

# **Underbank Primary**

## **Update 3 – 13 September 2024**



Unfortunately, I am currently working from home as I had a slip in our playground on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> Aug and have a broken fibula. I will continue to work closely with Mrs Drennan and our team while recovering. This does mean that our scheduled Parent Council meeting has had to be postponed until I am able to return to work. We have secured some cover to support in school and would like to welcome Mrs Turnbull to our team each Thursday and Friday. She will cover some of Mrs Drennan's duties.

### **Kindness Bench**

As winners of the National Kindness Awards 2024, Underbank Primary has been awarded the prize of a Kindness Bench for our playground. We are delighted to receive such a useful and memorable gift and wish to thank 52 Lives School of Kindness and NBB furniture sponsors for their generosity. We would also like to say a special thanks to Mr Brown giving up his time to assemble it in our playground for us.

### **Junior Road Safety Officers 2024 - 2025**

Our three JRSO pupils will tackle their first task on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September when they will visit Chatelherault Country Park and take part in the annual JRSO event. Our JRSOs will share their experience with the rest of the school at assembly, next Friday.

### **Forest School**

Room 5 pupils have had a very wet and windy Forest School block this September, but it hasn't spoiled the fun - in fact, it has added to it! The main activities centred around child-led risky play - mud slides and tree climbing featured highly. We have also built shelters, cleared the local path at the park. We also made our traditional s'mores and had a hot drink to warm us up along the way.

"We made a giant mud slide all the way down the big hill and then we had hot chocolate. It has been really rainy, but we didn't mind." **Alexander McLeod, P7**

"We climbed trees for fun and made smores on the first dry week over the campfire. It has been fun, and really active!" **Poppa Hobson, P6**

### **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 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 is unable to attend school for whatever reason, please leave a message on this attendance line detailing:

- Name
- Stage/Class
- Reason for absence

Absences can also be recorded on Parentsportal.

### **Class Charters**

Over the last few weeks, each class has shared their Class Charter for the year ahead. A Class Charter is a visual document that establishes an agreed set of rights-based principles linked to the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). By creating Charters we aim to promote positive learning environments and positive relationships within our school. Charters ensure that our children have a great understanding of the UNCRC articles and how they are relevant to them.

### **P4/5 After School Multi Sports**

Our P4/5 pupils are currently enjoying Week 2 of their after school multisport club.

If you can, please pop onto ParentsPay and make a donation, no matter how small, to our KUA fund. This allows us to participate in various sporting events, throughout the school year.

### **Welcome Banner – Final call!**

We have only had one additional language request to add to our welcome banner. We will be contacting our Printroom early next week to request a further welcome banner for inside the school foyer. Please contact the school, no later than Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, should you wish a language, spoken at home, added to our banner.

## Parentsportal

The following forms are now live on Parentsportal. If you haven't done so already, please pop onto Parentsportal and complete any form(s) assigned to your child. The ICT/Photographic consent form is particularly important, as your child cannot access the internet or have his/her photographs taken for class displays etc, until we have your consent to do so.

- P6/7 Residential Outing
- P6/7 Football Festival
- JRSO Chatelherault Visit
- P5 Swimming
- ICT/Photographic Consent
- Annual Data check – **IMPORTANT!**  
Update medical information, telephone numbers, email addresses and emergency contacts. **Still 13 outstanding online. Even if you have no changes, please submit your response, this will then notify us that you have checked your Annual Data Check.**

## ParentPay

The following payment items are live on ParentPay

- School Meals (P6 and P7 only)
- School Milk
- P5 Swimming
- KUA
- P6 & P7 Outdoor Centre

## PFA News

At the recent meeting of our PFA, a few events/activities were planned.

24th Oct - Halloween Disco

- P1-4 pupils disco 6pm – 7pm,
- P5-7 pupils disco 7.15pm – 8.15pm

7<sup>th</sup> Nov - PFA Meeting in school at 6.30pm - All welcome

30th Nov – Christmas Fair (Times TBC)

Further information on Halloween ticket sales will be issued by our PFA, so please look out for this.

## Halloween Costumes

As we are an Eco School, we are trying to encourage recycling as much as possible. We currently have lots of Halloween costumes that we would encourage you to re-use for your child this Halloween. Attached to this update is a list of all available costumes and their sizes. Should you wish to request any, please make your request via:

suzannejmarshall6@gmail.com

Arrangements for delivery can then be made or simply request that the costume is packaged and given to your child during the school day.

If you have any costumes that your child no longer requires, please consider handing these into us too. We are particularly looking for costumes for our older pupils from 7-8years upwards.

All remaining costumes will be on display at our Parent Consultations on 10th October. You will be able to browse and take away any suitable costumes on that evening.

## Reminders

### Breakfast Club

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.

### 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 Uniform Bank

Don't forget to make good use of our 'Good as New' Uniform Bank, which is overseen by Mrs Donna Stewart, parent of a former pupil.

Please email Mrs Stewart direct at [upsuniformbank@gmail.com](mailto:upsuniformbank@gmail.com) if you wish any items or if you have any items for the uniform bank.

### **Birthday Cakes/Birthday Treats**

We discourage birthday cakes and birthday treats being handed into the school. We have several 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.

### **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 difficulties for other road users.

### **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.

### **Cost of the School Day**

We want all of our pupils to have the best experiences and opportunities at Underbank Primary. Some of our activities do incur a cost, but we endeavour to work with the PFA to keep costs down. Should any family find any cost unmanageable, at any time, then please speak to me. All parent or pupil requests will always be dealt with sensitively and confidentially. Through our support and caring ethos, we hope that all children are able to fully participate in school life.

Parents can also access advice and support from SLC Money Matters on 03000290041.

### **Lost Uniform**

Our lost property box is filling up fast with items that have no names on them. Please pop into the foyer to check the box if your child has lost any items of uniform.

Please remember to clearly label your child's uniform so that lost items can be returned quickly. Thank you.

### **School Photographs**

As previously advised, we have arranged for our school photographer to visit the school on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

This year we will be taking:

- Class photos
- Individual photos of P1 and P7 pupils

An email was sent out to all parents on Wednesday of this week, asking that they select **either** an individual or a family group photograph. If you haven't responded to this email, please do so, particularly if you would like a family group.

### **Community News**

**Bothwell Scarecrow Festival** - Saturday 31st August to Sunday 15th September 2024

**Moo-Fest – 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September**

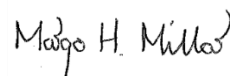
This is a weekend of cattle-inspired activities, talks and tastings at the National Museum of Rural Life. It will *a-moo-se* young and old alike!

**Fireman Sam at Lanark Memorial**

Join Fireman Sam at Lanark Memorial Hall on Saturday 28th September as he sets out to rescue Norman and his friends on a camping adventure!

***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)

17 Sept – JRSO day (selected pupils)

19 Sept – Parent Council Meeting – postponed.

27 Sept – Holiday

30 Sept – Holiday

**4 Oct - Proposed Sponsored Dance-a-thon**

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

**24 Oct - Halloween Disco**

**7 Nov - P.F.A. Meeting 6:30 - 8pm**

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)  
**27 Nov – Clothing Bank being emptied**  
**30<sup>th</sup> November - (Saturday) Christmas Fayre**  
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.*