

Underbank Primary

Update 16 – 25th April



We welcomed everyone back to school this week for the final term of the session. This is an extremely busy term for us as we say farewell to our P7 pupils. They are the last class that spent some of their schooling in our old building! Where have the years gone?

We hope that everyone had a wonderful break. We have heard of many adventures, near and far, from our pupils.

Welcome – New Staff

I'm delighted to share that Mrs Knowles has joined us for this term to teach Room 1 each Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. She thoroughly enjoyed her first few days with us this week.

I'd also like to welcome Mrs McGarry, who will be supporting Mrs McLeod in Room 5 over this term.

School Self-Evaluation Exercise

During our parent consultations parents had the opportunity to complete a school self-evaluation exercise. Thank you to all who took the time to complete this. 80% of our families contributed. I'd like to share some of the data gathered:

- 100% of our responses agreed or strongly agreed that their child was treated fairly and with respect.
- 98.5% agreed or strongly agreed that staff knew their child as an individual.
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that school supports their child's emotional wellbeing.
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they are comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and/or a concern.
- 100% agreed or strongly agreed that they were satisfied with the quality of teaching in the school.

A more in-depth account of the feedback will be shared at our next Parent Council meeting. Please come along to review this.

Below you can read a few of the written comments left by parents:

- *Fabulous school, thank you for all you do.*
- *We are very happy with all aspects of teaching and learning in Underbank. The*

staff know our children very well and encourage and support them fully.

- *Some more after school clubs would be lovely.*
- *Wonderful school and we are proud to be a part of Underbank.*
- *Staffing challenges are having an impact, but existing team are doing extremely well to compensate and ensure students aren't affected.*

Forest School – Room 2

The pupils from Room 2 will continue with their Forest School session on Wednesday 7th May and Wednesday the 14th May. The parents of these pupils will be invited to attend the last morning session. Further information will be emailed soon.

Forest School – Room 1

This term the pupils from Room 1 will have a block of Forest School sessions. Dates can be seen below in 'Important dates for your diary' and further information will be emailed to parents.

School Meal Cost Increase

Please be aware that the cost of a pupil school meal has increased to £2.62. Milk remains at 30p.

Car Park Area Cordoned Off

The grassy slope in our car park remains cordoned off as a safety measure as we are aware of loose manhole covers in that area. This has been reported to SLC. Please discourage your children from going into this area. Thank you.

Fun5z Netball Final

Today the P7's represented the school at the Netball Tournament at Carlisle Leisure Centre. They had a fun time meeting the other pupils and returned with medals. Our Yellow Team won bronze and the Blue Team won silver. Well done to them all.

"It was amazing, I played Goal Defence. It was mini matches and I came on as a sub. We all played well together." - William McKerral (P7)
"It was a great way to interact with another school. I played Centre which is my favourite position." - Lucy Lennox (P7)

Cross Country Championship

Best of luck to Owen Lennox (P6) and Caelan Simpson (P6) who will be taking part in the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships in Kirkcaldy over the weekend.

Tennis

We wish four of our P4 pupils all the best in the South Lanarkshire P4 Tennis Competition which is being held on Sunday 27th April at Hamilton Tennis Club. The pupils are Hattie Wardrope, Holly Findlay, Reuben Thomson and Freddie Arrenberg.

P6 & P7 Dalguise Reminder

Thank you to all of the P6 and P7 parents for helping the pupils and school to get organised for the residential trip to Dalguise on Monday 28th April. Everyone is very excited and looking forward to going. We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of a few things:

- ✓ all personal items are labelled with the pupil's name
- ✓ packed lunch is required on Monday
- ✓ refillable water bottle, clearly marked with pupil's name
- ✓ no jewellery, electronic items or phones are permitted
- ✓ all children have sufficient snacks for each day. Please do not pack additional snacks

Mrs McInnes, Miss Robertson and I will be heading to Dalguise with pupils. If you have any school enquiries while we are away, then please direct these to our school office as I'm not certain if I will be able to access school emails.

Themed Lunch - Stop Food Waste – Wednesday 30th April

On Wednesday 30th April we will participate in International Stop Food Waste Day by offering a Stop Food Waste themed lunch on this day. The menu below will be available for all pupils.

Blue meal - Firecracker Pizza and arrabiata pasta (v)
Red meal - Sausage in a finger roll with potato croquettes
Green meal - Ham sandwich
Dessert – Half and half cookie
Cheese and tuna sandwiches available (orange/purple tray)
Fresh fruit and salad selection also available

The Stop Food waste menu includes food items from the top 5 menu choices that pupils choose each week from our primary menu. We hope that this will help to ensure that pupils eat everything on their plate and so reduce food waste!

Gym Days Term 4

Room 1 – Tuesday and Friday
Room 2 – Tuesday and Thursday
Room 3 – Monday and Wednesday
Room 4 – Tuesday and Friday
Room 5 – Monday and Thursday

Parents and Friends Association

Our PFA met last night in school. As always, their fund-raising activities have helped us to fund resources, treats, transport and activities throughout the session. We appreciate their hard work.

Parent Council

Our next Parent Council meeting is due to take place on 8th May at 6.30pm in school. Please consider if you would like to become involved in this group or our Parents and Friends Association (PFA).

School Enquiries

This term has seen many emails to parents and carers requiring a reply. In order that all communication is dealt with as swiftly as possible, can we kindly ask that you include your child's full name. **This is especially important when the name on the email address does not correspond to the child's surname.**

Water Only

We encourage pupils to bring a refillable bottle of drinking water to school each day. Please do not fill bottles with juice.

Names on Clothing

Our Lost Property box has a few items that have remained unclaimed. Please ensure that all personal items are labelled with your child's name. At the end of each term all items remaining in the box will be handed to our School Uniform Bank or placed in our Clothing Bank.

Community News

Letting the Village Hall

A community group have now taken over the management of the village hall. To check availability, should you wish to book the hall, please contact Jonathon Gibson via the email: crossfordhall@gmail.com

Lanark Tennis Club Coaching Sessions for P1-P7

Attached you will find information about coaching sessions at Lanark Tennis Club which commence on Sunday. Please review the information if this is something that your child might enjoy.

Clyde Wind Ensemble (CWE) Children's Concert

Clyde Wind Ensemble are hosting a free Children's Concert to promote music within South Lanarkshire to young children (primary and early secondary age). Please see the

attached flyer for information and use the link below to secure tickets.

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/peter-and-the-wolf-video-lesson-12469073>

It is likely that this event will sell out quickly!

Introduction to Mindfulness workshop with LAMH at South Vennel, Lanark

The workshop is on 13th May 1.30pm-2.30pm. Applying mindfulness helps develop helpful responses to low mood, stress and anxiety. To book your place, see the flyers attached and phone 01698 709260.

Reminders

ParentPay Reminders

Please consider donating to our KUA Payment item, no matter how small, to help subsidise the cost of transport to the various events that the children participate in throughout the year.

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 2pm every day. This is particularly important if your child is on school transport.

Speed Limit – Outside the School

Please continue to be mindful of your speed as you drive through the village and outside of the school.

Police Scotland have said that they will be undertaking regular speed monitoring throughout the valley.

Car Park

Our car park is a one-way system. Please adhere to this and the spaces are quite tight so take care opening car doors.

We would ask that everyone using our car park is always courteous to others.

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. We would

encourage you to have your child in the playground a few minutes before 9am. Timekeeping is a skill we promote in preparing our pupils for learning, life and work.

Outstanding School Meal Payments

Please check your School Meal balance on ParentPay and clear any outstanding payments when you can.

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Mrs Millar should you wish some support or advice.

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.

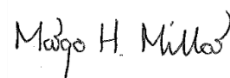
Please email Mrs Stewart direct at

upsuniformbank@gmail.com

if you would like to request any items or if you have any items for the uniform bank.

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)

26 April – Scottish Schools Cross Country Championships

27 April – South Lanarkshire P4 Tennis Competition

28 – 30 April – P6-7 pupils to Dalguise

1 May – Inservice

5 May - Holiday

7 May – Room 2 Forest School

6 May – LGS P7 Transition Multisports 4-5pm

6 May – Room 1 Forest School

8 May - Parent Council Meeting at 6.30pm

9 May – P1 (Aug 2025) Trial Lunch with parents

13 May - LGS P7 Transition Multisports 4-5pm

14 May – Room 2 Forest School and parents

15 May – LGS Parent Information Session for P7 pupils and parents at 6.15pm

16 May – Clydesdale Track & Field (Selected pupils)

20 May - LGS P7 Transition Multisports 4-5pm

20 May – Room 1 Forest School

22 May – Rag Bag Bin collection

23-25 May – The Garden Festival, Hamilton
Racecourse

27 May – Room 1 Forest school

28 May – P1 Induction Visit with parents

2 June – Popinjay Cup

3 June – Room 1 Forest School

9 June – Sports Day at John Cumming Stadium

10 June – LGS Transition Day for P7 pupils

11 June – LGS Transition Day for P7 pupils

**10 June – Sports Day themed lunch – more
information to follow**

**11 June – Activities organised by Law and
District Running Club**

12 June – Lanimer Holiday

13 June – Lanimer Holiday

17 June – P1 Induction Visit (2nd)

19 June – Room 4 Trip (Bannockburn)

**19 June – P6-7 Girls After School Football
(Lanark Race Course)**

**20 June – Proposed Prize Giving in
Crossford Church at 10am**

25 June – School closes at 1pm