

Underbank Primary

Update 1 – 15th August 2025



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 8 new Primary 1 pupils. Our classes for the year ahead are:

P1/2 – Mrs McInnes

P3/4 – Miss Niddrie

P4/5 – Mrs Bond & Mr Briers

P5/6 – Miss Dickson & Mrs Higgins

P6/7 – Mrs McLeod

All pupils have settled easily and look fabulous in their school uniforms. Thank you for sending our pupils back to school 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 available for families who require this service. We kindly ask that you 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 are 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 McInnes and I would like to invite our P1 parents along to a workshop and for a 'cuppa' on Monday 25th August 9:30am – 10:30am. During the workshop we will share some curricular information and resources that will be used with our P1 learners. In addition, Mrs McInnes will also share how homework will be tackled. We 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 3rd September. Parents can pop into the gym hall at 3pm to hear about an Interactive Mental Maths programme that their children will be using to promote quick recall of number facts. This programme may be given as homework at times and so we wish to keep parents well informed about how impactful it can be if used well.

Our Meet the Teacher sessions will then follow on at 3.20pm and 3.50pm.

Parents can come and meet their child's teacher and find out about class routines, expectations and the homework in their child's class. There will be a 15-20 minute talk given by each teacher at the above times.

Your child's 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 3rd September for Meet the Teacher.

Lunch Menu – Begins 18th August 2025

This can be accessed via the SLC website using the link below:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/2161/primary_menu_2025-2026

Throughout the school year there may be 'Themed Lunches'. This information can be found using the link below but reminders will be communicated in future Friday Updates.

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200259/education_benefits/291/school_lunches/8

Ordering Milk for Lunch Break

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.

ParentPay

Underbank Primary is a cashless school and all items requiring payment are added to ParentPay. We use ParentPay for Educational Excursions, etc.

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

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.

Provisional Gym Days:

Room 1 - Monday and Wednesday

Room 2 - Wednesday and Friday

Room 3 - Tuesday and Thursday

Room 4 - Monday and Thursday

Room 5 - Tuesday and Thursday

Even on gym days, we ask that pupils wear school colours.

On PE days we ask that pupils wear blue, black or grey shorts, leggings or jogging trousers, their school sports t-shirt or polo shirt and their school jumper. Long hair should always be tied back on PE days.

We also encourage all pupils not to wear earrings on PE days. However, pupils with newly pierced ears or those unable to remove their earrings will need to bring micropore tape to cover them.

Buddies

Our 8 Primary 1 pupils have all had the opportunity to meet their buddies this week. Our 17 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 and shared at Meet the Teacher.

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 18th August.

School Transport

Many children are transported to and from the school using the South Lanarkshire Council appointed contractor. KC Coaches have been awarded our contract by the council. We ask that parents are patient and courteous to the drivers, especially while they become familiar with the children and routes.

South Lanarkshire Council set the pickup and drop off points, as well as the approximate times. These were emailed to the appropriate parents on 18th June 2025. Previous transport

companies may have adjusted these details over their contract period and we would appreciate everyone's consideration of this.

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.

A PVG (Disclosure) certificate is required, but we are able to help with this.

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

Evening Football Opportunity P1-3 & P4-7 at Lanark Grammar

Our active schools coordinator has shared this opportunity with us. If you have a child who may be interested then it is essential to book but this first block (19th Aug - 7th Oct) is **FREE**.

Book at Lanark Lifestyles – Tel 01555 666800
P1-3 - Tuesdays, 6-7pm
P4-7 - Tuesdays, 7-8pm

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 has been assigned to all pupils. Donations can be as little as 50p, every penny counts!

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
- Friday Update

If you receive an email and your partner didn't and he/she would like to be added a relevant group, 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

If your child needs any particular item(s), Mrs Stewart is also happy to receive requests.

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 or drop them off at the school office.

Parent Council/Parents & Friends Association

Both these groups are very active in our school and 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 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.

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.

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.

School Chaplain

Rev Fiona Anderson from Dalserf Church and Mrs Roberta Hutton, the interim Moderator of Crossford Church, have agreed to share the role of school chaplain for the session ahead.

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.

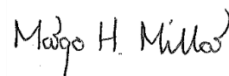
In all communications, please state your child's name as many parents email addresses are alpha-numeric, maiden names etc. This helps the office respond to emails quicker.

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.

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)

21 Aug – P5 Swimming commences

25 Aug – P1 Parent Workshop

3 Sept – Meet the Teacher

4 Sept – Joint PFA and PC Meeting at 6:30pm followed by individual meetings (in school)
16 Sept – JRSO day (selected pupils)
26 Sept – Holiday
29 Sept – Holiday
2 Oct – Proposed Pupil Flu Immunisation Day
8 Oct – Parent Consultations (more info to follow)
10 Oct – Fairtrade Brew It Fair – Sips and Smiles
11 Oct – 19 Oct – October holiday break
10 Nov – In-Service Day (No pupils in School)
14 Nov – Netball Festival (Selected pupils)
12 Dec – P3 – 7 Panto visit
19 Dec – School closes at 2:30pm for the Christmas Holiday break
5 Jan – School Re-opens