

OUR DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Pantomime

Wednesday 13th December

Christmas Parties

P1a/1b - 19/12/2023
 P2a/2b - 15/12/2023
 P3 & P3/4 - 11/12/2023
 P4 & P4/5 - 14/12/2023
 P5/6 & P6 - 18/12/2023
 P6/7 & P7 - 12/12/2023

Christmas Carol Service (P4 & 5 leading)

Wednesday 20th December

Christmas Nativity (P1—P3)

Tuesday 12th December

Christmas Fayre

Monday 11th December
(School hall 3.15pm)

Burns Supper

(Class representatives to recite poetry)

Tuesday 13th February

World Book Day

Thursday 7th March

School Show (P6 & 7 Leading)

Wednesday 13th March
(tbc)

Dance Festival (P5/6 & 6)

Thursday 21st March

Easter Service (P1 and 2 leading)

Wednesday 27th March

Showcase of Learning

P1a/1b

Tuesday 5th December
 Tuesday 13th February
 Tuesday 28th May

P2a/2b

Thursday 30th November
 Thursday 21st March
 Thursday 13th June

P3 & P3/4

Wednesday 13th March
 Wednesday 22nd May

P4 & P5

Tuesday 26th March
 Thursday 6th June

P5/6 & 6

Wednesday 6th December
 Thursday 7th March
 Wednesday 8th May

P6/7 & 7

Monday 4th December

Additional information.

Safety and Security of your Children

The safety of your children is paramount to all of us during the school day. Can you ensure the following to work with us to maintain a high level of safety for our whole school community.

Any adult in our grounds during break and lunch will be approached by a member of staff.

Adults coming into school must enter through the main school door and speak with office staff.

Nursery parents please continue to be vigilant around closing the main nursery door when you enter and leave the Nursery.

Absence

Can we please request that when your child is absent from school to text the office.

Bake Sale

Primary 5/6 and 6 will be holding a bake sale in school on Thursday 7th December for children and families after school.

Pancake Day

Primary 4 and Primary 5 will host an enterprise project around Pancake day on Tuesday 13th February. More details to follow.

ASPIRE Day

There will be an ASPIRE day on Thursday 7th December to link in with Christmas Jumper

Day 2023 where children can wear a Christmas jumper and become involved in a raffle for wrapped gifts. A donation to the food bank would also be appreciated.

Burns

To support with Literacy and develop performance skills that will be of benefit moving forward, we will be providing opportunities to recite/sing Scottish poems and songs in January.

School Newspaper

Our Primary 7 Leadership team will be producing a newspaper that will allow for information to be shared from around the school. We hope that the first copy will be available after Christmas.

BENARTY NEWS



November 2023



OUR CHILDREN

"Play is the highest form of research."
 Albert Einstein



OUR SCHOOL

*"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, **involve me** and I learn."*
 Benjamin Franklin



OUR COMMUNITY

"It takes a whole village to raise a child."
 African Proverb



OUR FUTURE

"The best way to predict your future is to create it."
 Abraham Lincoln

Dear Families,

Since returning back to school in August, following the Summer break, the children have been achieving so much success in their classrooms building positive learning experiences across the curriculum. We are delighted with how the children have approached any new challenges.

Together We Achieve More

From our new Primary 1 children who have settled into the life of the school amazingly well, to our senior Pupils in Primary 7 embarking on their final year at Benarty,

we have already shared many successes.

As we move towards the Christmas holidays, we would like to share with you some of the recent achievements, planned events and important information that will benefit the whole school community. Included at the back of the newsletter is some of our important dates and will allow you to plan ahead for activities such as Christmas Parties and your child's Showcase of Learning.

As a school staff we are continually looking at ways to share learning. We will be looking at increasing the engagement through Seesaw

and would also encourage our families to browse our school website where whole school and class information is shared. We are always looking at other methods of sharing learning and would be open to any suggestions families provide.

Many thanks for your continued support.



OUR CHILDREN

School values

The values of Ambition, Success, Perseverance, Inclusion, Respect and Empower continue to form

Our children, our school, our community, our future.

part of a values based education. Our values are referred to throughout the school community and also reinforced as part of teaching and learning. Children will be recognised for displaying the values through in class systems and also through the sending home of postcards. As in previous years, Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates will be presented at our School Gatherings as a recognition of receiving 3, 5 and 7 postcards.

Wider Achievement

We would like to recognise, record and celebrate the talents and achievements of all of the children in and out of school. Can we ask that you encourage your child to bring to



school and share their achievements? The children will be photographed after our Gatherings and displayed on our board in school.

Expectations

Linking closely with our Positive Behaviour Policy, we have reinforced with our children our high expectations with regards to how we interact with each other. All staff will be focussing on encouraging no swearing in and around school.

Pupil Leaders

Some of our Primary 7 children have been successful in achieving leadership roles across our ASPIRE values. We have a newly appointed Head Boy and Girl as well as Leaders with a responsibility for aspects such as buddying, communication, charity, sport, pupil voice and school environment.

Primary 1

What a start our Primary 1 children have made to their school journey in Benarty. They have approached all aspects of learning and teaching with great enthusiasm, making excellent progress. The children also join our weekly school gatherings where they contribute confidently, already demonstrating our school values. The Primary 1 children were also recording stars singing our school song. Well done Primary 1, you are all stars. Scan QR code to listen!



OUR COMMUNITY

Sports Scotland Award

The school were proud to be recognised for our approach to providing sporting opportunities for our children with a Sports Scotland Silver Award. This is only a starting point as we aim for Gold with many plans ahead. Things moved forward recently with the appointment of six Primary 7

pupils as Sports Ambassadors..



Showcase of learning

There will once again be opportunities this school year for you to attend a presentation of learning by your child's class. This allow for the children to not only share the work that has been happening in their classrooms but also develop presentation skills to an audience.



Decider Skills

We were delighted to be recognised for our work in school by being selected as one of two schools in Fife to run Decider training across the school community. The Decider Skills use Cognitive Behaviour Therapy to teach children, young people and adults the skills to recognise their own thoughts, feelings and behaviours, enabling them to monitor and manage their own emotions and mental health. Staff have been working closely with an NHS representative and our children will already be familiar with many of the Decider skills and will be sharing their knowledge with families soon. Thanks to our families that completed the Decider Skills

Pre-Evaluation Tool for Parents/ Carers.

Mini Medics

Thanks for funding from our Parent Council, we were able to provide First Aid training to our Primary 6 and 7 children. The plan is to continue offering mini medics input yearly to our Primary 6 classes. A brilliant life skill for all involved.

Class Trips

Our Primary 5, 6 and 7 children have had the opportunity to extend their learning beyond the classroom environment with visits to The National Mining Museum in Edinburgh, The Gospel Hall in Glencraig and the Fife Ice Arena. The feedback received from all of the visits was extremely positive with our children being a credit to Benarty Primary displaying our School Values throughout.

OUR SCHOOL

Staffing

Following recruitment for Depute Headteacher, we are delighted that Mrs Candice Cooper will be joining the team. Candice will be working across Benarty and Dunmore Nursery as well as the DHT link for Primary 1.

Website

Please visit our school website where you can read about the life of our school. In here you will also find information that will support around things such as attendance and lunches and also our School Improvement Planning. Scan QR code.



ASPIRE

On a Friday Afternoon, our children from Primary 1 to 7 come together in groups to allow for a more community approach. Moving forward, from discussions with the children, we will be introducing a



range of pupil voice initiatives to help drive forward school improvement. The children will lead around things such as travel plan, eco school, outdoor learning and UNCR.

Social Media

Please continue to follow the school on Facebook and X where important information is shared. Seesaw will continue to be used to allow you to be informed around your child's class.

School Car Park

As mentioned, our children will lead around the school travel plan. Can we please support this again moving

forward by avoiding dropping off or collecting and parking in the school car park. There have been some close situations that could have resulted in an accident involving our children. Your support with this is much appreciated. Fife Council Vehicular access document is available to read on our school website.

Christmas Celebrations

There will once again be a range of Christmas events for our children from Primary 1 to 7. This will include classroom activities, parties, pantomime visits, concerts and performances. **Dates can be found on the back of our newsletter.**

Food Donations

We decided to move our Harvest food collection this year to nearer Christmas. Can we please ask that any donation of food packages and tins etc. are brought to school between now and the 7th of December that we can donate to our local foodbank. Support with this is much appreciated.

OUR FUTURE

School Improvement Plan 23/24

This year our focus is:

To raise attainment in numeracy through a focus on professional learning for all staff on Conceptual Understanding of Numeracy and development of pedagogical practices in numeracy.

Develop digital learning and literacy progressive pathways.

Continue to develop our curriculum to meet all learners needs.

Our School

We are working very hard around making our learning environment something that will benefit our whole school community. We have recently replaced furniture in our top corridor, created a supportive ASC garden, are awaiting work starting in what was our school library and playground markings are supporting children in the transferring of skills to the outdoor environment..

Healthy Eating

We are working closely with NHS Fife to promote Health eating across our school community. Primary 7 children have also been supporting this initiative with the introduction of fruit and their school tuck shop enterprise project. This has been very successful.

Transition

I hope the families who attended the recent P7 transition evening at Lochgelly High School found this useful. There will be a variety of further transition opportunities offered in the New Year to prepare your Primary 7 child for the move to Secondary.

Parents/Teacher Interviews

We had a fantastic turn-out for our November Parent Teacher Interviews. Your support with these discussions are appreciated. We hope you enjoyed sharing your child's journey with new class.



Learning Partnership

The school were visited by our Education Manager and Headteachers from other schools on Friday 3rd November. The children were commended for their learning and engagement as well as demonstration of values. Well done Team Benarty!

First Chances

A group of Primary 7 children have had a couple of visits to the Carnegie Conference Centre and St Andrews University as part of the exciting First Chance programme. This has been a fantastic learning experience with more to follow.