

Underbank Primary

Update 1 – 14th August 2026



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 Thursday of this week, we welcomed 13 new Primary 1 pupils, 1 P4 pupil and 1 P7 pupil. Our classes for the year ahead are:

P1/2 – Mrs McInnes

P3/4 – Miss Niddrie

P4/5 – Mrs Donnelly & Mrs Lamont

P5/6 – Miss Dickson & Mrs Higgins

P6/7 – Mrs McLeod

I am delighted to share that Mrs Bond will remain on as our Acting Principal teacher.

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-attendance.

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.

Lunch Menu

The primary menu will change on 24th August. Please note that there is now an additional green tray option available every Thursday.

The links below will take you to the menus until the 24th August:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/20018/6/primary_school_information/2161/primary_menu_2025-2026

Throughout the school year there may be 'Themed Lunches'. Which will be communicated in future Friday Updates.

Ordering Milk for Lunch Break

Milk can be pre-ordered on ParentPay and is now priced at 33p 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.

P1 Parent Workshop

Mrs McInnes and I would like to invite our P1 parents along to a workshop and for a 'cuppa' on Monday 31st August 9:30am – 10:30am. During the workshop we will share some curricular information and resources that will be used with our P1 learners. During the session Mrs McInnes will also share how homework will be tackled. We will 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 2nd September. Parents can pop into the gym hall at 3pm to hear about a new online programme we plan to use throughout this session. 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.

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 parents and 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. New parents and parents of Primary 1 pupils will be issued with information and instructions on how to access Parentsportal early next 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.

All existing pupils are linked to Parentsportal and annual consents will be 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 – Tuesday and Thursday

Room 3 - Tuesday and Thursday

Room 4 - Monday and Thursday

Room 5 – Wednesday and Friday

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 13 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 and helping them to settle in the school and playground. Thank you to them all. Throughout the session, P1 and P7 pupils have the opportunity to tackle some activities together at Buddy Meetings.

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 17th August.

Pocket Toys

We are aware that some children benefit from having a small toys for during breaks. We ask that this fits in their pocket and is not an expensive toy.

Mobile Phones And Smart Watches

If a mobile phone or smart watch is brought to school these should remain in school bags on silent or switched off. They should not be used on our premises for any reason.

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.

School Transport

Many children are transported to and from the school using the South Lanarkshire Council appointed contractor. KC Coaches and Go Travel the contractors this year. We ask that parents are patient and courteous to the drivers, especially while they become familiar with the children and routes.

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.

We ask that parents do not cross their children at the Silverbirch entrance but use Mr Hamilton.

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.

Back to School Financial Support

The end of the summer holidays brings a mix of excitement and expense for families.

New uniforms, school bags, nursery essentials and lunch costs can all add up quickly, placing real pressure on household budgets at this time of year.

Social Security Scotland has a range of payments to help ease those costs – from nursery age right through to secondary school. Thousands of families already benefit from this support, but many may not realise they are eligible.

Help for Children Starting Primary School

Starting primary school is a big milestone – and it can be an expensive one.

The £331.95 [Best Start Grant School Age Payment](#) can be used for anything a child needs to start school, including uniforms, school bags, books and equipment. Applications are now open for children born between 1 March 2021 and 28 February 2022. A child does not need to go to school to receive this payment and children deferring starting primary this year still need to apply by the deadline of 28 February 2022 to receive the payment.

Children who are eligible for this payment and already receive Scottish Child Payment will be paid automatically - there is no need to apply.

Community

Letting the Village Hall

A community group manage the village hall. To check availability, should you wish to book the hall, please contact Jonathon Gibson via the email: crossfordhall@gmail.com

Free Period Products Available in Lanarkshire

The Scottish Government continue to provide funding to ensure that free period products are available to all women, girls or anyone who needs to access them. You can use the "Pick Up My Period" app to locate free products in your local area, via the App Store or Google Play. Alternatively, you can find more information on your local authority website. Each local authority website allows you to search for venues local to you, where products can be collected, free of charge:

·South Lanarkshire Council:

<https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/period-positive>

·North Lanarkshire Council:

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/your-community/working-communities/free-period-products>

Reminders

Names on Clothing

To avoid items of clothing appearing in our Lost Property box, please ensure that all personal items are labelled with your child's name. At the end of each term all items in the box are handed to our School Uniform Bank or placed in our Clothing Bank.

PFA and Parent Council Meetings

A meeting for both groups will be organised in the new session.

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

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

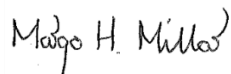
gw14underbankoffice@glow.sch.uk

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.

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)

20 Aug – P5 Swimming block commences
(information to follow)

31 Aug – P1 Parent Workshop

2 Sept – Meet the Teacher

17 Sept – Lanark Learning Community
Football (details to follow)

25 Sept – School closed

28 Sept – School closed

7 Oct – Cross Country (details to follow)