

Underbank Primary

Update 10 – 26th January 2024



P1 Enrolment

We have had seven August P1 enrolments via South Lanarkshire Council's online enrolment system. We have also had a number of placing requests submitted, all of which will be considered by South Lanarkshire Council in due course. I have invited the parents of our new August P1 children to visit the school for a short tour of the school and we look forward to welcoming them into our school community.

Scottish Celebration – Wed 31st Jan

Thanks to all parents who have requested seats for our Scottish Celebration. Seat requests were due in no later than today. Our hall is now very close to being at full capacity and unfortunately, we cannot accept people turning up 'on the day', so please, if you haven't requested a seat, please do so as a matter of urgency.

No tickets will be issued this year. On entering the school, family names will be scored off our attendance sheet.

Doors will open at 10am and the celebration will start promptly at 10:15am. We will have a lucky programme, for which, we are looking for a small donation. The winner of the lucky programme will receive a hamper full of Scottish goodies.

Thank you to all parents who supported and encouraged their child to learn their Scottish poem. Children can wear something tartan on this day if they wish (eg tartan ribbon, tie, dress, checked shirt). The children have all been working hard on their poems and class presentations, and they can't wait to share these with you.

Homework Survey

Thank you for your valuable responses to our homework survey. The key results from this are:

- Overwhelmingly, 81% stated that they were in favour of homework.
- Over 56% stated that the current schedule of homework was the most family friendly, but consideration will be given to all responses.
- We are continuing to consider responses to preferred homework activities as we had a

variety of answers here, however learners seem to show a preference for reading, maths worksheets and online maths activities, such as Sumdog.

We plan to further review responses during our February Inservice Day.

SAMH Parent Workshop

We have organised a SAMH workshop for parents – Listening to and Supporting my Child. This will take place on 7th Feb at 9am – 10.30am.

A small group of parents have signed up to attend. Please send an expression of interest to our school office by Monday 29th Jan if you would like a place.

Keeping Children Safe & Gaming

NSPCC have organised an online event for parents to help increase parental knowledge and skills around the gaming world, in order to help keep children safe.

The attached poster contains further information and joining instructions for the event on February 7th 2024.

Parent Contact Information

Please remember to update any changes to home address, phone numbers, email addresses or medical history throughout the school year. This can be done via Parentsportal. Thank you.

LGS Transition Arrangements

All P7 children transferring to Lanark Grammar in August were given a Class Grouping form yesterday to discuss with parents and to return to the school (Underbank) as soon as convenient.

Parents of our P7 pupils are also required to apply for school transport, if this is required. This can be done via the South Lanarkshire Website.

Parents making a placing request to Lanark Grammar may also apply for privilege transport. This can be done via the same process except click on the privilege transport link.

Toys, Cards & Football

We have asked that toys, football cards etc are left at home. This is having a positive impact on the number of disagreements between children.

We have also been trialling having no football in our MUGA. Currently we have set up an obstacle course for pupils to access on their MUGA day. Unfortunately, due to the frost and

wet conditions the MUGA hasn't always been accessible during breaks.

School lunch accounts

It is important that school meals accounts be kept in credit. Please log onto your ParentPay account and clear any debtor balances.

Only P6 and P7 children now pay for school meals.

P6 & P7 Wiston Lodge Outing 2024

The first payment of £17.50 for Wiston Lodge was due today, Friday 26th January. Thank you to all who have already made this payment. If you prefer, you can pay the full amount of £47.50 in one easy payment.

If, for any reason, you feel that you cannot meet the cost of this activity, please get in touch with me.

Lunchtime/After School Clubs

The following clubs will be starting up this term.

P5/6 After School Basketball – Next Thursday is the last of these sessions. Our pupils have hugely enjoyed the sessions led by Coach Devin. If your child is interested to joining one of the Titans Basketball Clubs that happen in Lanarkshire, please email info@nititans.com

P6/7 Lunchtime Dance – This club has been delayed by one week and will now commence on 2nd Feb. This club is now full. Thank you to Leah from Cherry dance for agreeing to support this club.

Pupil Led Football Skills Club for P4

Thank you to three of our P7 boys, Innis, Joshua and Taylor, our P4 pupils have been enjoying a football skills club on a Wednesday playtime. Well done boys.

ParentsPay live items

The following payment items are now on ParentPay.

- KUA (Keep Underbank Active)
- P6 & P7 Wiston Lodge

Parentsportal live items

The following permission forms are now live on Parentsportal:

- P6 & P7 Wiston Lodge 2 day visit
- P7 Netball Festival (Selected Pupils)
- R3 (P3/4) Forest School
- P6 Forest School

Please pop onto Parentsportal to ensure we have your consent for your child to participate.

P7 Leavers Hoodies

ALJ, our school uniform suppliers, will be producing our 'Leavers Hoodies' this year for our P7 children.

Children have been given a choice of two colours, royal blue (slightly different shade than the normal school uniform blue) or bright yellow.

All P7 children have tried on a number of different sizes and their hoody will be ordered in the size selected by the child. We have allowed for slight growth as they will not start wearing their hoodies until the final term, when there will be certain dates/occasions when they will be permitted to wear their hoody.

We will email parents next week with a note of the price, colour and size for your child. If in doubt, please pop into ALJ to confirm the size. If we do not hear from you, we will order the colour/size agreed with your child.

Community Events/Activities

Scottish Folk Stories – National Museum of Rural Life – 12th – 14th Feb

Join a great friend of Underbank, Allison Galbraith, for traditional Scottish folk tales all about the people and mystical creatures of Scotland. Learn how the master baker of Scotland flummoxed a fairy and enjoy familiar rhymes and songs with a riot of joining-in opportunities.

Sessions - 11:00–11:30, 12:30–13:00 and 14:00–14:30 (sign up on the day)

If you go along, please say hello to Alison from everyone at Underbank.

Reminders

Transport Consultation

As you know, the Council are conducting a statutory consultation on the proposal to alter the qualifying distance for free secondary school mainstream transport to those living over 3 miles from their catchment secondary school. (current entitlement is more than 2 miles).

The proposal is open to statutory public consultation until Friday 1 March 2024.

Details of the proposal are contained in a Consultation Proposal Document, including how to feedback any comments.

The proposal document is available via the following link:

<https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/downloads/download/302/>

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.

Car Park

Please be extremely cautious when walking across our car park/ pedestrian areas during adverse weather. The ground underfoot can be very slippery. Also take care when driving into the car park as this can also become icy during cold spells.

Class WhatsApp Groups

We know that some class/stage groups have created WhatsApp Groups for parental communication. Please be mindful that by joining these groups, you are sharing your personal information (telephone number) across the group.

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.

Lost Property

We endeavour to ensure that pupils return home from school with all their belongings and can easily do this if items have a child's name on them. If we can't identify who an item belongs to, then we put it into our lost property box in our

foyer. Please feel free to pop in and check this box, if your child does misplace any items.

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.

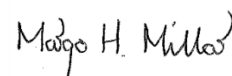
Please email:

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)

31 Jan – Scottish Celebration – 10.15am
1 Feb – P5 Swimming Wk8
1 Feb – P5/6 After school Basketball Final week
2 Feb – Fun5z Netball Tournament (Selected pupils)
2 Feb – Lunchtime Dance Club Wk1
6 Feb – P1 & P7 Dental Inspections
7 Feb – PFA Meeting at 6:30pm
7 Feb - **Keeping Children Safe & Gaming online event for parents**
8 Feb – Forest School Sessions (P6 and Rm3 P3&4 pupils)
8 Feb – P5 Swimming Wk9
8 Feb – Football Tournament (selected pupils)
9 Feb – Lunchtime Dance Club Wk 2
12 Feb – Holiday
13 Feb – Holiday
14 Feb – In-service day (no pupils in school)
15 Feb – P5 Swimming Wk10
15 Feb - Forest School Sessions (P6 and Rm3 P3&4 pupils)
16 Feb – Lunchtime Dance Club Wk 3
22 Feb – P5 Swimming Wk 11
22 Feb - Forest School Sessions (P6 and Rm3 P3&4 pupils)
23 Feb – Lunchtime Dance Club Wk 4
29 Feb – P5 Swimming Final week
29 Feb - Forest School Sessions (P6 and Rm3 P3&4 pupils) – Final Week
29 Feb – PC Meeting at 6:30pm
7 Mar – Football Tournament (selected pupils)
13 Mar – Cross Country at Lanark Racecourse (selected pupils)
21 Mar – P7 Enterprise Challenge at LGS (more info to follow)
21 Mar – Parent Consultations
22 Mar – Fun5z Netball (Selected pupils)
27 Mar – Clydesdale Dance Festival
28 Mar – School Closes at 2:30pm
15 April – School re-opens 9am