

HT Report 30th Jan 2025

Welcome to any new parents joining us and thank you for showing an interest in this parent group. This is the first meeting of the session due to me working from home for a period of time in September and October.

Staffing/Classes

At this point in the session, we have 5 classes, and our roll sits at 115 pupils. We have

P1/2 - 24 pupils - Mrs Donnelly & Mrs Drennan

P2/3 - 24 pupils - Mrs McInnes

P4/5 - 23 pupils - Mrs Bond

P5/6 - 25 pupils - Mrs Tait and Mrs Higgins

P6/7 - 19 pupils - Mrs McLeod

We had 13 new P1 pupils in August. During the session so far, we have lost 3 pupils who have moved on and gained 2 new pupils.

Since Covid, all schools had been given some additional hours of staffing. For us this was 2 days. This session, this has been cut to 1 day. This does impact on our Support for Learning timetable and flexibility to undertake development work.

This term got off to a shaky start with no heating!

Currently, Mrs Bond (class teacher) and Miss Stewart (support assistant) are absent.

Mrs Bond is being covered by Miss Johnstone and Miss Stewart by Miss Robertson.

Mrs Donnelly will start her maternity leave mid-March

Our facilities team is also being impacted by absence this session.

For session 25 - 26 we have enrolled 8 P1 pupils, two of whom are awaiting the outcome of applications for specialist places. So far, we are aware of 3 placing requests for the new session. This is looking like it will be our smallest intake for a few years. I am hearing that many schools are experiencing this dip however.

Parental Engagement

Since January, we have had:

- Homework going home
- Parents as Partners Jotters going home
- Scottish Celebration
- We are working hard to keep parents informed via other communication channels such as fortnightly Update, emails, Parent Portal, website.

We have been using Twitter, now X, less and schools & SLC are questioning whether this is a good choice since their conditions have changed. SLC may issue guidance on its use via our ICT Coordinator.

- We have some parent volunteers, grandparents and former pupils supporting or sharing their skills in school.

- March parent consultations are scheduled for 20th March. Booking will be via Parentportal prior to this date.
- Our PFA continue to play a very worthwhile and active role within school and the school community.

Other Activities and Opportunities

Our Christmas activities - Panto, Santa visit, Parties, Nativity went smoothly and we received positive feedback from our children and parents.

Since January:

P5 swimming has re-commenced.

Violin, drumming and brass tuition has also re-commenced

Room 2 have had a visit from Fiona Anderson linked to their RME topic - People who help us in the community.

We participated in a garden design competition linked to The Scottish Garden Festival which will take place in May. A local landscape company and ex-parent invited us and one other school to create some possible show gardens that they might create for the show.

Mr Johnstone from IMS has started his input in Room 3. This will run until the end of June.

We have engaged in dialogue around Show Racism the Red Card and each class have created artwork on this theme.

We continue to engage with The School of Kindness.

School committee meeting re-commenced last week.

P6-7 Fitness Circuits after school club commenced on Monday.

Yesterday, we held our Scottish Celebration and poetry competition finals.

Still to come this term:

February

3rd - Room 3 and 4 Forest School block commences

4th Cross Country Club commences for P6 & 7 in preparation for Clydesdale event

7th - Happy Place Workshop for P5/6/7 - 9.30am with Scottish band Saint Phnx

12th - Rotary Quiz Night 6.45pm start

14th - Netball Festival - 10am - 12 noon

21st - LGS DHT visit to our P7 pupils

21st - Cherry Dance Lunch Club commences in prep for Dance Festival

26th - Our next school Committee meetings

March

6th - Football Festival TBC

14th - LGS Enterprise Challenge event for P7

12th Feb - LGS HT visit to Underbank and to meet our P7 pupils

19th - Clydesdale Cross Country event

20th - Parent Consultations

26th SLC Sustainability Conference for a small group of pupils

28th - Netball Festival

April

2nd - Inclusion and Equality Committee Event - Light Up Blue for Autism Awareness Day/Wear Blue

Last week of term - Easter Celebration in Crossford Church

P5-7 Easter Show - Dates TBC

LC Improvement Planning for the new session:

Our learning community are focusing on:

The Circle Framework. This resource aims to empower education staff to support all pupils, to promote inclusive practice. Staff have been introduced to the Circle Inclusive Classroom Scale and the Circle Participation Scale. These resources strengthen a whole school approach to improving inclusive practice but can also be used by teachers to improve their classroom setting or their approach to supporting an individual learner. LGS also use this approach.

School Improvement Plan Priorities for 2023 - 2024

Our School Improvement Plan was written in May/June 2024. The summary document can be found on our school website and is written under 5 headings - The 5 SLC Priority for 2024 - 2025 and beyond:

1. Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish.
2. Ensure inclusion, equity and equality are at the heart of what we do.
3. Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in literacy and numeracy.
4. Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work.
5. Empower learners to shape and influence actions on sustainability and climate change.

(Summary copy issued to all present)

Strategic Equity Fund Award for 2024 - 2025 - £8575 (formerly PEF).

Each postcode across the country falls into one of ten deciles.

PEF allocation is based on the number of pupils who live within SIMD 1 and 2. Deciles 3-10 are given no allocation.

Our range of SIMD is from 2 to 10.

Our plans for this funding include:

- Support within Literacy including targeted Writing and phonics support.
- Some school support assistant hours
- Subscriptions to Times Tables Rock Stars, Numbots, Clickview and IDL
- Transport costs.
- Specialist coaching

Staff Development/Training

As you know we have highly professional staff at Underbank.

This will give you a flavour of what has been completed by staff already:

- Mrs Drennan is working on her Into Headship qualification and her change initiative around Maths. She attended the West Partnership Maths Conference earlier in the session.
- I've just completed an Education Scotland programme called Building Racial Literacy which I started in June 2024
- Mrs Bond has continued to attend ICT Coordinator meeting and also mentored a student last term
- Mrs McInnes, Mrs Bond and I continue to engage with the Attachment Network
- Mrs McLeod has been engaging with various new ICT programmes such as Adobe Express and introducing them to her class
- All teachers have been involved in inhouse moderation
- All teachers have been working on the Circle Framework
- Miss Dickson is engaging with new Science planning and delivering this.

Conclusion

Red Weather Alert - (Friday 24th Jan) did not give teachers much time to prepare for the switch to paper or online learning. This was of course optional, as I'm sure some families had no power and many of our parents would also have been juggling work and childcare.

Approximately, 56% of our children said that they engaged with the tasks set.

Scottish Celebration - We had approximately 96 visitors who came along to our Scottish Celebration yesterday. This was hugely successful and very busy.