

# Parent Carer Council Head Teacher Report



Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026

# Current School Roll

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

Average class size is 26.2 pupils.

“Busy” stages remain P1 and P2 – only one non-catchment place remaining for both stages.



# Staffing

## TEAM WORK!



- PSA allocation continues to be an issue.
- We have absence to manage and supply PSA is hard to come by.
- We have been joined by Ajitha Thomas and Vanessa Pokorska.
- Gillian Kelly has returned to post today. Lovely to have her back.

# Staffing

- Rachel Noonan has returned to us from having a baby
- Lauren Craig has left us to have a baby
- Laura Adam and Nicola Pearse are taking P6C through this final term.
- Ellie Rae and Natalie Fey will be taking their classes full time from May.



# Staffing

- We don't yet know how many NQTs we will be allocated for next session.
- Any other vacancies are likely to be filled centrally. CEC has a pool of teachers needing to be placed.



# Money and stuff...

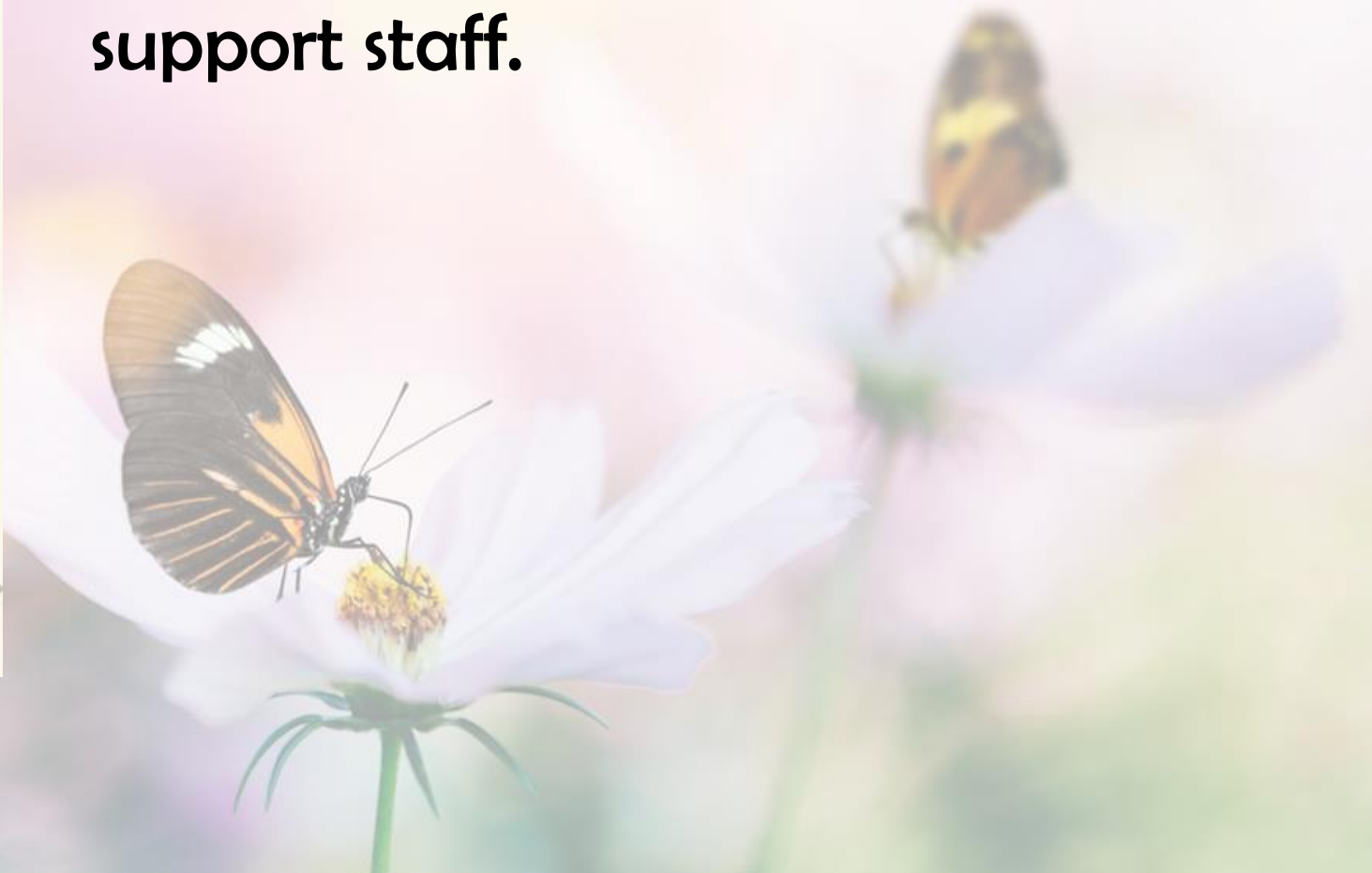


- We have approximately £2000 to carry over into the next session. Very little, but at least it is not an overspend.
- Finance Committee is hoping to meet early next term.

# Money and stuff...



- Staffing is our greatest cost. We have had some absence in both teaching and support staff.



# Recently

- P7 Show – “The X Factory”  
Another success!
- World Book Day 2026  
Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March
- ASN Coffee Mornings have been great: Nurture and Sensory Circuits; Shared Experiences from Parent/Carers; Effective Communication
- Parent Carer Consultations were well attended but reports that some parents/carers were not aware. There has been no Newsletter recently and this may have played a part in that.

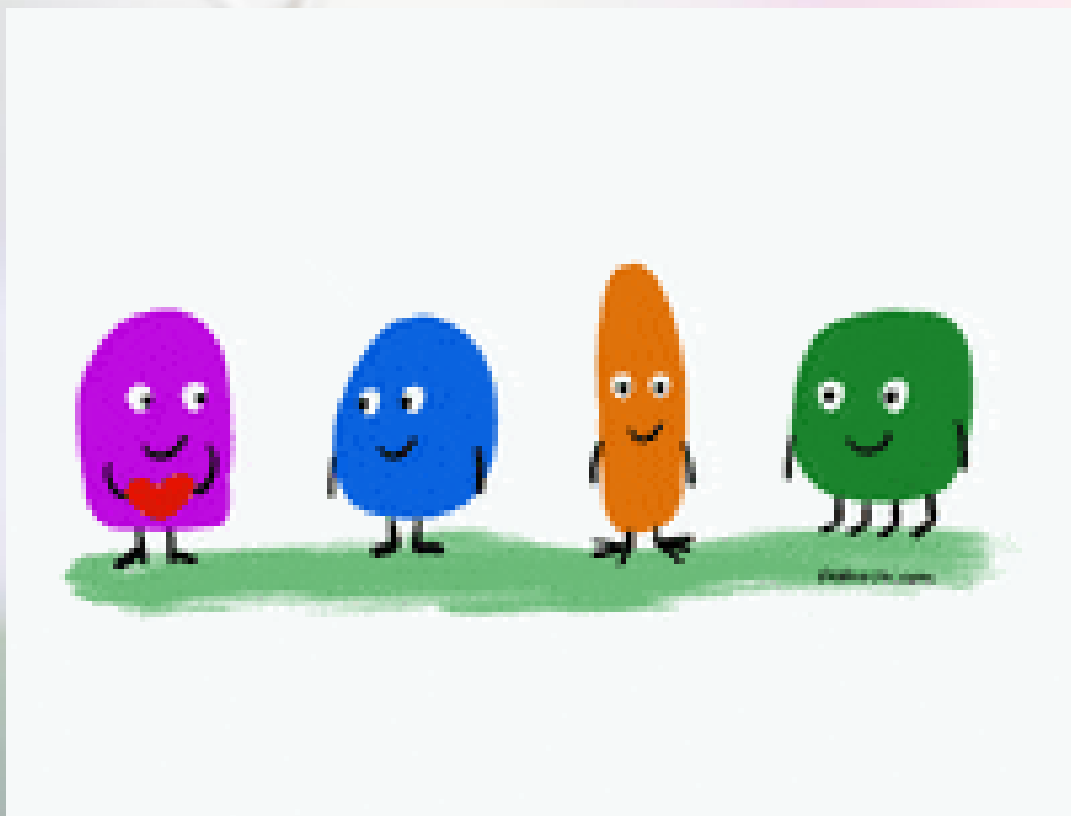


# Sports and Activities

- Lots of sporting events.
- Netball; Running; Swimming; – well done to all competitors! Thank you so much to our Parents and Carers who made it all possible.



# P7 Spring Assembly



- Spent time at Blackhall St Columba's Church for our Spring Assembly this morning.
- Our P7s were leading the way with stories, signing and songs.
- P7 Parents and Carers (and parent/carer helpers) attended.

# COMING UP VERY SOON!

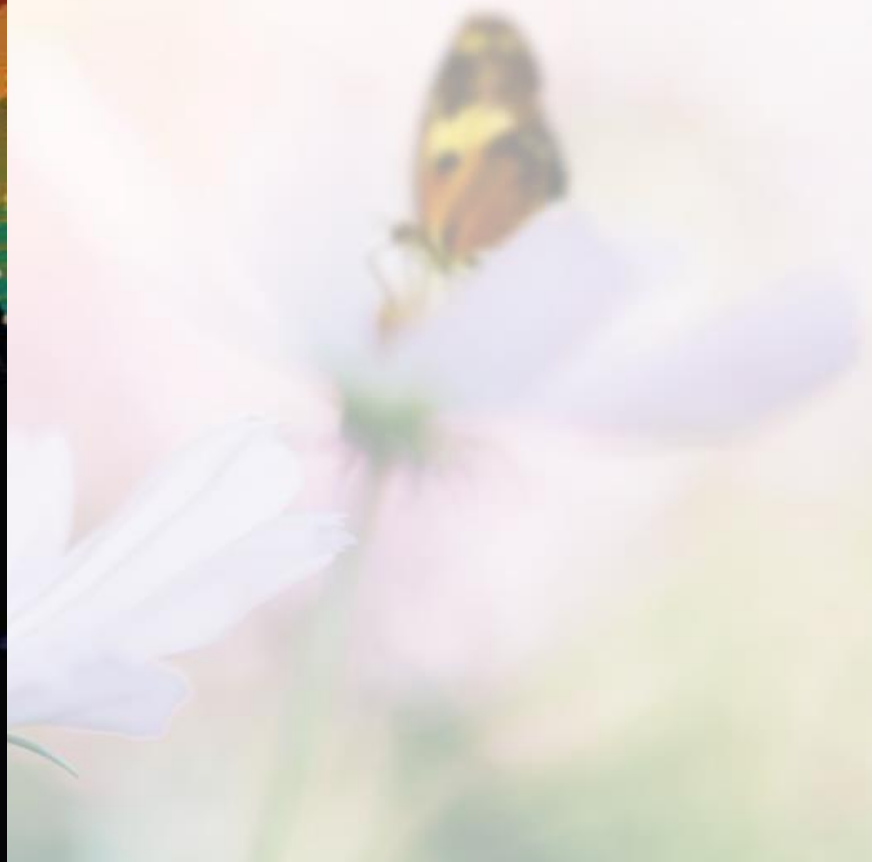
## Parent/Carer Open Afternoon

### Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April



- Our First Week Back, we are inviting parents and carers to come in and share the learning in your child's class.
- We are going with the Afternoon this time: anytime between 1:45-2:45pm. (P1 and P2, between 1:15 and 2:15pm)
- Please come in, mingle, and share in the learning!

# COMING UP – Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May (tbc) Blackhall PSA Spring Discos!



# Coming Up...



- **Coffee Chat Collaborate -7<sup>th</sup> May**  
– Transition to the next stage: coping with change.
- **Looking for Parents and Carers** to offer input to our **School Improvement Plan** for next session.
- **STeAM Event – Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> June**
- **P7 Camp very early in next school session – August 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Class Photos being booked for w/beg 11<sup>th</sup> May**



## Questions – P2

1. Regarding online learning resources, it seems you tube is used a lot, what is the policy on this? In terms of supervision etc whilst watching, due to adverts being displayed **All class teachers continue to use Clickview where possible, which has no ads. In P1 and P2, the phonics resources on Clickview are often not as good as some sources on Youtube. Ms Lucas reports that she downloads what she uses to her Canva account and this cuts the ads. Ms Rae will try to mute/block the ads and keep the clips to learning content only.**

***(It is understood that this question may relate to homework websites assigned. Mrs Martin will look into this with staff.)***

1. Baked potato is apparently not nice and a lot of the kids are just eating the topping not the potato, any cope to improve? **Pupil Council have petitioned the Catering Team to improve many aspects of our school meals, including baked potatoes. We do not have our own kitchens and this will usually mean our children's food has to be kept warm for significant periods of time.**
2. Homework – Useful to have some of the print outs used in class to do at home, most of it is online for maths homework - **. Issuing print-outs is unlikely to happen on a regular basis. The maths homework tends to be consolidation and revision of learning in class. The online games are for practice.**

## Questions – P3

- 1. Nits (can we be more strict eg requiring hair tied back) – **No. Nits and Lice are not an infectious disease. We can keep encouraging checking and treatment – and will.**
- 2. Mixing classes, wanting to know whether this will happen for P4 and every year? – **Yes. Next term children will choose 4 friends and will be guaranteed at least one. The focus is on learning partners.**
- 3. Teaching curriculum, how does school make sure children are stretched enough, parent feeling that some P3 kids might need more challenge and risk of poor behaviour creeping in if they don't get it; **Curriculum for Excellence is followed for planning and National Benchmarks are used to assess levels of learning. P3 teachers feel this maybe in regard to numeracy in particular where many children like to be challenged. We use the benchmarks and new numeracy planners to support and ensure differentiation.**
- 4. Extra-curricular activities - can there be a summary somewhere of the full school offering so that parents can piece it together? **Drama – Monday; Netball – Thursday; Spanish – Mon-Thursday (lunchtime); French – Friday lunchtime.**

## Questions – P3

- 5. Parking/traffic a concern about the bit of road after the zigzags but before the care home, question of whether this can be blocked - still worried about buses and cars and the amount of traffic when kids are around. **Ongoing crusade to have traffic calming measures in place. Will continue to work on it.**
- 6. Stationery and supplies. Parents concerned that there aren't enough pens and paper for their kids. **P3 response - Red pens were heavily used in the festive period so are in short supply, also black pens are always in demand. Other colours we have plenty of. We have plenty paper but is also a popular resource which we have ordered more through School Admin and the order form. Pens are available through pen pots and trays.**
- 7. Question what the official rules are on when children can walk to school or be picked up without an adult. Various rumours circulating on this including that it's P3 term 3. **P3 response - No official rule but from June children are no longer specifically paired up at the end of the day with their adult in preparation for P4 when they just leave from the cloakroom. Safety talks will be had prior to this and families can make their own arrangements of where to meet their child. We will also discuss what to do if your adult is not where they had arranged to meet.**

## Questions – P5 – The 3 Ps!!

- **Playground Development – update in the body of the meeting**
- **Pond v Fire Pit v Rockery – Going for reinstating small pond, beside bigger pond. Fire Pit is worth exploring but not in this location.**
- **Poverty – Bigger item on agenda**

## Questions – P6

- 1. iPads and them coming home every night/through the holidays. Some parents are having issues with them and are requesting if it might be possible for school to keep them each night or at least during holidays so they're not another device that parents are expected to police out of school? – **The iPad is the child's own device. School would not be keeping them here over the holidays. Nothing to stop parents locking them away at home if they wish. CEC is investigating new ways to add parental controls that could 'lock children out' of devices at home.**

# Questions – P6 – Hoodie-gate!!

1. Can you ask about earth calling jumpers and can they reconsider the rule about not wearing to school. Some children are not minded/ or happy to change into it at end of day and so either they're going against the rule and wearing anyway, or they're not changing and not wearing them. I think this is particularly an issue for ASN kids who can't manage the addition of changing at the end of the day. - **If this is an issue for particular children, please contact the school. We have children with sensory issues who do not wear uniform for this reason.**

One parent was upset as she's spent £60 on jumpers and they're now not being worn.

For our year group they've always been allowed to wear them at school and it feels like this 'right' has been taken away from them. They see it as part of their identity and this is as much linked to school as it is obviously to Earth Calling. They're proud of this and the school should be proud of all the children caring about the environment and enjoying themselves outdoors as part of the Earth Calling tribe. **We are very proud of our children who support environmental causes and recognise their duties as Earth's caretakers. I will continue to ask that children and families support the school in keeping to uniform colours and non-branded or club wear.**

I've spoken to quite a few parents and kids who disagree with this rule and are upset by it, so this is coming from wide.

Can this rule be reconsidered? **We continue to ask that our children wear uniform colours and attire.**

2. P7 hoodies - the process doesn't seem to work and colours are being chosen that are creating lots of division amongst parents/pupils. It needs to be a colour that each child is proud of wearing and that each child wants to wear. And also a colour that looks smart when the children are representing the school. **The vote was taken and the decision was made. This was not a narrow win. There is no good reason to wade in and override the pupil choice.\***

**\*Subsequently, it became clear that the colour choice was causing more consternation and upset among the children than was first thought. The children will now have a choice of colours – including Baby Pink – and our next year's P7s will be a 'rainbow' year.**

**Thank you for listening!**

