



Newsletter - Term 3, March 2025



1 - Great News

We are delighted to share with you the news of Mrs. Plumridge's new arrival. Baby Florence was born on 26th February, weighing 8lb 6oz. Mum and baby are doing really well.

Staffing Update



Balcurvie welcomes Beth McCabe, who is P1/2's new class teacher, taking over from Mrs. Plumridge who is now on maternity leave.

Hannah Dougall has returned to our nursery on a part-time basis in her senior early years officer role. She continues in her secondment as one of Glenrothes development officers, on a Tuesday and Wednesday. Lorraine Fortune is absent from work. Lucy McLellan continues to cover the senior role in Lorraine's absence. Adele Allan and Karlene Forsyth are sharing the senior responsibilities on a Tuesday and Wednesday to cover for Hannah whilst she's undertaking her development officer position.

Round-up of Term 3

**LOOK
WHAT'S
NEW!**

As ever, a lot has been happening this term. Here are some of the highlights.

- P7 Rugby Tasters delivered by SRU
- P3/4 & P4/5 Science, technology, engineering and Maths (STEM) workshops
- School Ceilidh with Irn Bru and shortbread

- Scottish Poetry competition. Our overall winner from P1-3 was Scarlett Thorpe. Our P4-7 winner was Stevie Givens. Well done to all of our finalists from P1-7. The competition was very close this year.
- Rotary Club Quiz for P7 to be held on March 18th at Levenmouth Academy for P7 team
- Mobile Library visits to whole school
- P6 & P7 took part in careers workshops
- NSPCC, "Speak Out, Stay Safe" assemblies
- World Book Day - March 15th
- Cluster Football for girls and boys from P4 upwards
- PEEP, Stay and Play and Bookbug sessions in nursery



2 - School and Nursery Improvement Round-Up

We recently had our annual learning partnership visit - the focus was on high-quality assessments. The visit was very successful.

Key strengths noted were:

In school,

- Staff communicated the purpose of learning well. Almost all children could confidently articulate what they were learning and how to be successful.
- In almost all classes observed, children were able to explain the purpose of their learning. Staff intervened timeously and gave appropriate feedback to support improvements in learning.
- In almost all classes, learners were given opportunities to exercise personalisation and choice to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding and to apply learning in new and unfamiliar contexts.

- In almost all classes, learners were able to talk about the skills they were developing.
- In almost all classes, effective questioning was used to extend learning and deepen understanding.

In the nursery,

- All staff demonstrated positive relationships and quality interactions were observed in nursery
- All staff observed, delivered high-quality questioning during interactions in the nursery playroom
- Almost all children were engaged in productive learning across the nursery playroom and classes
- All staff demonstrated nurturing approaches to support children appropriately in the nursery setting.
- Effective strategies were evident across the nursery to develop speech and communication.

Next steps,

- Vision, values and aims will be refreshed for next session. The consultation process has already begun
- Continue to develop challenge for more able learners in school
- Continue to develop higher-order questioning techniques for staff in school
- Continue to improve learner voice in the leadership of their own learning in nursery and school

Attendance Policy



Fife Council expect every school to monitor and improve attendance. They set a target for us to reach every year. There are a few things you can do to help us to ensure your child is in school as much possible. If your child is unwell or there are exceptional home-related circumstances, please try to call the office or respond to our text message so that we can mark this as an authorised absence. Please ensure you do get in touch otherwise after 3 days, this instigates a "Missing from Education" enquiry. We can only authorise other absences e.g. holidays if you are in the armed services or employed in the emergency services or where you can provide evidence that your employer can only offer leave during term time. We can authorise a period of absence if there are particular family circumstances like bereavement or if your child is competing in a competition. Staff are not expected to provide school work for unauthorised, family holidays. From time to time, we may get in touch with you if your child's attendance is causing concern. Fife Council has provided schools with a standard response letter if your child's attendance has fallen below 85%. We may send this to you or arrange a meeting. The rationale behind this communication is to try to remove any barriers to attendance such as anxiety, parental ill health and financial reasons. Frequent absences cause children distress, gaps in their learning and fractures in their relationships. Please reach out to us too, if you are struggling to ensure that your child attends regularly. We appreciate that each family and child will have their own unique set of circumstances and we want to support on this individualised basis.



3 - Support for Learners

Getting It Right for Every Child

The process of assessing and planning is a continuum, from Universal to Additional to Intensive levels. Universal is the level of planning available for all young people across education provisions. If a child has an additional support/wellbeing need and requires a low level of support which can be offered easily within school resources, then Class Teachers, alongside Learning Support Teachers record this information in a format which indicates some clear assessment information and strategies.

In Fife, we now use the Summary of Support tool to communicate this information to all key staff working with the child/young person, providing a clear indication of what strategies and support is in place.

This type of universal level planning will be shared with the child/young person, their family and staff who support them to ensure that all relevant parties are aware of the identified need(s) and support(s) required to meet it(them).

If your child has a Summary of Support, Staff will be sharing these during Parents' Evening over the coming weeks. Please get in touch if you have any questions regarding this.

balcuriveps.enquiries@fife.gov.uk



4 - Continuum of Support

Drop-off and pick-up times can be extremely busy. If possible, please walk to school. We receive numerous complaints from our neighbours about unsafe parking, blocking driveways and parking on zig-zags, all of which compromises the safety of our children. We've recently received a number of complaints from

We thank you for your cooperation



5 - Behaviour, Relationships and Values

We are refreshing our school vision, values and aims. A SWAY was sent out recently with more information. Here's a reminder about the importance of a strong vision, clear values and overarching aims in the life and work of the school.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/gYmnmv95X8ugKTv4U?ref=Link>

We are currently seeking your views and there will be opportunities to contribute through a short-life working group or questionnaires which will be circulating during parents evenings and available afterwards too.



6 - Visitors to School Protocol

To ensure everyone is safe, please report to the main office if you are coming into school. It is not permissible to go to your child's class unaccompanied. A member of the school team will support you as soon as is practicably possible. Please be patient. There may not be anyone in the office or they may be on the phone when you 1st arrive. Thank you.



7 - Important Dates

March:

Thursday 6th - Parents Evening, 3.30-6.30pm

Tuesday 11th - Parents Evening, 3.30-6.30pm

April:

Friday 4th - Last day of term 3

Easter holidays, Monday 7th April until Friday 18th April. Nursery remains open for children.

Term 4 begins on Monday 21st April.

April:

Monday 21st - 1st day of term 4

May:

Monday 5th - School and Nursery holiday.

Friday 30th - School Sports Day. P1-3 from 11.15am until lunch-time. P4-7 from 1.30pm. You are invited to have lunch with your family in the school playing field. More details will be issued closer to the event

June:

Monday 2nd - School holiday. Nursery remains open

Tuesday 3rd - Inservice Day 5. School and nursery closed to children

Friday 6th - Contingency Sports Day (if weather on 30th results in postponement)

Wednesday 13th - Friday 15th - P7 High School visits

Friday 20th - Nursery Garden Party. Reports and new classes issued to families.

Tuesday 24th - P7 Show at 6.30pm

July:

Tuesday 1st - P7 Leavers Service at 1.45pm in the school hall

Thursday 2nd - Last day of the school year. Nursery remains open throughout the summer break

Friday 4th - Summer holiday begins

All dates are subject to change. We will notify you via Groupcall and Seesaw in the event of amendments.



8 - Thank you

On behalf of our the team at Balcurvie, I'd like to express my sincere thanks for your support and continued partnership working.

Tracey McDougall, Headteacher