

Underbank Primary

Update 1 – 18th August 2023



Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter, which is normally issued every second Friday. This newsletter contains lots of important information and dates. Please keep this safe and record any important dates/events in your own diary. Diary dates can also be found on Parentsportal. There is a full section on Parentsportal further on in this update.

On Wednesday of this week, we welcomed 17 new Primary 1 pupils.

Our classes for the year ahead are:

P1/2 – Miss MacDonald / Mrs Donnelly

P2/3 – Mrs McInnes

P3/4/5 – Mrs Bond

P5/6 – Mrs Lamont / Mrs Higgins

P6/7 – Mrs McLeod

All pupils have settled well into school life and look fabulous in their school uniforms. Thank you for sending them back smiling and looking smart.

Mrs Donnelly will shortly be leaving us to go on maternity leave and Miss MacDonald will then be Room 1's class teacher.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club is now up and running and is available for families who require this service. Please notify us by 12 noon on a Thursday of your requirements for the following week. If your work pattern is the same weekly, there is no need to book your child in on a weekly basis, we will record them as attending until you advise us otherwise.

Children will be offered Weetabix and/or toast for breakfast, together with a glass of milk.

Breakfast club opens at 8:15am and closes at 8:45am. Last orders for breakfast is at 8:40am. Please do not drop your child off before 8:15am as the gate is not open. Furthermore, there is no adult presence in the playground until 8:45am.

School Lunch Menu

Our 2023 – 2024 new school lunch menu will start on Monday 28th August. A paper copy of the menu will be issued to all families next

week. The school menu is also available on Parentsportal.

Please discuss the menu with your child so that he/she is aware of what is on for the week ahead.

Milk can be pre ordered on ParentPay and is now priced at 26p per carton. Instructions on how to pre-order milk for your child can be obtained from the school office.

Drinking water is also available daily with all school lunches.

ParentPay

Underbank Primary is a cashless school and all items requiring payment are added to ParentPay. You should automatically get an alert that a payment item has been assigned to your child. We use ParentPay for Educational Excursions, etc.

Our new Primary 1 parents were issued with instructions and a letter yesterday, which contained their username and password to allow parents to access ParentPay.

Parentsportal - Annual Forms

All Annual Forms and consents are now done via Parentsportal. Parents of Primary 1 pupils were issued with information and instructions on how to access Parentsportal yesterday. It would be gratefully appreciated if you could link your child as soon as possible so that we can assign the forms to them.

All existing pupils are linked to Parentsportal and we will be assigning these forms to your child(ren) shortly.

Please check every aspect of the annual data check form to ensure that the information we hold on file for your child is accurate. This is especially important with regards to medical information, telephone numbers, email addresses and emergency contacts. If possible, please list at least one emergency contact for your child, if you haven't already done so.

We will not tweet any pupil photographs until we have your consent to do so.

To download the Parentsportal app, please see attached QR code.

School Twitter Account - Please follow us!

We have a school Twitter account to share activities, achievements, news and quick updates with all in our school community. Please consider following us on Twitter.

Pupil data checks include seeking parental consent for us to include your child in school tweets. Please respond to this as soon as you can so that we are fully informed of whether we can include your child in any photos we share. We will recommence class tweets when we have collated all returns.

This week we have been able to post some photos of our new P1 pupils. Please don't forget to 'like' some of our tweets if you do decide to follow us!

Provisional Gym Days:

Primary 1/2 – Monday & Thursday

Primary 2/3 – Monday & Wednesday

Primary 3/4/5 – Monday & Tuesday

Primary 5/6 – Tuesday & Thursday

Primary 6/7 – Tuesday & Wednesday

Gym will continue to be tackled outdoors when possible. We like pupils to wear their school sports t-shirt/polo-shirt, their school sweatshirt and black, blue or grey joggers/leggings with their trainers on their gym days. Even on gym days, pupils will therefore be required to wear school colours.

Children with long hair should have this tied back and earrings should be removed on PE days.

Buddies

Our 17 Primary 1 pupils have all had the opportunity to meet their buddies this week. Our 17 P7 pupils are doing a brilliant job of looking after the new P1 pupils. Thank you. Throughout the session, P1 and P7 pupils have the opportunity to tackle some activities together at Buddy Meetings.

Homework

Information on homework will be issued in the coming weeks.

Indoor Shoes

During the summer break we had new carpets fitted to the school and therefore indoor shoes are required for every child. If you haven't already supplied your child with indoor shoes, please do so, in order that our lovely new carpets remain clean and tidy. Please send these in by Monday 21st August.

Parent Helpers

Parent Helpers are an invaluable asset to the school and can assist in many ways. If you have a particular talent that you would like to share with our pupils, or if you are able to support with other activities, please get in touch.

All parent helpers must hold a PVG (Disclosure) Certificate to enable them to assist in school. All disclosure applications are now done electronically, Please get in touch and Mrs Totten will talk you through this simple process.

After School Clubs

Once we have settled back into school, we will consider starting some after school clubs, together with lunchtime clubs. These are also activities that our parent helpers can assist with, therefore, if you are particularly active and like running, or playing football/netball, or any other sports, we would love to hear from you!

To help with the costs of transports to various sporting events and activities, we have our 'Keep Underbank Active' (KUA) Fund to which donations are made via ParentPay.

Without your donations, we would not be able to participate in the monthly football, netball and cross-country events. If your child is attending any of our clubs, please donate to our KUA Fund, if you can. This payment item will be assigned to all parents in due course. Donations can be as little as 50p, every penny counts!

School Enquiries

We would encourage parents and visitors to send any enquiries via email to the school office, where it will be dealt with timeously. Please email

gw14underbankoffice@glow.sch.uk

Please be aware that our school office isn't always manned due to staff assisting with supervision duties and helping with the buses at the end of the school day. If you need to contact the school with regards to a change of arrangement for your child at 3pm, please email the school office before 2:30pm every day. This is particularly important if your child is on school transport.

Uniform and Belongings

Children should wear their school uniform and should wear jackets and footwear that are suitable for playing and learning outdoors. Children will change into indoor shoes on entering the building each day.

Please ensure all items of clothing, footwear, packed lunches etc. are all clearly labelled with your child's name.

School Photographs

We will arrange for our school photographer to visit the school later this term. We will let you know nearer the time of the arrangements.

Pupil Post

As many parents are aware, email is our preferred method of communicating everything going on here at Underbank Primary. From time to time we do require to send out paper copies of letters requiring a signature/permission.

If your child has brought home any letters/forms that need returned to the school office, please give these to your child as we have a system in place in school for this method of communication. The same applies to any communications you may have for the school. Please simply give these to your child to hand into the school office, via his/her class teacher.

School Uniform Bank

As the majority of parents are aware, we have a 'Good as New' Uniform Bank, which is overseen by Mrs Donna Stewart, parent of a former pupil.

Mrs Stewart prepares a spreadsheet of all items available, and this is updated at regular intervals and will be attached, regularly to our updates. If you see any items you would like please email Mrs Stewart direct at upsuniformbank@gmail.com Mrs Stewart will agree with parents on how items will be distributed. This can be direct via Mrs Stewart or via the school.

Please make use of this facility, we are an eco-school and encourage all types of recycling! All items available are in excellent or 'as new' condition and are completely free of charge. This will all be done in the strictest confidence.

If you have any item(s) that your child has outgrown, please contact Mrs Stewart directly to arrange collection.

An updated spreadsheet of items available is attached to the covering email.

Parent Council/Parents & Friends Association

Both these groups are very active in our school. We will issue more information regarding our Parent Council and our PFA in due course. Both groups are always looking for new members, so please get in touch if you would like to join either or both groups.

Tesco Fundraising for iPads

Tesco have approved us for their community grant scheme and so we are currently one of the groups that you can vote for in the Carluke store. Please request or lift a token to vote for Underbank if you shop at Tesco in Carluke. We are hopeful that the funds we receive from Tesco, will ensure we have all the money we

need to purchase around 20 iPads. Please consider asking friends and family to help too.

Birthday Cakes

We have had a few enquiries regarding the procedures with regards to bringing birthday cakes into school. Unfortunately, this is discouraged but we have no objection to the birthday boy or girl bringing in a bag of funsize sweets e.g. Haribo, which the teacher can distribute to the class as they leave at 3pm. Children will not be allowed to eat the sweets in school due to any possible allergies. Parents can then decide when, or if, they wish their child to have these.

Underbank is a Nut Free School!

As we have children in school who have an allergy to nuts, we request that no snacks, confectionery, etc which contain or may contain nuts, are sent into the school.

School Bags and Stationery

Children should bring a school bag, a bottle of water, a small snack for break time and their pencil case with sharp pencils, a rubber, a ruler, colouring pencils or crayons.

Re-filling Water Bottles

Pupils will be able to refill their own water bottle at their classroom sink if required. Please remember to send only water in your child's bottle.

School Planter

I'd like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Shona Hamilton (Grandparent) and to Ellie, who helped her gran transform our planter at the main entrance. The colourful display welcomed our pupils back to school.

School Chaplain

As detailed in our Handbook, our school chaplain is Mr Steven Reid from Crossford Parish Church. Mr Reid usually contributes to a few of our school assemblies and is sometimes invited by classes to contribute to their RME curriculum.

Car Parking

As many of you know our school car park is congested at the end of the school day, we would like to encourage parents to 'park and stride' to avoid this congestion. Parents are encouraged to either park in the village or directly in front of our old school and then use Mr Hamilton, our school crossing patrol person, to cross the main road. Please do not park on the school side of the main road as this can cause other road users difficulties.

Bus Bays/Drop off zone

The designated bus bays must be kept clear for our school minibuses and taxis at the end of the school day. The same applies to the drop off zone, please do not park here, this is purely for dropping off children before 9am. Our school minibuses and after school care buses sometimes spill into this area.

Ragbag Collection Bin

Please note that our Ragbag bank is now full. Please do not attempt to add any more bags to the bin. We have arranged for this to be emptied as a matter of urgency. We will issue bags and advise of the next collection date in due course.

Flu Immunisation

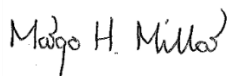
The Flu Immunisation team will shortly be visiting the school to deliver the vaccination to all children. On Monday, we will issue a letter from the immunisation team to children. If your child does not receive a letter, don't panic, your child can still be vaccinated, as the team will contact you on the day.

The date for the flu immunisation will be added to our diary dates as soon as we are made aware of this.

If you **do not** wish your child vaccinated, you can telephone the lead nurse on 03003033229.

Finally, we are all interested in the health and wellbeing of our pupils, so if you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can work in partnership to ensure your child achieves their full potential.

Yours sincerely,



**Margo H. Millar
(Head Teacher)**

Important dates for your diary – new dates are in bold (Please note that diary dates may be subject to change)

28 Aug – P1 Parent Workshop (9:30am – 10am) – see separate email

30 Aug – Meet the Teacher (2 sessions 3:15 and 3:45) – see separate email

22 Sept – Holiday

25 Sept – Holiday

12 Oct – Parent Consultations (more info to follow)

16 Oct –20 Oct – October holiday break

13 Nov – In-Service Day (No pupils in School)

23 Nov – P5 Swimming block commences (more info will follow)

22 Dec – School closes at 2:30pm for the Christmas Holiday break

8 Jan – School Re-opens

Dates of Nativity and Christmas Service will all be advised in due course.