

Head Teacher's Comments

Before Christmas is upon us we need to recognise some of the great work that the school has been involved in this session. As usual we have been involved in many activities and learning experiences that have involved you. We have had Journey of the Year, Parent Consultations, Harvest and class assemblies and our annual Mac Millan Coffee Morning. These events are very important for you to participate in the wider work of the school and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for attending these events and supporting the school.



Children in Need

Children in Need is held on Friday the 16th of November and this year we are inviting the children to dress up in spots and or as Pudsey Bear. Throughout the day the children will be enjoying many fun activities where we will come together in vertical groups to do Children in Need related activities, A2 class will be baking cakes for sale on the day, we will also organise a raffle for the children and there will be a prize for the best dressed person. The children can bring a £1 to dress up and raffle tickets and cakes will also cost a £1. Please support this good cause with the same generosity that you have given in previous years.

Big Bedtime Read and CAPER Children and Parents Enjoying Reading AMNESTY



As you know our CAPER and Big Bedtime Read which was launched last year was a great success and since last session the children have been enjoying the CAPER and Big Bedtime Read packs on a weekly basis for you to support your child/children with reading at home. However we have experienced a lot of whole packs not getting returned and books missing from the packs. Please check at home for any packs or individual books that belong to the packs and return them to school or in your child's bag. Although we will need to replenish the books every year because of usage some have gone missing and as you will understand this is an unnecessary cost to the school!

Book Week at Blackburn Primary and Hopefield Nursery Class Week beginning the 19th of November

Throughout the week the children will be engaging in many reading activities and we have invited many authors to visit our school (please see the timetable below). Each class has also been set a challenge to improve their cosy reading corner and we are also inviting groups of parents and pupils to visit Glowworm in Broxburn to restock our school and nursery library and to restock some of our CAPER and Big Bedtime Read packs. If you would like to help us purchase books at Glowworm please either speak to Mrs Kinnen in the Nursery or Mrs McLay at the school office. We plan to leave the school at 9.30 am on Wednesday the 21st of November and be back for lunch time.

The following author visits are arranged:

<p>Tuesday 20th November 2018</p>	<p>Stuart Reid:</p>	<p>9:15 - 10:30 Book Reading (all in the Hall). 11:00 - 12:30 P5/6/7 Creative Writing Session. 13:00 - 14:00 P3/4 Creative Writing Session. 14:00 - 15:00 P4/5 Creative Writing Session.</p>
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Wednesday 21st November 2018	Tony Bonning.	4:30 – 6:30 Launch of Big Bedtime Read / CAPER
Thursday 22nd November 2018	Emily Dodd	9:30 – 10:30 P1 – P3 Can't Dance Cameron 11:00 – 12:00 P4 – P7 Powerful Forces
Wednesday 28th November 2018	Alan Dapre	11:00 – 12:30 P1 – P3 Character Creation Session (colouring pens needed). 13:05 – 14:05 P4 – P7 Wordplay, Scenarios and Characters.
Monday 3rd December 2018	Stuart Reid	10:00 - 10:40 Nursery 11:00 - 12:30 Creative Writing P1/2/3 13:00 - 13:40 Nursery
Monday 14th January 2019	Stuart Reid	9:15 - 10:30 P5/6/7 Creative Writing 11:00 - 12:30 P4/5 Creative Writing 1:15 - 2:00 P1/2 Creative Writing 2:00 - 3:00 P3/4 Creative Writing Competition Challenge set
Monday 18th March 2019	Stuart Reid	Book Reading Assembly and overall celebration (competition winners announced).

Big Bedtime Read and CAPER Children and Parents Enjoying Reading Re Launch Wednesday the 21st of November 2017

- 4.30 pm to 5.30 pm Big Bedtime Read for Nursery pupils
- 5.30 pm to 6.30 CAPER for P1 to P3 pupils

As part of our School Improvement Planning and Pupil Equity Funding we are planning to re-launch our Big Bedtime Read for nursery pupils and CAPER for P1 to P3 pupils on Wednesday the 21stth of November. We want to build on the great work that was started last session and promote reading for enjoyment and get you reading regularly with your child at bedtime. Each week we will continue to give your child a reading pack which will have a wide variety of reading books that includes different titles and a mixture of fiction and non-fiction books. You are invited to come along with your child to read some stories and get your reading pack for your child/children. We will be having hot chocolate with marshmallows and will dress up in our bedtime clothes. We are also delighted that Tony Bonning author of Another Fine Mess will join us with songs and storytelling. It will be a great night for all involved and we all look forward to seeing you there.

On Friday the 23rd of November we will also be having a Pop up Reading Café which will be run by our P5/6/7 pupils and we look forward to you coming along for some home baking and the chance to read a book with your child. We will also hand out the Book Bug packs for P1 pupils and the Read, Write Count packs for P2 and P3 pupils so please come along and join us for cake, coffee and a book.

I will also be looking to recruit some Reading Ambassadors to help with improving the school and nursery library and supporting children with their reading. Applications and interviews for this very important position will be distributed this week and interviews will be timetabled for week beginning the 12th of November.

2019 Primary 1 Enrolment



If your child will be 5 years old on or before 29th February 2020, you are invited to enrol your child at Blackburn Primary School. Enrolment forms will no longer be distributed from Pupil Placement to pupils at Hopefield Nursery Class or at Blackburn Primary School and you need to apply online at pupilplacement@westlothian.gov.uk However if you are not able to access the internet please contact nursery staff or the school office on 01506 653481 and we will be delighted to help you with your application.

School and Nursery Parking

Parking in the Nursery and the school continues to be an issue for Council, Hopefield, Blackburn and Connelly staff who have been unable to obtain a parking space, carry out deliveries or drop off or pick up children attending Connelly Campus or our ASD resource. The use of the car park next to Hopefield Nursery Class and in the school is for Council staff only and should not be used by parents to drop off and collect children. This is a health and safety risk and children should not be in the car park unless they are taxied into school. Please use the other entrances in the school and the Nursery when dropping off and picking up your children to reduce the risk of an accident.



SNSA Scottish National Standardised Assessment

West Lothian Council will continue to undertake national standardised assessments which were introduced in all schools in Scotland last session. These assessments will provide an additional source of nationally consistent evidence for teachers to use when assessing children's progress.

Ongoing and informal assessment is, and will continue to be a central part of everyday learning and teaching. Teachers will continue to draw on all of the assessment information available to them, when considering children's progress and planning the next steps in their learning. Our teachers at Blackburn Primary remain best placed to know how the children in their class are progressing and their professional judgement will continue to be the most important way of assessing your child's progress at school.

- Every child in P1, P4, P7 and S3 will undertake national standardised assessments covering some aspects of reading, writing and working with numbers.
- Assessments will be completed online and will be automatically marked by the online system, giving teachers immediate feedback to help children progress.
- The assessments will be used to help teachers understand how well your child is progressing with his or her learning and to plan next steps. There will be no pass or fail.
- The system will be designed so that if a child is struggling with the questions they will get easier, and if a child is doing well the questions will become more challenging.
- The standardised assessments will be as short as possible and will be age and stage appropriate. A time limit of 50 minutes for each assessment has been set. This is an absolute maximum, to ensure that no child feels an unnecessary time pressure when undertaking the assessments. We do not expect the majority of children to require the full 50 minutes.
- Your child will not be expected to take assessments covering reading, writing and working with numbers in one sitting.
- There will be no set day or period of time during which the national standardised assessments must be taken. Individual teachers and schools will decide the most appropriate time during the school year for your child to take the national standardised assessments.
- The assessments will, as far as possible, accommodate the needs of children who require additional support.

Further information can also be found on the Scottish Government's website:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/NationalImprovementFramework/NatonalImprovementFramework>



Twitter: @wlBlackburnPS

This session we have introduced our twitter account and the class teachers have been busy tweeting the excellent work that has been happening in the classes and the nursery. To find out what your children are doing in school please take time to follow us on twitter: @wlBlackburnPS

School Improvement Planning and Pupil Equity Funding Planning (PEF) Session 2018/2019

This session our 2 main priorities are:

To continue with developing a reading culture

Through targeted intervention increase attainment in reading and writing

Some of the initiatives that we have put in place from our Pupil Equity Fund include the following:

- Emotion Works to support positive behaviour in the classes
- Hidden Giants to improve creativity in classroom practice
- Additional Teacher in the Nursery to provide and oversee targeted intervention for individual pupils
- Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT) to provide Narrative Language and Lego Therapy programmes
- Family Link worker to support families with any aspect of family life
- PEF pupil support worker to provide 5 minute box training and programmes to help pupils with coordination
- Re-launch of the Big Bedtime Read and Children and Parents Enjoying Reading Together.
- Purchasing I pads to support children with their reading and providing audio books
- Scotland Reads Initiative (paired reading)



We are delighted to welcome Mrs Kinnen as Class Teacher to Hopefield Nursery Class. Mrs Kinnen is one of only 4 teachers in West Lothian's Early Learning and Childcare settings who have been employed to provide targeted intervention to pupils and families with Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Mrs Kinnen is working with the nursery practitioners through a number of initiatives such as Wordboost, Box Clever, Stay and play sessions and the Big Bedtime Read. You can get more information regarding these initiatives from Nursery staff.

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Katrina Valente as our Family Link Worker and I know that she has already made herself know to a number of families both in the school and the nursery. Mrs Valente can help you with any aspect of family life including behaviour, social issues, school attendance and advice on financial issues. Mrs Valente is offering a drop in session on a Monday and Thursday from 11.00 am – 12pm. Please come along and meet with her and other parents on these days. There might even be cake and coffee! If you need to contact Mrs Valente you can contact her at the school or nursery office or directly on her mobile on 07510249031 or by e mail at katrina.valente@westlothian.org.uk

Wedding Bells



Love has been in the air at Blackburn Primary School with Miss Cleland being the 4th member of staff to get married this year! Miss Cleland got married at the start of the October Holiday and is now called Mrs Goodwin. Staff and pupils wish Mrs Goodwin and her husband a happy, healthy married life together full of fun, laughter and adventure.



Residential trips have been booked for the following stages:

P3 and P4: Lowport 6th – 8th Feb 2019

A1 & A2: Lowport 21st – 22nd Mar 2019

P5, P6 and P7: Dalguise 1st – 5th April 2019

These trips provide excellent experiences and form an important part of the Health and Wellbeing curriculum.

Developing the Young Workforce

As part of the above programme the pupils in P5/6/7 and P4/5 have been looking at the world of work and researching into the different jobs available. P1/2 are visiting Pizza Express in November and we are working on arranging other trips as the year progresses.

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day Thursday the 13th of December



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS
JUMPER DAY

This year the children are asked to donate £1.00 and wear a Christmas jumper/tee-shirt or Christmas bobble hat on Thursday the 13th of December which is the day of our Christmas lunch. All money raised will go towards Save the Children Fund.

Christmas Nativity/School Concert: Lights Camel Action

This Christmas we will be making changes to our Christmas programme and we will be having a separate Christmas Fair and Christmas Nativity. Our Christmas Nativity is called 'Lights Camel Action' and it will be a whole school production taking place on Wednesday the 12th of December at 1.15 pm. Our Christmas School Fair, Coffee and Craft will take place on Friday the 7th of December from 9.30 am to 11.00am and entry will be £2.00 which will include a mince pie and a coffee or tea. If you would like to help by contributing some home baking or donate raffle or tombola items, please contact the school office. I would appreciate if the home baking could be delivered on the morning of Friday the 7th of December. Donations or crafts should be delivered to the school by Monday the 3rd of December and your efforts will raise money for the school fund. We greatly appreciated the work that the Parent Council do with the school to organise Christmas stalls, raffles and tombola. Please note that the raffles will be drawn in the afternoon of our Christmas Nativity. This is a very popular event with excellent prizes so please ensure that you have bought your raffle tickets well in advance.

Please note that we can no longer have all parents and pupils in the dining hall at the same time therefore the children will visit the fair with their parents and each class will get a 20/30 minute slot at the Fair. Please ensure that the children have their purse or money bag ready to spend at the Christmas Fair, Coffee and Craft if you or any relatives are unable to attend.



Christmas is a busy time for everyone and all the children will be starting the rehearsals for the Christmas Nativity 'Lights Camel, Action'. Like you at home it will soon be time to decorate the Christmas tree and look out all the decorations. Blackburn Primary School and Hopefield Nursery class engage in many opportunities to make this a special time of year for the children and I hope you can support the school and attend many of the events that will be running in the lead up to Christmas.

Janet Clarkson
Head Teacher
Blackburn Primary School and Hopefield Nursery Class

'TIS THE
season
TO BE
jolly

Class News

Hopefield Nursery Class

The children arrived at Nursery with enthusiasm and excitement after their long summer break and immediately explored the garden where they discovered – carrots and worms in abundance! This led the children to voice their desire to investigate plants and how they grow. Calum explained 'you need sun' and Cammy said 'seeds too'. This proceeded to actually planting. However, a search for bugs was instigated, just 'in case they eat the seeds', advised Cherry. Further discussions involved 'our carrot journey' – farm to fork.



Scottish maths week was introduced by learning through play and in considering 'The Three Bears', as the children counted out the bowls, the chairs, the beds; they even compared sizes, not only of the bears but of themselves. There was measuring out to make porridge where they used measuring equipment and scales ... 'it tastes delicious', said some and others cried, 'Yuck'!

With the onset of Autumn the Nursery visited the 'wild forest' and gathered leaves, cones, twigs, feathers and anything they could find and discussed seasonal change and created 'transitional art', which can be seen in our floor book.



During Halloween this week, the children made giant spider webs, weaving and spinning ribbon, string and coloured sparkly thread to create wonderful patterns that shone in the sunlight. We also learnt the 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' which the children sang at the Harvest show.



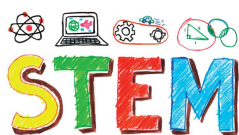
Remember we now have live feeds through Twitter so you are able to find out what is happening in the Nursery. Our Enterprise Project is the 'Dogs Trust', so please bring in on the appropriate day for your child, tinned dog food, dog toys, treat, blankets and towels. Finally we have the Big Bedtime Read at the Blackburn Primary on 21stth November.

Class A1



Before the holidays A1 were asking for contributions for our Harvest Food Collection! We would like to thank everyone who donated, West Lothian Foodbank was grateful for all the contributions. Last term A1 completed a book study on 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs' and they took part in excellent drama sketches and constructed the houses of the pigs. The pupils in A1 have been making great progress at swimming and are looking forward to the block this term. All the adults in A1 have been learning how to tweet and are very excited about it! So keep your eyes peeled for updates on the fantastic learning the pupils get up to this term!!

Class A2



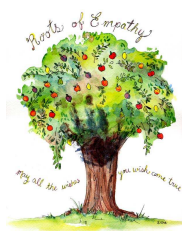
A2 have had lots of fun and learned lots of new things since we have come back to school. We have been busy learning about Scotland, the skeleton and STEM. The thing we have enjoyed most has been the many different STEM challenges we have taken part in. We have had to work in a team and listen to each other's ideas. We really liked building a tower out of cups and finding an A-Z of the outdoors in the sensory garden. Our topic on Scotland led us to find out about lots of things that are traditional and things that are modern day. We also learned about some of the different islands around Scotland and that some of them are very pretty. We are very much looking forward to completing our book study on 'Around the World in 80 Days!'. We have been busy planning what we are going to do and learn about so watch this space... We know that Christmas is just around the corner and are looking forward to finding out what role we have to play in this year's nativity. We do know though that we will need to put our dancing shoes on!

Primary 1/2



The children in Primary 1/2 have had a busy first term. Our new Primary 1 children have settled in very well and are now familiar with classroom routines and are aware of what is expected of them. In Literacy, we have been using our new "Might Writer", to support and structure our story writing in class. Some of our stories have been truly amazing! In Numeracy we have been learning to recognise, count and form numbers within 10 and up to 100 and we are currently investigating the properties of 2D shapes. Our IDL topic has been very successful and we have been looking at the people in society who help us including our emergency services. We enjoyed a fun afternoon dressing up in a real life police officer's uniform and we created our own warrant cards. We hope to arrange a visit or two from some local heroes from the community over the coming weeks. Last week, Alan Windram, the author of "One Button Benny" came to read his story to us and we sang songs, danced and had a blast!! I am sure you will agree that we have made a very positive start to the year and we hope that this is set to continue.

Primary 3/4



P3/4 are learning about the world of work as part of our interdisciplinary topic we will be learning how we can achieve our hopes, dreams and aspirations for the future. We are hoping to arrange a visit from people who have jobs helping us in our community and we are also hoping to visit a place of work. As part of our topic we will be planning and running an enterprise project. We have been enjoying having baby Leighton and Mrs Bryce in our class as part of the Roots of Empathy programme, we are learning about how we change as we grow and Leighton is our mini teacher.

P3/4 have a busy term as we begin to prepare for book week, we will be enjoying reading in class, meeting authors, revamping our library, turning our classroom door into a book cover and setting up a book swap (any contributions would be greatly appreciated). We have introduced Mighty Writer into our class and already we have noticed our stories improving, we are planning to photocopy our excellent work to let parents and carers see how great our stories are.

Primary 4/5



Primary 4/5 have been busy in Business Enterprise creating Christmas cards to sell to our local community in Blackburn. We have had four departments working on separate areas. Communication was essential and we all pulled together in order to achieve the end goal. Designs were created, printed, advertised and now we are waiting for the orders to come pouring through! We have also been learning about internet safety, exploring emotion words, skills for basketball and French days of the week and months of the year. Our big topic in Literacy is Storyland where we have been learning the different styles of writing for posters, letters, invitations, thank you cards and more.

We are looking forward to learning how to calculate area for maths, developing our writing styles, how famous people started their own business, our hopes, dreams and aspirations and getting creative with arts and craft! There will be author visits and fundraising for Children in Need to look forward to. We will also be using our measurement skills to re-vamp our library corner with a budget.

Primary 5/6/7



P5/6/7 did a fantastic job of setting up and running the Macmillan Coffee Morning. Thank you to all of the parents and carers that made it along and donated delicious treats. Thanks to you between the Nursery and the School we raised £352.60!

We are really looking forward to putting our culinary skills to the test again this term as we will be running the reading cafe during book week!

We have also began working on our 'Respect Nature' campaign and have been learning about the negative impacts on our planet. The children wanted to know more about endangered animals, pollution and climate change and completed some online research. To display their learning they opted to create PowerPoint presentations which were very impressive!

Term Dates Blackburn Primary School & Hopefield Nursery Class - Session 2018/2019



Thursday the 15 th of November	P1 / P2 to Pizza Express
Friday the 16 th of November	Children in Need Round Robin and fundraising
Monday the 19 th of November	Book week at Blackburn Primary School
Wednesday the 21st of November	4.30 pm: Launch of Big Bedtime Read for Nursery pupils at Blackburn Primary School 5.30 pm Launch of CAPER (Children and Parents Enjoying Reading) for P 1 to P3 parents at Blackburn Primary School
Friday the 23 rd of November	Pop up Reading Café for all pupils, parents are welcome
Tuesday the 4 th of December	Little Ted's Xmas Story Puppet Show for Nursery am and pm pupils and P1 – P3.
Friday the 7 th of December	9.30 am Blackburn's School Fair: Christmas cake, coffee and craft
Monday the 10 th of December	Nursery Christmas Singalong and Nibbles 9.30 am for morning children and 1.30 pm for afternoon children at Blackburn Primary School parents are welcome
Tuesday the 11 th of December	10.00 am – 12.00 pm Whole School to Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime Howden Park Centre
Wednesday the 12th of December	1.15 pm Christmas Nativity Lights Camel Action
Thursday the 13 th of December	Christmas lunch: Children to donate £1 and wear Christmas jumper/tee- shirt/bobbly hat for Save the Children
Thursday the 13 th of December	P5 Handball Festival
Wednesday the 19 th of December	PM P1/2, A1 pupils and P3/4 Christmas party. A special visitor has been invited and we are hopeful that he will be able to attend our party at around 2.30 pm
Wednesday the 19th of December	Nursery parties for AM and Pm pupils. (A special visitor has been invited for the end of each session and we are hopeful that he will be able to take time out of his busy schedule and attend the Nursery)
Thursday the 20 th of December	PM: P4/5, P5/6/7 A1 and A2 pupils Christmas Party
Thursday the 20th of December	8.55 am Breakfast for our taxi drivers and escorts of ASD pupils. Children are welcome to have their breakfast in the school
Friday the 21st of December	9.30 am Christmas Church Service Blackburn and Seafeld Parish Church
Friday the 21st of December	12.30 pm Pupils break up for Christmas holiday
Monday the 7 th of January	Nursery and school pupils resume