

# **Underbank Primary**

## **Update 2 – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024**



### **Pupil Council Class Representatives**

This week, each class has been voting for their Pupil Council representatives. Congratulations to:

Rm 1 – Amber Thomson & Will Warnock

Rm 2 – Harley Brown & Taylor Waddell

Rm 3 – Jax Dunsmore & Lauren Stewart

Rm 4 – Mason Brown & Harrison Wardrope

Rm 5 – Jake Findlay & Eva Martin

Their first task is to take part in a SLC survey next week.

### **Junior Road Safety Officers 2024 - 2025**

Our P7 pupils prepared short presentations as part of the interview process to become a JRSO for the session ahead. Mrs McLeod and I were hugely impressed by the presentation skills the pupils displayed and agreed that our task was a very difficult one.

Congratulations to **Iona Cameron, Ellie Gray** and **Lucy Lennox** who will promote road safety and active travel over the coming year.

### **P1 Parent Workshop**

Thank you to the P1 parents who attended our P1 Workshop earlier this week. Parents had the opportunity to meet with Mrs Donnelly and Mrs Drennan, hear about class routines and the see some of the resources being used.

### **P2 – P7 Meet the Teacher**

Thank you to all who attended this event on Wednesday. Here are a few of the comments received in our evaluations:

“Very helpful – thank you.”

“Always a great start to the year to promote a positive partnership.”

“I feel much better informed about the structure and content of the school day and how I can support learning at home”

“Great opportunity to meet the teacher.”

“Perfect length and great information for the session ahead.”

We hugely value your partnership at Underbank.

### **Bikeability**

A huge thank you to Mr Danny Craig (volunteer), whose grandson is a pupil here at Underbank. On Wednesday morning, Mr Craig carried out bike maintenance checks on all P6 & P7 pupils' bikes to ensure that these were all in a roadworthy condition for Bikeability training in the afternoon. Mr Craig will also assist in the delivery of the sessions. We were all delighted to see that the sun came out for the first sessions too! We posted a few photos on Twitter for parents to view.

### **Forest School**

This was week 1 of four sessions of Forest School for our Room 5 pupils. The children enjoyed the various activities at Forest School. Thank you to Mrs Drennan and Miss Dickson for leading this for our Room 5 pupils.

### **Cost of the School Day**

We want all of our pupils to have the best experiences and opportunities at Underbank Primary. Some of our activities do incur a cost, but we endeavour to work with the PFA to keep costs down. Should any family find any cost unmanageable, at any time, then please speak to me. All parent or pupil requests will always be dealt with sensitively and confidentially. Through our support and caring ethos, we hope that all children are able to fully participate in school life.

Parents can also access advice and support from SLC Money Matters on 03000290041.

### **Lost Uniform**

Our lost property box is filling up fast with items that have no names on them. Please pop into the foyer to check the box if your child has lost any items of uniform.

Please remember to clearly label your child's uniform so that lost items can be returned quickly. Thank you.

### **Parents and Friends Association**

This fabulous group help to support us in so many ways – fun activities, transport and outing costs, resources. Please consider coming along to join the Team. You don't need to have any particular skills, only a desire to support our school.

**The first meeting of the session will take place at 6.30pm on Wednesday in school.**

### **School Chaplain**

As many of you know, Mr Reid, the local minister, retired a few months ago. Rev Fiona Anderson from Dalserf Church and Mrs Roberta Hutton, the interim Moderator of Crossford Church, have agreed to share this role for the session ahead. Fiona kindly visited room 1 this week to talk about being a minister and her role

within the community to bring their current RME topic to life.

Another of our partners, Mrs Jo Freeman, is able to share her experience of Judaism when classes are learning about this world religion. Do you have a friend or family member who could also contribute to our other world religions topics? Please get in touch if you do.

### Welcome Banner

South Lanarkshire Council's print room department helped us to create our new welcome banner which says 'welcome' in several languages.

We want to ensure all of our families, and their languages are represented and so please tell us how to write and/or say welcome in any languages that your family use at home. Our plan is to produce something similar for inside the school foyer.

### Willow Dome

Huge thanks to Mrs Speirs, Mrs Deards and Finlay Speirs, Ayanda van der Kaars, Khaya van der Kaars, Ellie Speirs and Murray Deards for trimming our willow dome and tidying this into a bundle. We hope to use some of the smaller shoots to underplant our willow dome.

### Parentsportal

The following forms are now live on Parentsportal. If you haven't done so already, please pop onto Parentsportal and complete any form(s) assigned to your child. The ICT/Photographic consent form is particularly important, as your child cannot access the internet or have his/her photographs taken for class displays etc, until we have your consent to do so.

- Annual Village Walks
- P5 Swimming
- ICT/Photographic Consent
- Annual Data check – **IMPORTANT!** Update medical information, telephone numbers, email addresses and emergency contacts. **Still over 30% of Annual Data Checks outstanding online. Even if you have no changes, please submit your response, this will then notify us that you have checked your Annual Data Check.**

### ParentPay

The following payment items are live on ParentPay

- School Meals (P6 and P7 only)
- School Milk (if you wish to book milk for your child, please contact the school

office and this payment item will be assigned to your child.

- P5 Swimming

### P7 Proposed Residential April 2025

We are still waiting for responses to this proposal from many of our P6 and P7 parents. If you haven't already responded, please do so by Monday.

### Parent Helpers

Thank you to all parents who responded to our request for parent helpers. We have collated the returns and have been in touch with some parents already. We hugely appreciate the time that our volunteers have agreed to give. Thank you.

Please see the information about a school support assistant course which is running locally should you be interested.

### School Photographs

We have arranged for our school photographer to visit the school on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September.

This year we will be taking:

- Class photos
- Individual photos of P1 and P7 pupils

While all of our other stages can select to have either a family group **or** an individual photo of their child. Look out for the letter regarding this and please return your response promptly.

### Flu Immunisation

A reminder was emailed to those parents who have not yet returned their child's Flu Immunisation Form, on Wednesday. Unfortunately, we cannot issue duplicates as these were preprinted by the NHS. We have had an email from the Flu Immunisation Team to say that they will not be seeking consent on the day, only children who have returned the yellow form will be immunised. If you have misplaced your child's form, please contact a member of the team on 0300 303 3229.

### Reminders

#### 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-absence.***

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club opens at 8:15am and closes at 8:45am. Last orders for breakfast is at 8:40am. Please do not drop your child off before 8:15am as the gate is not open. Furthermore, there is no adult presence in the playground until 8:45am.

### **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.

### **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.

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

### **School Uniform Bank**

Don't forget to make good use of our 'Good as New' Uniform Bank, which is overseen by Mrs Donna Stewart, parent of a former pupil.

Please email Mrs Stewart direct at [upsuniformbank@gmail.com](mailto:upsuniformbank@gmail.com) if you wish any items or if you have any items for the uniform bank.

### **Birthday Cakes/Birthday treats**

We discourage birthday cakes and birthday treats being handed into the school. We have several 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.

### **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 difficulties for other road users.

### **Bus Bays/Drop off zone**

The designated bus bays must be kept clear for our school minibuses and taxis at the end of the school day. The same applies to the drop off zone, please do not park here, this is purely for dropping off children before 9am. Our school minibuses and after school care buses sometimes spill into this area.

### **Community News**

**Bothwell Scarecrow Festival** - Saturday 31st August to Sunday 15th September 2024

### **Moo-Fest – 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> September**

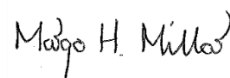
This is a weekend of cattle-inspired activities, talks and tastings at the National Museum of Rural Life. It will *a-moo-se* young and old alike!

### **Fireman Sam at Lanark Memorial**

Join Fireman Sam at Lanark Memorial Hall on Saturday 28th September as he sets out to rescue Norman and his friends on a camping adventure!

***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)

- 4 Sept – PFA Meeting at 6:30pm (in school)**
- 17 Sept – JRSO day (selected pupils)**
- 19 Sept – Parent Council Meeting (6:30pm in school)**
- 27 Sept – Holiday**
- 30 Sept – Holiday**
- 10 Oct – Parent Consultations (more info to follow)**
- 11 Oct – Wear Red Day for Show Racism the Red Card.**
- 14 Oct – 18 Oct – October holiday break**
- 11 Nov – In-Service Day (No pupils in School)**
- 21 Nov – P5 Swimming block commences (more info will follow)**
- 25 Nov – Flu Vaccination (all pupils)**
- 20 Dec – School closes at 2:30pm for the Christmas Holiday break**
- 6 Jan – School Re-opens**

*Dates of Nativity and Christmas Service will all be advised in due course.*

**Are you interested in becoming a school support assistant. Please see the information and contact details below.**

**PDA IN EDUCATION  
SUPPORT ASSISTANCE**

THIS COURSE CAN LEAD TO WORK IN SCHOOLS, NURSERIES OR CONTINUING ON TO FURTHER EDUCATION.

THE COURSE WILL BE STARTING AT THE CRIB IN STRATHAVEN IN AUGUST 2024!

CLASSES WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS, WITH ONE PER WEEK ON PLACEMENT (DAY TO BE CONFIRMED).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE RURAL ACADEMY  
PHONE: 07813367422

**RURAL ACADEMY** **SLC** South Lanarkshire College East Kilbride

**PDA in Education  
Support Assistance**

This course can lead to work in schools, nurseries or continuing on to Further Education.

The course will be starting in Lanark in August 2024!

Classes will be held on Tuesdays & Fridays, from 9.15am- 2.45pm, with one day per week on placement (day to be confirmed).

For further information please contact the Rural Academy

Phone: 07813367422  
Email: ruralace@slc.ac.uk