



November 2025



Dear Families,

Preparations for our much anticipated Christmas Fayre are in full swing. From festive stalls to seasonal treats, we're working hard to bring you a magical event to kick off the holidays. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the big day. In the meantime, we've got some exciting updates and activities to share with you.

Importance of Attendance and being on time

Regular attendance and punctuality are key to a pupil's success and learning. We want to remind all families of the importance of being in school every day and arriving on time. Did you know that pupils who miss just two days a month, adds up to 20 days a year, which is nearly a month of school.

Statistics also show that just 10 minutes of lateness each day can result in losing over six school days per year.

Curriculum

Celebrating Learner Participation and Ownership

We are excited to share that our work has been published on the Northern Alliance Learning, Teaching and Assessment Toolkit as an example of effective practice, showcasing learner participation and ownership of learning. We invite you to take some time to watch our videos and see our pupils' fantastic learning in action [here](#).

Scholastic Book Fayre

A huge thank you to Mrs Jamieson for organising and running this year's Scholastic Book Fair. Thanks to everyone's support, an amazing £412.49 was spent. This fantastic total has enabled us to purchase some new books for the school. We'd also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the Parent Council for generously buying a book for each child, to be gifted at Christmas. Your contributions are making a big difference in fostering a love of reading across the school. Thank you to everyone involved.

Learning through play

Thank you for your generous donations of play resources to our school. We are truly grateful. Your support enriches our learning





environment, encourages creativity and provides our pupils with meaningful opportunities to learn through play.

If anyone is having a clear out and would like to donate some toys, barbies, board games etc to the school then please hand them into the school office. Thank you.

Book Week Scotland

On Wednesday, 19th November, we were delighted to welcome the parents and carers of our P1-3 pupils to our Bookbug gifting event. The children were thrilled to receive their brand new book bags and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon sharing stories together.

It was a lovely opportunity for families to spend time reading, relaxing and celebrating the joy of books. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the afternoon so special.

Bridge Building Workshop



P3-5 and P5-7 classes had the amazing opportunity to participate in a hands on Bridge Design Workshop with AMCO Giffen, one of the contractors working on the A95 bridge project. Pupils got to design and build their own bridges using materials, while learning about the different processes and roles involved in bridge construction.



The workshop was a fantastic success and the pupils enjoyed every moment of it, gaining valuable insights into engineering and design. A big thank you to AMCO Giffen for offering this opportunity and helping bring this exciting learning experience to life.

Author Visit - Sean Batty

We were delighted to welcome Sean Batty, well known weatherman and author of *The Worst Christmas Weather Ever!* to our school this week. Sean shared his wonderful book with the pupils and answered lots of enthusiastic questions about being an author and what inspires his storytelling.

A huge thank you to Ashley Inglis and Finlay for organising this fantastic visit. Our pupils left feeling inspired to write their very own books.



Opportunities for Personal Achievement

P5-7 Playmakers Training

Our P5-7 pupils are taking part in weekly Playmakers training sessions led by Amanda, our Active Schools Coordinator. Through fun, hands-on activities, pupils are learning valuable leadership skills, teamwork and how to plan and lead playground games for younger children. The programme helps build confidence, cooperation and a sense of responsibility. It is also a great way to stay active and have fun. We can't wait to see our new Playmakers putting their skills into action in the playground soon.



Chess Club

Our P3-5 pupils have been making fantastic progress at Chess Club and we are delighted to share that they can all confidently play chess. Their enthusiasm, strategic thinking and teamwork have been wonderful to see each week.

A huge thank you to our parent helper, Julie Shand, for her time, support and encouragement—Chess Club wouldn't be the same without her!



Ethos and life of the school as a community

Leadership Groups

This term we have re-introduced our Leadership Groups. These groups offer our pupils the chance to take on leadership roles, develop new skills and contribute positively to the school community.

There are four groups: Rights and Reading, Pupil Parliament, Community and Sports Leadership. The pupils will work together to plan, organise and lead initiatives. Through these leadership opportunities, pupils will gain valuable experience in teamwork, responsibility and problem solving. We look forward to seeing our young leaders in action and the positive impact they'll have around the school.



Warm regards

S. Chalmers.

Stacey Chalmers
Acting HT

DIARY DATES

- **Thursday 4th December** - Panto at St Thomas Hall (pupils only)
- **Thursday 11th December** - Christmas Jumper Day/Christmas Lunch, bring a chocolate donation for the Chocolate Stall at the Christmas Fayre
- **Wednesday 17th December** - Christmas Fayre 1.30 - 3 pm (all welcome)
- **Thursday 18th December** - P3-5 and P1-3 Christmas Parties
- **Friday 19th December** - P5-7 Christmas Party/ end of term
- **Monday 5th January** - Term 3 Begins