

Underbank Primary

Update 2 – 28th August 2026



A huge well done to our 16 P7 buddies who continue to do a fabulous job of supporting our 13 new P1 pupils.

At the start of this session, we welcomed a few new families who moved into the area:

Oscar – P7

Broden – P4

Erin – P3

Aila – P1

All are enjoying Underbank and have made new friends.

Uniform Plea

Our lost property box is already starting to fill up. Please ensure all items have your child's name marked on them. If you do find that your child has lost any of their uniform, then the lost property box can be found in our foyer.

Showery Downpours

We have had some unexpected downpours during morning breaks and lunchtime. Please try to ensure your child has a shower-proof jacket with them or in their bag as we like to be in the outdoors as much as we can.

Pupil Council – Pupil Voice

Pupil voice is important to us at Underbank. Last week all classes chose their Pupil Council representatives for the year ahead.

Room 1 – Zion and Violet

Room 2 – Robyn and Eilidh

Room 3 – Elara and Mia

Room 4 – Ivy and Cora

Room 5 – Emily L and Fred

Article 12 of the UNCRC – I have the right to be listened to and taken seriously.

Junior Road Safety Officers 2026-2027

The JRSO's for session 2026-2027 will be:

Skye (P7)

Sophie (P7)

Congratulations girls!

The girls will attend a JRSO event in September, to gather ideas for the year ahead.

Class Novel Studies

All classes are starting the session by undertaking a class novel study:

Room 1 – Blue Sky, Yellow Kite

Room 2 – The Owl who is Afraid of the Dark

Room 3 – Tilly and the Time Machine

Room 4 – Kasper, Prince of Cats

Room 5 – The Nowhere Emporium

This allows teachers to have a class focus on literacy while also building a shared community of learners.

Lunch Menu

The primary menu changed on 24th August and copies of the new menu were given to all pupils. Please find below the link to the online menu:

<https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/primary-menu>

Please note that there is now an additional green tray option available every Thursday.

Should your child wish to have a carton of milk with their lunch then this can be ordered via ParentPay at a cost of 33p.

Handwashing

Pupils from Room 1-3 took part in an NHS handwashing workshop designed to highlight the importance of washing hands after coughing or sneezing, using the toilet, before eating and after contact with animals.

'Joanna and Vicky came into our school to make sure we all knew how to wash our hands properly. First, we put cream on our hands that felt like silky, shaving foam. Then we held our hands in a box with an ultraviolet light that made the cream glow blue. Then we were asked to wash our hands really well and put them back in the box. Any blue showing meant we had not washed them enough. All of us got a sticker and a certificate which had a QR code on it so that our parents could watch a video about handwashing too.' – Reported by Olive and Blythe (P4)

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.

Cost of the School Day

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.

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. All enquiries are handled with the strictest confidence.

Chaplaincy Team at Underbank

Annually, we are asked to review our school chaplaincy team. A school chaplain can offer support to our school community, enhance our RME provision in classes and they often attend our school events to support and encourage our pupils.

This year, I am delighted to share that Fiona Anderson, Minister at Dalserf Church and Roberta Hutton, Interim Moderator of Crossford and Kirkfieldbank Church, will remain as school chaplains.

Louise MacKay, Minister of St Nicholas Church in Lanark will also join the team. Louise came along to our Summer Celebration in June and was really impressed by our pupils and their achievements.

Annual Checks and Permissions

Many thanks to the parents who have completed the annual checks and permissions issued via Parentsportal. These are:

- Annual Data check of personal information
- Annual Photo Permission and ICT Agreement
- Village Walk Permission

We ask that all parents check the current medical information held for their child and **update or delete** as appropriate. It is of the utmost importance that the school is made aware of any medical condition that may affect their child during the school day. Should your child require medication, forms will be sent out, and we will request medication to be held in the office.

We urge any parent who has not activated their ParentPay or Parentsportal accounts, to do so asap. **Each sibling must be registered on both accounts.**

Underbank takes pride in reducing paper usage throughout the year via methods such as the use of online communications. Please contact the office should you have any issues activating your accounts.

School Immunisation Programme

The School Flu Immunisation Team are expected in school on **16th Dec**. Some consent forms have been issued and should be returned to school. Other parents have been asked to contact the team directly.

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.

Thank You – Valued Partners

Thank you to Mrs M Ross and Mr A Ross from the village COG group as they have started to tidy our raised beds. These had become rather unruly over the summer break.

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.

Community

Keeping children safe online - with Police Scotland and Education Scotland - Wednesday 23 September, 12-1pm or 5:30-6:30pm, online

This webinar is being delivered in partnership by Parenting Across Scotland, Police Scotland's Cybercrime Harm Prevention Team and Education Scotland. There will be a short presentation by Police Scotland exploring how you can help keep yourself and your loved ones safe whilst online, followed by Education Scotland discussing concerns about the use of technology in schools and digital awareness in the curriculum, then an opportunity to ask questions.

To book the lunchtime session (12-1pm): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/keeping-children-safe-online-webinar-lunchtime-session-tickets-1996626549758?aff=oddtcreator>

The evening session (5-30-6:30pm): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/keeping-children-safe-online-webinar-evening-session-tickets-1996626517662?aff=oddtcreator>

Strathaven Balloon Festival – 28-30th August

The Strathaven Balloon Festival is held in Strathaven Park. Balloons arrive on Friday and may fly, weather permitting. There is entertainment throughout Saturday and Sunday for all the family. Please see the link below for more details:

<https://www.strathavenballoonfestival.co.uk/>

Stress Control Classes

Please see the attached flyer for free, NHS Stress Control Classes. These classes will teach practical skills to help manage stress, anxiety, low mood and low confidence.

Jam and Ham

The annual Jam and Ham Festival will take place in Carluke 26th September between 1000-1600hrs, in the Market Square and Carluke Masonic Community Hall.

Activities include market stalls, fun fair, live music, a food village, a fire station open day, art exhibitions, magic shows, owl displays and a local baking competition.

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

PFA and Parent Council Meetings

A combined meeting for both groups has been arranged for Thursday 17th September at 1830hrs. This meeting will take place in the school, and we encourage all parents to come along or to notify the school office if you are unable to attend but would like to help at their events.

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

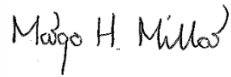
Please be aware that our school office isn't always manned due to staff assisting with supervision duties and helping with the buses at the end of the school day. If you need to contact the school with regards to a change of arrangement for your child at 3pm, please email the school office before 2:30pm 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)

27 Aug – P5 Swimming

31 Aug – P1 Parent Workshop, 0930hrs

2 Sept – Meet the Teacher, 1520hrs & 1550hrs

3 Sept – P5 Swimming

3 Sept – P6 & P7 Bikeability

10 Sept – P5 Swimming

10 Sept - P6 & P7 Bikeability

15 Sept – JRSO Information Session

16 Sept – School Photographs (details to follow)

17 Sept – P5 Swimming

17 Sept - P6 & P7 Bikeability

17 Sept – Combined Parent Council and PFA Meeting, 1830hrs

24 Sept – P5 Swimming

24 Sept - P6 & P7 Bikeability

25 Sept – School closed

26 Sept – Jam and Ham Festival, Carlisle

28 Sept – School closed

1 Oct – P5 Swimming

7 Oct – Cross Country (details to follow)

12 Dec – School Flu Immunisation