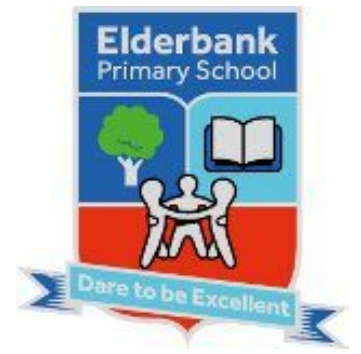


Elderbank School

NEWSLETTER



April 2026

Welcome Back

Welcome back after the Spring Break. We hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. Staff and pupils alike are looking forward to the final term of the session.

As we reflect on last term, there is much to celebrate across our school community.

Celebrating Success – Learning Beyond the Classroom

One of our highlights has been the fantastic use of our new minibus, which was very kindly gifted to the school by Children's Aid Scotland. This has opened up a wide range of learning opportunities that were previously restricted by cost.

Our pupils have enjoyed visits to:

- Kilmarnock and Cumnock
- Eglinton Park and Irvine Beach
- Inverclyde Sports Centre through the Commonwealth Sports Ambassador Programme
- Dreghorn Library
- Asda and Tesco
- Dance competitions
- Wellwood Centre
- Castle Semple
- K'Nex Challenge events

Already planned for this term are visits for Primary 5 and 6 to the Science Centre, a range of transition events, a visit to Glasgow Green, and participation in a Deaf Football Tournament.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming members of the Children's Aid Committee to Elderbank, where they will hear first-hand from our pupils about the positive difference the minibus has made.

Our Early Years children have also benefited greatly from small group outings and outdoor learning in the forest environment.

Learning Cafés

The Learning Cafés have been very well received, and we appreciate the positive feedback and helpful suggestions shared by families. These will be considered as we continue to shape this approach.

Please note that due to new PVG regulations, only children who are accompanied by an adult may be brought to the hall during Learning Café events. This is a Scottish Government policy requirement and not an Elderbank decision.

Upcoming Learning Cafés

- Friday 24 April – Primary 6 & 7
- Friday 1 May – Primary 3 & 4
- Friday 8 May – Primary 1 & 2

Parent–Teacher Consultations

Parents and carers will have the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher to discuss progress and learning on:

- Thursday 14 May – 3:30pm to 6:00pm
- Wednesday 20 May – 3:30pm to 6:00pm

The Parents' Night Booking System will go live at 6:00pm on Tuesday 5 May 2026.

Early Years

Early Years children have enjoyed welcoming parents and carers into the playroom for Play and Stay sessions, including Book Bug, Library Visits, and seasonal Stay and Play events at Christmas and Easter.

We recognise that some children cope better with these events than others, and we greatly appreciate the support provided by families in helping their child to participate. Feedback and suggestions are always welcome –please use the feedback forms available in Early Years.

New Early Years Model – 2026/2027

From session 2026–2027, the Early Years model at Elderbank will change:

- Open Monday–Friday, 08:00–18:00
- New children will be offered one full day and four half days per week

This change has resulted in a new staffing structure. We will shortly be recruiting:

- An Early Years Manager
- A Senior Early Years Practitioner

As staff hours have increased, the majority of existing staff have chosen to move to new posts in order to retain their current 09:00–15:00 working pattern. While we will be sorry to lose them, we fully respect their decisions and wish them well.

We also congratulate Miss Gilfillan, our Excellence and Equity Lead, who is taking up a temporary promotion as Acting Early Years Manager at Annick Early Years until June 2026. Her final day before this secondment will be Friday 24 April, though she will return for key events later in the session.

Primary 1 Transition – August 2026

Enhanced transition is already underway for children within the Elderbank catchment who require additional support. Miss Roy and Miss Farrell will be visiting children attending other Early Years establishments to support their transition.

The Primary 1 transition programme has been shared with all new entrants, with key dates included.

Toilet Training

Some transition sessions are for parents and carers, while others are for new pupils. As part of the Early Years programme, support with toilet training has been offered; however, uptake has been low.

It is essential that all children entering mainstream Primary 1 are toilet trained. We ask parents and carers to focus on this at home and to contact your Health Visitor if additional support is required.

Supported Learning

Our Supported Learning classes continue to be very busy, offering bespoke learning programmes. Classes have enjoyed visits outwith school and welcoming families into class, culminating in a very successful Daffodil Tea on Thursday 2 April.

For next session, Supported Learning capacity will increase to 64 pupils across eight classes. Mrs Bain will co-ordinate transition programmes for new pupils and support transitions to Lockhart Campus and Irvine Royal SSR for our Primary 7 pupils.

Transition programmes may vary depending on individual needs; however, all children will receive the level of support appropriate for them.

Uniform and Lost Property

We are delighted that pupils continue to wear school uniform consistently.

Our uniform is:

- White shirt or polo shirt
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan
- Black trousers or skirt

Please note that black tops are not part of our uniform—this is the uniform of Greenwood Academy.

All clothing should be clearly labelled. We currently have a significant amount of lost property. Items will be laid out beside the bike shelter on Thursday 23 April for collection.

A uniform station is available in the foyer and can be accessed at any time.

Due to a reduction in Pupil Support Assistant allocation in 2024, staff no longer have capacity for additional housekeeping tasks. We ask families to continue encouraging children to take responsibility for their belongings.

Behaviour and Conduct

Our school values—Acceptance, Respect and Teamwork—were agreed by our school community and remain central to life at Elderbank.

We will not tolerate poor behaviour, disrespect or swearing at any time. Some pupils have reported that swearing is used regularly at home; please support us by modelling appropriate language and reinforcing that swearing is not acceptable in school.

Thank you for your continued co-operation.

School Improvement Priorities Consultation

Family consultation questions will be issued shortly to help shape our priorities for next session. We would be grateful if responses could be returned by Wednesday 29 April.

Each returned consultation will entitle the child to an entry into a prize draw:

- One draw for P1–P3
- One draw for P4–P7
- A separate draw for Early Years

Mrs Ross, Classbase 10 teacher, is currently leading pupil consultation.

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 28th April at Elderbank Primary at 6:30p.m.

The Parent Council has also organised a Race Night on Saturday 9 May. Tickets are available from Emma and Kenny Tricker.

Please remember the Parent Council Easy Fundraising link—making online purchases through the link generates donations that directly support activities for all children.

New Classes – Session 2026/2027

At this time of year, attention naturally turns to next session. Final staffing has not yet been confirmed, and we are currently working on class structures.

New class information will be shared in the week beginning 15 June 2026. Children requiring enhanced transition, identified through Team Around the Child meetings, will receive separate information from the Link Depute Head Teacher.

Thank You

Dates for your diary for the remainder of the session are included separately.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Elderbank Primary School.

Miss Robertson
Head Teacher

