

How did our pupils perform? ...

Performance		Performance (June 2007)	Performance (June 2008)	Performance (June 2009)
Reading	School EA	95 85	88 85	84 85
Writing	School EA	85 81	92 81	94 82
Mathematics	School EA	85 88	96 87	90 88

(Note : EA = Average for all Falkirk Council Primary Schools)

It must be remembered that each child in Blackness Primary represents 3% of overall attainment.

I must commend all staff and pupils for their dedication and hard work during last session which contributed to these outcomes.

Congratulations to all!

FALKIRK COUNCIL
Education Services

Blackness Primary School

Standards & Quality Report Session 2008/2009

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you probably know, each year the government and the Council publish information designed to show how well schools and local authorities are aiming to improve pupil performance.

In similar fashion, we in Blackness Primary School would like to tell you how we are progressing in our school. This leaflet has been designed to do just that. It is our "Standards and Quality Report" for last session.

Inside, you will find a brief description of the main things we set out to do at the start of last session and also our view, on looking back, of how well we managed to achieve them. Whilst we do many things in the course of a year, we

have focused on what we consider to be the most important areas.

I hope you find the leaflet



helpful.

Fiona Richardson
Headteacher

BLACKNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL -



What we set out to do last August....

- To improve the quality of learning experiences of all pupils through a Curriculum for Excellence
- To use feedback from questionnaires on PLPs in formulation of a new document and improve the process of Personal Learning Planning

- To audit the delivery of Thinking Skills, including Philosophy, across the school.
- To develop a programme of study for Personal and Social Development and devise a School Policy.
- To increase pupil knowledge of the World of Work through cluster activity days and through Enterprising experiences in school.
- To encourage and expect corporate leadership among the staff team.

'WE LISTEN, THINK AND WORK TOGETHER'



What we achieved by June.....

- Staff have had 5 Collegiate sessions to devise new planning formats for Environmental Studies in line with a Curriculum for Excellence.
- New PLPs have been devised, used and sent out to Parents on 2 occasions.

- Planning for Thinking Skills and Philosophy integrated into teachers' planning.
- School Policy on P.S.D. written and programme of study across all stages has been developed.
- A World of Work day was held for P7 pupils at Forth Valley College. There has been an increase of Enterprising activities across the school.
- Mrs. Cullen trained on 'To Lead or Not To Lead' Course and Mrs Kilcoin is school's Eco Coordinator.

- To develop strategies for rigorous self evaluation across all teaching.
- To plan for Active Learning experiences across the school, especially in delivering the teaching of Reading.

- To further celebrate wider Pupil Achievement in school.

- To further encourage parental participation to reach wider Parent Forum and members of the Community.

- To maintain current standards of Health and Well Being among pupils, staff and parents.

OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2009/10

- To work towards gaining our 3rd Green Flag
- To audit and develop all aspects of Literacy in line with a Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes.



Every child is special and included at Blackness!



Happy Staff --- Happy Pupils!



ACHIEVEMENTS FOR 2008 /09

We are very proud of our pupils in what they can attain in Standardised Tests. However, we are equally proud of what they can **ACHIEVE** within and outwith school. Here are some of the highlights of last session's achievements.

- We developed the school website with P6/7 and Mrs Fotheringham.
- We collected over £600 from our 'Dress Down Fridays' and donated £500 to 'Water Aid'
- We were the only Primary school to attend the Lego Challenge in Edinburgh, and were given a special mention by the judges.
- We increased Enterprise experiences from 4 to 8 for each child.

- We took part and were very successful in Falkirk Council's Athletics Event in May.
- We supported many local events, including 'Bibleworld' and Valley FM radio, where our pupils made marvellous D.Js!
- We had great success in the small school annual competition called 'Talking for Scotland'. One of our P4 pupils won the Junior Shield and one of our senior pupils came very close to winning the senior trophy.
- We increased parental involvement within school by publishing policies on the school website, and had much more interest from parents in becoming parent helpers. School events were as always, very well supported and one parent organised lots of Easter activities for the children.
- We won an Oscar for 2 films on Healthy Living at the MacRobert Centre in Stirling.
- We were nominated for a Celebrating Success Award for our International Education link with a school in Nova Scotia.
- Our Football Team came runners-up in The Challenge Cup.

- We won a 'GOLD' for our first ever entry into The Pallet Garden competition in Ingliston in Edinburgh.
- We continue to be well respected in the Community and beyond, as evidenced by the growing numbers of placing requests into our school - now standing at 43%.
- We managed to retain Miss Beattie as a permanent member of the staff team at Blackness. Miss Beattie was nominated from all Falkirk Council probationers to attend a ceremony to celebrate full registration with the General Teaching Council for Scotland in the Signet Library in Edinburgh.

QUOTABLE QUOTES FROM STAFF, PARENTS AND PUPILS.

"At Blackness, we treat each child as an individual. We therefore accommodate, nurture and encourage each one within a climate of mutual respect."

"I couldn't have asked for a better start to my teaching career"

I like this school. People listen to what you have to say."

"I like being in Primary 2 better than Primary 1. You get harder work in Primary 2.."

"It's a bright, colourful and welcoming place for everyone."

"Pupils are kind, considerate and thoughtful towards each other."

"It's good. I like playing best. I don't like it when I fall"

"I love the plants and eating Carrots and raspberries."

"It's a happy, calm and busy environment with good discipline and team spirit."

"I would have liked to come to a school like this when I was young."

"It's got a nice, open playground with lots of space to play."

"You get to know each other better than in a big school."

"It's got a great view of the River Forth."



And finally.....

"I think Blackness is a great little community and the children at Blackness Primary are very, very lucky!"

