

HT Report 29th Feb 2024

Staffing/Classes

Since our last meeting our roll remains the same - 123 pupils.

P1/2 - 25

P2/3 - 24

P3/4 - 25

P5/6 - 24

P6/7 - 25

I had a potential new family attend for a walk round last week. They have now had their placing request accepted and so we will now have only one space in Room 4, all other classes now being full.

Our support staffing has been impacted by absence. Sometimes SLC have been able to help us to cover absences but often they cannot. This impacts across the school day.

Mrs Lamont, an area cover teacher, has also been called away to cover absences in other schools. This impacted on the timetabling of room 4, ICT time for Mrs Bond and support within school.

For the session ahead, we have been notified that our staffing is very likely to decrease. Currently, Mrs Drennan is in class for short blocks and provides support and challenge for a large number of our pupils across the school. This is likely to mean that she will be in class more and so time to support and challenge pupils would decrease.

Our SLC Quality Link Officer has moved on to a different authority. Currently we have a temporary QLO, Mrs Rhona James.

Parental Engagement since our last Meeting

Here are a few highlights:

- Christmas activities including the PFA Christmas Fair, P1-4 Nativity performances, Christmas Service, LGS Christmas Concert for our Percussion group performers and their parents.
- Parent Meeting on Racism and our future plans.
- Ancient Greece Showcase on 15th Dec - Room 5 parents.
- Every child has shared some Numeracy with their parents this term and parents completed our Parents as Partners comment sheet.
- Homework Survey for all parents
- Scottish Morning and some of our finalists then went to Coffee & Chat in the village to entertain members of the community.
- We continue to work hard to keep parents informed via communication channels (Parentportal, fortnightly Update, emails, Twitter, website, Google Classroom).

Other Activities and Opportunities

There really have been so, so many since our last meeting!

All of our Christmas activities including the panto visit, visit to Gouldings Wonderland, Christmas Parties, Movie Day, Underbank Talent Show.

Room 3 visit to Glasgow Science Centre to kick off their Clyde in the Classroom project. This has been funded by our PFA.

Patricia Roberts, a local musician, shared her instruments and music with Room 1
Three lady engineers, including Philippa Ayton who delivered the giant tetrahedron project to Room 5.

Room 1 visit from Anne from the Clydesdale Foodbank.

Room 5 visit from Jo Freeman to enhance their learning about Judaism.

Mr Reid our school chaplain, who visited Room 3 to enhance their RME work.

SLC music tutor, Mr Johnstone, commenced weekly music sessions with Room 4. They are learning to play the ukulele!

Leah from Cherry Dance working with pupils on our Dance Festival performance.

Devin from the Titan's Basketball team to coach some of our senior pupils.

Our committee meetings have continued with a meeting in January and February. In January, the Eco Committee submitted their 7th Green Flag application and were successful. We have held Eco School status since March 2010 - quite an achievement! They also wrote to all the local garden centres to ask for donations of bird feeders and again were hugely successful.

Charities and Enterprise Committee have been researching the charity Dogs Trust and have organised a visit from them in April.

The Health & Outdoor committee are working on a wellbeing walk for our courtyard, where you have to spot their cheery painted stones.

Our Pupil Council's kindness initiative continues, and they have linked with a national initiative throughout online meetings, so working towards being recognised as a Kindness School.

Room 5 have commenced a series of online lessons - My Diverse Scotland, as part of our Anti-Racism work and Room 4 (and P5 from Room 3) are engaging with Anti-Racism lessons using a BBC resource.

Each class participated in a Show Racism the Red Card Art online art showcase and some of our pieces were successful in being chosen for inclusion in the online gallery. 'Eat them to Defeat Them' commenced last week and runs till the end of term. This is a national campaign to promote healthy eating. Some of our pupils are returning their Chomp Mission to assembly to be awarded a sticker.

P6/7 Boys football coaching commenced last night.

P6 and P3/4 Forest School blocks ended today.

The P5 swimming block also ended today.

P5/6/7 After school girls football commenced today.

We have a P6 - 7 boys' football club on a Wed.

A Running Club on a Thursday lunchtime in preparation for a local cross country event.

PFA Dress Down Day today for 29th Feb / Leap Year

AND

P5/6/7 are working hard on their Magpie Manor performance which will take place in March.

I hope that you can see from the number and variety of opportunities mentioned, how fortunate our pupils are and how committed 'Team Underbank' is.

Still to come this term:

7 Mar - Football Tournament

7 Mar - Themed Lunch in the Cafeteria for World Book Day - More info to follow

8 Mar - Clydesdale Sports Award Dinner at Cornhill - P7 Aela has been nominated for her gymnastics achievements.

13 Mar - Cross Country at Lanark Racecourse

13 Mar - A whole school health and safety visit

14 Mar - P5/6/7 Production (afternoon)

15 Mar - P5/6/7 Production (morning)

21 Mar - P7 Enterprise Challenge at LGS

21 Mar - Parent Consultations

22 Mar - Fun5z Netball

22 Mar - PFA Spring Fling event 2-4pm

27 Mar - Spring Celebration at Crossford Church/ farewell to Mr Reid

27 Mar - Clydesdale Dance Festival

28 Mar - School Closes at 2:30pm

15 April - School re-opens 9am

School Improvement Plan for 2023 - 2024

We continue to work on our SIP priorities. Here are some of the activities we have worked on:

Mrs McLeod has attended a 4 day Maths Recovery course.

Teachers have reviewed our refreshed pathways for spelling and grammar skills.

SAMH Supporting Your Child session postponed due to the trainer's absence.

Relevant staff continue to work in partnership with our EAL specialist to develop pupil skills using shared strategies.

Mrs McInnes has shared her learning on Emotion Coaching with all staff and we have started to consider this in our practise.

We have continued on our journey to become an Attachment Informed, Trauma Sensitive School. Being only one of 9 SLC schools to gain their first accreditation. We have now submitted evidence for assessment on our second pledge.

Within our Learning Community, all staff are working on a practitioner enquiry based on a selection of themes. The showcase of learning for all groups will take place at the next Learning Community session after school on 24th April.

Pupil Equity Fund Work - Continues

Facilitated team teaching of writing across the school to impact positively on pupil progression.

Sumdog in use across the school to impact on maths agility, confidence and progression. A Literacy intervention called IDL is in use to support the development of Literacy within school.

A focus remains on attendance to impact on achievement. (Last PC Meeting - 7 pupils below 90% attendance/ Current position is that we have 9 children with an attendance of less than 90% - a number of these are due to term time holidays)

Highlight to all present

We continue to monitor attendance closely at Underbank.

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.

Staff Development/Training

Staff continue to attend training and professional learning opportunities, some of which I've already mentioned. Others include:

Numeracy Coordinator Meeting

ICT Coordinator Meeting

SLC Digital Network Event

SSERC - Let's Play Computer Science

West Partnership My Diverse Scotland teacher webinar session

Child Protection Update Meeting

Anti-Racism SLC Professional Network and various related learning opportunities during Race Equalities Week and with SLC Educational Psychology

Peer Review Training and follow-up session with 2 further schools (Kirkton PS and Glassford PS)

Supported Pupils with Epilepsy

Child Development Training Module (SSA)

I am hugely proud of the commitment and professionalism of our staff team.