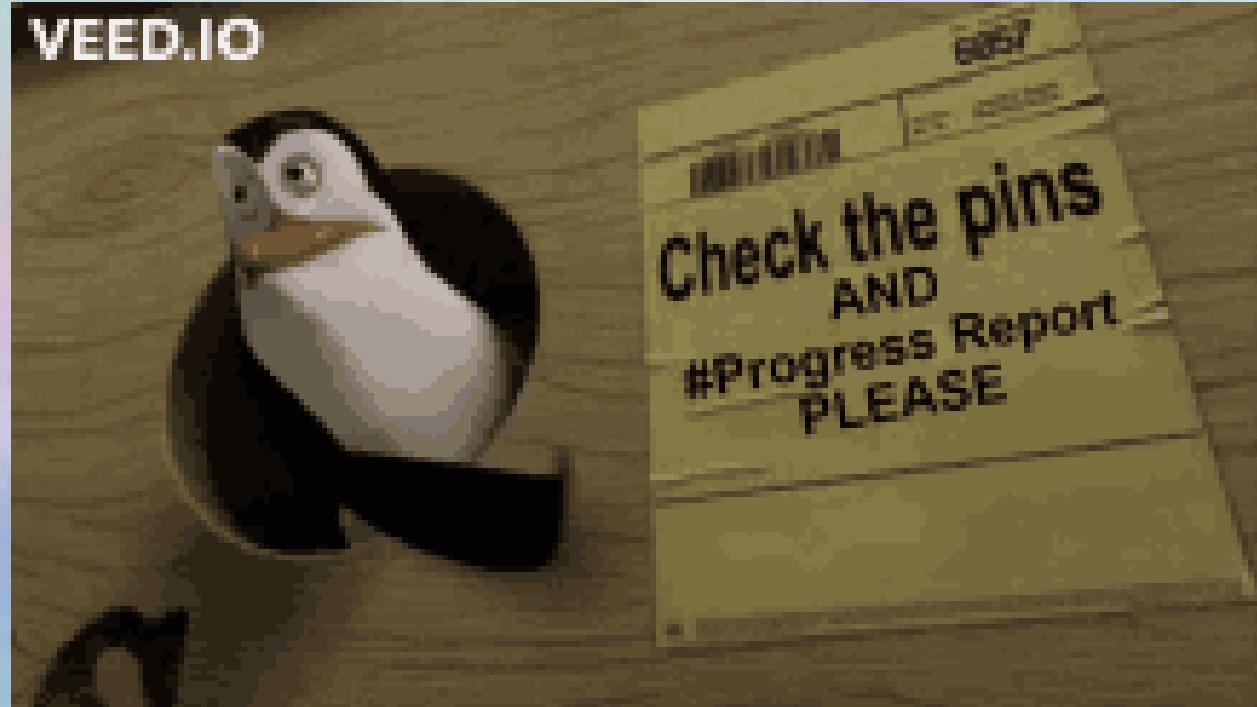


# Parent Carer Council Head Teacher Report



Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026

# Current School Roll

A little bit of movement but Blackhall currently has a roll of 368 pupils.

Average class size is 26.3 pupils.

P1, P2 and P3 remain the busiest stages (almost full.)



# Recently

- Lots of Gardening and volunteering help in our grounds. Big difference was made. Thank you so much!
- Another date will be organised soon.
- Reminder to those Parents and Carers who are waiting for P3-7, after collecting P1-2 – please be mindful of teaching that may still be happening in our school grounds.



# Recently

- End of Term Church Service – P6 Parents and Carers joined us
- Whole School to the Pantomime! (Hoping cost will not be too prohibitive for 'next' year.)
- Winter Art Day, House Events, Nativity, Open Morning, Maths Week, P7 Nativity Trail



# Coming up – P7 Show!

## Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> February, Royal High School



- P7s are in full swing of rehearsals for our upcoming production of, “The X Factory.”
- P6s will be providing musical support as the choir.
- Tickets on sale soon!

# Coming up – World Book Day 2025

## Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March

- World Book Day being organised and planned by Ms Gabmayer, Ms Benson and Mrs Donoghue.
- “Reading for Fun!”



# Coming up - Bikeability



- Anna Hazel Dunn, DHT, and 2 of our parents (Bruce and Fiona) are ready for Bikeability in P5 and P6 for next term.
- Details to follow.

# Staffing – New!

- Once PVGs are through, we will be (almost) at full quota for PSA staff –
- Waiting for Vanessa Pokorska's PVG.
- Gillian Kelly is now a permanent member of the PSA Team (2 days a week). Mrs Kelly is absent at the moment and is being covered by supply.
- Yesterday, we appointed Ajitha Thomas as a full time permanent PSA. Ajitha will start with us ASAP.



# Staffing - Update



- Lauren Craig, P6 teacher, is leaving us at the break as her baby is due on 1<sup>st</sup> May.
- Cover Teacher for the final term is not yet organised but will be confirmed in good time.
- Mrs Craig will be here for Parent Consultations and will leave substantial notes to inform written reports for her 'replacement'.
- Mr McCutcheon will be off on long term absence from the end of this month. We have been promised a replacement Facilities Technician from Facilities Management.

# Staffing - Update



- Rachel Noonan will be returning from maternity leave in March.
- Mrs Noonan will be in P1C on Thursdays and Fridays and will share the teaching week with Ms Chrystie.

# Attainment - January 2026

STAGE	Literacy On Track	Numeracy On Track
P1	81%	85%
P2	88%	93%
P3	89%	92%
P4	93%	96%
P5	92%	90%
P6	84%	87%
P7	98%	100%

- Attainment Meetings (SLT and Teachers) with Pupil Tracking System.
- NSA (National Standardised Assessments) have been completed for P4 and P7.

# Coming up – Coffee, Chat and Collaborate

## Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 9-10am



- Hearing from parents and carers on their experience of additional supports provided at Blackhall for their children.
- All welcome! Come and have a cuppa, listen in or share.

# Coming up – Parent/Carer Consultations

- We are continuing with a Thursday evening and Friday afternoon for Parent Carer Consultations.
- Thursday, 26<sup>th</sup> March and Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March
- P3MP consultations will be Wednesday evening (25<sup>th</sup>) instead of the Friday.



# Money and stuff...



- Finance Committee met in December.
- Budget remains very tight.
- Hopeful that PEF allocation will be increased from next year.
- We now have Inclusion Support Team to be funded centrally but managed by LC Schools.

# Money and stuff...

**P7 trip to Robotarium June 2025**

Price was £2 per pupil.

**51/66 children paid.**

## Shortfall - ground £30

**P6 & P7 trip to Usherhall June 2025**

Price was £2.35 per pupil.

## Shortfall - ground £50

# Royal Highland Show trip June 2025

Price was £6.50 per pupil.

205/251 children paid.

## Shortfall - £219



## **Panto – December 2025**

Price was set at £15.50 per pupil.

## PSA and PCC subsidy contribution of £1,000

**School paid deposit of £1,200.**

## Shortfall - ground £800

Definitely don't want to stop school trips but have to rethink how we manage and monitor payments for the coming year.

# Sports and Activities



- Lots of sporting events lined up for this term and next.
- Continuing with Netball; Running; Swimming; Athletics.
- Any expertise and spare time? Please contact school!

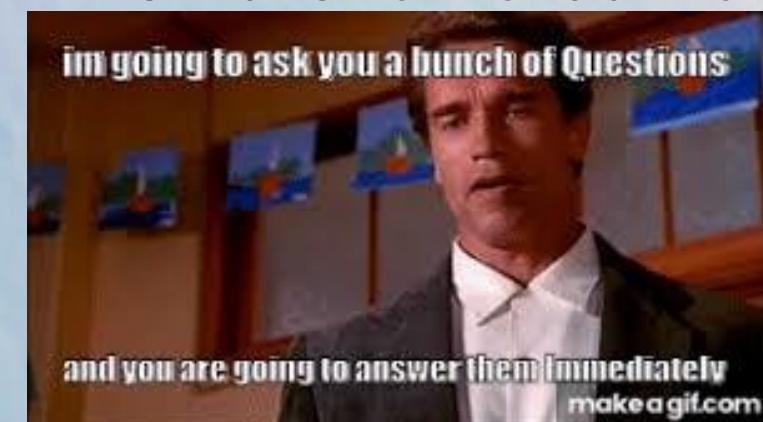
# Parking!

- Keeping an eye on the parking.
- Council has agreed to use traffic calming measures of closing Craigcrook Park at the Craigcrook Road end to limit the selfish and dangerous parking.
- No timescale shared on when this will be actioned.

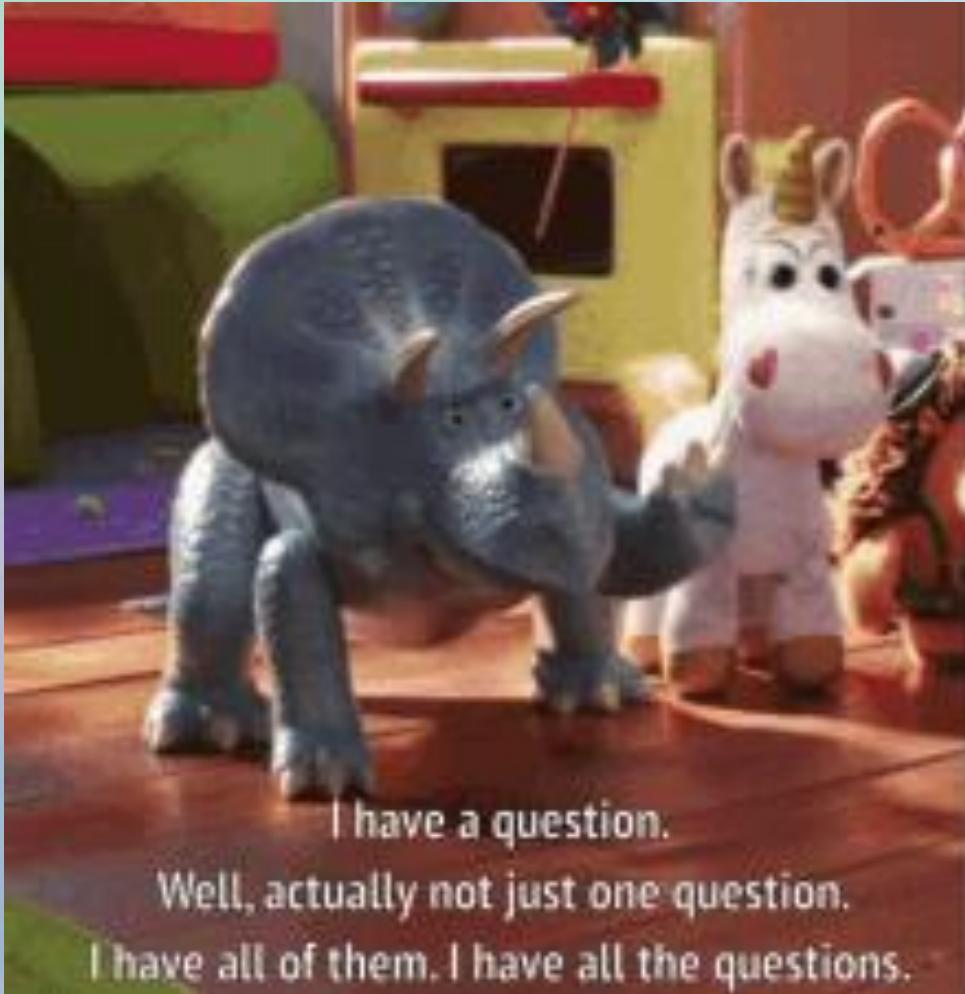


# Questions

- 1. Have the lights in the big hall been replaced with LED lighting now? Understand that this was the only area not with LED and was due to be replaced.
- 2. Parents not being told their child is getting additional support and not getting any feedback on any of this. Something similar has come up about children being removed from nurture groups without parents being made aware. Communication would always be appreciated here, especially for additional support so parents have more sense of how they can help at home.
- 3. Breathing exercises for all in class to help with overwhelm and anxiety - this could allow those that get overwhelmed and need this to not stand out as much and would be helpful for everyone (this may already happen but worth being aware either way).
- 4. Training in neurodiverse behaviours and how to deal with this for all staff (this is not pointing fingers at all but has come from a few incidents where the staff possibly weren't aware of stimming behaviour etc).
- 5. Age-appropriate tools and distractions for children when taken out of class to regulate (bubbles for a 10-year-old were mentioned).



# Questions



- *1. Have the lights in the big hall been replaced with LED lighting now? Understand that this was the only area not with LED and was due to be replaced.*

Not replaced with LED yet. Due to be replaced in the summer holidays.

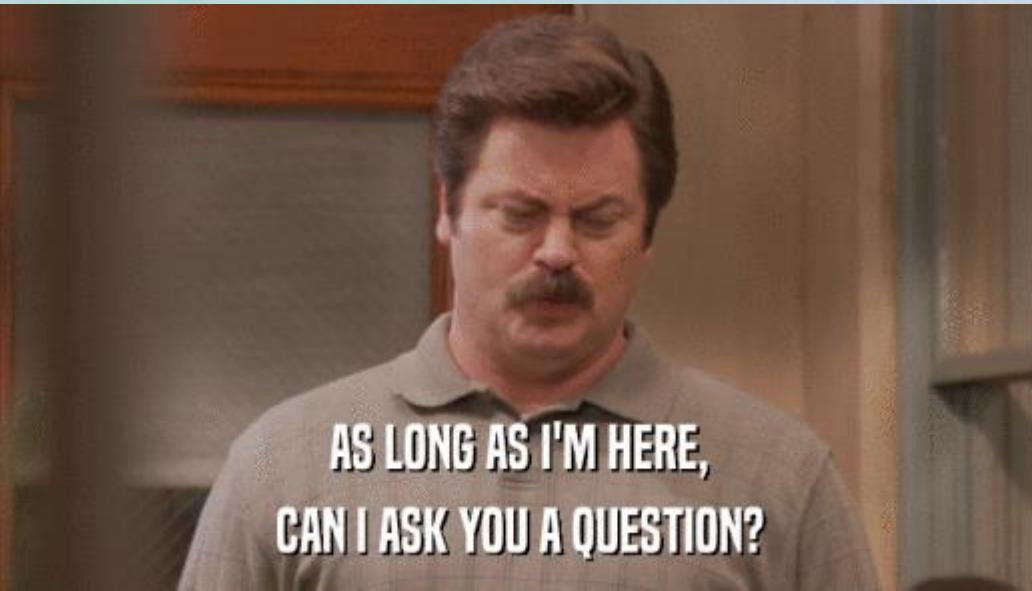
# Questions



## ***2. Informing Parents and Carers when additional support is offered (or stopped) for their child.***

- Parents and Carers will be informed when Nurture, Support for Learning, Inclusion Support Team, etc, are included in your child's learning. Similarly, when the support comes to an end, communication will be shared.
- Lynn Deane (PSO), Anna Hazel-Dunn (DHT) and Nicola Pearse (SfL) are working on a more efficient referral system.
- Apologies that this was not already in place.

# Questions

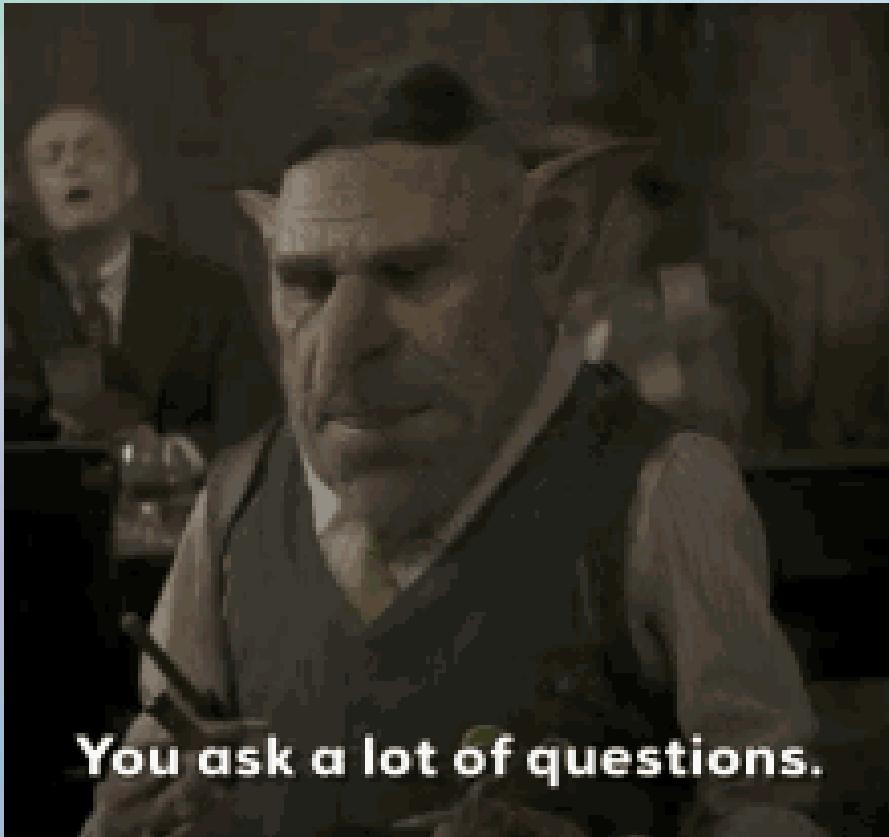


## *3. Breathing exercises for all in class to help with overwhelm and anxiety -*

Some teachers take some time to be mindful and think about breathing, first thing in the morning or after break times.

Have shared as a strategy idea for others to try.

# Questions



## ***4. Training in neurodiverse behaviours and how to deal with this for all staff.***

Teachers and PSAs *are* trained to various degrees on Neurodivergence. If a child has ND Identification/Diagnosis, class teacher and the Team Around the Child will ensure they have the knowledge and understanding to support the needs of that child.

**(If you know one child with ASD, you know one child with ASD.)**

# Questions



*5. Age-appropriate tools and distractions for children when taken out of class to regulate (bubbles for a 10-year-old were mentioned).*

We take great care and consideration over supports and strategies for children with complex additional needs.

Thank you for listening!

