

Underbank Primary

Update 5 – 31st October 2025



I hope that everyone in our school community has had a restful October Break with family and friends. We have got off to a flying start at Underbank and already school is very busy.

Many of you will have noticed that Mrs Drennan hasn't returned to school yet. She is recovering well and keeps in touch with us regularly. We hope that she can return to school soon.

Mind Marvels

Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed their 1st session with the Mind Marvels trainer, Karen Gibb on Monday 27th October. She demonstrated calming tools and practical strategies to understand emotions, build confidence and develop lifelong resilience. We look forward to welcoming her back for her next sessions, on Monday 3rd November.

"We learned how to massage and we worked with a partner to practise the techniques" – Lucia McAvoy (P4)

Wear Red Day - Together we are stronger

This took place today, Friday 31st October. Wear red for Show Racism the Red Card is an annual event organised by the UK charity, Show Racism the Red Card. They aim to raise awareness of

anti-racism. Today, participants wore something red to show solidarity against racism. The event aims to challenge racist attitudes and promote equality and respect for all.



Their goal is to:
Build empathy and understanding
Encourage critical thinking about stereotypes
Raise awareness of that it is everyone's responsibility to challenge racism

Don't be racist – be respectful and show kindness to everyone you meet.

Reported by Finlay Speirs (P7)

Poppy Scotland Appeal

Today at assembly we heard about the Poppy Scotland appeal and how all money raised from

the appeal is used to provide vital life-changing support to the Armed Forces community in Scotland – serving families, veterans and those currently serving.

Our Pupil Council members will be distributing poppies for a suggested donation of 50p. They will visit each class daily from Monday 3rd November, to ask if anyone would like to make a donation for a poppy.

Please also look out for poppies made by our P7 crochet group! Do you know why we will have some purple poppies in the display?

Armistice Day – 11th Nov

We will have a small group of senior pupils representing Underbank at the Armistice Day Service in Crossford. The villagers assemble by the church doors at approximately 10.40am should you wish to come along. P6/7 have written a collaborative poem about poppies and some of our P7 pupils will share this during the service.

Instrumental Music Tutors

The tutors would like to remind those involved of the day they will be in school:

Tuesdays – Drumming and Violin

Thursdays – Brass

PFA Halloween Disco

What a fabulous turn out for the PFA Halloween disco this year. Thank you to the Victoria Ram, Vicky Harrison and the staff who volunteered to allow the event to take place.

Special thanks to Martyn Henderson and his assistant, Mya Henderson, for providing the disco and to the Crossford Village Store for kindly donating the crisps. We really do appreciate the help and support from our local community.

P1-4 Winners:

Best dressed:

Headless Man, Franklin Morris (P4)

Best dancer:

Ellie Speirs (P4)

Corners Game:

Ben Stewart (P2)

P5-7 Winners:

Best dressed:

Egyptian, Teddy Morris (P6)

Ferrero Rocher, Cora Ram (P5)

Best Dancer:

Jax Coyle (P6)

Finlay Speirs (P7)

Corners Game:

Matyas Hudec (P7)

"I liked playing and dancing with Becca at the disco. I was dressed as Mal from Descendants."

I was tired when I got home but I got a hot chocolate.” – Violet Ross (P1)

“I enjoyed dancing to the spooky music. It was fun playing the Corners Game.” – Eilidh Gillies (P2)

“I liked seeing all my friends dressed up in their costumes and dancing to the good music.” – Khaya van der Kaars (P5)

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

Thank you to Mr Briers, Mrs Bond and the Making Rights Real and Fairtrade Committee for organising this event and all those who attended.

SSPCA

The rescheduled date for our SSPCA visit is Friday 7th November. Should anyone still wish to donate old towels or newspapers, please bring them to the school office by Wednesday 4th November.

Carlisle & Lanark Gazette- First Class Souvenir Edition - 12th November 2025

Just a quick reminder for parents who wish to pre-order copies of the ‘First Class’ souvenir edition, featuring P1 class photographs from schools in the local area, which is coming up fast!

The final order deadline is the **4th November** before 11.30pm on their Eventbrite site, or 4.30pm via the phone line 0330 403 3004.

Bonfire Themed Lunch

This will take place on 5th Nov. Meal choices on that day will be:

Firecracker Pizza & Fries (v) - *(Pizza with spicy topping served with chips or potato croquettes and sweetcorn)*

Banger & Fries - *(Sausage in a finger roll served with chips or potato croquettes and sweetcorn)*

Sandwich selection - *(Cheese, tuna or ham)*

Firework Sponge - *(Sponge with icing and sugar strands)*

Proposed P6-7 Residential Trip – Lockerbie Manor

We are delighted that we have 24 pupils who will be attending the residential trip to Lockerbie Manor in April 2026. Some details have been sent to the relevant parents, including a proposed payment plan. This payment item is live on ParentPay.

After School Girls’ Football

The block of Girls’ Football After School Club is underway and we would like to thank SLLC and the student from UWS. There has been a fantastic uptake of this opportunity with 14 girls attending.

JRSO - Be Bright Be Seen Day - 28th November

Caelan and Mason would like to remind everyone to look out their brightest clothes for Be Bright Be Seen Day.

If in Doubt, Sit them Out - Parental Guidance

Attached to this email you will find the latest concussion recognition and management guidance for parents.

PFA appeal for Christmas Fair Stall Holders

Following the success of last year’s Christmas Fair with a few external stalls, the PFA are looking for stall holders for this year’s event on Saturday 29th November.

The fair will be open from 10am until 1pm, and you’ll be able to set up on Friday afternoon or from 9am on the Saturday. Tables are provided, as well as plenty tea and coffee, and the cost is £20.

The PFA are looking for a mix of sellers but spaces are very limited. So if you or someone you know might be interested, please email the school with your name and contact details, as well as what you do/make and any social media/website links, and someone at the PFA will be in touch soon.

PFA and Parent Council Meetings

The next meetings will take place on separate evenings to allow parents to attend both meetings.

Dates below:

Parent Council: Wed. 28.01.26 at 1830-2000hrs

PFA: Wed. 11.02.26 at 1830-2000hrs

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

Rivals Gym sessions

We are looking forward to welcoming, SLLC approved, Rivals Gym on 11th November. They will introduce our pupils to martial arts sessions. All pupils should wear their PE kit on this day.

Christmas Jumper Bank

Towards the end of term, we will have a few days when pupils can wear their Christmas jumper to school. At Underbank, we have a Christmas Jumper Bank. If you have any jumpers that your child has outgrown, please

consider handing these into school or directly to Mrs Stewart. Mrs Stewart will provide a list of all jumpers available next month and parents can then select any jumpers suitable for their own child(ren).

Please contact Mrs Stewart via the Uniform bank email address -
at upsuniformbank@gmail.com

Wear your Christmas Jumper Days

29th November - PFA Christmas Fair
11th December - Christmas Lunch Day
19th December - Last day of term

School Uniform Bank

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 updates this regularly. We will attach her spreadsheet at regular intervals and will be attached, 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.

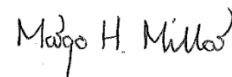
In all communications, please state your child's name as many parents email addresses are alpha-numeric, maiden names etc. This helps the office respond to emails quicker.

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.

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)

3 Nov – Mind Marvels workshops for all
3 Nov – P5-7 Girls' Football After School
4 Nov – School's Out! After School Club
5 Nov – Bonfire Night themed lunch
7 Nov – SSPCA visiting during assembly
10 Nov – In-Service Day (No pupils in school)
11 Nov- Rivals Gym sessions
11 Nov – School's Out! After School Club
11 Nov – LGS P7 Transition After School
Multisports
13 Nov – P5 Swimming – Final Lesson
14 Nov – Netball Festival (Selected pupils)
17 Nov – P5-7 Girls' Football After School
18 Nov – School's Out! After School Club
18 Nov – LGS P7 Transition After School
Multisports
20 Nov – Rag Bag Collection Day
24 Nov – P5-7 Girls' Football After School
25 Nov – School's Out! After School Club
26 Nov – P6 Crochet Club begins
28 Nov – Be Bright Be Seen Day organised by our JRSO
29 Nov – PFA Christmas Fair, 10am – 1pm
1 Dec – P5-7 Girls' Football After School – Final week
2 Dec – School's Out! After School Club

9 Dec – School's Out! After School Club
10 Dec – P1-2 Christmas Experience, New Lanark
11 Dec – Christmas Jumper Day
11 Dec – Christmas Lunch
12 Dec – P3 – 7 Panto visit, Lanark
15 Dec – P5-7 Christmas Party
16 Dec - P1-4 Christmas Party
18 Dec – Christmas Service, Crossford Parish Church at 10am
19 Dec – Christmas Jumper Day
19 Dec – School closes at 2:30pm for the Christmas break
5 Jan – School Re-opens