

Blackhall Primary School



Head Teacher: Kirsty Martin
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83 Craigcrook Road
Edinburgh

Friday, 11th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you to everyone who came along this morning to share our "DrEAM About Nature" Learning. Our P7 House Captains and Events Coordinators did a great job and were the busiest of the bunch today – with the preparation for their compere duties being added to the already packed P7 Schedule of Lagganlia Assembly and Great Barrier Reef presentations! Your teachers and you have more than earned your holiday Monday!



It was amazing to see and hear all the learning that has been experienced through the Expressive Arts media. (Anyone else checking Skyscanner for the next available flight to The Galapagos??)

On a day when many of us are remembering the darkness of 25 years ago, it is especially cathartic to bask in the light of our future generation of leaders and changers.

Well done everyone – in particular the teachers and staff who work so hard to ensure the children are proud to show their best!



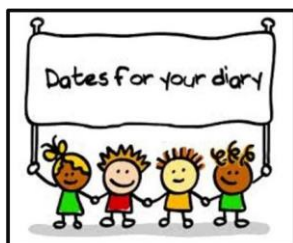
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Calendar ...

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.

SEPTEMBER	
Monday, 14th	SEPTEMBER HOLIDAY – School Closed
Friday, 18th	• "Coffee and Chat" – What is SaLT? (Speech and Language Therapy) 9-10am • Royal High School Open Afternoon for Parents/Carers
SUNDAY, 20th	Community Gardening Day, 2-4pm. Come along and help prepare our playground for upcoming improvements!
Monday, 21st	Flu Vaccinations in school
Wednesday, 30th Sept	P1MP - Parent/Carer Consultation 4-7pm
OCTOBER	
Thursday, 1st October	Parent/Carer Consultation 4-7pm
Friday, 2nd October	Parent Consultation 1-4pm (Not P1MP)
Wednesday, 7th	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)

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Thursday, 29th	- Coffee and Chat, 2-3pm – Transition to High School (Laura Paterson, RHS, to lead) - PSA Hallowe'en Discos and Movie Night
NOVEMBER	
Wednesday, 4th (TBC)	2027-28 P1 Parents Open Day: 9:15am-10:15am and 1:15pm-2:15pm
Thursday, 19th	Coffee and Chat, 2-3pm – Nurture Provision/Sensory Circuits
Saturday, 21st	AUTUMN FAIR 11am-1:30pm
Monday, 30th	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)
Friday, 18th	P7 to Interactive Nativity Trail at St Columba's END OF TERM – Normal Finishing Times
JANUARY	

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Tuesday, 5th	School Closed to Pupils – Staff INSET Day
Wednesday, 6th	All pupils return for Spring Term
Week beg 11th	Termly Newsletter home
Thursday, 21st	Coffee and Chat, 2-3pm – “Capable Environments” (Neuro-affirming spaces, Inclusive Communication, Physical & Sensory Adjustments, Relational Safety & Affirmatory Spaces)
FEBRUARY	
Thursday, 11th	P7 School Show at RHS, 7pm. Coffee and Chat, 9-10am – Conversations about Care Experience (Carmel Jacob-Thomson, Educational Psychologist to lead)
Monday, 15th – Friday, 19th	FEBRUARY BREAK
MARCH	
Thursday, 18th	Parent Consultation, 4-7pm
Friday, 19th	Parent Consultation, 1-4pm
Thursday, 25th (TBC)	Coffee and Chat - What is OT? (Supporting your child to develop their 'occupation')
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

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Friday, 30th April	Wear Your Flair" – come dressed up, dressed down, dressed fancy! Spring House Event (tbc)
MAY	
Monday, 3rd	MAY DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday, 4th	No Pupils – Staff INSET
Thursday, 6th (TBC)	Edinburgh Evening News to take P7 class photos
Monday, 17th	"Energise and Exercise" – Sponsored active week at BPS (TBC)
Wednesday, 19th	New P1 Parents and Carers Induction Evening
Thursday, 20th	Coffee and Chat, 2-3pm – What is EAL? (Supporting development of a multilingual community)
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

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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

Here are some immediate points of info...

Next Week...



HOLIDAY MONDAY.

- **Friday, 18th, 9-10am - Coffee and Chat:** "What is Speech and Language Therapy?"
(All welcome)

- **Sunday, 20th, 2-4pm – GARDENING DAY!**

(Further details below)

The Week After...

Monday, 21st – Flu Vaccinations happening in school all day.

Playground Improvements – Update!

Blackhall has recently been allocated £150,000 to improve our playing spaces for our children. This is a significant amount of money but we have to plan carefully, to ensure we make the most of it!



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As discussed at Parent Carer Council Meeting this week, there is now a plan to start on these improvements.

From the June consultation with parents/carers, staff and (of course) children, the second option of the smaller "MUGA" (Multi-Use Games Area) up the side of our big gym hall, leaving more varied options for the muddy field, was the preferred choice.

We are now waiting for a confirmed start date for the MUGA part of the development to get underway.

It is important to manage everyone's expectations of what this money can buy for us: probably not as much as you may think. For instance, there is necessary and substantial drainage required to ensure whatever we put on top of the ground, does not become soggy or saggy over time and this is costly.

There are some ways, however, that we can be savvy and we will explore these as we progress.

I have asked for a start date on this first part of our improvements and am hopeful that it will fall during the October break. I will keep you updated on the progress, timescales and costs.



In the meantime...

Community Gardening Day next Sunday, 20th September, 2-4pm.

The plan is to relocate the growing area and planters, currently situated where the MUGA will cover. If you are willing and able to come along at any time in that 2 hour window, you will be very welcomed and appreciated!

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Community Grants Fund

Earlier this year, we were successful in obtaining a grant from CEC to help rejuvenate our pond and fund our "Get Blackhall Growing" developments (vegetables, trees, wild turf, etc).



Today, we had some visitors who wanted to come along and see the impact that grant had on our pond and growing areas.

Tremaine and Emma, from Community Empowerment and Engagement Team, were extremely impressed! Not just by the development of these areas but by how well our children represented our school and its aim to develop a more sustainable approach across our learning. Mrs Mitchell and some of our P6 pupils were able to share the learning and improvements that have been made.



In fact, our visitors reported that our school and its community had created the "perfect case study" for what can be done on food and biodiversity in a school!

Amazing!!



Thank you to our parents/carers and Mrs Mitchell who are leading this so well for our pupils.

Why not come along on Sunday, 20th and be part of this exciting movement?

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Meet the Teacher

It was great to have so many attend our Meet the Teacher last week. There were lots of smiles and casual chats, as usual, and I hope you found it useful to see where your child spends much of their day (and with whom!). After the event, I had sent round a link with some quick questions to give us some feedback. There were some problems with the link which I believe are now remedied.



Please take a few moments to complete this survey. Many thanks:
['Meet the Teacher' - September 2026 – Fill in form](#)



Parent/Carer Consultations Coming Soon

Our Parent/Carer consultation booking service will be open from Sunday, 20th September until Monday, 28th September. Please make sure you book a slot to meet with your child's teacher on the given dates. It is not always possible for

teachers to meet parents on extra or different dates and you don't want to miss the opportunity to hear how your child is progressing in class.

There are also opportunities to meet with Ms Pearce, Support for Learning Teacher and Mrs Mitchell, Nature Detectives Teacher.

(NB - For P1MP, your dates are Wednesday, 30th September and Thursday, 1st October – no Friday times for you.)

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Coffee and Chat

Next **Friday, 18th September 9-10am**, our second Coffee Morning is asking, "What is SaLT? (Speech and Language Therapy)"

Come along and find out from Kathrine Drummond (Speech and Language Therapist linked to our school) how the SaLT team works with school to support pupils.

...As ever, if you just fancy a coffee and biscuit, come along and listen in! We will be in the staff room at 9am and you will be welcomed.



Blackhall PSA (Parent Staff Association)

Our first Blackhall PSA meeting of this session took place last week and lots of ideas and dates were shared.



First up, we have our Hallowe'en Discos and Movie Night on **Thursday, 29th October**. There will be more information to come, of course, but please make sure you have that date in your calendar.

The Autumn Fair this year is going to take place on **Saturday, 21st November, 11am-1:30pm**. Mark it in your calendar and come along to have a cake, some fun, and maybe bag yourself some bargains! More info will be forthcoming.



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Blackhall Parent Carer Council Meeting

Our first PCC of the year happened this week, and there were many points of discussion re progress on our big playground development.

Thank you, as ever, to all the Parents and Carers who give of their time to make sure Blackhall is a growing, thriving and collaborative community.



Featured Pupil Group:

JRSOs at the City Chambers

Introducing our new JRSO team for this year:

Esther, Olivia, Ayla and Ariana.

Last Friday, 4th September, the team went to the JRSO event at the

City Chambers, accompanied by Mrs Sokolnykova. They had a great time and Mrs Sokolnykova was very impressed with their enthusiasm and engagement.

There were workshops, with Parking Attendants, Police Officers and Crossing Guards ("Lollipop People"). Olivia found herself in handcuffs at one point but managed to free herself in time to return to school!

The group has got lots of ideas to help keep our children and families aware of road safety. (And I don't think handcuffs come into it anywhere!)

Our JRSOs are also keen to do a Road Signs Quiz in an upcoming assembly. I am assured these signs are quite simple and it is something to roll out to parents/carers to help them understand

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how to keep our pupils safe when they drive or park around our school neighbourhood. Could be interesting...

Good luck, Esther, Olivia, Ayla and Ariana! Your role is very important for our school community and I am sure you are going to perform beautifully.

Have a wonderful long weekend everyone and we will see you on Tuesday!

Kirsty

