

Underbank Primary

Update 12 – 23 February 2024



Eco Committee Bird Feeders Appeal

Our Eco Committee recently wrote letters to some of the local garden centres to ask if they would be willing to donate some bird feeders and bird food to the school. Harvey (P2) and Alexander M (P6) hand delivered these letters and we have been overwhelmed by the response. The following gardens centres have all donated bird feeders and bird food. We are so grateful to these partners for their donations. Our playground will hopefully be visited by lots of different species of birds over the coming months.

- Rosebank Garden Centre
- Garrion Bridges Garden Centre
- Dobbies at Sandyholm
- Gouldings Garden Centre
- Silverbirch Garden Centre

Race Equality Week Success

During Race Equality Week each of our classes worked on artwork for the Show Racism the Red Card online gallery.

We have been notified that a number of our submissions have been included. Please have a look at the gallery with your child and consider starting a dialogue with your child about some of the pieces and their important messages.

<https://www.theredcard.org/showcase/exhibits/>

Congratulations to the other SLC schools that have pieces on display too.

Parents Consultations – 21st March

Appointments for our Parents Consultations next month will go live on Parentsportal in the next week or so. Please pop on and book your appointment when you receive the 'alert' advising you that appointments are now live and can be booked.

Appointments do fill up fast and any parent who has not booked a slot by the deadline date, will automatically be allocated an appointment.

Pupil Attendance Percentages

You may have heard talk recently about national concerns over reduced levels of attendance in schools.

Evidence demonstrates that pupil progress, attainment and achievement is affected negatively when attendance falls below 90% (ie. missing 19 days of school over a school session).

Quite a startling statistic shared with us is that when a child averages 90% attendance over the course of their entire school career from P1, by the time they reach S3 they will have missed the equivalent of an entire year in school. Short absences really do add up.

We continue to monitor attendance closely at Underbank by looking at the many causes and reasons for non-absence.

Please continue to keep us informed if your child is going to be off school for any reason and please aim to plan holidays for out with the school term. Thank you.

Clydesdale Dance Festival Date/Time

Our date and time for the dance show has now been confirmed as **Wednesday 27th March, show 2**, which will take place between **7:30pm and 8:30pm**, so please ensure when purchasing tickets, that you choose the correct show.

Tickets for the SLLC Active Schools Primary Dance Event will be available only at www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk from **10am on Monday 26th February 2024**. General ticket sales will then be available from Tuesday 27th February at 10am from all South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture Box Offices in person or over the phone on:

Lanark Memorial Hall - 01555 673199

Tickets will cost £3.00 each and must be paid in full at the time of booking. Please note that this event is likely to sell-out, so we advise that you purchase your tickets early.

We currently hold a South Lanarkshire Leisure & Culture photographic consent for all of the children taking part, which will cover this event.

If any parent has not given photographic consent, this has been noted and your child will not be photographed at this event.

We will notify the parents of participants of all other details relating to this event, nearer the time. Parents will be responsible for taking and collecting their child from this event.

Room 3 P3/4 & P6 Forest School

We are on our third week of Forest School with Room 3's P3-4's and Primary 6. We have really made the most of the vast space that Crossford's 'Hilly' Park has to offer! Learners have had the chance to work with Mrs Jackson, a highly experienced Forest School Leader. Learners have cooked over the campfire, used the slack line, made mud slides and dens and explored a fallen oak tree.

"This is the first time I've made a smore - it was good." Jayden, P4

"I climbed all the way to the top of the fallen tree and found some interesting insect eggs. Then I jumped off like I was in an action movie!" Teddy, P4

"We worked together to make a friendship bracelet with (Nordic) braiding, it was tricky but works fast." Eilidh, Cora and Emily F (P3)

"We made our own mudslide and took turns seeing how far we could get" Alexander (P6)

P5-7 Magpie Manor Production

As previously advised, there will be two performances of our P5 – P7 production of Magpie Manor. These are as follows:-

Thursday 14th March 1:30pm

Friday 15th March 10am

Each performance will last approximately 45mins

Tickets will not be issued, and we will record family names and score these off on entry. The seat cost for each performance is £2.50 and will be added to ParentsPay shortly. At this time, families will be allowed to reserve two seats, this can be at either performance or one seat for both performances. Please state your preference when the email is sent out early next week. If we have any additional seats to offer then we will notify parents.

P6 & P7 Wiston Lodge Outing 2024

All P6 and P7 children were recently issued with a 'Kit List' and an Activities Consent Form for completion. If you haven't already done so, please complete the consent form and return it to the school office (this is not on Parentsportal).

Reminder - The second payment of **£15** for Wiston Lodge is due on **29.2.24**. Thank you to all who have made their first payment. If you prefer, you can pay the full amount of £47.50 in one easy payment.

If, for any reason, you feel that you cannot meet the cost of this activity, please get in touch with me.

Room 1 Almond Valley Excursion

I have arranged for Room 1 to visit Almond Valley Heritage Centre as part of their topic, Global Goal 15 - Sustaining Life on Earth. All information, forms and payment are now live on Parentsportal and ParentsPay.

World Book Day – School Lunch Menu – The pupils who came to tea 2024

On Thursday 7th March, Underbank Primary will be holding a themed school lunch. Please discuss the choices with your child.

- Blue meal – Charlotte and Wilbur's chicken goujons with chips
- Red meal – George's Marvellous Creamy Tomato Pasta
- Green meal – The Hobbit's Ham roll
- All served with the Lion and Witches selection of vegetables
- Dessert – Zog's Chocolate Tiffin
- Cheese and tuna sandwiches are also available (orange/purple tray)

Lunchtime/After School Clubs on at present or starting shortly

- P6/7 Lunchtime Dance – (Final week today).
- P6/7 Lunchtime Running Club
- Pupil Led P1 Playtime Fun Fitness Club
- P5/6/7 After School Football – Boys.
- P5/6/7 After School Football – Girls
- P2 Intergenerational Circle Dance After School Club for child and a family member (over 18).
- P6/7 Lunchtime Crochet Club

Please don't forget to make a small contribution to our KUA fund on ParentsPay, as all money donated goes towards buses for the various sporting events throughout the school year.

ParentsPay live items

The following payment items are now on ParentPay.

- KUA (Keep Underbank Active)
- P6 & P7 Wiston Lodge
- P7 Leavers' Hoodies
- P1 Almond Valley Outing

The following items will shortly be live on Parentsportal.

- Magpie Manor tickets (early next week)

Parentsportal Live Items

The following items are now live on Parentsportal.

- Room 1 Almond Valley visit
- P7 Enterprise at LGS
- P5/6/7 After School Football – boys
- P5/6/7 After School Football – girls
- P2 Intergenerational Circle Dance After School Club

The following item will shortly be live on Parentsportal.

- Parents Consultations

Eat Them to Defeat Them

This commenced this week in our canteen. During this initiative pupils are encouraged to try vegetables. Your child was issued with an Eat Them to Defeat Them Mission Pack. This encourages your child to join in with eating vegetables at home too. The pack contains a sticker chart and stickers, so that your child can add a sticker to their chart every time they eat some vegetables at home.

Some of our pupils have completed 'The Mission'. If your child fills their chart, then they can bring it back to school and we will give them a mention during an assembly in February.

Village Defibrillator Maintenance

I added this post to a previous Update but unfortunately, not enough money has been raised. Please take the time to read this article and if you are in a position to make a donation, please follow the instructions below.

I understand that the village defibrillator requires some maintenance and there is a substantial charge for this to be undertaken. Our Charity and Enterprise Committee gifted £60 from the P1-4 Nativity Lucky Programme donations to the maintenance of the village defibrillator.

The village defibrillator is sited at the village shop and can be used to apply an electric charge or current to the heart to restore a normal heartbeat when someone is in cardiac arrest.

If any members of our school community would like to make a donation towards the defibrillator fund, they can do this by sending a donation in a sealed envelope clearly marked for the Defibrillator Fund. Cheques should be made payable to the Christian Outreach Group. You can also contact Mr Keith Haig (07854383303) from the Christian Outreach Group who is managing any donations.

PFA News

Our PFA met on 7th Feb to plan some activities for this term. On 29th Feb they are hoping that pupils can leap out of bed and come into school wearing their PJs or by dressing down. The PFA hope that families will consider giving a donation to PFA funds on this day.

The PFA also plan to have a 'Spring Fling' on 22nd March to allow our school community to come together for a cuppa before the end of term. Look out for their flier over the coming weeks.

At the meeting, the committee agreed to donate £500 to fund some new playground equipment for pupils this includes giant Jenga and bricklaying construction bricks. Mrs Suzanne Marshall, stepped down as PFA secretary due to other commitments. I'd like to say a huge thank you to Suzanne for her work in supporting our school and to all in the committee for their ongoing support.

Community Events/Activities

Kirkfield United Football Club

Kirkfield United Football club are looking for children born in 2012/2013 to join their club. They train at Lanark Racecourse on a Monday and Thursday evening. All information is contained on the attached flier.

Unveiling of Plaque to Commemorate Local Covenanters – 23rd March at 11am

This service will start outside the church with the unveiling of the plaque. The plaque will be sited on the inside of the church boundary wall. Those attending will then move inside. The service inside the church will also celebrate Mr Reid's commitment to the community over the last 26 years, since starting his service in October 1997. Those attending are invited to stay for a light lunch after the event.

Reminders

High School Transport Arrangements

P7 children transferring to high school in August will require to apply for school transport. This can be done via the South Lanarkshire Website.

Parents making a placing request to Lanark Grammar may also apply for privilege transport. This can be done by clicking on the privilege transport link.

Drinking Water in School

We would like to encourage all pupils to bring a bottle of water to school each day. Bottles can

be refilled in classes. Please ensure that pupils have only water in their bottle.

After School Arrangements

Please contact the school office before 2:30pm if your child has not to go on the school bus. We have five buses, a Playbarn minibus and a taxi to co-ordinate at 3pm and when children don't arrive to register for their bus at 2:55pm, it holds up all other buses.

Please also bear in mind when asking other parents to collect your child, that we would really appreciate if we could be notified of these arrangements. This is particularly important for our younger children.

Lost Property

We endeavour to ensure that pupils return home from school with all their belongings and can easily do this if items have a child's name on them. If we can't identify who an item belongs to, then we put it into our lost property box in our foyer. Please feel free to pop in and check this box, if your child does misplace any items.

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 that 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.

An updated spreadsheet is attached to this update.

School Enquiries

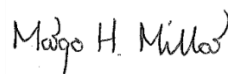
We would encourage parents and visitors to send any enquiries via email to the school office, where it will be dealt with timeously. Please email:

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)

22 Feb – P5 Swimming Wk 11
22 Feb - Forest School Sessions (P6 and Rm3 P3&4 pupils)
23 Feb – Lunchtime Dance Club Wk 4
28 Feb – P5/6/7 Boys After School Football Wk 1
29 Feb – P5 Swimming Final week
29 Feb - Forest School Sessions (P6 and Rm3 P3&4 pupils) – Final Week
29 Feb – PFA PJ day/Dress down day
29 Feb – P5-7 After School Girls' Football Wk1
29 Feb – PC Meeting at 6:30pm
1 Mar – Lunchtime Crochet Club (P6/7) Grp 1
6 Mar – P5/6/7 Boys After School Football Wk 2
7 Mar – Football Tournament (selected pupils)
7 Mar – P5-7 After School Girls' Football Wk2
7 Mar – Themed Lunch in the Cafeteria for World Book Day
8 Mar – Lunchtime Crochet Club (P6/7) Grp 1
13 Mar – Cross Country at Lanark Racecourse (selected pupils)
13 Mar – P5/6/7 Boys After School Football Wk 3
14 Mar – P5-7 After School Girls' Football Final Wk
14 Mar – P5/6/7 Production (afternoon)
15 Mar – P5/6/7 Production (morning)
15 Mar – Lunchtime Crochet Club (P6/7) Grp 2

**20 Mar – P5/6/7 Boys After School Football
Wk 4**

21 Mar – P7 Enterprise Challenge at LGS (more info to follow)

21 Mar – Parent Consultations

22 Mar – Fun5z Netball (Selected pupils)

22 Mar – PFA Spring Fling 2pm – 4pm (more info to follow)

22 Mar – Lunchtime Crochet Club (P6/7) Grp 2

23 Mar - **Unveiling of Plaque & Service to Commemorate Local Covenanters (11am)**

27 Mar – Spring Celebration in Crossford Church at 10am (Presentation to Mr Reid)

**27 Mar – P5/6/7 Boys After School Football
Wk 5 (final)**

27 Mar – Clydesdale Dance Festival 7:30 – 8:30pm

28 Mar – School Closes at 2:30pm

15 April – School re-opens 9am