

# **Underbank Primary**

## **Update 11 – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026**



What a busy January we have had! Our Scottish Celebration was a lovely way to round off the month. Thank you to everyone who came along to support this event and a huge well done to our pupils for sharing their knowledge and skills.

We would love to hear your feedback so please email this to the school office.

Unfortunately, the person with the Lucky Programme must have left early and further to the email request for them to contact the office, the prize hamper was unclaimed. On Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> Feb, a selection of pupils, winners, dancers and our chanter player went along to the village Coffee and Chat to entertain everyone with their recitals, dances and music. This was a great success. We took the hamper and programmes along and I'm delighted to share that the hamper was won by the grandparent of Violet and Robin Ross. Congratulations!

### **Arriving on time**

We have a number of children who are consistently late. Arriving 15 minutes late every day amounts to 75 minutes across the week. We always encourage pupils to be in our playground a few minutes before the bell each day. Punctuality is a life skill best learned early in life.

### **Coffee & Chat Visit**

Poppy Dow and Mia Thomson performed two Highland dances, Fred P played his chanter and the following pupils recited their Scottish poems:

P7 - Finlay Speirs

P7 - Poppy King

P7 - Owen Lennox

P6 – Sophie Theanne

P5 – Reuben Thomson

P4 – Taylor Waddell

P3 – Caelan McCulloch

P2 – Amber Thomson

P1- Violet Ross

Our pupils were complimented on their talents and excellent behaviour.

The next Coffee & Chat event in the village hall will take place on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> March. All from the local community are welcome

### **Congratulations Mrs Drennan!**

Today was Mrs Drennan's graduation day. She was presented with her 'Into Headship' qualification certificate this afternoon. We all hope that she enjoys her new post as Acting Head Teacher at Coalburn Primary.

### **Continued links with the Charity 52 Lives**

Our Pupil Council and Mrs Bond have continued to engage with this charity in order to share how we promote kindness and to gain ideas from schools across the UK.

Did you know that kindness causes chemical changes in our body that improve our physical and mental health - and that's whether we're giving kindness, receiving kindness or even witnessing kindness!

Look out for our Pupil Council's next kindness initiative.

### **Benedetti Foundation – Mass Strings Day**

The Benedetti Foundation Mass Strings Day was a huge success on Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

*"I really enjoyed it and there were over 350 musicians. It was great that Rachel from the Foundation kept everyone laughing." - Ayanda van der Kaars (P7)*



*"We learned to play music with lots of pupils from other schools. I feel that I played better and it was magical hearing that number of instruments altogether." - Holly Davidson (P7)*

*"It was exciting and cool because I got to play with my friend again. We play together in the South Lanarkshire Orchestral Society each week." – Fred Parry (P6)*

### **Forest School - Room 5**

The pupils in Room 5 have completed their block of Forest School sessions.

*"I enjoyed playing Kubb which is a throwing game with 2 teams. Also, I liked being able to climb trees." – Morgan McKechnie (P7)*

*"The best bits were drinking hot chocolate, playing tig and making dens. I like being outside with my friends." – Finlay Speirs (P7)*

### **Community Police Officer Visit**

Unfortunately, the visit from our Community Police Officer was cancelled again. We will inform you when an alternative date has been set by Community Police Officer, Fraser Ward.

### **Room 5 Learning – Judaism: Passover**

The pupils in Room 5 have been learning about Passover as part of their RME. They would like to thank Jo Freeman for coming in to school to let them experience a traditional Jewish Sedar. This is a ceremonial meal to celebrate the festival of Passover and includes traditional songs, customs and the sampling of different traditional foods such as matzah and horseradish.

*"I liked wearing the kippah and learning some of the Jewish songs." – Amanda May Nelson (P7)*

*"It was really interesting to learn about the customs like ritual handwashing. I did not like the foods but it was good to try them." – Poppy King (P7)*

*"As part of the celebration, a piece of bread is hidden, and the ceremony cannot continue until it is found. I really enjoyed learning about this tradition, but I did not like the food." – Mason Brown (P7)*

### **Book Fair**

This year our Book Fair will arrive in school on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Being mindful of the cost of school day, we have arranged with Scholastic Book Fair to provide books at £2.50 each. Only books at the Book Fair can be purchased, there will be no facility to order any books.

Classes will have an allocated time slot to look at the books but they will only be available for purchase during parent consultations on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Should you wish to purchase any book(s) then please ensure that you bring cash on the night. No books will be sold before or after this time.

### **Lost and Found**

We have a black umbrella unclaimed. It was found whilst clearing the gym hall after the Scottish Celebration. If it is yours or you know who it belongs to, please contact the office.

### **SLC School Support Assistant Recruitment**

A recruitment campaign for School Support Assistants is now live. Please share this with anyone who may be considering this type of work.

<https://myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/south-lanarkshire/jobs/educ-g1-3681-school-support-assistant-various-457897>

### **Community**

### **Coalburn Brass Band Family Open Day - Free - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Feb**

This event will take place in Blackwood & Kirkmuirhill Community Wing, ML11 9SB and is open to beginners and those who can play.

#### **Group 1 - 11am - 4pm (Registration from 10.45am):**

This session is for pupils who have received lessons at school for 1 year or more. Participants should bring their own instrument and lunch.

#### **Group 2 - 1pm - 4pm (Registration from 12.45pm):**

This session is for anyone who has been receiving lessons for less than 1 year and for anyone who would like to learn to play a brass instrument. Instruments will be provided to all beginners.

A free concert will take place at 3pm  
To register for a place please follow the links on the group's website:  
[coalburnbrassbandfamily.co.uk/feb2026](http://coalburnbrassbandfamily.co.uk/feb2026)  
Any enquiries can be directed to:  
[secretary@coalburnbrassbandfamily.co.uk](mailto:secretary@coalburnbrassbandfamily.co.uk)

### **Reminders**

#### **PFA and Parent Council Meetings**

Unfortunately, the PFA meeting scheduled for next week has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for later in the term.  
Dates below:

Parent Council: **To be confirmed**  
PFA: **To be confirmed**

If you wish to contact the Parent Council Chairperson, please email  
[upsparentcouncil@hotmail.com](mailto:upsparentcouncil@hotmail.com)

#### **Car Park**

Please be extremely cautious as you enter our car park on wintery morning. The road and car park can be very icy.

#### **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](mailto:gw14underbankoffice@glow.sch.uk)

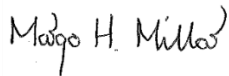
Please be aware that our school office isn't always manned due to staff assisting with supervision duties and helping with the buses at the end of the school day. If you need to contact the school with regards to a change of

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.

***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

**8 Feb – Brass Open Day, Blackwood**

**9 Feb - P2/3 Multi Sports After School Club**

10 Feb – SLC Sustainability Showcase  
(selected pupils)

10 Feb – School's Out!, Week 5 of 5

13 Feb – Fun5z Netball (selected pupils)

16 Feb – School Closed

17 Feb – School Closed

18 Feb – In-service Day

25 Feb – P7 Rotary Quiz, Robert Owen  
Memorial Primary School (selected pupils)

**28 Feb – Dance Club (lunchtime)**

5 Mar – Football Festival, Carluke (selected  
pupils)

**6 Mar – Dance Club (lunchtime)**

**13 Mar – Dance Club (lunchtime)**

13 Mar – P1 and P7 Dental Inspections  
(Information will be issued)

18 Mar – Cross Country, Lanark Race Course

20 Mar – Odd Socks Day for Down Syndrome  
Day on 21<sup>st</sup> March

**20 Mar – Dance Club (lunchtime)**

**24 Mar – Clydesdale Dance Festival (selected  
pupils)**

27 Mar – Fun5z Netball (selected pupils)

2 Apr – School closes at 1430hrs

20 Apr – School reopens