



# Balcurvie Primary School and Nursery September 2021

All the children have settled back into school life very well. Our new Nursery children and P1's have embraced their new adventure and are adjusting to the changes brilliantly.

Our new staff have also settled in well and are loving life at Balcurvie; Miss Wilkie P7, Miss Walker P2/3, Mr. Thomson P6, Lucy McLellan Nursery and Lauren McKay Nursery.

Rhiannon McDonald, Lucy McLellan and Lauren McKay have joined the Pupil Support team in the afternoon after their shift in the Nursery has ended. Rhiannon is working in P1/2, Lucy is also in P1/2 and Lauren is P3/4.

Mrs. Wakefield is mentoring Miss Watson, P3/4 and will be supporting her through her probationary year. Mrs. Wakefield will take on a more prominent leadership role within the school and now has responsibility for management of the Nursery. She will also be available to answer parental concerns and queries which can't be answered by Mrs. Bell.

# HELLO!



# MEET THE TEAM

1 - Our New Staff

*Mr. Zack Thomson P6*



*Miss Lauren McKay Nursery and P3/4*



*Miss Lucy McLellan Nursery and P1/2*



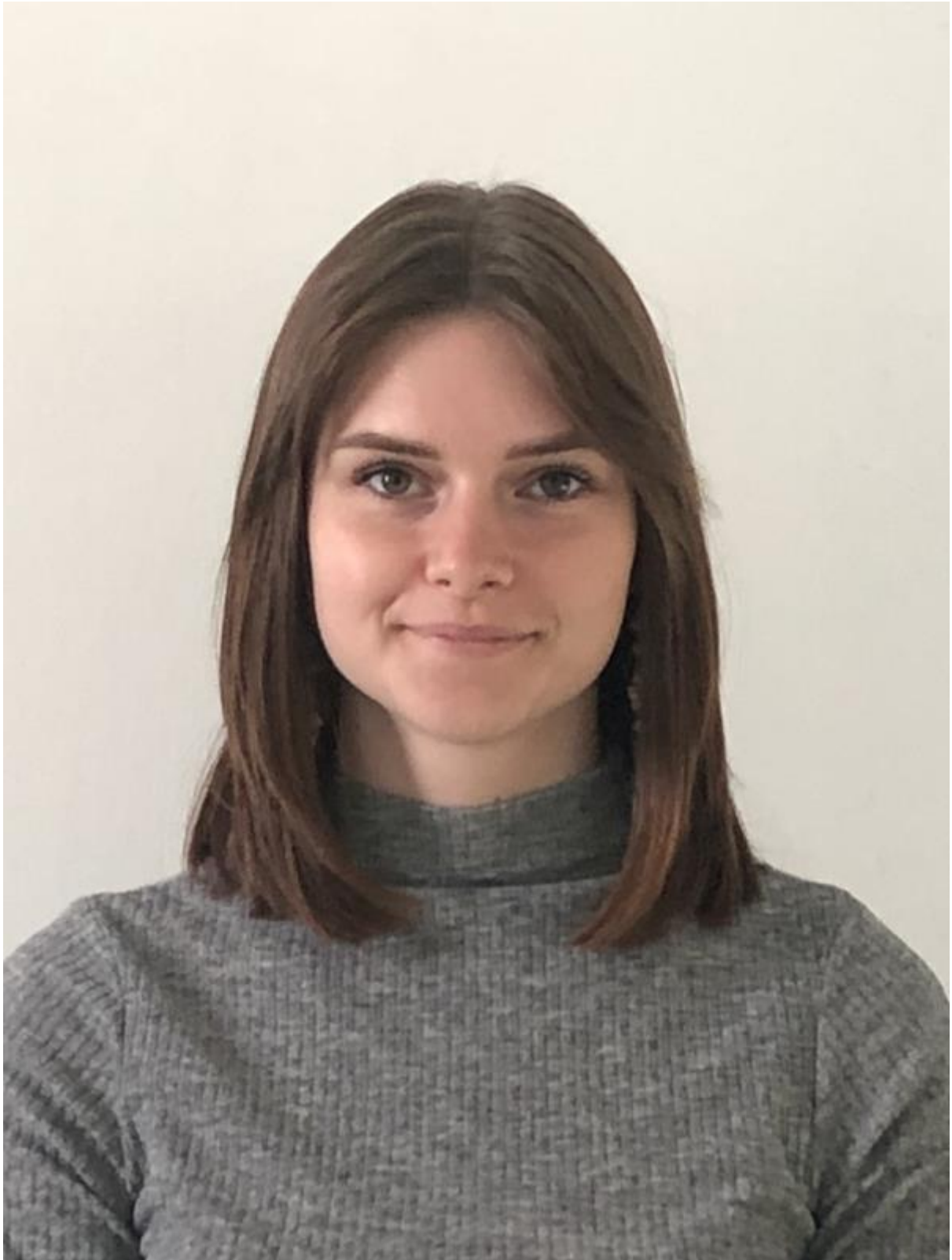
*Miss Karla Wilkie P7*



*Miss Amy-Louise Walker P2/3*



*Miss Seonaid Watson P3/4*





## 2 - Updates to School and Nursery Safety Mitigations

### ***The following routines will remain in place:***

- Hand-washing - entering/leaving the classroom, after toileting, before/after eating
- Children will not be expected to socially distance from each other but advice states that adults must continue to do so
- Windows and doors are open to allow for circulation of clean air
- One way systems in place in the main building and nursery setting
- Adults will continue to wear face coverings whilst moving through the buildings. Staff also wear a mask when they are in close contact with learners for a prolonged period of time (15 minutes or longer). There is no expectation that Nursery practitioners and P1/P2 staff wear a mask but can choose to if they wish.
- "Wait" floor marking in the shape of a rectangle remains in place at the main office. Only one parent is allowed in at a time through the secure entry point at the main door. Please tell us the reason you need to come in, using the intercom system. Mrs. Bell will also be able to tell you if you have to wait if she is attending to another parent or visitor. If there is a necessity to queue outside the main door, please observe a 2 metre gap
- PPE for administering first-aid will continue to be used

### ***From Monday 6th September the following changes will come into effect:***

- There will no longer be a need for a staggered end to the school day. ***ALL P1-7 children will finish the school day at 3pm***
- ***Classes no longer need to be kept in "bubbles."*** This means that ***groups of children from different classes can now mix*** so long as the total number does not exceed 90
- Lunches will in 3 sittings: P1/2 & P2/3 have their lunch from 12.15-12.30. This is supervised by the class teacher. ***All children have their break from 12.35 - 1.20pm. Home dinners will go home at 12.35pm***
- ***Classrooms will have a Co2 monitor*** installed. This will help to get ventilation right. Children should ensure they have warm clothing as the temperature begins to drop
- ***The Nursery garden will be fully be opened*** up so that both sides are available to all children regardless of which playroom they belong to
- ***PE, Drama and Music can now take place indoors.*** We are still opting for outdoor provision whilst the weather is good. As a result of our continued use of the outdoor space and open



windows, our uniform rules will remain relaxed. Children can continue to wear jogging bottoms with a t-shirt and their school jumper. Please do not send them wearing football strips. This causes arguments!



### 3 - Drop-off and Pick up

Children must not go to the swing park prior to coming into school in the morning. It can become very over-crowded and often leads to injuries or fights which we have to deal with at the start of the school day. Please help us to discourage them from attending the park in the morning. Thank you.

Children should arrive at school accompanied (P1-3) or unaccompanied (P4-7) directly before 9am.

**Parents are advised to continue to wear face coverings.** The new delta variant is highly transmissible, even in outdoor settings.

Support staff and the HT will continue to supervise in the playground just before the school bell rings at 9am.

Reminder - please dismount bikes and scooters when you enter the playground.



### 4 - Self-Isolation Rules

#### **Scottish Government Guidance**

When should we isolate? If you, your child or anyone else in your home develops any of the following symptoms they must not come to school. They and all other members of the household

should stay at home as soon as their symptoms start, self-isolate, and take a PCR test. you can find out more on NHS Inform.

The symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19) are:

- a new continuous cough and/or
- a high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, taste or smell (anosmia).

If anyone in the family tests positive, that person must continue to self isolate. Test and Protect will contact them to provide tailored advice on what to do.

What if others in the home test negative? If someone in your household has symptoms you must all stay at home until you have booked and had the results from a PCR test.

If your child is aged between 5 and 18 and their PCR test is negative, they can return to school. (Even if someone else in the household has tested positive and is continuing to self-isolate.) Bear in mind that the incubation period for the virus is 2-5 days. This is why the government recommends that Lateral Flow Test are taken daily for family members who have tested negative when there is a positive case in the household. Keep an eye on them, to make sure they don't develop symptoms later. If symptoms develop, they must self-isolate immediately, and you should book them another PCR test.

Anyone over 18 who is fully vaccinated, has no symptoms, and has had a negative PCR test can also return to school or work. Children aged under 5 who are in contact with a positive case are exempt from self-isolation unless they develop symptoms. Parents are encouraged to arrange a PCR test but this is not mandatory.

Who is likely to be regarded as a close contact? Public Health Scotland are no longer asking whole class groups or "bubbles" to isolate, if a member of the class tests positive for Covid-19. Close contacts are now regarded only as anyone from the household, or anyone who has stayed overnight, where there is a confirmed case of Covid-19. This may extend to anyone who has spent a prolonged period in a household setting - sharing meals, bathrooms etc - with a confirmed Covid-19 case.

If you suspect your child may have been in very close contact with a confirmed case of Covid-19 then it is better to isolate until they are tested.

***Any child who has to self-isolate and is well enough, will be sent school work either by email, on Teams/Seesaw or as a paper pack.***



5 - Lunch Provision

All school lunches will now be served in the dining room. Please pay for meals using the i-pay system to limit the number of adults coming into the building and also to cut down on the handling of cash (both measures to prevent viral spread). Please also try to help your child choose their meal using the system, even if you do not pay. This cuts down on the unnecessary admin time the teacher spends sorting out lunches when they could be teaching.



6 - Parental Access into School Buildings

Parents should only come into the building if they have a pre-arranged appointment. They should also wear a face covering unless exempt. If there is an emergency situation and there is already another parent in attendance outside the office, we will be operating a one in and one out policy. If you ring the intercom system, please speak into the speaker and tell Mrs. Bell why you need to come into the building. It will also give her the opportunity to tell you if you need to wait because she is already attending to another parent or visitor. We appreciate that there may be occasions where it

is necessary to speak with the Headteacher/Principal teacher or another member of staff. If this cannot be done with a phone-call, please call the main office to arrange an appointment (01334 659449). Only one family member will be permitted to enter at any time. There will be a specific, marked area outside the office, where you will be asked to stand. Please be patient - you may have to wait for a few minutes or longer. Mrs. Bell will let you know about wait times. Unfortunately you will not be permitted to wait inside the school. If you need to collect your child early, please let the school know. After ringing the buzzer, you will be required to wait at the front door and your child will be brought to you by a member of staff. These arrangements are not how we like to operate and do not sit comfortably with us but unfortunately are necessary to safeguard everyone.

All of this guidance is subject to change based on Scottish Government's further easing of restrictions.



#### 7 - Curriculum Matters

This term we have a whole school/nursery focus on our simplified **school values**, based on our aims. These are: **Work hard, Work as a team, Be caring and Be resilient.**

We link these to the **Wellbeing Indicators: Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible and Included.**

We also talk to the children about how to be successful learners. These are called Learning Powers. We call them "**Steps to Success**". These are: **Concentrate, Don't give up, Be cooperative, Be curious, Have a go, Use your imagination, Keep improving and enjoy learning.**

We use these words/phrases on a daily basis to talk to your children about our expectations for learning and behaviour and we use it to praise them when we see them displaying these characteristics. They use these words to describe themselves and to reflect on what they need to do to improve.



#### 8 - Congratulations!

Congratulations to P6/7 from last year, who won a national competition to promote racial harmony and co-existence. We are very proud of you all.

The class made a collage where each of them produced a jigsaw piece which made up a map of Scotland. Each jigsaw piece displayed a message of unity and tolerance.

Thanks to Mrs. Williams for facilitating this marvellous achievement.

Click on the link to see the winning picture:

<https://www.theredcard.org/news/2021/creative-competition-scotland>



9 - Important Dates

**September:**

Parent Council meeting on Zoom at 7pm on 14th. If you would like to join the meeting, please join the PTA Facebook page where the meeting link will be posted.

Flu sniff programme week commencing 13th. Actual date tbc

Courier P1 Photograph will be happening this year. Actual date tbc

Last day of term Friday 8th October.

New term commences 25th October

1st set of Parent's Evening will take place via video call at the beginning of November. Details will be issued at the start of the new term.



*10 - Final Words*

We have a fabulous school community and are grateful for the support we receive from all of you.

Schools can only operate with strong relationships. We believe in open communication and partnership working. There is never a problem too small! Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns. We're here to help and to resolve where we can.

On behalf of Team Balcurvie, thank you for your support.

***Tracey McDougall***