

Underbank Primary

Update 2 – 1st Sept 2023



Covid reminder

Although there is no longer a requirement to do a Lateral Flow Test, there is still the need to be vigilant and continue with good hygiene. We have had a number of Covid cases in school since our return and we are very keen to keep our school community safe and well.

Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can come back to school, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and they're well enough to attend.

Meet the Teacher Event

Thank you to all who attended this very successful event on Wednesday. Here are a few of the comments received in our evaluations:

'Lovely to meet our child's teacher and be informed on the year ahead.'

'Couldn't have been better. Thank you so much. Such a reassuring visit as always.'

'It was great to meet the teacher and get a better understanding of daily routine and how we can support learning at home.'

'Always a worthwhile event. Lovely to meet the teacher and hear about the year ahead.'

We hugely value your partnership at Underbank.

Good Luck Mrs Donnelly

Today was Mrs Donnelly's last day with us as she now commences her maternity leave. We all hope that she can put her feet up for a few weeks before she welcomes her new baby. We'll let everyone know when her baby arrives. Miss MacDonald will now fully take over room 1.

Jackets Required!

A number of our pupils have been caught out because of the very changeable weather. Please always send your child to school with a jacket.

Health and Wellbeing

Please send your child to school each day with only water in their bottle. Water bottle can be refilled throughout the day if required.

Playground - Reminder

To keep all pupils safe, we request that no parent enters the playground at any time. Only staff and pupils should be in the playground.

Transport Funding – Keep Underbank Active (KUA)

As many parents will know, we are now starting to arrange educational outings, school activities and sporting events. Our KUA funds helps with the transport costs to some of the sporting events, **but not all**.

We do have a budget for school activities and for transport, but these budgets should be used throughout the school year and used for the benefit of the whole school and not just for one or two specific activities.

For our P6 and P7 visit to Sky Academy next week, we are asking parents to pay half of the cost of the transport. Thank you to those parents who have already made their contribution.

Shortly, we will be adding P5 swimming to Parentsportal and ParentsPay. The cost to the school is as follows:-

£1.85 per child, per lesson (12 lessons)

£16.35 per swimming coach (2 coaches per week)

Transport to Lanark Lifestyles is £70 per week, which has been hugely discounted for us by Mr Hobson of Hobson Travel.

Thankfully, we have Swimsafe paying for 3 weeks of the 12 sessions, or we might not have been able to attend all 12 sessions of our allocated block.

Each year we ask P5 parents to contribute towards the costs of the swimming and due to the total sum being in excess of £1200, we will be asking parents to meet 1/3 of the cost (£20 per child). If, for any reason, you cannot make this payment, please contact me and I will be able to assist. If you feel you are able to contribute more than the £20 suggested, again, please contact me, as this would greatly help us with the overall cost of our swimming.

I will ensure that no child ever misses out on the swimming block as I feel it is a very important skill and given our close proximity to the river.

Mrs Totten will send out an email when the permission form is live on Parentsportal and when the payment item is live on ParentsPay.

P5 Forest School

Our Primary 5 pupils enjoyed their first week of Forest School this week with Mrs Drennan, Mrs Higgins and Mr Downie, one of our very valued Parent Helpers. Mr Downie has come back to help us again this year, even although his children are no longer Underbank pupils. We are very grateful for his help. Here are some comments from some Primary 5 children.

“My favourite part of Forest School was toasting the marshmallows and drinking the hot chocolate. They were yummy!” **Harrison P5.**

“I did some back flips at the new Forest School site and had great fun that afternoon.”
Amanda-May, P5

“There was a big tree that we were able to climb and hide in.” **Caelan, P5**

“Amanda-May, Nova and I all built a fort. We made a chandelier out of sticks and added it in the centre of our fort. We also built a little fire in the fort (not a real one) to keep us warm.”
Poppy H, P5

P6 & P7 Bikeability

A huge thank you to another of our valued Parent Helpers, Mr Danny Craig, whose granddaughter is a former pupil of Underbank. On Wednesday morning, Mr Craig carried out bike maintenance checks on all P6 and 7 pupils' bikes to ensure that these were all in a roadworthy condition, for the children to do their Bikeability training in the afternoon. Mr Craig will also assist in the delivery of the sessions.

Reminder – no Bikeability next week as the P6 and P7 pupils will be attending Sky Up Academy in Livingston.

Bikeability Scotland Training for Parent Volunteers

If you would be interested in helping to deliver Bikeability at Underbank to our P6 and P7 pupils over the next few years, then SLC have a course that they are offering to all interested parents.

The course will take place at Chatelherault Country Park on the following dates.

Thursday 21st September 2023
Course times: 9.00am – 16:30pm
Thursday 28th September 2023
Course times 9.00am – 16:30pm
Tuesday 3rd October 2023

Course times 9.00am – 16:30pm

If you are interested in attending one of the days, then please get in touch with our office and we will send out further information.

Can you help? – Cancer Research (UK)

If your child has outgrown his/her bicycle and it is still in a roadworthy condition, would you consider donating it to this very worthwhile charity? One of our school volunteers regularly repairs and donates cycles to Cancer Research and we would like to help out if we can. Please contact the school office and we can organise for any bikes to be collected or dropped off.

ParentPay

The following payment items are now on ParentPay.

KUA (Keep Underbank Active)
P6 & P7 Sky Academy

Parentsportal - Annual Forms

Thank you so much to all parents who have completed the permissions and checked their Annual Data Check on Parentsportal. There are only a small number of parents to complete this task now. Until you have done this, there are some elements of school life that they cannot fully participate in until we have your permission.

After School Clubs

The following after school clubs are now up and running at Underbank.

P5/6/7 after School Girls Football Club - started yesterday, week 1 of 3

This is not on next week due to the Football Festival at Robert Owen Memorial Primary

P4/5 after school Multisports Club – starts next Friday for 3 weeks.

Don't forget to add your donations to our KUA fund.

School Lunch Theme Day – 5th Oct

As our new menu launched this week, we are going to participate in a theme day where children can try some of the different dishes on our menu. The following dishes will be available, please encourage your child to attend school lunch on Thursday 5th October.

Chris Corns Tray (Blue)

Sausage pastry
chicken poppers
Chips
Sweetcorn

Becky Broccoli Tray (Red)
Cheese and Tomato Pizza
Macaroni Cheese
Chips
Broccoli

Colin Carrot Tray
Ham Baguette
Grated Carrot

All served with Sally Strawberry and Alan Apple fruit salad, and Paula Pineapple muffin.

Clothing Bank

This has now been emptied. Our next collection is due on 23 November. At this stage I am not too sure if bags will be issued, so please feel free to use your own bags and drop any unwanted items into the clothing bank. Please do not put any unbagged or loose items into the bank as it can get wet inside and these items then become damaged and unusable.

Parent Council/Parents & Friends Association

Our Parent Council are due to meet next Thursday at 6:30pm. They are keen to welcome any new members, so please get in touch if you would like to join this group or our PFA (Parents and Friends Association). As soon as we know the date of our next PFA meeting we will let you all know. If you require any information regarding either group, please pop onto our school website or have a look at our School Handbook.

Flu Immunisation – 8th November

The Flu Immunisation team will visit the school on 8th November to deliver the vaccination to all children.

Thank you to all parents for returning the Flu Vaccination forms. They have now been collected by the team.

Reminders

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 Uniform Bank

Don't forget to email our Used Uniform Co-ordinator, Mrs Stewart should you require any items of school uniform through the school year. All items are in a good condition, and we

encourage all families to use our bank in keeping with our Eco status.

upsuniformbank@gmail.com

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

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.

School Twitter Account

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

Community News

Rural Academy – Lanark

The Rural Academy is planning to run a free PDA in Education Support Assistance in Strathaven in September 2023.

The Education Support Assistant

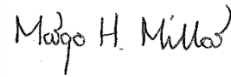
course runs from September 2023 to March 2024. It 3 days per week – 2 days in Class in Strathaven during school hours, and 1 day on Placement in a local school.

It leads to work in the education sector to assist teaching in a class at all levels of educations – Nursery, Primary and High School as well as ASN Schools and classes -, as well as further education opportunities.

All the courses run during school hours and covers a range of modules designed to get people ready for work in the sector or build upon already existing transferable skills.

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)

19 Sept - P4-7 Kids Kitchen Session for Parents (information emailed out yesterday)

22 Sept – Holiday

25 Sept – Holiday

12 Oct – Parent Consultations (more info to follow)

16 Oct –20 Oct – October holiday break

8 Nov – Flu Vaccination Date

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

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

23 Nov – Clothing bank being emptied

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.