

Balmalloch Primary School & Nursery Class
Education, Youth and Communities



Parent Council - Head Teacher's Report - 7th November, 2018

1. **School Budget**

£6000 approximately.

2. **Nursery Garden**

The Grounds Maintenance Team will visit to inspect the nursery garden & give support. Ruth meeting with Judi Legg - Wildside Designs & Wildside Adventures - to discuss how her company can assist with the current problem, following her work with Kilsyth Primary School. Wildside Adventures Ltd. is a social enterprise dedicated to practical action with children and the environment. Meeting arranged for Monday, 12th November, 2018 at 11am.

3. **Hope Take Away Theatre Company - Anti-Bullying Workshop - P4 to P7 - 25/10/18**

This was very successful and clearly delivered the message intended. Both staff and pupils have commented positively on the experience. This event was funded through North Lanarkshire Council for Balmalloch Primary School this year.

Curriculum for Excellence - Experiences and Outcomes - First & Second Levels:

Mental and Emotional Wellbeing

I understand that my feelings and reactions can change depending upon what is happening within and around me. This helps me to understand my own behaviour and the way others behave. HWB 1-04a / HWB 2-04a

4. **The Magic of Road Safety - 10th September, 2018 - P1 to P3**

This was also well received by pupils and staff.

Curriculum for Excellence - Experiences and Outcomes - Early & First Levels:

Physical Wellbeing

I know and can demonstrate how to keep myself and others safe and how to respond in a range of emergency situations. HWB 0-17a / HWB 1-17a

I know and can demonstrate how to travel safely. HWB 0-18a / HWB 1-18a

5. **Seasons for Growth**

Mrs Chambers will be implementing sessions with P6 and P7 pupils initially. Seasons for Growth is a small group loss and grief education programme supporting mental and emotional health. Leaflets will be sent out to parents/carers giving further information.

6. **Parents' Evening and Curriculum Evening - Term 1**

Dates for Parents' Evening and Curriculum Evening will be discussed with staff for next year, as these were too close together, resulting in poor attendance at the Curriculum Evening. Interim Reports will also be discussed, as a significant number of hours, from contractual teacher hours agreed as part of the 'Working Time Agreement', are used each year for these, when these hours could be used to impact more positively on school improvement. Teachers are still getting to know their new children at the beginning of the session and felt it was too early to make comments which would be valuable for parents/carers, additional to those provided at the end of the previous session.

A Parent Council display is located in the school hall, showing comments from parents/carers received on Parents' Evening, with feedback about the school continuing to be positive.

Minutes from Parent Council/PTA meetings could also be displayed and perhaps a Parent Council/PTA newsletter.

A self-evaluation tool, Parent Council Health Check, is available to support school improvement; Looking Inwards, Looking Outwards, Looking Forwards. This will help us evaluate where we are through traffic light colour coding, highlighting our next steps and how we are going to achieve this. Could the Parent Council agree a date and time to complete this and we can discuss the results at our next Parent Council meeting?

7. **PTA Events**

Movie Night - 26th September, 2018

Evaluation of the fundraising event.

8. **Junior Sports Leaders Programme**

P6 pupils in Miss McNeill's class have now been trained as Junior Sports Leaders and are now encouraging P1-3 children to play games and get fit with them at lunchtime.

9. **UK Rock Challenge and J Rock Project - Tuesday, 19th March, 2019**

Miss McNeil/Mrs Morris will run this project with junior/senior pupils. Both teachers are visiting our buddy school, Firpark Secondary - Motherwell, on Thursday 8th November, 2018 to support this. Firpark Secondary School have been participating in the project for a number of years.

The project is an educational performing arts competition for schools which will take place, in the first instance, in the Motherwell Concert Hall and Theatre. Balmalloch Primary School will be entering the competition's Junior Division for 7-11 year olds. It consists of a 5-8 minute dance, drama and design performance, which can be set to a

theme and soundtrack of the school's choice, along with hair, make-up and costumes. Props or a set is also requested to get the theme across to the audience.

HYPERLINK

"<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oLYBqaghXQ>"<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1oLYBqaghXQ>

10. **Drugs Awareness**

Community Police (Kevin/Lynn) are visiting all classes from P5-P7 to deliver a 'Drugs Awareness' talk as part of Health and Wellbeing.

Curriculum for Excellence - Experiences and Outcomes - Second Level:

Physical Wellbeing

I am developing my understanding of the human body and can use this knowledge to maintain and improve my wellbeing and health. HWB 2-15a

11. **Polar Explorer - STEM**

Fraser Ralston will visit the school on the 9th November, 2018 to launch the Polar Explorer Programme led by P6/5 pupils this session.

The Polar Explorer programme encourages and supports schools who are keen to raise aspirations and attainment in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and aims to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Impact survey responses show 100% of teachers involved in the PEP agreed pupil enjoyment and engagement in STEM subject lessons increased, improving pupils' confidence in learning science and in scientific enquiry skills.

Schools will gain the support of a Polar Ambassador, a specially selected STEM professional, who will help to enrich the teaching of STEM subjects in primary schools.

Stem Sessions for Girls - Imaging Partnerships

This company provide workshops for girls to promote the STEM subjects, as these areas have previously been, and are, more appealing to boys.

The STEM workshops offered are designed to be practical, informal and fun whilst covering different aspects of photography for the pupils, that link in with science and technology subjects.

A different topic is completed each week (e.g.) Structures/Light We Can't See.

The workshops would be run as an after school club for one hour over a 6 week period. It costs £30.00 per pupil, £5.00/week. A minimum of 13 pupils is required and the maximum number is 30. Mr Paterson discussed this with the girls from both classes and

41 children expressed an interest. We would, therefore, like to offer this to our pupils using PEF money to support this.

Mr Paterson will be delivering Polar Explorer sessions with P6/5 and Mrs Meechan will run a Science club over the coming terms. As a result, it is suggested that the STEM After School Club is offered to girls in these classes; P6/5 and P4/5.

Thoughts from the Parent Council are welcomed.

12. **Swimming Programme P5**

We are awaiting confirmation of dates and times for a swimming block in Term 3 now it has been advised that funding will be provided by NLC.

13. **Children in Need Week - 16th November, 2018**

The Pupil council are currently selling colour changing wrist bands to all classes and colour in sheets to P1-4. Children will also be able to dress down on 16th for a small donation.

14. **Cool Creatures**

A visit to the P4/5 class on 14th November, 2018 has been arranged to support Term 2 topic work.

15. **P6 Science Transition Event - 14th November, 2018**

This year, Kilsyth Academy have arranged a science event for P6 pupils to support pupils earlier in the transition process. This will replace the P7 science event which has previously been implemented. There will be 3 transition days for P7 in June; 4th, 5th and 6th.

16. **Author Visit**

Gill Arbuthnott will visit the school on Friday, 16th November, 2018 for P4-7 pupils. She will visit from 11-12.15pm and has advised that books will be on sale at the bargain price of £6 for pupils in Balmalloch Primary School.

17. **Christmas Fayre - Saturday, 24th November, 2018**

Arrangements will be confirmed at the following PTA meeting. The usual format of outside stalls and school stalls will continue.

18. **Swap Shop**

Rebecca and Grace, P6 pupils, will arrange for recycling of clothes between pupils in school. Both girls have been extremely proactive in working towards improving our planet as a result of the choices we make and the actions we take. More information will follow for our families as soon as possible. The plan is that this will take place at the Christmas

Fayre and lost property school uniform will also be included. We will ask parents/carers of senior pupils for permission to be in charge of the stall, supervised by staff/volunteers.

The school is looking for hanging rails to display the items, which can be returned after the event if required.

18. **Transition Event - Thursday 29th November, 2018 - Nursery to P1**

This year, P1 will visit the nursery in the morning and P1a will visit in the afternoon to work with children in the nursery on St. Andrew's activities. This will support children more effectively through an earlier transition process.

20. **Kilsyth Christmas Lights Switch On (3.30-5pm Approximately)**

Our choir have been invited to the Christmas Lights Switch On in Kilsyth Town Centre. Miss McNeil, Miss McCarthy and parent helpers will supervise children, walking to Kilsyth Town Centre for the event and returning to school grounds for collection by parents/guardians.

Miss McNeil issued a letter to parents/carers - 5th November, 2018, seeking permission and volunteers to escort pupils to and from the event.

21. **Cumbernauld Theatre Visit**

Primary 1-3 will visit Cumbernauld Theatre on Tuesday, 4th December, 2018.
Primary 4-7 will visit Cumbernauld Theatre on Wednesday, 5th December, 2018.

22. **Christmas Lunch**

Thursday, 6th December 2018
Time: TBC

23. **Christmas Show**

Dress Rehearsal - 7th December, 2018
Christmas Concert - 10th December, 2018 at 1.30pm
Christmas Concert - 11th December, 2018 at 1.30pm
Christmas Concert - 12th December, 2018 at 1.30pm
(Continuous Improvement Officers Attending)
Christmas Concert - 13th December, 2018 at 1.30pm

24. **Christmas Jumper Day**

Friday, 14th December, 2018

25. **Nursery Christmas Concert**

Friday, 14th December, 2018

26. **P2 Enterprise - Save the Children**

Friday, 14th December, 2018

27. **Christmas Parties**

P7 & P7/6 - 17th December, 2018

P6 & P6/5 - 18th December, 2018

P5, P4/5 & P4 - 19th December, 2018

P1-3 - 20th December, 2018

28. **Church Service - Christmas**

Friday, 21st December, 2018

Time: 9.30am

29. **Traffic Problem**

* Discussed with Pupil Council

* Letter by a senior pupil issued to parents/carers

* Letter to be issued by Miss McCarthy, following an accident in the car park, damaging a member of staff's car.

* David Craig, Education Officer, has advised that the Road Safety Team will visit the school to assess the situation and provide any advice to improve the safety of all.

David has passed the information to the Chief Executive, informing him of the current situation. David has advised North Lanarkshire Council will continue to provide support to resolve the issue. Ruth will meet with Irene Thorburn on Friday, 9th November, 2018 at 1.20pm.

30. **Vacancies**

Ruth spoke to David Craig about the Classroom Assistant vacancy and the Dining Hall Supervisor vacancy and he has advised he will look into this and provide an update.

R. McCarthy

Head Teacher

Balmalloch Primary School

7th November, 2018

Meeting: 6.30-7.30pm

