

# Underbank Primary

## Update 3 – 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023



### **Baby Donnelly – Congratulations!**

Mr and Mrs Donnelly are delighted to share that their beautiful baby daughter, Roe Donnelly, arrived safely on Thursday morning. Both mum and baby are doing well and hope to be home soon.

### **Possible Strike Action**

Please check your email inbox for an email that was issued today regarding possible strike action later this month.

### **Holiday dates**

Underbank Primary does not get the two day May bank holiday dates at the end of May 2024. We are in the Lanark cluster of schools and therefore we get the two day Lanimer break in June, which this year falls on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> and Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June. Please bear this in mind and mark your calendars that school is open on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> and Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. We have added these dates to our Parentsportal calendar.

SLC encourage all schools to be proactive in trying to reduce the number of term time holidays, as these impact on attendance and pupils' attainment. We hope by highlighting this holiday early, this will avoid any confusion.

### **Attendance and Time Keeping**

Parents/carers, children and the school all have a part to play in encouraging and stressing the importance of attendance at school. We would ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends school regularly and arrives promptly. There is a clear link between attendance and the impact on a child's attainment. Timekeeping is a skill we promote in preparing our pupils for learning, life and work.

The school holiday dates and in-service dates are available from Parentsportal and also on South Lanarkshire's website at: [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)

We have an attendance line on our telephone system. Therefore, if your child unable to attend

school for whatever reason, please leave a message on this attendance line.

- Name
- Stage/Class
- Reason for absence

Absences can also be recorded on Parentsportal.

### **JRSO**

After undertaking interviews with interested P7 pupils, I am delighted to announce that our Junior Road Safety Officers for the session ahead are Jorgie Dunsmore and Aela Simpson. Congratulations girls!

On Tuesday, the girls enjoyed attending the JRSO Training Day to gather ideas and resources.

"When we arrived at Chatelherault, we went into a big gallery which had lots of ideas that we can promote as JRSOs. We received lots of safety equipment - reflectors, hi viz vests, torches. We also received lots of items which we will be able to use as prizes for our competitions e.g. pencils, rubbers, rulers etc.

We had so much fun on the day. We got to go into a fire engine and used a piece of equipment called a spacer. This helps firefighters rescue people who are trapped in cars and buildings. We also got to sit on a police quad bike and we both spoke to each other through the headphones in the helmets." ***Jorgie Dunsmore and Aela Simpson, Junior Road Safety Officers 2023 - 2024***

### **Hedge beside our School Crossing Patrol Person**

I am delighted to tell you that Councillor Poppy Corbett has helped me to encourage the council to cut the overgrown hedge along this pavement. This should allow families to walk, cycle or scoot along the pavement more safely.

### **Beat the Street - 20th Sept till 1st November**

Beat the Street is a free, fun, walking, cycling and wheeling game which encourages families to get out and about throughout Clydesdale. All pupils will be issued with information and a starter pack to allow them to take part throughout Clydesdale.

Within the village, there will be five Beat Boxes, where families can gather points.

Please review the pack that your child brought home yesterday for further information.

### **P5 Forest School**

Our Primary 5 pupils are continuing to enjoy their Forest School Sessions with Mrs Drennan, Mrs Higgins and Mr Downie, one of our very valued parent helpers. Here are some comments from some Primary 5 children.

“Poppy H helped Mr Downie prune some of the bushes and clear the paths as they were overgrown and covering the path.

About ten of us went up the big hill and Mrs Higgins raced us down. We all rolled, and she ran. Mrs Higgins beat the lot of us! Caelan and Mason won the race for the children. **Reported by Harrison Wardrope, Morgan McKechnie and Louis Ferguson P5**

### **P6 & P7 Bikeability**

Our P6 & P7 pupils enjoyed Week 2 of their Bikeability lessons with Mrs McLeod, Mrs Lamont and Mr Craig, our Parent Helper. A huge thank you to Mr Craig for his help and support in fixing a couple of our pupils' bikes to enable them to take part.

### **Reminder - 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.

### **Cancer Research (UK)**

We had an amazing response to our requests for bikes. Mr Craig uplifted approximately 24 bikes from the school and our families. After checking all of the bikes, Mr Craig hopes to be able to donate and/or make quite a number of bikes from the bits and pieces he can use. Mr Craig will then deliver them to his local Cancer Research UK shop, where they will be sold to raise funds for this very worthwhile charity. Thank you for your contributions to this charity. We have now closed this request.

### **Music Tuition**

We now have three music instructors who visit Underbank.

Mr Michael - brass instructor each Thursday  
Mr Calder - drumming instructor each Tuesday  
Mrs Robertson - violin instructor each Tuesday.

We hope that the children in these groups enjoy their sessions and that they will practise at home when they can. There is increasing evidence that playing a musical instrument has a positive impact on attainment in schools.

***Please ensure your child has their instrument on the appropriate day.***

### **Football Report**

Yesterday our two teams of footballers went to John Cumming Stadium in Carluke to take part in the first Football Festival of this school year.

“The girls team played four games against four other schools. We won two matches and lost two matches. Jorgie Dunsmore was the best player in our team as she scored five goals! I even made friends with girls from Carluke Primary team.” ***Alicja Chmiola, P6***

“The boys' teams won one, lost one and drew two games. We played really well and had lots of fun, it was a great day.” ***Lorenzo McAvoy, P6***

### **Girls Football Festival at Robert Owen**

Thank you to Robert Owen Memorial Primary School in Lanark and to all the volunteers who hosted this festival (Lisa and Macy) for us. Thank you also to Derek Howitt, our Active Schools Co-ordinator.

“We were split into 6 teams and then played games on the two pitches. I was in the orange team (Iona), and I was in the non-bib team (Eva). We learned how to use a futsal technique which allowed us to keep the ball low. It was very hot, but we had great fun and can't wait until the next football festival. We will continue to practise our skills at our Thursday club.”

***Reported by Iona Cameron, P6 and Eva Martin, P6***

### **ParentPay**

The following payment item is now on ParentPay.

KUA (Keep Underbank Active)  
P5 Swimming (will shortly be added)

## **Parentsportal - Annual Forms**

Forms live on Parentsportal:-

Annual Data Check (still quite a number of these outstanding.

P5 Swimming (will shortly be added)

## **After School Clubs**

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

P5/6/7 after School Girls Football Club – next week is the final week of this club (21<sup>st</sup> Sept).

P4/5 after school Multisports Club – today was week 2 and Friday 29<sup>th</sup> Sept will be the final week.

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

## **Parents & Friends Association**

Our Parents and Friends Association (PFA) are due to host their first meeting of this school year on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 6:30pm.

They are keen to welcome any new members, so please get in touch if you would like to join this group.

## **Parent Council Update**

Our first PC Meeting took place last week.

Thank you to all who attended. Mr Scott Martin will continue as Chair and Mrs Lorraine Cameron will continue as Vice Chair of the group. The next meeting will take place on 16<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm. Details of members of our PC can be found on our website. Please consider becoming involved.

## **Dogs on School Grounds**

Just a little reminder that dogs are not permitted in any area of our school grounds, this includes the carpark area. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

## **Reminders**

### **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.

## **School Lunch Theme Day – Now 12<sup>th</sup> Oct**

We will participate in a themed lunch day where children can try some of the different dishes on our new menu. The following dishes will be available, please encourage your child to attend school lunch on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **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. If going outdoors for PE then our children will wear the outdoor shoes they are wearing to school on their PE days

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

***A number of playtime snack tubs are left outside each day. Please aim to label these too.***

## **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](mailto: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**

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.

### **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](mailto:gw14underbankoffice@glow.sch.uk)

Please be aware that our school office is not 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**

### **Clyde Valley Fruit Day**

Overton Farm will once again be holding their annual Clyde Valley Fruit Day on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 10am – 2pm. It will be a fun day for all the family, so please pop along!

There will be a fun competition for children to participate in. First prize is a farm visit for the winning entrants' class.

### **Rural Academy – Lanark**

The Rural Academy is planning to run a free PDA in Education Support Assistance in Strathaven in September 2023. Please consider if you would like to be a School Support Assistant.

### **The Education Support Assistant**

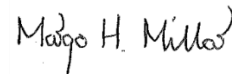
**course** runs from September 2023 to March 2024. It is 3 days per week – 2 days in Class in Strathaven during school hours, and 1 day on Placement in a local school.

The course can lead to employment within the education sector, to assist teaching in a class at all levels of educations.

All the courses run during school hours and cover a range of modules designed to equip people for work in the sector or build upon 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  
Room 3 (P4 & 5 pupils' parents only at 9:15am)  
Room 4 parents at 10:50am  
Room 5 parents at 1pm

22 Sept – Holiday

25 Sept – Holiday

**4 Oct – School Photographer in school (All pupils in full uniform please, even if a gym day. Send kits in school bags)**

**5 Oct – Fischy Music Workshops. Parents will be invited to join us at 1:30pm. This will last approximately 1 hour.**

**10 Oct – Global Goals Presentation by Room 5. Their parents invited to join at 9.45am**

12 Oct – Parent Consultations (more info to follow)

**12 Oct – School Lunch Theme Day (note change of date)**

16 Oct –20 Oct – October holiday break  
8 Nov – Flu Vaccination Date  
13 Nov – In-Service Day (No pupils in School)  
16 Nov – Parent Council Meeting – 6.30pm  
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.*