

Underbank Primary

Update 5 – 3rd November 2023



I hope that everyone enjoyed their October break, even if the weather in Scotland was a little wet and chilly.

Term 2 has got off to a flying start! Please keep an eye out for all school communications so that you don't miss out on activities and events during this busy term. Activities and events dates will also be available on the Parentsportal calendar.

Possible industrial action on 8th November

As previously advised via email on Friday 27th October and yesterday, 2nd November, industrial action is planned to take place on Wednesday 8th November. Should this go ahead, our Flu Immunisation will be impacted, and we have been given a proposed date of Wednesday 20th December. Should the industrial action be postponed, our flu immunisation will take place on 8th November as previously planned. Teachers will issue all pupils with home learning activities to be tackled if pupils are off school on this day.

i-Pad Fundraising

I am delighted to share with you that we have this week, ordered 25 brand new i-pads with protective covers for use in school.

We initially hoped to purchase 20 i-Pads but we recently found out that our fundraising efforts in Tesco had paid off and we have been awarded £1000 for digital learning from Tesco. So together with our PFA's donation of £4000, other parental donations of over £1000, a contribution by the school of just over £1000 and Tesco's £1000, we are able to buy a full class set. Thank you so much to everyone involved in this fundraising effort – what a fabulous result! We hope our new i-Pads will be in school in the next month or so.

Annual Data Checks on Parentsportal – URGENT!

We still have a number of outstanding Annual Data Checks on Parentsportal (18). It is important that we hold your most up to date information, e.g. if you change your email address, you need to update this on

Parentsportal as this has an impact on how you access ParentsPay as these systems are all linked.

Reminders are sent out automatically for completion of the Annual Data Check. If you receive a reminder, please log on and check that the information that we hold are accurate.

ParentPay

The following payment items are now on ParentPay.

- KUA (Keep Underbank Active)
- P5 Swimming
- Room 2 Tall Ships (outstanding payments)
- Christmas Cards 2023

Parentsportal Forms

The following permission forms are now live on Parentsportal:-

- Annual Data Check - still **18** outstanding.
- P5 Swimming
- P6/7 Football Festival – (selected pupils)

We hope to add our annual visit to Goulding's for our P1 and P2 children and our P3 to P7 Panto visit to Parentsportal and ParentsPay shortly.

Beat the Street

Samantha from the Beat the Street team held an assembly on Wednesday of this week to celebrate the end of Beat the Street. Tess (P1), Jonathan and Nicky (P4), Poppy K (P5), Alicja (P6) and Aela (P7) shared their stories about taking part in Beat the Street. Our learners beeped their cards in lots of different locations, including Lanark, Netherburn and Crossford. Underbank managed to earn 11,710 points during the Beat the Street campaign, which is very impressive! Thanks also to our Active School's Coordinator, Derek Howitt, who attended the celebration and then delivered a fun fitness session to Room 1 and Room 3 pupils.

Kindness Initiative at Underbank

Our Pupil Council have joined with the charity 52 Lives to become Kindness Ambassadors in our school. The Pupil Council got together to brainstorm ideas of how we could promote kindness in our classes, across the school and in the wider community. Our Room 5 Pupil Council Representatives, Freya (P7) and Taylor (P7), then joined a national video call with 25 other schools to share our plans.

All classes across the school have been issued with a 'Kindness Can' and if a fellow pupil fills us

with kindness, they get to add a warm fuzzy pompom to their class can. At the end of each month, our Pupil Council Representatives will count the warm fuzzies collected in each class, and the room with the highest number of fuzzies becomes the Kindest Class of the Month, displaying a certificate on their class door.

Across the rest of the year, our Kindness Ambassadors will continue to collect and count our warm fuzzies of kindness and display them for all to see in our Kind Corner with 'Fuzzy the Kind' - our kindness mascot designed by Noah (P6).

Lanark Grammar P6/7 Percussion Club.

Mr Calder, our drumming tutor, has invited the children who attend his group to two percussion group sessions at Lanark Grammar on 7th Nov and 28th Nov.

An email has been sent to the parents of pupils involved. If you haven't replied, and you wish your child to take part, please check your emails. This only applies to our P6/7 drumming group.

P6/7 After School Netball Club

Miss MacDonald will be running an after school netball club for P6 and P7 pupils starting 16th November, An email containing all information was issued yesterday. Places are limited, so if you wish a place for your child, please reply to the email issued.

Don't forget to add a small donation to our KUA fund if your child signs up for this club.

P7 Lanark Grammar Multisports Club

We have had an excellent return from the parents of our P7 children to attend this after school club. This is an ideal opportunity for our P7 pupils to meet other P7s that they will join Lanark Grammar with.

Room 2 Forest School

Room 2 had their first experience at our new Forest School site on Tuesday, and we had a spooky Halloween theme to the activities. Learners were able to use a mallet to drive skewers into a pumpkin to turn it into a hedgehog, make bats and spooky ghosts from sticks and leaves and 'dook' for apples. Next week, the learners want to try a slack line and toast mallows on the camp fire.

"I did all the activities and ran about playing hide and seek, it was great fun." **Wallace, P3**

"We made bats out of a stick and leaves. It had funny stick on eyes too." **Lily, P3**

"It was tricky to get the floating apple, but I tried and tried until I did it. It felt good." **Klark, P2**

Room 5 Forest School

Our Room 5 pupils also enjoyed their first session for Forest School this afternoon. We will get an update from Room 5 for our next newsletter on how their session went.

Room 2 visit to the Tall Ship/Riverside Museum

On a wet Wednesday we climbed aboard the pirate ship Glenlee and were met by Scary Mary and Boonie Anne. We were all impressed by the size of the ship and how we could explore the decks and inside the ship.

"I loved walking around the ship collecting clues for the treasure hunt." **Reuben Thomson, P3**

"I loved finding the treasure." **Kacey Findlay P3**

"I loved dressing up as a pirate and learning the pirate song." **Finnbar Shields, P3**

After our visit to the Tall Ship, we also had a chance to wander round the Transport Museum too. We all had a fabulous day!

"I liked pedalling the bike." **Lily Ferguson, P3**

"I loved looking at the old porche." **Klark McNicol, P2**

"I liked seeing Scoobie Doo in the Mystery Machine." **Freddie Arrenberg, P3**

Christmas Cards 2023

We have had a fabulous response to our Christmas Card homework task which was issued last week. Today is the final day to pay for your child's Christmas cards. **Only parents who indicated on the template that they wish to order cards, have had this payment item assigned to them on ParentPay.**

Unfortunately, I cannot extend this deadline, as we do not wish to hold up the printing of our Christmas cards. We hope to have the orders from the Printroom in school by the end of November/beginning of December.

If you feel you cannot meet the payment deadline for whatever reason, please get in touch, otherwise any unpaid orders will be removed from the spreadsheet. The payment item will be archived shortly.

Poppy Scotland Appeal

Next week, our Pupil Council Members will be distributing poppies for a suggested donation of 20p.

School Photographs

The deadline for return of orders for our school photographs was last Friday. These have now been uplifted by our school photographer. Orders will be distributed as soon as we receive these.

Road Safety Competition

Earlier this session, we submitted entries to the SLC Road Safety competition. Jorgie and Aela, our JRSOs, helped select our final entries. Congratulations to the following pupils who have been awarded 'Highly Commended' Certificates by SLC. They received their certificates at assembly today.

Olive Cook, P1
Cormac Gibson, P2
Ellie Speirs, P2
Isaac Bell, P2
Klark McNicol, P2
Josh Arrenberg, P3
Mason Fitzpatrick, P3
Charlie Gray, P4
Mya Henderson, P4
Sophie Theanne, P4
Finlay Speirs, P5
Harrison Wardrope, P5
Ellie Gray, P6

School Meal Debt on ParentPay

Just a gentle reminder to P6 and P7 parents. Please keep your child's school meals account in credit. We have a number of outstanding balances. Please pop onto ParentsPay and clear any outstanding debtor balances. If you wish to discuss this then please contact us.

Halloween Disco

Thank you to the parents and staff from our PFA who organised our discos this year. Thank you also to Mr Henderson (P4 - Mya's dad) who was a wonderful DJ at both discos. All of our children had great fun and enjoyed all of the activities. Please have a look on out Twitter (now X) account to see all of the fun.

Halloween Costumes

Thank you to those parents who took up our offer of a 'good as new' Halloween costume. If you did take one, and it had a hanger with it, can we have the hanger back please? We need these for various other costumes throughout the year.

Now that Halloween 2023 is a distant memory, please consider donating any costumes your child no longer uses to our Halloween costume bank. Please contact our Halloween Costume Co-Ordinator, Mrs Marshall should you have any to donate.

suzannejmarshall6@gmail.com

Christmas Lunch

A flier for our school Christmas lunch was issued earlier this week. If you haven't already returned the tear off slip with your child's choice of meal, please do so as soon as possible. This allows our Catering Manager to place her Christmas food order in plenty of time.

Pre-Loved Christmas Jumpers

At the end of this term, we will have a few 'Christmas Jumper Days'. If you have any Christmas jumpers that might be suitable for others within school, then please consider handing these into school for another child to enjoy wearing. We will make these available to parents later in November.

SAMH Parental Workshops

Thank you to all parents who spoke with Heather McCartney, a SAMH trainer, during our parent consultations. Heather intends to collate all responses and then offer her initial workshop to all parents. Please look out for communication regarding this.

SLC Budget Consultation

I previously sent out a SLC survey on budget saving within the council. SLC state that they are facing unprecedented financial challenges, with a £70.6 million budget gap in the next two years alone.

Please consider adding your voice to this and prioritising Education. The survey closes on 10th November.

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/budget-consultation

PFA News

Our PFA met on Wednesday of this week to discuss some up and coming events. The main focus is now on their Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25th November. They will be looking for tombola prizes and home baking amongst other things. A flier detailing what's required and when to start handing things in will be issued by our PFA in due course.

Many parents will be aware of the wonderful work our PFA do and the different activities that they subsidise throughout the school year. Here are just a few examples

- LGS/Secondary School Ties
- P7 Yearbooks
- P7 Leavers treat
- Easter Fun Activities

- Hallowe'en Disco/Treats
- P1 – P7 Christmas Activity
- P5 Swimming
- Numerous educational outings.

These are just a few of the different activities and the above activities just wouldn't be possible without all of their hard work and fundraising.

The next meeting will take place on 7th February 2024. Please come along if you can!

Reminders

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.

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.

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, snack tubs 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 throughout 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.

School Enquiries

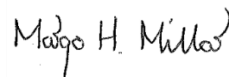
We would encourage parents and visitors to send any enquiries via email to the school office, where it will be dealt with timeously. Please email

gw14underbankoffice@glow.sch.uk

Please be aware that our school office 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.

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)

8 Nov – Flu Vaccination Date (May change if proposed strike goes ahead)

9 Nov – P6/7 Football Festival (Selected pupils)

9 Nov – P5 – P7 Girls Football Festival at LGS (letter issued on Wednesday)

11 Nov – Selected pupils to War Memorial

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

16 Nov – Parent Council Meeting – 6.30pm

17 Nov – Netball Festival (Selected pupils)

23 Nov – P5 Swimming block commences

23 Nov – Clothing bank being emptied

25 Nov – PFA Christmas Fayre – more details to follow

7 Dec – P3 – P7 'Sleeping Senga' Panto

7 Dec – COG group Coffee & Chat

13 Dec – Christmas Lunch/Wear your Christmas Jumper with your uniform if you can

15 Dec – P1 & P2 visit to Goulding's Winter Wonderland (more information to follow)

18 Dec – P1/2/3/4 Christmas Party (Pupils to wear their party clothes on this day)

19 Dec – P5/6/7 Christmas Party (Pupils to wear their party clothes on this day)

20 Dec – Christmas Service at 10am

22 Dec – Christmas jumper/movie day.

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

8 Jan – School Re-opens

Date/Times of P1-4 Nativity will all be advised in due course.