

# Underbank Primary

## Update 1 – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2024



Welcome to our fortnightly newsletter, which is normally issued every second Friday. This newsletter contains lots of important information and dates. Please keep this safe and record any important dates/events in your own diary. Diary dates can also be found on Parentsportal. There is a full section on Parentsportal further on in this update.

On Wednesday of this week, we welcomed 13 new Primary 1 pupils.

Our classes for the year ahead are:

P1/2 – Mrs Donnelly (Mon – Wed) Mrs Drennan (Thurs & Fri)

P2/3 – Mrs McInnes

P4/5 – Mrs Bond

P5/6 – Mrs Tait (Mon & Tues) / Mrs Higgins (Weds to Fri)

P6/7 – Mrs McLeod

Miss Dickson will be in school each Monday and Tuesday and will work across the school on both days.

We also have our School Support Assistants back this year. Miss Stewart will work across the school 9am to 3pm. Miss Fleming does our breakfast club 8am to 9am and then works across the school 11am to 1pm.

All pupils have settled well into school life and look fabulous in their school uniforms. Thank you for sending them back smiling and looking smart.

### School Attendance

When your child is ill, please inform the school office via the absence line or by email before 9:30am.

We discourage **all** term time holidays as they impact on your child's attainment and achievement.

Evidence demonstrates that pupil progress and achievement is affected negatively when attendance falls below 90% (i.e. 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 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.***

### Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club is now up and running and is available for families who require this service. Please notify us by 12 noon on a Thursday of your requirements for the following week. If your work pattern is the same weekly, there is no need to book your child in on a weekly basis, we will record them as attending until you advise us otherwise.

Children will be offered Weetabix, toast or fresh fruit for breakfast, together with a glass of milk or water.

***Breakfast club opens at 8:15am and closes at 8:45am. Last orders for breakfast is at 8:40am. Please do not drop your child off before 8:15am as the gate is not open. Furthermore, there is no adult presence in the playground until 8:45am.***

### P1 Parent Workshop

Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Drennan would like to invite our P1 parents along to a workshop and for a 'cuppa' on **Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August** 9:30am – 10:30am. During the workshop they will share some curricular information and resources that they will use with our P1 learners. During the session they will also share how homework will be tackled.

Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Drennan will also be able to answer any questions you have about your child's P1 year with us.

***This workshop will replace the 'Meet the Teacher' event for our P1 parents.***

We hugely value your partnership in supporting your child with their learning and wellbeing, and hope that you are able to come along.

### P2 – P7 Meet the Teacher Event

We will be holding a 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August**, from 3.15pm. Parents can come and meet their child's teacher and find out about class routines, expectations and homework in their child's class.

There will be a 15-20 minute talk given by each teacher at the undernoted times:

- 3.15pm (This session can be very busy, please consider attending at 3:45pm)
- 3.45pm

Each teacher will deliver the same talk during each slot to allow parents who have more than one child at school to hear the talk for each of their children. Parents with one child can come for any of the two sessions. We look forward to seeing many of you on this afternoon.

We would prefer that children did not attend with parents but realise that this may not be possible for everyone. If you do intend bringing your child along, then we would ask that they remain with you at all times.

The playground will not be open during 'Meet the Teacher'.

If your child uses school transport, please let us know if you do not wish them to travel home on school transport on 28th August for Meet the Teacher.

### **School Lunch Menu**

Please see the email that was sent out on Monday of this week, which has links to the current lunch menu and the new lunch menu which is due to start shortly. Please discuss the menu with your child so that he/she is aware of what is on for the week ahead.

Milk can be pre ordered on ParentPay and is now priced at 30p per carton. Instructions on how to pre-order milk for your child can be obtained from the school office.

Drinking water is also available daily with all school lunches.

Next week is **Week 1** of the current menu and w/c 26<sup>th</sup> August will also be Week 1 of the new menu. A paper copy of the new menu will be issued to all families early next week.

### **ParentPay**

Underbank Primary is a cashless school and all items requiring payment are added to ParentPay. You should automatically get an alert that a payment item has been assigned to your child. We use ParentPay for Educational Excursions, etc.

Our new Primary 1 parents were issued with instructions and a letter yesterday, which contained their username and password to allow parents to access ParentPay.

### **Parentsportal - Annual Forms**

All Annual Forms and consents are now done via Parentsportal. Parents of Primary 1 pupils were issued with information and instructions on how to access Parentsportal on Wednesday of this week. It would be gratefully appreciated if you could link your child as soon as possible so that we can assign the consents to your child. Well done to those new P1 parents who have already linked their child.

All existing pupils are linked to Parentsportal and annual consents have been assigned to all pupils. Please arrange to action these consents as soon as possible.

***We will not tweet any pupil photographs until we have your consent to do so and have collated all this information for each class.***

### **Annual Data Check Form**

Also done via Parentsportal is the Annual Data Check Form. Please check every aspect of this form to ensure that the information we hold on file for your child is accurate. This is especially important with regards to medical information, telephone numbers, email addresses and emergency contacts. If possible, please list at least one emergency contact for your child, if you haven't already done so.

### **School Twitter Account - Please follow us!**

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. Photographic consent for this is one of the questions on Parentsportal. Please respond to this as soon as you can so that we are fully informed of whether we can include your child in any photos we share on Twitter. We will recommence class tweets when we have collated all returns. We will never name children on Twitter.

### **Provisional Gym Days:**

Primary 1/2 – Wednesday & Friday  
 Primary 2/3 – Tuesday & Thursday  
 Primary 4/5 – Monday & Wednesday  
 Primary 5/6 – Tuesday & Friday  
 Primary 6/7 – Monday & Thursday

Gym will continue to be tackled outdoors when possible. We like pupils to wear their school sports t-shirt/polo-shirt, their school sweatshirt and black, blue or grey joggers/leggings with their trainers on their gym days. Even on gym days, pupils will therefore be required to wear school colours.

Children with long hair should have this tied back and earrings should be removed on PE days.

### **Buddies**

Our 13 Primary 1 pupils have all had the opportunity to meet their buddies this week. Our 15 P7 pupils are doing a brilliant job of looking after the new P1 pupils. Thank you. Throughout the session, P1 and P7 pupils have the opportunity to tackle some activities together at Buddy Meetings.

### **Homework**

Information on homework will be issued in the coming weeks.

### **Indoor Shoes**

If you haven't already supplied your child with indoor shoes, please do so, in order that our carpets remain clean. Please send these in by Monday 19th August.

### **Parent Helpers**

Parent Helpers are an invaluable asset to the school and can assist in many ways. Every year we lose some of our parent helpers as children move onto secondary school. If you would like to help in our school, please get in touch with us, we would love you to come onboard. If you have a particular talent, that you could share with our pupils, we would love to hear from you.

In some instances, a PVG (Disclosure) certificate is required, but not on every occasion. When working on a one to one basis with children, it is, but isn't required when helping in class when the class teacher is present.

Please contact the school office if you would like to become one of our invaluable parent helpers.

### **After School Clubs**

Once we have settled back into school, we will consider starting some after school clubs. These are also activities that our parent helpers can assist with, therefore, if you are particularly active and like running, or playing football/netball, or any other sports, we would love to hear from you!

To help with the costs of transports to various sporting events and activities, we have our 'Keep Underbank Active' (KUA) Fund to which donations are made via ParentPay.

Without your donations, we would not be able to participate in the local football, netball and cross-country events. If your child is attending any of our clubs, please donate to our KUA Fund, if you can. This payment item will be

assigned to all parents in due course. Donations can be as little as 50p, every penny counts!

### **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 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.

### **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 Photographs**

We will arrange for our school photographer to visit the school later this term. We will let you know nearer the time of the arrangements.

### **Pupil Post**

As many parents are aware, email is our preferred method of communicating everything going on here at Underbank Primary. From time to time we do require to send out paper copies of letters requiring a signature/permission.

If your child has brought home any letters/forms that need returned to the school office, please give these to your child as we have a system in place in school for this method of communication. The same applies to any communications you may have for the school. Please simply give these to your child to hand into the school office, via his/her class teacher.

### **Email Groups**

We have set up a number of email groups as a means of communicating with parents. These are set up as follows:-

- Room 1
- Room 2
- Room 3
- Room 4
- Room 5

- Parent Group

If you receive an email and your partner didn't and he/she would like added to any of the email groups above, please simply let the school office know and their details will be added.

### **School Uniform Bank**

As the majority of parents are aware, we have a 'Good as New' Uniform Bank, which is overseen by Mrs Donna Stewart, parent of a former pupil.

Mrs Stewart prepares a spreadsheet of all items available, and this is updated at regular intervals and will be attached, regularly to our updates. If you see any items you would like please email Mrs Stewart direct at [upsuniformbank@gmail.com](mailto:upsuniformbank@gmail.com) Mrs Stewart will agree with parents on how items will be distributed. This can be direct via Mrs Stewart or via the school.

Please make use of this facility, we are an eco-school and encourage all types of recycling! All items available are in excellent or 'as new' condition and are completely free of charge. This will all be done in the strictest confidence.

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

An updated spreadsheet of items available is attached to the covering email.

### **Parent Council/Parents & Friends Association**

Both these groups are very active in our school. We will issue more information regarding our Parent Council and our PFA in due course. Both groups are always looking for new members, so please get in touch if you would like to join either or both groups. Please see our diary dates for when both these groups will next meet.

### **Birthday Cakes/Birthday treats**

We discourage birthday cakes and birthday treats being handed into the school. We have a number of children with food allergies/intolerances and would appreciate your help in ensuring our school remains a safe place for all our children.

### **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.

### **School Bags and Stationery**

Children should bring a school bag, a bottle of water, a small snack for break time and their pencil case with sharp pencils, a rubber, a ruler, colouring pencils or crayons.

### **Re-filling Water Bottles**

Pupils will be able to refill their own water bottle at their classroom sink if required. Please remember to send only water in your child's bottle.

### **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.

### **Overgrown hedge on pathway**

I have contacted Councillor Poppy Corbett to ask if she would ask South Lanarkshire Council to cut the overgrown hedge between our school crossing patrol and the rear gate. She will get back to me in due course.

### **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.

### **Ragbag Collection Bin**

As many parents will be aware, we have a clothing bank in the school car park where parents can drop off any unwanted items of clothing. This raises a small amount of money for the school on a regular basis, so please use this facility if you can.

### **Flu Immunisation**

The Flu Immunisation team will shortly be visiting the school to deliver the vaccination to all children. We will issue letters from the immunisation team to children early next week. If your child does not receive a letter, don't panic, your child can still be vaccinated, as the team will contact you on the day.

The date for the flu immunisation is on our diary dates.

## **Community News**

25 August – Songs of praise in Dalserf Parish Church.



23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> August – The Strathaven Hot Air Balloon Festival 2024

August - Rural Academy School Support Assistant PDA Course in Lanark and Strathaven (see attached fliers)

South Lanarkshire University Health and Social Care Partnership – see attached booklet with lots of useful information.

***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)

**27 Aug – P1 Parent Workshop**

**28 Aug – Meet the Teacher**

**4 Sept – PFA Meeting at 6:30pm (in school)**

**17 Sept – JRSO day (selected pupils)**

**19 Sept – Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm in school)**

**27 Sept – Holiday**

**30 Sept – Holiday**

**10 Oct – Parent Consultations (more info to follow)**

**11 Oct – Wear Red Day for Show Racism the Red Card.**

**14 Oct – 18 Oct – October holiday break**

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

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

**25 Nov – Flu Vaccination (all pupils)**

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

**6 Jan – School Re-opens**

*Dates of Nativity and Christmas Service will all be advised in due course.*



# PDA IN EDUCATION SUPPORT ASSISTANCE

THIS COURSE CAN LEAD TO WORK IN  
SCHOOLS, NURSERIES OR CONTINUING  
ON TO FURTHER EDUCATION.

THE COURSE WILL BE STARTING AT THE CRIB  
IN STRATHAVEN IN AUGUST 2024!

CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAYS &  
WEDNESDAYS, WITH ONE PER WEEK ON  
PLACEMENT (DAY TO BE CONFIRMED).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE  
RURAL ACADEMY



PHONE: 07813367422

EMAIL: [RURALACE@SLC.AC.UK](mailto:ruralace@slc.ac.uk)



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# PDA in Education Support Assistance

This course can lead to work in  
schools, nurseries or continuing on  
to Further Education.

The course will be starting in Lanark  
in August 2024!

Classes will be held on Tuesdays &  
Fridays, from 9.15am- 2.45pm, with  
one day per week on placement (day  
to be confirmed).

For further information please  
contact the Rural Academy

Phone: 07813367422

Email: [ruralace@slc.ac.uk](mailto:ruralace@slc.ac.uk)



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