

Blackhall Primary School



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

83 Craigcrook Road
Edinburgh

Friday, 14th August 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to another year at Blackhall and a special welcome to all the new children and families who have joined us! We look forward to getting to know you and involving you in the wonderful community of Blackhall.



The first day of a new school year is my favourite time of the whole year. Seeing our lovely children come back older, wiser, taller, fresher, is hard to beat!

Our P1 classes are very full this year, with Blackhall being allocated 26 pupils for each class. We are extremely lucky to have such an experienced and enthusiastic team in Ms Lucas, Mrs MacDonald, Mrs Paterson and Mrs Adam to lead our youngest pupils through this special time in their learning.

It's been a great first week back (Sausage-gate notwithstanding...) and to top it off, we had an unexpected fire drill this morning! Thank goodness the rain stopped early and we could gather, safely, in the August sun.



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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.

AUGUST	
Wednesday, 12 th	ALL RETURN TO SCHOOL
Tuesday, 18 th	P5 Swimming sessions start – P5G (9 sessions)
Monday, 17 th – Friday, 21 st	P7 to Lagganlia camp!
Week Beg Monday, 17 th	Termly Newsletter home
SEPTEMBER	
Thursday, 3 rd September	4-5pm – Meet the Teacher
Friday, 4 th tbc	9-10am - Coffee and Chat in Staff Room for Parents and Carers - "Learning Through Play – What does that mean?" - JRSO Group attend City Chambers Event
Wednesday, 9 th tbc	Parent Carer Council Meeting at 7pm in Blackhall Staff Room – all parents and carers welcome!
Friday, 11 th September	"DREAM About Nature" - All Parents and Carers invited to see the learning, 11:15am in the playground.
Monday, 14 th	SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY – School Closed
Monday, 21 st	Flu Vaccinations in school
Friday, 18 th	Royal High School Open Afternoon for Parents/Carers

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OCTOBER	
Thursday, 1st October	Parent/Carer Consultation 4-7pm
Friday, 2nd October	Parent Consultation 1-4pm
Friday, 9th	Autumn House Event in School – house colours encouraged
Monday, 13th – Friday, 17th	OCTOBER HOLIDAY
Monday, 19th	School closed to pupils. INSET Day for Staff.
Tuesday, 20th	All Pupils Return
Week Beg 26th	Termly Newsletter Home
Tuesday, 28th	SWIMMING SESSIONS BEGIN – P5S (9 Sessions)
NOVEMBER	
Wednesday, 4th (TBC)	2027-28 P1 Parents Open Day: 9:15am-10:15am and 1:15pm-2:15pm
Monday, 30th November	House Event – Winter Banners Parent/Carers welcome to come along to help!
DECEMBER	
Friday, 4th December	9-10am – Coffee and Chat for Parents and Carers – “Coping With Celebrations”
Monday, 7th December	Winter Maths Week in School
Friday, 11th	9-10:30am Winter Wonderland Walkabout and Open Morning – all parents and carers welcome 9:30am – P1 Nativity
Monday, 14th	Whole School to Blackhall St Columba’s Parish Church for Assembly (P6 Parents/Carers welcome to join us)
Wednesday, 16th	WHOLE SCHOOL TO PANTO, ALHAMBRA THEATRE (Peter Pan)

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Friday, 18th	P7 to Interactive Nativity Trail at St Columba's END OF TERM – Normal Finishing Times
JANUARY	
Tuesday, 5th	School Closed to Pupils – Staff INSET Day
Wednesday, 6th	All pupils return for Spring Term
Week beg 11th	Termly Newsletter home
FEBRUARY	
Thursday, 11th	P7 School Show at RHS, 7pm.
Monday, 15th – Friday, 19th	FEBRUARY BREAK
MARCH	
Thursday, 18th	Parent Consultation, 4-7pm
Friday, 19th	Parent Consultation, 1-4pm
Friday, 26th March	Easter Holiday
Monday, 29th March	Easter Holiday
APRIL	
Thursday, 1st April	Whole School to Blackhall St Columba's Parish Church for P7 Spring Assembly (TBC) P7 Parents and Carers Welcome!
Friday, 2nd April	End of Term
Tuesday, 20th April	All return to school
Week beg 26th	Termly Newsletters home
MAY	
Monday, 3rd	MAY DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday, 4th	No Pupils – Staff INSET
Thursday, 6th (TBC)	Edinburgh Evening News to take P7 class photos

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Monday, 17th	"Energise and Exercise" – Sponsored active week at BPS (TBC)
Wednesday, 19th	New P1 Parents and Carers Induction Evening
Friday, 21st	Sports Day
Monday, 24th	VICTORIA DAY HOLIDAY
Friday, 28th	- Sports Day – alternative day - P5, 6, 7 Reports home by this date
JUNE	
Friday, 4th	P2, P3, P4 Reports home by this date
Thursday, 10th	- Coffee and Chat for Parents and Carers - Transition: Coping with Change - Parent Carer Council and Parent Staff Association AGM 7-8:30pm (tbc)
Friday, 11th	"STeAM Ahead in Farming" 11am – 12pm, In-School Exhibition for Parents and Carers
Tuesday, 15th	- P7s to transition day at RHS - New P1 Meet the Teacher Event for new Parents/Carers and children
Wednesday, 16th	- P7s to transition day at RHS - New P1 Meet the Teacher Event for new Parents/Carers and children - tbc - New House Captains Hustings
Thursday, 17th	- P7s to transition day at RHS - P3-6 pupils to Royal Highland Show!
Friday, 18th	P1 Reports – Home by this date
Monday, 21st	'Blackhall's Got Talent'
Monday, 28th	END OF TERM OUTDOOR ASSEMBLY
Tuesday, 29th June	LAST DAY OF TERM

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Here are some immediate points of info...



Next Week

Our P7s are off to Lagganlia for Camp. Mrs Hazel-Dunn has issued lots of information to our P7 Parents/Carers and Children and our P7s are raring to go!

The coach leaves school on Monday at 9:30am for tearful goodbyes from siblings and parents/carers!

The children will return to us on Friday, leaving Lagganlia at 9am.

Parents/Carers will be kept informed of arrival times.



Termly Newsletters will be coming home from your child's teacher to share what is being learned until October.

DrEAM About Nature



We have started the year again with a focus on Expressive Arts and our theme this year is "Nature". This is giving a wide scope for exploration, from The Great Barrier Reef (yes, Ms Trail is back from Australia!) to Animals, Jungles and Wing-ed Things!

You are invited to come and let us share our learning with you during our DrEAM Outdoor Assembly on **Friday, 11th September at 11:15am.**

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Got a Few Hours to Spare??



Mrs Wood, our Business Manager, and I were ready to interview our pool of applicants for a new Lunch Hall Supervisor this week and were left disappointed when faced with a 100% no show! There we were, clipboards in hand and pencils poised but no-one came to meet us!

This means we are still without a Lunch Hall Supervisor. The post requires someone to help our children through the lunchtime process. Monday – Thursday, 12-1:30pm. If you, or a friend, are interested in taking up this position, please contact the school.

Nurture Nook

We are in the process of developing our Nurture approach at Blackhall. We have a new, bigger space for Nurture and Mrs Deane and the Nurture Team are developing this resource, as well as a new sensory room for those children who would benefit.



Our Blackhall Parent Staff Association has already funded many resources to help with this but any further donations would be gratefully received.

If you have had/are having a summer clearout and find the following items, we would give them a good home:

- Lego
- Toy cars/vehicles
- Animal toys/Small World Toys
- Globe
- Wooden toys/building blocks

Thank you!

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Necessary Paperwork

Your child has now received the annual data check forms. Please ensure these legally required documents are returned as soon as possible.

Thank you!



School Improvement Plan

We expect another busy, productive year at Blackhall, especially with the excitement of a new playground on the way! (Will keep you updated.)

We are adopting the approach of 'Kaizen' (change for the better) – The Japanese philosophy of continuous improvement.

Our main points of focus for this year are:



- Improving Writing Skills;
- "Capable Environments" (from relationships to organisation of learning and rooms);
- Updating school policies for Writing, Numeracy, Digital and Play.

Our aim is to ensure our practice is meeting the needs of our children and families. These needs are always changing and that means this process is never 'done'. We rely on the support and involvement of parents, carers and wider community to help us to get it right. Thank you for all you do to help us meet these goals for our children.

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Hope everyone enjoyed the Eclipse this week and your retinas escaped unharmed! We are excited as ever about the year ahead and look forward to all that we can learn from each other.

Have a lovely weekend!

Kirsty

