

Underbank Primary

Update 7 – 1 December 2023



Christmas Trees

A huge thank you to our neighbours at Silverbirch for gifting us the beautiful Christmas tree and lights. This has certainly added some festive cheer to our school.

We have also been offered a real Christmas tree for our hall by Rosebank Garden Centre. This will certainly make inside the school very festive too!

Crossford Advent Window Trail

Attached to this update is a map of the houses and workplaces that are taking part in the village Advent Window trail.

Underbank Primary is 'Window One' on the trail. Some of you will have noticed that my office window is now looking festive! Sue Neal, a local artist, painted Santa in the style of Quentin Blake – an illustrator, cartoonist and writer. Thank you to Sue for helping to create our window and for organising this fun trail for all of our families and the local community. Please enjoy a walk around all of the windows within the village if you can.

P7 Transfer Arrangements

Our Primary 7 pupils were recently issued with a letter outlining the transfer arrangements to Secondary School. Thank you to those parents who have replied advising us of their child's Secondary School arrangements. If you haven't already done so, please email the school office advising if you accept the place at your catchment secondary or whether you will be submitting a placing request.

Parents' Meeting around Anti-Racism

We welcomed 19 parents to this meeting last night. We were able to share information around the theme of racism from a national, council and local perspective, and also some of our next steps. Those in attendance also shared their ideas on possible next steps that we may wish to explore as a school and community. Thank you to those who were able to come along. Our aim is to continue to work on this area to ensure that all of our learners feel safe and included within our school community, and that they have

the language and confidence to 'act' should they ever witness or experience racism.

P7 Forest School Report

Primary 7 enjoyed a final frosty week at Forest School where hot chocolate was a winter warmer and they also made warm sweet popcorn over the campfire.

"I enjoyed the sliding down the banking because all my friends did it with me. I spent most of the time doing this." *Joshua Martin*

I enjoyed making the popcorn and smores. Probably one of the best Forest School sessions ever!" *Keir Campbell*

"I enjoyed all of it! I really enjoyed the cooking, especially the omelette and popcorn. The mud slide was also really good." *Aela Simpson*

Christmas Cards

All Christmas card orders were distributed on Wednesday of this week. Thank you once again for placing your order.

P1-4 Nativity Performance and Tickets

Pupils and staff are busy rehearsing for our Nativity performance, 'Born in a Barn', on Wednesday.

As always, our Nativity tickets sell out fast. All tickets have now been allocated. Mrs Totten has issued these today to parents who have paid in full. If you haven't already done so, please pop onto ParentPay and pay for your tickets. All payments should be with us by Tuesday 5th at the latest. If this causes you any difficulty then please get in touch.

Christmas Jumpers

We have quite a selection of 'good as new' Christmas jumpers, please see the spreadsheet attached. If any Christmas jumpers catch your eye, please contact Mrs Stewart who will put these aside for you and will also make collection arrangements direct with you.

If you have any Christmas jumpers that your child has outgrown, we will happily accept them for our Christmas jumper spreadsheet or pass these on for others to enjoy.

P6 & 7 Wiston Lodge Outing 2024

We are in the process of trying to arrange a two day visit to Wiston Lodge for our P6 and P7 pupils for April of next year. We are now waiting for Wiston Lodge to confirm the exact dates of this visit but wanted to give you as much notice as possible. A payment item will be added to ParentPay shortly and this can be paid in full or in instalments if you so wish. We hope to keep the total cost around the same as last year, in the region of approximately £55 per child.

If, for any reason, you feel that you cannot meet this payment, please get in touch with me.

Room 3 Clyde in the Classroom

We have been very fortunate to secure a place to take part in Clyde in the Classroom 2024. The first part of this very exciting activity is a visit to Glasgow Science Centre for the launch of the project on **17th January 2024**. A permission form and information letter, will shortly be added to Parentsportal. Please ensure that the permission form is completed by the deadline date of Friday 12th January 2024.

Our PFA have very kindly agreed to fund this educational project in full for us. Clyde in the Classroom are providing the bus and so there will be no charge for this activity.

Fundraising

Our recent fundraising efforts have certainly paid off. We have raised nearly £1000 from the following fundraising activities. This sum of money will help us subsidise various activities and events throughout the school year. Thank you so much for your continued support.

- School Photographs
- School Christmas Cards
- School Nativity Tickets
- Rag-bag

Lanark Grammar Percussion Group

We emailed the parents of the pupils attending this group on Wednesday, to advise them that these pupils have been invited to perform at Lanark Grammar's Christmas Concert on the evening of 13th December. Thank you to those parents who have emailed into the school office advising that their child will be able to attend. If you haven't already done so, please have a look at the email sent and respond, stating whether your child is able to attend or not.

ParentsPay live items

The following payment items are now on ParentPay.

- KUA (Keep Underbank Active)
- P1 – P7 Christmas activity (P3-7 Panto & P1-2 Gouldings outing)
- Nativity Tickets

Should you wish to discuss any of these payments confidentially, then please get in touch with me. Our aim is that all pupils have access to the best possible opportunities.

Parentsportal live items

The following permission forms are now live on Parentsportal:

- P1 & P2 Winter Wonderland
- P3 – P7 Panto

We have a small number that are outstanding. Please pop onto Parentsportal to ensure we have your consent for your child to participate.

After School Clubs

Just a reminder that our P2/3 after school club is **NOT** on this coming Monday. The last session for this after school club is Monday 11th December. Our P5 – P7 after school netball club is now finished. Thank you to Miss MacDonald and Miss Robertson who led this club for our pupils. The ladies hope to offer another netball afterschool block of netball next term.

Don't forget to add a small donation to our KUA fund if your child signs up for a club.

Scottish Celebration – January

More information regarding our Scottish celebration will follow in the New Year but this is simply to give you advance warning that on this day, children can come to school wearing something tartan. This can be a simple ribbon, a shirt, a hairband – anything tartan! Perhaps a wee stocking filler idea for Christmas!

PFA News

Our PFA Chair, Mrs Rebecca Sanderson, has asked that I convey her thanks to you all for supporting their Christmas Fair this year. They raised a grand total of £1,049.60. A huge thank you to all parents, grandparents, family, friends and the extended community for attending and supporting us.

I would also like to add a huge thanks to the parents and staff who are members of the PFA. The work that they do helps to support the school enormously.

The atmosphere on Saturday was warm and welcoming. It was a lovely, family friendly event which I hope that you enjoyed.

Community news

Rural Ace Courses for Parents

The Rural Academy is offering the following free Courses in January 2024.

The Education Support Assistant course:

The ESA course is free and available anyone over 16 year of age, who has officially left

school and who are looking to work in the education sector in the Clydesdale area. The course duration is 6 months - January 2024 to June 2024. 3 days per week - 2 days in the classroom (tbc) and 1 day on placement (tbc) in a local school, while the other 2 days are for self-study at home.

The course is designed to be taught during school hours (9.15/9.30am - 2.45pm). The modules you will learn will include Play in Early Education and Childcare, Supporting Language, Literacy and Numeracy in an Educational Setting, and Supporting Children & Young People who require Additional Support Needs, are designed to get you ready to assist teaching in a class at all levels of education - Nursery, Primary and High School, as well as ASN Schools and classes.

As the college works in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council, they will guarantee those who have submitted a successful application an interview with the SLC, for a post as an Education Support Assistant.

On completion and successful achievement of the 6-month course, you will gain the Personal Development Award in Education Support Assistance.

The NPA in Admin Services and Numeracy course:

The course is 2 days per week starting w/c 22nd January (days have still to be decided). The hours are 9.15/9.30am to 2.45pm, to suit those with children at school.

The course will be based at 2 Hope Street, Lanark.

This course will include numeracy skills at a level that is suitable for you.

The other units include:

Front of Office Skills.

Practical Office Skills and Technologies.

Researching and Preparing Presentations.

Budgeting Skills.

Employability support i.e., help with updating your CV.

Self-Study (including some homework).

Upcoming Online Free Parent Mental Health Workshops Delivered by SAMH

05/12/2023 Listening to & Supporting My Child 1.00pm

05/12/2023 Mental Health Awareness 10.00am

06/12/2023 Understanding & Managing Stress & Anxiety 6.30pm

07/12/2023 Managing My Wellbeing 1.00pm

Spaces are limited so please click on the following link to secure your space now.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/samh-lets-connect-team-clydesdale-69441409893>

Heather McCartney, from SAMH, who attended our Parents' Consultations, also plans to deliver a 'face to face' session based around mental health in the New Year. Look out for more information next term.

Reminders

After School Arrangements

Please contact the school office before 2:30pm if your child has not to go on the school bus. We have five buses, a Playbarn minibus and a taxi to co-ordinate at 3pm and when children don't arrive to register for their bus at 2:55pm, it holds up all other buses.

Please also bear in mind when asking other parents to collect your child, that we would really appreciate if we could be notified of these arrangements. This is particularly important for our younger children.

With regards to after school clubs, if your child has signed up for an afterschool club, then we anticipate that they are staying for the club. We sometimes have children saying that they then cannot attend. Unless a parent notifies us that their child is not attending the afterschool club, then pupils who have signed up will be sent to join in.

School Meal Debt on ParentPay

Just a gentle reminder to P6 and P7 parents. Please keep your child's school meals account in credit. We have a number of outstanding balances. Please pop onto ParentPay and clear any outstanding debtor balances. If you wish to discuss this then please contact us.

Dogs on School Grounds

Just a little reminder that dogs are not permitted in any area of our school grounds, this includes the carpark area. Thank you for your co-operation on this matter.

Covid Reminder

Although there is no longer a requirement to do a Lateral Flow Test, there is still the need to be vigilant and continue with good hygiene.

Children who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people, where they can. They can come back to school, and resume normal activities when they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough to attend.

Uniform and Belongings

Children should wear their school uniform and should wear jackets and footwear that are suitable for playing and learning outdoors. Children will change into indoor shoes on entering the building each day. If going outdoors for PE, then our children will wear the outdoor shoes they are wearing to school on their PE days.

Please ensure all items of clothing, footwear, packed lunches, snack tubs etc. are all clearly labelled with your child's name.

School Uniform Bank

Don't forget to email our Used Uniform Co-ordinator, Mrs Stewart, should you require any items of school uniform throughout the school year. All items are in a good condition, and we encourage all families to use our bank in keeping with our Eco status.

upsuniformbank@gmail.com

If you have any item(s) that your child has outgrown, please contact Mrs Stewart directly to arrange collection.

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:

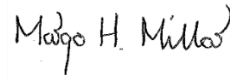
gw14underbankoffice@glow.sch.uk

Please be aware that our school office is not 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.

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)

7 Dec – P3 – P7 'Sleeping Senga' Panto
7 Dec – Coffee & Chat Group – Village Hall
11 Dec – P2/3 After School Games Club
13 Dec – Christmas Lunch/Wear your Christmas Jumper with your uniform if you can
15 Dec – P1 & P2 visit to Goulding's Winter Wonderland
18 Dec – P1/2/3/4 Christmas Party (Pupils to wear their party clothes on this day)
19 Dec – P5/6/7 Christmas Party (Pupils to wear their party clothes on this day)
20 Dec – Christmas Service at 10am in Crossford Church
22 Dec – Christmas Jumper/Movie Day.
22 Dec – School closes at 2:30pm for the Christmas Holiday break
8 Jan – School Re-opens