

HT Report 4th Sept 2025

Welcome to any new parents joining us and thank you for showing an interest in this parent group.

Staffing/Classes

This session there are 5 classes, and our roll presently sits at 105 pupils. We have

P1/2 - 21 pupils - Mrs McInnes

P3/4 - 22 pupils - Miss Niddrie

P4/5 20 pupils - Mr Briers & Mrs Bond

P5/6 - 21 pupils - Miss Dickson and Mrs Higgins

P6/7 - 21 pupils - Mrs McLeod

We have only 8 new P1 pupils and no other new pupils across the school.

Staffing

Mrs Drennan is currently absent.

Mrs Donnelly continues on her maternity leave.

Mrs Tait has been allocated between 2 other schools for the session ahead.

Mr Briers, class teacher has been allocated due to Mrs Drennan's absence.

Miss Niddrie has been allocated to us for 4 days one week and 5 days the next. This is because we were entitled to 0.9 - 4.5 days.

Miss Dickson and Mrs Higgins will share P5/6.

With Mrs Drennan being absent, SLC have agreed to allow us to appoint an acting PT. I'm delighted to share that after interviews, Mrs Bond will step into this role on an acting capacity.

During the school day we have 1 support assistant each day - Miss Stewart is working Mon, Wed, Fri and currently we have Miss Robertson working Tues and Thur. We also have Miss Fleming for 2 hours per day, 11 - 1pm. This helps with a little pupil support and to supervise over lunch break.

New Term

We were all delighted to welcome our pupils back in August.

During the summer break we have had Rm3 and the staffroom re-carpeted.

Parental Engagement

So far, we have had:

- Our Meet the Teacher sessions and a short session to introduce TTRS
- Our P1 parents attended a workshop which included an introduction to Google Classroom
- We are working hard to keep parents informed via communication channels such as fortnightly Update, emails, ParentPortal.

- We have a grandparent helping to deliver Bikeability, another grandparent leading a crochet club and parents helping with the supervision needed for our swimmers.

We struggled to secure help with our weekly swimming block due to the new PVG rules.

- Every child will share some maths work with their parents soon and parents will be asked to complete our parents as partners feedback sheet.

October parent consultations are scheduled for Wednesday 8th October.

Booking will be via Parentportal prior to this date.

Other Activities and Opportunities

Our P7 Buddies have made a wonderful job of supporting our P1 pupils to transition to UPS.

Each class has selected their pupil council representatives.

All pupils have shared which committees they might wish to join for the session ahead and committees have been formed.

Our P7 JRSOs were selected after each candidate made a presentation on their skills and ideas for the year ahead. Their introductory training day will take place soon.

Each class has created their Classroom Charter after agreeing on the Rights they wish to focus on. Three classes have shared their Charters at Assembly last week and the remaining two will share theirs tomorrow.

Mr Paul Michael, our brass tutor, Mrs Shona Robertson, our violin tutor and Mr David Calder, our drumming tutor have all returned. They have been carrying out trials with possible new pupils and have commenced tuition with pupils from last session.

P4s from Rm2 and 3 are participating in a tennis block.

P6 and P7 pupils are undertaking their Bikeability training.

P5 are participating in a block of swimming

P4/5 after school multi sports club will commence tomorrow.

Still to come this term:

8th Sept - P6 and P7 are scheduled to participate in a Sky Academy workshop in Livingston next week.

16th Sept - JRSO Open Day

23rd Sept - School Photo Day

25th Sept - First Committee meetings take place

2nd Oct - Flu Immunisation Day at Underbank (Consent Given)

3rd Oct - SSPCA joining our assembly and collecting all of the donations of towels and newspapers

8th Oct - Parent Consultations in school

10th Oct - Fairtrade event for parents

13th Nov - In-service Days (No pupils in school)

LC Improvement Planning for this new session:

Our learning community are focusing on:

Teacher led practitioner enquiries where teacher opt into a working group to moderate activities and expectation within that area. The areas chosen for this session are Writing, Reading, Science and Digital Technology. Our Learning Community have worked like this previously and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

School Improvement Plan Priorities for 2025 – 2026

Our School Improvement Plan was written in May/June 2025. The summary document can be found on our school website and is written to align with SLC's five Priorities for 2025 – 2026 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)

Pupil Equity Fund and Strategic Equity Fund Award for 2025 – 2026 – £8575.

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 9.

The fund has to impact on children from low-income families and care experienced children.

Our allocation is £8575

Our plans for this funding include:

- Targeted support within Literacy using a supply teacher & SSA including within some Writing sessions.
- Subscription to some learning resources - IDL, TTRS & Numbots and Clickview
- Some transport costs
- Some Active Schools costs

Participatory Budget

5% of the allocation is allocated as Participatory Budget. Our Pupil Council, Parent Council, PFA and staff agreed prior to the summer to subscribe to TTRS & Numbots to positively impact of number recall and engagement.

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 in our first few weeks:

- Child Protection Training
- Education Scotland session on new Relationships & behaviour guidance
- Education Scotland modules on Keeping Trauma in Mind
- Our Specialist Support Teacher led a session for all staff on Inclusive Practice and resources
- Education Scotland modules on The Promise
- Latest ICT Coordinator meeting
- Digital Technology development work led by Mrs Bond and Mrs McLeod
- Mrs McInnes is working on our Green Flag submission.

Next week,

Mr Briers will attend Emotion Coaching training. All permanent staff have completed this.

School /Community Issues:

Hedge between village and school

This was raised as a concern by some parents as it was overgrown and pushing pedestrians and cyclist to the kerb. I raised this with Poppy Corbett who let me know that the landowner had this scheduled to be cut by a contractor.

The hedge was then cut and caused us further issues as the thorn then caused punctures!

Mr Craig kindly fixed some of these during bike checks.

Agricultural and horticultural hedges should be cut between Sept - March according to the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981. There are some exceptions such as public & private rights of way, private gardens, work required by statutory bodies.

I want to make you aware of our Swimming Costs:

Total Cost - £1479.15 (lessons, 2x swimming coaches, transport)

We suggested a parental contribution of £25 to our KUA fund, from our P5 parents to help with these costs

Parental voluntary contributions for P5 pupils scheduled to attend - £355 (14 contributions). We felt this was great value for 12 lessons.

PFA contribution - £450

School contribution - £674.15

A significant budget charge!