

Blackhall Primary School



Head Teacher: Kirsty Martin
(Tel) 0131 336 1023 / admin@blackhall.edin.sch.uk

83 Craigcrook Road
Edinburgh

Friday, 9th January, 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another term and another year of learning and fun at Blackhall. We wasted no time getting started in on the learning – just how we like it! We had a very productive INSET day on Monday, before the children returned, but there is nothing like a building full of the chatter and catch-ups and stories when the children are with us!



We are all primed for snow and there was excitement today when we had the first flurry of flakes but the balance is delicate: enough for fun and blankets of white but not so much that we are hampered by road restrictions or closures...



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.



JANUARY	
Week beg 12th	Termly Newsletter home
Wednesday, 14th	Parent, Carer Council Meeting: 7-8:30pm
Friday, 16th	9-10am - "Coffee, Chat and Collaborate": Sharing experiences of accessing supports and services for children

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	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	
Wednesday, 1st April	Parent Carer Council Meeting, 7pm
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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Thursday, 25th	END OF TERM OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY
Friday, 26th June	LAST DAY OF TERM

Please note these upcoming key dates:

Wednesday, 14th January 2026 – Parent Carer Council Meeting in school staff room at 7pm. All welcome!

Friday, 16th January 2026, 9am – Coffee, Chat and Collaborate
Come along to hear from other parents and carers about how our children are supported in Blackhall PS

IN-HOUSE HAPPENINGS

Reporting an absence.



Absence Line

It's very positive that we have a high attendance rate at Blackhall with 97% of our children attending for more than 85% of the time. We

have quite a few children who have 100% attendance and this is great.

Now that we are definitely into Winter, it may be that colds and other viruses can take hold. If you are phoning the school absence line to report your child is not going to be in school, PLEASE REMEMBER TO GIVE THE REASON FOR ABSENCE. Thank you for letting us know that your child, "*won't be in today*" but don't forget to add, "*because...*". We have a statutory requirement to report the reason for absence (parental holiday, medical appointment, exceptional circumstances, illness, etc) and there are many different codes to allocate. Thank you!

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Coffee, chat, collaborate - Friday 16th,

9am

**Sharing Experiences navigating ASN
supports and services**



This is a very informal opportunity for parents and carers to talk about their experiences of identifying and accessing supports and services for their children with additional support needs.

This can be for all kinds of additional support needs, from medical to emotional to developmental to diagnoses. All are welcome and we will also hear from parents and carers who have offered to share their own experiences. There will then be an open discussion to share experiences, ask advice and talk about the challenges and successes they have had.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Anna Hazel-Dunn (DHT)

**PUTTING THE UNITY IN
COMMUNITY!**

**Parent Carer Council Meeting –
Wednesday, 14th January 7-8:30pm**



Come along on Wednesday evening to join in the discussion and hear about what is happening in and around our school and community. All voices are heard and you are very welcome.

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STAFFING

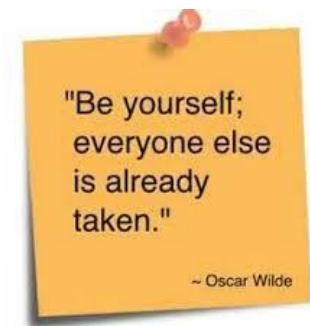
There is always a wait for the necessary paperwork (PVG) for new staff and, unfortunately, Vanessa Pokorska has not yet been able to start with us. We remain hopeful that Ms Pokorska will

begin with us in the next week or two.

Mrs Wood (Business Manager) and I will be interviewing for our permanent PSA post on Tuesday of this week. This will bring us a step closer to having a full complement of support staff. We are very lucky at Blackhall to have a team of committed and flexible staff who do what they can to bridge any gaps that appear.

Final Words

Our House Captains have been right back in the thick of it, leading our Assembly this week. They continued in our journey of Resilience at Blackhall and this week, we were thinking about how important it is to "Accept Yourself" and to celebrate being you. With



our "Resilience Toolkit" to support and Oscar Wilde's famous quote, we heard stories and were encouraged to think about what we like about ourselves:



*"I like that I am uniquely the most muddy pupil in the school!"
Harrison, P5*

(I will leave it to you and your washing machine to decide who else fills those "uniquely" muddy shoes, tops and jackets!!)

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"I like that there's no-one like exactly like me!"

Ailish, P3

Two of our House Captains, Holly and Edie have been reflecting on the end of term, as well as considering the term ahead:



First week back has been good because we have started our show practice. Everyone came back really enthusiastically, we think.

We did an Assembly on liking yourself and accepting the things that make you, you! Some people liked their hair, their ankles, how many keepy-uppies they can do...

We enjoyed all the activities we led before the Christmas Break and we especially loved P1's Nativity. Our P1 buddies were amazing and it was really great to see them – they were as cute as ever.

We loved our last Panto at Blackhall – it was the best one yet! Our "Santa Sacked" went well but we might have preferred to do something in secret as sometimes the teachers were busy!

Telford is currently in the lead with House Pennies but there are a few months to go for other houses to catch up.

We are looking forward to the P7 Show and looking forward to P7s leading the Church Service in March- this term.

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Have a lovely, restful, warm weekend and enjoy whatever is left of your festive chocolates and cheese!!

Kirsty

