

Balmalloch Primary School & Nursery Class
Education and Families



Parent Council - Head Teacher's Report - 30th January, 2019

1. School Budget

£0

Savings accumulated as a result of not filling the Dining Hall Supervisor and Classroom Assistant Vacancy, are presently being used to improve the learning and teaching environment:

- * Blinds (Red) - classes/Blinds for HT office (Ordered)
- * Blinds (Red or Black) in Gym Hall (To be Purchased)
- * Evidence Tablets - Teachers - Achievement of a Level (Purchased and Received)
- * Covering of seating in AV Room (Red) (Quotation Received, Awaiting Date for Service)
- * Storage units for RME boxes (To be Purchased)
- * Trolleys for musical instruments (To be Purchased)
- * Storage Cupboards/Shelving Units - Senior/Junior Area (To be Purchased)
- * Red trays for all tray units (To be Purchased)
- * Red plastic boxes with lids (To be Purchased for Novels/Reading Books P4-7)
- * Class partitions in Junior/Senior area (Cost/Style to be investigated/Visit to Clarkston Primary School to be arranged)
- * Display boards in gym hall with protective covering (To be investigated - cost/supplier/Visit to Kilsyth Academy)
 - * Display board in AV room - Music
 - * Coats/Shoes Storage (including trolleys for infant area)
 - * Sensory Room- This will be created in the room Mrs Dignall occupies at present to provide a quiet space for pupils requiring time and space. Beanbags, soft lighting, blinds etc. will be required to make this a soothing space for our children.

2. Communication with Parents/Carers

Dates for Your Diary - Feedback from parents/carers based on discussions from the previous Parent Council meeting.

3. Financial Education Programme - 25th March, 2019

Session Times	Class	Topics
Session 1 9:05 – 9:50 45 mins	P3 (including P3 pupils from P2/3)	<u>Identifying Coins</u> Identifies and uses all coins and notes to £20 and explores different ways of making the same total.
Session 2 9:50 – 10:30 40 mins	P4/5 & P4	<u>Calculating Totals and Change</u> I can use money to pay for items and can work out how much change I should receive. MNU 1-09a
MORNING INTERVAL 10:30 – 10:45	MORNING INTERVAL	MORNING INTERVAL
Session 3 10:50 – 11:30 40 mins	P5	<u>Shopping on a Budget</u> I can manage money, compare costs from different retailers, and determine what I can afford to buy. MNU 2-09a
Session 4 11:30 – 12:15 45mins	P5/6	<u>Value of Money</u>
LUNCH 12:15 – 1pm	LUNCH	LUNCH
Session 5 1pm – 2pm 1 hour	P6 (& P6 pupils from P7/6)	<u>Decision Making</u>
Session 6 2pm – 3pm 1 hour	P7 (& P7 pupils from P7/6)	<u>Knowledge of Income and Outgoings</u> I understand the costs, benefits and risks of using bank cards to purchase goods or obtain cash and realise that budgeting is important. MNU 2-09b

4. Reading Competition

We have 4 pupils from P6 (P5/6) and 4 pupils from P7 wishing to participate in the Lanarkshire Primary Reading Quiz. Only 4 pupils can be part of the team entering, however two children can be 'reserves'. All 8 children will attend on the day, two of whom will be part of the audience for their dedication to learning and improving their reading skills.

The competition will take place over a two week period from the 18th March, 2019. Schools qualifying for the finals will attend a venue (to be advised) on Tuesday, 14th May, 2019.

5. Lost Property

A text was sent to Parents/Carers to advise that lost property will now be stored in the Janitor's office. Anyone wishing to check the Lost Property Box, should report to the office in the first instance, ensuring the health, safety and security of all.

6. Nursery Garden

Working in collaboration with Judi Legg -Wildside Designs and Wildside Adventures
The following is being funded by North Lanarkshire Council

- * pre-meeting prep of base plans, initial plotting of existing features and utilities.
- * Pre-meeting negotiation of meeting programme with Heather , Sandra and Ruth (suggest covering development, maintenance planning, financial resourcing, risk management, loose materials, adjacent resources e.g. woodland)
- * follow up resources/planning/design concepts to be provided to complete one full day of input - £300.00)

Meeting - 28th January (Judi/Ruth/Heather)

- *Judi discussed 'free flow' play with Heather - Nursery Garden. Judi will contact Ruth with prices for work to be completed in the Nursery Garden.
- *Ruth and Heather will visit Kilsyth Primary on an agreed day at lunch time to observe 'Putting the Play back into the Playground - with Loose Materials' to support the development of the nursery garden, extending to the school playground next session.
- *Ruth and Heather will also visit Baird Memorial Primary School to get ideas on how to improve the outdoor space in Balmalloch.
- *Ruth and Heather will aim to book a place on the course 'Putting the Play back into the Playground'. The information from the course will be discussed with staff to support development of the outdoor space, including links with the STEM subjects. STEM will be a priority next session, incorporating the outdoor space and transition programme in Science with Kilsyth Academy.
- *Training for staff will be planned for next session through in-service, dates permitting. Training will be delivered by Judi Legg, or one of her colleagues, with the focus on learning, forest schools and working with loose materials.

6. Traffic and Health and Safety

Following on from the meeting held on the 12th December, 2018, Ruth met with Ian Smith from North Lanarkshire Council. Ruth not only discussed the issues with traffic and the nursery gates and fence but highlighted repairs required in Balmalloch Primary School, not only to improve the presentation which would give the children and staff a sense of pride in their environment but to ensure the overall health and safety of all.

The following points were outlined in the email from Ruth to Ian on 16th January, 2019:

- * Zebra Crossing, fence, path and gate to make the outdoor area safe for our children and families.
- * Staff parking signs erected to deter members of the public from parking there.
- * Bus Zone painted on the ground and removal of Drop-off zone.
- * Nursery gates and fence at both sides of the garden to be replaced with higher gates and fencing to prevent children opening these and having access to the car park.
- * School badly in need of rewiring and painting to bring it up to an appropriate standard.
- * Doors put on cupboards in the open senior/junior area to provide required storage solutions and make the area more presentable, where children and staff will take pride in their surroundings.
- * Shoe storage for all pupils is too small and damaged in parts - new storage for shoes required.
- * Toilet removed from storage area due to lack of storage in the school and no necessity for another toilet.
- * Disabled toilet to be upgraded including a new door.
- * Staff toilets to be upgraded due to size and age, not fit for purpose.
- * Ceiling tiles need replaced. Only a small percentage of these were replaced recently.
- * Smoke Alarm in the P2 cloakroom has tape around it - safety?
- * Gym Hall floor damaged and uneven.
- * Access to upstairs area in the gym hall only accessible by a ladder. This area would be a very good area for storage, which the school has little of, but would require stairs put in to access it. At present it is a wasted space.
- * Tiling at the sink in the infant area and vinyl on the floor which does not reach the units.

In addition, Ruth contacted Gregg from Kilsyth Academy to discuss the prospect of parents/carers using the car park to reduce the traffic in Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class grounds. At a convenient time for both, Ruth will visit Kilsyth Academy in the morning prior to the school bell to determine, with Gregg, if it would be a possible solution.

7. **Seasons for Growth**

Mrs Chambers implemented the sessions with P6 and P7 pupils. This was very valuable for the children, highlighted through conversations with pupils. Mrs Chambers will continue to assess needs for the programme across the school, impacting on the mental and emotional health of pupils, with the aim of building resilience.

8. **Interim Reports**

Next session, Interim Reports will be replaced by continuous assessment of children's learning through Learning Logs, building on partnerships with parents. The time spent on Interim Reports will be reviewed through the 'Working Time Agreement' and this time will be used more effectively to support learning and teaching. Assessment and Reporting will also be reviewed in the nursery, in line with changes in the school, supporting staff to reduce increased workload pressures.

9. **Self-Evaluation Tool: Parent Council Health Check**

The Parent Council were going to meet to discuss strengths and areas for improvement, using traffic light colours in each section to evaluate progress. The Parent Council could provide an update of the findings from this exercise, as agreed at the meeting in November.

10. **J Rock Project - Be Your Best Foundation**

Miss McNeil/Mrs Morris are working with P6 and P7/6 on the project at present. The children will take part in the heats at Motherwell Concert Hall on Theatre on Tuesday, 19th March, 2019. Parents/carers of children in these classes have been advised by letter how to purchase tickets for the event.

11. **Swimming Programme P5**

Unfortunately, Kilsyth leisure facility is closed at present and will not reopen for approximately 3 months. When the facility is re-opened, we will seek to book a block of swimming for our P5 pupils. However, if there are no available slots, we would hope to offer a block of swimming for our P5 pupils next session when they are in P6 to ensure they do not miss out on this valuable life skill.

After consultation with parents/carers regarding payment for swimming lessons for pupils, returns highlighted that the majority decided on parents/carers paying the amount in full for their child. Parents/carers would have the option of paying the full amount for the 12 week block in advance or paying a smaller amount on a weekly basis.

12. **World Book Day - 7th March, 2019**

Mr Paterson will work with P6/5 pupils on an enterprise project to support engagement in World Book Day from nursery to P7. The theme for this year is 'Share a Story'. More information on this will follow nearer the time. World Book Day books for 2019 were announced as follows:

- Ten Little Bookworms by Mike Brownlow, illustrated by Simon Rickerty (Orchard)
- The Hundred and One Dalmatians: Cruella and Cadpig by Peter Bently, illustrated by Steven Lenton (Egmont)
- Claude: Best In Show by Alex T. Smith (Hodder)
- Hubert Horatio: A Very Fishy Tale by Lauren Child (HarperCollins Children's Books)
- LEGO® Minifigure Mayhem by Helen Murray, Beth Davies & Paula Regan (DK)
- Bad Mermaids Meet The Witches by Sibéal Pounder, with illustrators Jason Cockcroft and Laura Ellen Anderson (Bloomsbury)
- The Great Rocket Robbery by Frank Cottrell-Boyce, illustrated by Steven Lenton (Macmillan)
- Diary of Greg Heffley's Best Friend by Jeff Kinney (Puffin)
- Percy Jackson and the Singer of Apollo by Rick Riordan (Puffin)
- Everdark by Abi Elphinstone (Simon & Schuster)
- Nought Forever by Malorie Blackman (Penguin)
- Snap by Patrice Lawrence (Hodder)

13. **Payment of School Meals**

The HT has been advised that non-payment of school meals is now having an impact on the service provided. As a result, the HT wishes to consult the Parent Council on ways forward to ensure we continue to Get It Right for Every Child, while supporting the catering staff to maintain a high level of service in the process.

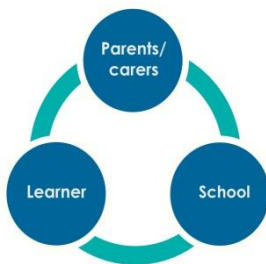
14. **Author Visit - Joshua Siegal - 25th January, 2019**

15. **Support Programmes for Children**

This session, through Pupil Equity Funding, support for pupils in literacy has been provided through the Read, Write, Inc. programme. Miss McKerron and Mrs Dignall have both received training to enable this effective programme to be implemented with pupils from P5-7. Support is provided in a small group situation on a daily basis, with the aim of improving attainment in literacy. Through discussions with class teachers and parents/carers, pupils are identified, with the relevant level of support being put in place to meet individual needs. Children's attendance at school, however, is of paramount importance and it has been highlighted that attendance levels are having a negative impact on children's learning. Attendance will continue to be monitored but it may be necessary to review current arrangements to ensure we effectively utilise the Learning Support Teacher's time.

16. Titanic Trip P4/5

This term, Primary 4/5 and Miss Meechan will be learning about 'The Titanic' as part of their interdisciplinary learning theme. This is a fantastic topic and promotes a range of learning experiences. However, to further enhance these experiences, the class will participate in a trip to the Titanic museum in Belfast on the 3rd May, 2019. Each child can be accompanied by an adult family member, promoting 'Family Learning'. To support our families, the school will pay half of the trip from school funds initially but would hope to replenish some of the money through a range of fundraising activities decided on by the children with the support of staff. Mrs Machray (PTA) has also offered support with fundraising ideas.



Be at the heart of your child's learning.



Family Learning

It is important to us at Balmalloch Primary School that you are involved in your child's learning. As a school we are looking at Family Learning through How Good is Our School? 4 - Education Scotland.

Education Scotland state:

Family learning encourages family members to learn together, with a focus on intergenerational learning. Family learning activities can also be specifically designed to enable parents to learn how to support their children's learning.

'Family learning is a powerful method of engagement and learning which can foster positive attitudes towards life-long learning, promote socio-economic resilience and challenge educational disadvantage.' (Family Learning Network, 2016).

Parental involvement, engagement and family learning can helpfully be considered as a continuum shifting from a focus on parents' relationship with their child's schools to a relationship with their child's (and their own) learning.

Education Scotland supports improvement in parental involvement, engagement and family learning through the promotion, development, and provision of a range of learning approaches and opportunities for education practitioners working with children aged 0-18 and their families. We do this in collaboration with external stakeholders, including the national parental organisations and local authorities. We also link closely with those working in adult education. Since September 2016, Education Scotland's inspection of early learning and childcare and schools also includes a focus on gathering evidence of the impact of parental engagement in individual establishments.

17. **Vacancies**

At present, Mrs Hourigan has resumed her role as Classroom Assistant due to the vacancy in school at present, as this was her previous role in school. Mrs Hourigan will continue in this role supporting children throughout the school and the impact will be measured at the end of Term 3.

Ruth spoke to David Craig (Education Officer) at the recent HT Conference regarding the Dining Hall Supervisor vacancy. This will be discussed with the Head of Service and the HR team with the aim of filling this position.

18. **Oral Health Monitors - P5/6 (P6 Pupils)**

The Oral Health Educator has implemented training for P6 pupils in the P5/6 class to enable them to support children in P1 and P2 with the tooth-brushing programme, aimed at tackling tooth decay. P6 pupils in the P5/6 class have adopted a responsible role, demonstrating qualities outlined in the Four Capacities; Responsible Citizens, Successful Learners, Confident Individuals and Effective Contributors. A rota has been devised to allow all children to contribute effectively but also have an opportunity for 'free time'. Delivery of the programme is being supervised at present on a rota basis by the Classroom Assistant and Early Years' ASNA staff.

A presentation was delivered by the Oral Health Educator at a recent whole school assembly to remind children of the importance of brushing their teeth both morning and night. The children also learned about the effects of the foods they eat and drinks they drink on their teeth. There was a clear message in relation to drinks chosen, avoid those which with the three 'F's - FRUITY, FLAVOURED AND FIZZY.

R. McCarthy
Head Teacher
28th January, 2019