

Underbank Primary

Update 3 – 12TH September

2025



We have had a very busy start to September and classes are settled and working hard. It is great to see our apples ripening on our orchard trees. Our plan is to use some to cook with and to send some to the Valley Orchard Group so that they can press them and then send us the delicious apple juice. If you have surplus apples, we would love to add them to our bundle for pressing. Please send these in on the week beginning 15th September.

Underbank Acting Principal teacher

In Mrs Drennan's absence, we have been permitted to appoint an Acting Principal Teacher. After interviewing a number of candidates, I'm delighted to report that Mrs Bond successfully gained the post on a temporary basis. Congratulations Mrs Bond!

P2 – P7 Meet the Teacher

Thank you to all who attended this event on Wednesday 3rd Sept. 67% of our families were represented at the sessions.

Here are a few of the comments we received in our evaluations:

*"Great to meet 'new' staff for my child.
Reassuring prior to parents' evening."*

"Excellent afternoon. So nice to hear what goes on daily and have info about homework."

"Great informative presentation – Thank you."

"It's always good to have the opportunity to meet the teachers at the start of term and to recap key elements of the school day/week."

A parent asked if children could be supervised somewhere to allow parents to attend the event without their child. Unfortunately, we do not have free staff to accommodate this request. Some parents asked if the presentations could be shared for those who were unable to attend and so teachers have added their presentations to their class Google Classroom for any parents that missed this event.

We hugely value your partnership at Underbank and appreciate that not everyone is able to make it along.

Numbots & Times Tables Rock Stars

Introduction

A huge thanks to Mrs Bond for sharing this resource with our parents at the workshop on 3rd Sept. We hope to improve the mental maths agility of our pupils by utilising this. Please look out for it as a homework task soon.

Congratulations to all of the pupils who received certificates at assembly last week due to their outstanding progress using the resource.

Certificates will be issued monthly.

JRSO Survey Results

We did a 'Show of Hands' survey for the Scottish Government to see how pupils at Underbank travel to school. Our results are added to the results from other schools across Scotland. Here are our results:

- 61% of our pupils were driven to school on survey day.
- Only 6% of our pupils cycled.
- 26% travelled via school transport.

We are going to try to encourage more 'active' travelling.

*Reported by Mason Brown & Caelan Simpson
(Underbank JRSOs 2025 - 2026)*

Regular checks

Head lice – Please check your child(ren) regularly for head lice. They are common in primary aged children and, although harmless, they can spread between children easily and be very irritating for the child.

Ticks – We are coming close to the end of tick season in Scotland, but we ask that you check your child(ren) regularly.

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.

Sky Up Academy Studio

The whole trip was brilliant. We were put into four groups and in each we had roles of producer, reporters, script writers, camera operators, directors and editors. We had to make a news report about Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how it could affect jobs in the future.

Reporters had to choose their suits and ties and sit in front of a green screen. It was great seeing

how all the different roles were needed to make the report. We got a copy of the video to show at Assembly.

Reported by Harrison Wardrope (P7) and Jaxon Elliot (P7)

"The video was absolutely outstanding and very professional. The work on screen and behind the scenes highlighted that the pupils are a credit to the school." Mrs McLeod (Class Teacher)

Bikeability Training

P6 and P7 are enjoying their bikeability training and it is great to see so many pupils cycling to and from school.

"It is quite difficult, but it is really good fun. There is a lot to remember to do, like what hand goes up, where to look and then to brake." – Poppy King (P7, Level 2 Bikeability)

"I am enjoying cycling round the playground, and I like the games where you have to high five someone as you cycle past." – Mya Henderson (P6, Level 1 Bikeability)

Crochet Club

Mr Hamilton (Finlay and Ellie's gran) has re-established her crochet club. She is currently working with a group of P7 pupils to develop their skills. We can't wait to see what they can produce!

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

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

Money is not the only problem – Education

Limiting the Cost of the School Day (CoSD) is at the heart of every school. Schools are determined poverty will not become a barrier to success in school.

[Check out this link for the various sections of the Money is Not the Only Problem resources focusing on education](#)

Every school has a Cost of the School Day lead person. Should you wish to reach out for support or advice around CoSD, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Fairtrade Event - Brew It Fair – Sips and Smiles – Fri 10th Oct

On Friday 10th Oct we would like to invite all parents and community members for a 'Sips and Smiles', afternoon where our Fairtrade Committee will be serving Fairtrade tea and coffee (along with some lovely Fairtrade treats). The event will take place in the gym hall from 1.45pm - 2.45pm.

Come along to support the pupil committee and the 2025 UK campaign to 'Brew it Fair'. Our Fairtrade Committee will give a short presentation about Fairtrade during the event.

SSPCA

Our Pupil Council are collecting towels and old newspapers for the SSPCA.

An SSPCA representative is coming along to our assembly on October 3rd so that they can collect our items and tell us about this charity and the positive impact they have on many animals.

PFA and Parent Council Meetings

At the last meeting, it was agreed by PFA and Parent Council members to stagger meeting times to allow interested parents to attend both meetings.

The next meetings will take place on Thurs 23rd October at the time below:

PFA 1830-1930hrs

Parent Council 1930-2030hrs

Times may alternate for future meetings but we will make you all aware of this in advance. We welcome anyone along who would like to attend, without any commitment.

If you wish to contact the Parent Council Chairperson, please email upsparentcouncil@hotmail.com

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.

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.

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.

Community News

Carlisle Ham & Jam Festival - Jampionship Event

We have been asked to share the attached flyer regarding a local Jampionship event.

Our pupils can enter:

Children's Competitions (Primary School Age)

- Class 13 - 3 Oven scones
- Class 14 - 3 Decorated Cup Cakes
- Class 15- 5 Cookies

There are classes that parents can enter too!! Please let us know if anyone has any success.

Clydesdale Wellbeing Event – Monday 15th September 5pm-7pm at Universal Connections Carlisle

Join for an evening of support and information with local wellbeing services, cold water therapy, pizza and more. See the flyer attached.

Opportunity Locally

Fiona Anderson, our school chaplain, has shared the following opportunities with us and expressed that they would be delighted to welcome anyone who is keen to try either group.

1st Dalserf Girls' Brigade

The company will start back on Monday 1st September and new members are very welcome to join the group at Rorison Hall in Ashgill.

P1-3 (6.30pm - 7.30pm)

P4-7 (7pm - 8.30pm)

1st Larkhall Boys' Brigade

Re-commences on Thursday 4th September at Rorison Hall, Ashgill.

Anchor Boys - P1-3 (6.30 - 7.30pm)

Junior Section - P4-6 (6.30pm - 8pm)

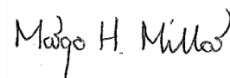
Company Section - P7 - S6 (7.30pm - 9pm)

Wellbeing Festival at Langloch Farm on Wednesday 24th September from 10am-2pm

Come along to this partnership event with information stands and workshops relating to the Five Ways to Wellbeing – Connect; Keep Learning; Take Notice; Be Active and Give.

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)

16 Sept – JRSO day (selected pupils)

17 Sept – Forest School, Room 4 – Week 1

18 Sept – Bikeability, Level 1&2 (Week 3 of 4)

19 Sept – Final P4/5 After School Multi Sports Club

23 Sept – School Photographs

24 Sept – Forest School, Room 4 – Week 2

25 Sept – Bikeability, Level 1&2 (Week 4 of 4)

26 Sept – Holiday

29 Sept – Holiday

1 Oct – Forest School, Room 4 – Week 3

2 Oct – Pupil Flu Immunisation Day

2 Oct – Football Festival, Carluke (Selected pupils)

3 Oct – SSPCA School visit

8 Oct – Forest School, Room 4 – Final

8 Oct – Parent Consultations (more info to follow)

10 Oct – Fairtrade Brew It Fair – Sips and Smiles

11 Oct – 19 Oct – October holiday break

23 Oct – PFA and Parent Council Meeting

29 Oct – PFA Halloween Disco

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

11 Nov – LGS P7 Transition After School

Multisports

14 Nov – Netball Festival (Selected pupils)

14 Nov – LGS P7 Transition After School

Multisports

20 Nov – Rag Bag Collection Day

29 Nov – PFA Christmas Fayre

12 Dec – P3 – 7 Panto visit

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

5 Jan – School Re-opens