

Underbank Primary

Update 5 – 25 October 2024



I hope that everyone in our school community has had a restful October Break with family and friends.

I'm delighted to share that my own mobility is improving and that I hope to be back at my desk full-time very soon.

Over the last few weeks staffing has been a challenge at Underbank and as term 2 commences these challenges continue to impact on us.

Many of you have noticed that Mrs Totten has been missing from our office. She has recently taken the difficult decision to retire early from her post and will focus all of her efforts on the medical treatment she requires and her recovery. She is going to be a huge gap in our team and we already all miss her lots. We plan to have a retirement collection for her and will update you on this soon.

Miss Stewart, our full-time school support assistant's absence is also going to continue. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope she can make it back to work soon. I am delighted that Mrs Eaton our cook is well and back with us.

Support Services have been able to provide some temporary cover for Mrs Totten and Miss Stewart. I'd like to welcome Mrs Susan Jackson and Mrs Julie Smith to Team Underbank.

Themed Lunch – Bonfire Day – 5th Novemeber

Our cafeteria will have a themed lunch on 5th November.

The lunch available on that day is:

Firecracker Pizza & Fries (v)

(Pizza with spicy topping served with chips or potato croquettes and sweetcorn)

Banger & Fries

(Sausage in a finger roll served with chips or potato croquettes and sweetcorn)

Sandwich Selection

Cheese or Tuna Sandwich
or Ham Finger roll

Dessert

Toffee Apple Sponge

PFA Dance-a-thon

A huge thank you to the PFA for organising this event for our pupils. So far, the amount raised is £1036. If you wish to add sponsor money, then please do this by 31st October at the latest. Thank you.

School Photograph Day

Thank you to all families who ordered school photographs. To date many orders have been placed. We will receive £250 in commission from these sales, which is a fabulous total.

A huge thanks to local photographer and parent, Ms Vicky Harrison for taking our photographs again this year.

P7 Lunch Time Crochet Club

Huge thank you to grandparent, Mrs Hamilton, for sharing her crocheting skills with some of our P7 pupils. Her lunch club started this week and will continue on 30th Oct and 6th Nov.

"It is fun but frustrating until you get the hang of it." Iona Cameron (P7)

"I enjoy making the poppies and the process of making them." Jake Findlay (P7)

Mrs Hamilton is responsible for the poppy display outside of the church each November and she plans to help the pupils to make some poppies.

If your child is attending this club, please consider making a small contribution to our KUA fund. This fund is used to fund some of our transport requirements.

Poppy Scotland Appeal

Our Pupil Council members will be distributing poppies for a suggested donation of 20p over the next two weeks.

Instrumental Music Tutors

The tutors would like to remind those involved of the day they will be in school:

Tuesdays – Drumming and Violin

Thursdays – Brass

Harvest Showcase of Learning – 8th Oct

Well done to Room 2 pupils for sharing their work on harvest with the school and their parents. Thank you to those who were able to come along on that afternoon.

Ragbag

We received £36 for the last Ragbag collection. Thank you to all who added to this. Our clothing bank will be emptied again on 27th November and so please continue to add to this.

P6/7 Dalguise Residential

The deposit for Dalguise 2025 has now been sent away. The next instalment is due on or before 31st October.

JRSO Initiative - Walking Bus - Please help!

Ellie, Iona and Lucy, our JRSOs for this session, would like to try to re-establish our walking bus from the village hall to encourage more families to walk to school. In a recent travel survey that they undertook, only 4 children had walked to school, 6 had cycled, while 70% of pupils had been driven.

Thank you to Mrs Cameron, Mrs Simpson and Mrs Ross who have volunteered to help support the girls so far.

The girls are looking for a few more parents or grandparents who could be available when needed.

The girls would like to encourage our pupils to be more active, while also staying safe.

Parent Consultations

Thank you to all parents who had a Parent Consultation with their child's teacher. I hope you found your session(s) informative. 95% of our families attended.

Christmas Jumper Bank

Towards the end of term, we will have a few days when pupils can wear their Christmas jumper to school. At Underbank, we have a Christmas Jumper Bank. If you have any jumpers that your child has outgrown, please consider handing these into school or directly to Mrs Stewart. Mrs Stewart will provide a list of all jumpers available next month and parents can then select any jumpers suitable for their own child(ren).

Please contact Mrs Stewart via the Uniform bank email address - at

upsuniformbank@gmail.com

Wear your Christmas Jumper Days

11th, 19th and 20th December

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.

- P6/7 Residential Outing
- P1-2 Outing to see Santa
- P3-7 Outing to pantomime
- Annual Data check – 4 forms outstanding.

School Meal Debt on ParentPay

Just a gentle reminder to try to keep your child's school meals account in credit. P6 and P7 pupils pay for their school lunches. If the debt creeps above £10 our school office will email out a reminder. Please arrange to clear any debt off, if you receive an email. Thank you.

ParentPay

The following payment items are live on ParentsPay:

- School Meals (P6 and P7 only)
- School Milk
- P5 Swimming
- KUA
- P6 & P7 Outdoor Centre – Next payment due by 31st October
- PFA Dance-a-Thon – Closes 31/10/24
- P1-2 Santa visit
- P3-7 Pantomime visit

PFA News

The group will hold their next meeting on 7th Nov at 6.30pm at Underbank and they would love to welcome some new parents to the group. Please consider coming along.

Halloween Disco

Everyone had a spook-tacular time at the PFA Halloween disco last night. A huge thanks to Mr Henderson, the DJ, and all PFA members and staff who helped make this such an enjoyable event for our pupils.

Halloween Costumes

Thank you to Mrs Marshall for organising our Halloween costume bank again this year.

PFA Photograph with Paddington Competition

Information about this competition was sent out earlier this week.

Entry to the competition is FREE.

The PFA will gift a cinema voucher to the photograph with the best pose/selfie.

All entries should be sent directly to the PFA email address by Wednesday 6th November.

ASDA Fundraising – Cashpot for Schools

We would encourage you to sign up to support this fundraiser and shop. Please spread the word and encourage friends and family members to help us too.

If you can, opt in through the Asda Rewards app, choose Underbank Primary School and shop and scan in store or shop online at Asda.com, between 2nd September and 30th November 2024. Thank you to those who have already signed up to this.

Community News

Halloween Drive in Cinema at Lanark

Agricultural Centre - 25th – 27th Oct

Various movies to view. (Categories available - 12a, PG, 15, 18)

Lanark & District Round Table Fireworks

Display – 2nd November at Moore Park, Lanark

Fireworks Display – 5th November at Strathclyde Park, Motherwell

Reminders

Parking at Neighbour's Drive

Please do not park at the entrance to our neighbour's drive. This is private property. We have a good relationship with our neighbours and don't want to jeopardise this.

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

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.

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

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

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.

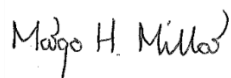
Parents can also access advice and support from SLC Money Matters on 03000290041.

Lost Uniform

Our lost property box was available during parent consultations but is filling up again. 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.

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)

30 Oct – P7 Crochet Club – Week 2

5 Nov – Themed lunch in cafeteria

6 Nov – P7 Crochet Club – Final week

6th Nov – Closing date for PFA Photo Competition

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

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

12 Nov – NSPCC Workshop for P6 & P7

12 Nov – LGS P7 PE Transition After School event.

19 Nov – LGS P7 PE Transition After School event.

21 Nov – P5 Swimming block commences
Departing at approx. 9.45am - weekly

25 Nov – Flu Vaccination Day (all pupils)

27 Nov – Clothing Bank being emptied

30 November - (Saturday) Christmas Fayre

11 Dec – Christmas Lunch Day in canteen

12 Dec – P1 & 2 Outing to Gouldings to see Santa at Winter Wonderland

13 Dec – P3-7 Panto visit to Lanark Memorial Hall

17th Dec – P5-7 Christmas Party (Wear party clothes to school)

18 Dec – Proposed Christmas Celebration in Crossford Church at 10am

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

6 Jan – School Re-opens

We will confirm our P1-4 Nativity dates and times in due course.