

WEST KILBRIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL
Parent Council Meeting- Monday 17th March 2025

Head Teacher Report- Mrs Carson



1. Staffing

We are delighted to have appointed Miss Samantha Parker to our vacant Education Business Assistant role. Samantha will take up her position after the Easter break but will be a regular visitor in the office over the coming weeks to enable her to hit the ground running. Please be sure to say 'hi' when you visit the office.

We are delighted to share that Mrs Roper is currently expecting a new addition to the West Kilbride team and is due to leave for Maternity Leave from Friday 2nd May. We are currently engaging in the recruitment process to fill this post on a temporary basis until Mrs Roper's return.

2. IT Infrastructure

After a review of our Promethean Boards in school, it has been identified that four are requiring replacement. We look forward to having the new boards installed over the coming weeks. All new devices have arrived. We are awaiting the delivery of a Laptop Charging Station from St Bridget's to get laptops charged and into use. Our Parent Council have very kindly submitted an application to West Kilbride Community Trust to request funding for additional laptop devices and await the outcome of this application. This will support us to fully implement NAC's new Digital Learning Strategy over the coming academic year.

3. Religious Observance

As a non-denominational school we have a responsibility to teach our pupils about all faiths, as outlined within the Curriculum for Excellence. We currently have strong links with West Kilbride Parish Church, who have worked with the school over the last 17 years, with Reverend McNay presenting monthly at assembly, which concludes with an optional prayer. We also have strong links with St Bride's RC Church, also in the village, who attend many of our school events but are currently unable to attend assembly due to conflicts with Mass. These are strong and valued community links.

Upon taking up post at West Kilbride, I reached out to various faith organisations to ensure we were representative of all religions and unfortunately, had no response. I have again recently reached out to the Ayrshire Muslim Education Centre who are unsure if they have the capacity to attend, given that they are based in Kilmarnock. We are happy to take recommendations of any faith organisations who would like to work alongside us.

4. Free Snack Provision

As you may well be aware, funding was provided for additional food provisions for primary and secondary schools for 2024/25. In primary schools this was healthy snack for break time and in secondary schools, the Winter Warmer Breakfast.

Both of these initiatives were temporary and based on funding for 2024/25 and as planned, will come to an end on Friday 28 March 2025. I would request that in light of this announcement, the Parent Council consider whether or not they wish to re-instate our morning Fuel Station which has previously been well used and gratefully received.

5. Anti-Social Behaviour/ Vandalism

We have recently engaged in numerous conversations with parents and carers regarding an increase in anti-social behaviour within the village. Whilst we pride ourselves on being at the heart of our community, unfortunately, we are unable to action any concerns which have happened out with the school grounds or out with school hours. We would encourage any concerned residents to contact either Police Scotland or NAC's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, who can handle complaints anonymously.

Unfortunately, anti-social behaviour has also impacted our school. We have been subject to acts of vandalism for two consecutive weekends, which caused damage to our newly renovated and well used garden area. Both incidents have been reported to the police. We believe we have positively identified the perpetrators and we have linked directly with them to bring an end to this disruption. There have been no further instances of vandalism since these conversations and so we hope the issue has now been resolved.

6. Proposed Holiday Calendar 2026/2027

We have received North Ayrshire's proposed holiday calendar for the 2026/27 academic year (attached) and this is now up for consultation with Parent Councils. As such, I would like to seek your views in order to feedback to the Local Authority.

7. Local Authority Establishment Review

I have attached the finalised feedback document following our Local Authority Establishment Review. We are delighted to have had acknowledgment of the positive changes we have made over the last year and a half and it has been reassuring for staff to see the impact this has had on their practice and directly on our young people. The review praised our children for being exceptionally welcoming, well-mannered, and happy to be at school. Key strengths identified include:

- SLT commitment, energy and capacity for leading change and improvement is a key strength.
- HT values openness and honesty and reflects this in her leadership of the school and early years. Staff /SLT relationships are also positive and encouraging and this is helping to build staff confidence.
- The school has very strong links with the wider community. Community partners spoke highly of the culture of the school and the excellent communication from the Head Teacher. They feel valued by the staff and children.
- All staff know the children, families, and community very well, fostering a strong community ethos.
- School values are well embedded, and staff and pupils spoke confidently about these.
- All staff work very well together as a team. They engage effectively with professional learning, research and reflect regularly on its impact on their practice. Staff are deployed effectively to support learning and inclusion.

Our suggested next steps had already been identified as development areas internally as a staff team and were highlighted during our scoping presentation. This includes the need for further enhanced differentiation, pupil target-setting and leadership of learning and increased use of assessment strategies to assess learning. We will actively work towards these within our School Improvement Priorities for the 2025-2026 academic session. We will also include some breathing space to embed the changes we have made recently, allowing training to cascade into practice.

Overall, we were graded as '4-Good' for both HGIOS 4 Quality Indicators '2.3- Learning, Teaching and Assessment' and '3.2- Raising Attainment and Achievement'.

8. School Events

Thank you for the positive feedback regarding our recent P6 Burns Supper. It was extremely well attended by parents and carers and showcased pupils' learning well. We aim to host more of these types of 'showcase' style events over the coming academic year.

The Spring Show was very well attended over the past weekend and featured planting and artwork from our pupils. Congratulations to P4L who won the Hunterston Rose Bowl trophy for the Horticultural Society Flower Show Art Panel Competition with their work based on their current school topic, the Scottish Coastline. Well done P4L!

Work continues to be ongoing to develop our Outdoor Learning environment, with the creation of our new outdoor Reading Circle, which has already been well used. A huge thank you for the donations of nets, ropes and tyres over the last few weeks. It's great to see the full school community involved in our school development.