

Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class



Parent Council Meeting – 1st September, 2021

A PLACE OF ENTHUSIASTIC LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

responsi**B**ility

gr**A**atitude

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

hu**M**ility and forgiveness

persever**A**nce

Love

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

h**O**nesty and generosity

Compassion and respe**C**t

friends**H**ip

Agenda:

1. Homework Survey Results 20-21
2. COVID - Plans for session 21-22
3. Catch-up plan for missed schoolwork
4. Teacher comments on the last day of term
5. Parent Council Roles/Members - Update

1. Homework Survey Results - Mrs Young/Mrs Convery

*Due to technical difficulties the school did not have access to parent survey answers.

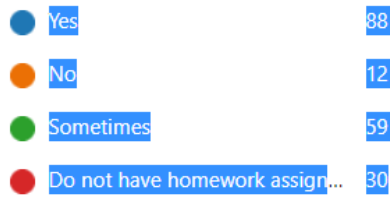
Pupil Survey

189 pupil responses to homework survey - 103 pupils regularly completed homework. 86 did not. The majority (144) found accessing homework on Teams easy. Some children commented on problems with Wifi. Some children commented that homework was optional and they felt they did not have to complete it.

163 pupils felt the amount of homework currently provided was "just right". 15 said too little and 11 said it was not enough.

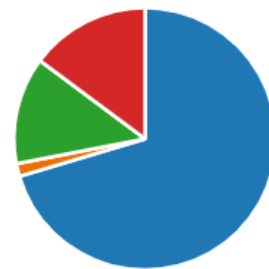
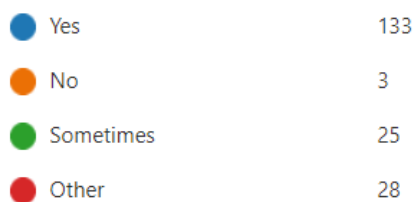
6. Do you think the tasks you are asked to complete at home continue with, or allow you to practise the work you have been doing in class that week?

[More Details](#)



7. Do you find the feedback provided by your teacher is helpful and encouraging?

[More Details](#)



Teacher Survey

9 Reponses

What approximate percentage of your current pupils submit homework from the 'Homework Grid' provided?

Varied responses from 0% , 20%, 30%. One teacher said 60%. Most teachers had low results.

Does homework provide an element of personalisation and choice (e.g.) what days tasks can be completed?

This was answered favourably with the flexibility of the homework grid mentioned. Spelling words also shared for pupils to complete when they can.

Do the tasks provided support the development on skills in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, as the core areas of the Broad General Education?

Teachers agreed that a variety of tasks were offered that covered the BGE provided from P1-P7. Some commented on the difficulty if a return to formal homework was set about setting maths and literacy for 4 or 5 different groups. The issue of parents not working with children/not being able to help with formal homework was raised. The 50 things to do before you are 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ was highlighted as a useful example of learning at home.

What aspects of the current provision work well?

The choice aspect of homework worked well for most teachers. Teachers mentioned that most children were attending clubs or busy in the evenings. It was also mentioned by a

few teachers that pupils may feel under pressure to complete formal homework and it would impact their health and wellbeing.

Please provide any other information you wish to be considered through the homework consultation.

Many of the teachers commented on the time commitment for planning homework for different needs across their classes and coping with larger classes. The range of needs makes it difficult to plan effectively. Some teachers mentioned the mental health and wellbeing aspect of the precious school year and trying to keep schools free from pressured activities for those who may be struggling. There was lots of answers that mentioned children should be free to come home and play with their friends, be outside, complete 'life skills' tasks e.g. cooking with parents. Almost all teachers were concerned that a return to formal homework would be an unnecessary stress on pupils and their mental health. Some teachers said they would not be able to run after school clubs if homework was to return to a formal aspect as they would not have time for this.

2. Do you upload homework at the same time each week to provide routine for learners?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	4
● No	5



6. Are the tasks set on the homework grid linked to planning for the term?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	8
● No	0
● Sometimes	1



4. Are any tasks compulsory?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	5
● No	4
● Some	0



7. Do you feel the current provision meets the needs of learners?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	9
● No	0



2. COVID - Plans for session 21-22

Schools awaiting the announcement from the First Minister following a return of 6 weeks at school.

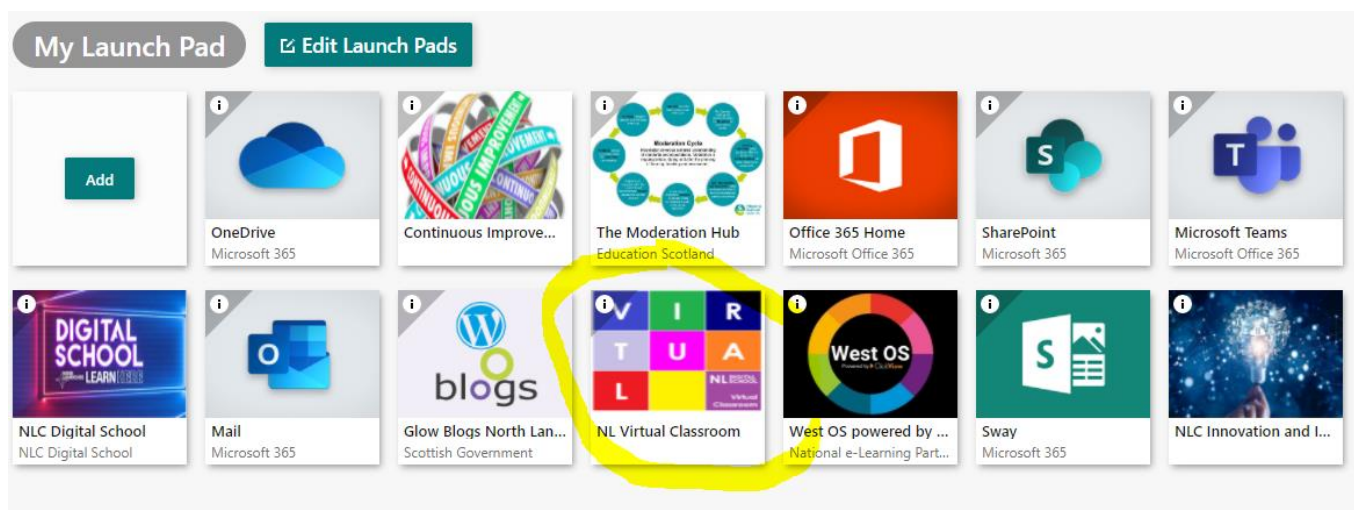
School and Nursery Risk Assessment in place following guidance through the Reducing the Risks document:

- Social Distancing
- Class Seating and Movement
- Lateral Flow Testing
- High Risk Groups
- Pregnant Staff
- Large Groupings/Bubbles
- Staff Meetings
- School Visitors/Parents & Carers
- GDPR/Privacy Notice
- School Transport
- Ventilation
- School Visits/Trips
- Personal Hygiene
- Enhanced Cleaning/Cleaning after a positive case
- Movement Around the School

- Resources
- NCCT
- PPE
- Face Coverings in School
- First Aid
- Breaks/Lunch Times
- Drop-off and Pick-up
- Out of Hours Learning
- Outdoor Learning
- Additional Support Needs
- Business Continuity Plan
- Outbreak Management and Self-Isolation/Close Contacts
- Isolation and Free Meal Entitlement
- Recording Covid Absence

Virtual Classroom/Teams - Mrs Convery

If children are off isolating or long term sick (e.g. broken leg) then work will be provided for these pupils. This work will be posted on Teams. As you may have seen each teacher has been asked to sign post where work will be stored in case of these events. NLC is continuing to use the virtual classrooms created last year throughout the pandemic. These are ran by teachers who have been seconded and work full time creating activities/lessons for children. This is divided into Levels/Primary stages, Teachers can advise what classroom pupils should access. This classroom can be accessed via your child Glow page (where the Teams button is). These classrooms are updated weekly providing maths, literacy, STEM and health and wellbeing tasks for pupils.





NL Virtual Classroom Child Guide



Accessing the NL Virtual Classrooms

You will access the Virtual Classrooms through the Glow Launchpad (<https://www.rmunify.com/>) using your Glow Login.

It is best not to use Internet Explorer browser, ask an adult for help to change your browser if you use it.



After logging in click on the North Lanarkshire Council Launch Pad.



Click on the NL Virtual Classrooms App.



NL Virtual Classroom Glow Layout

The NL Virtual Classroom has coloured tiles linked to Interactive Classrooms. You will be given a colour classroom by your school. Click on this classroom to access your Weekly Interactive Classroom.

Interactive Classroom



Each Weekly Interactive Classroom will have learning and activities for Literacy, Numeracy, STEM and Health and Wellbeing. These can be found by clicking on the icons shown on the left within the Interactive Classroom. You may need to select open browser for all links to work. Have fun exploring your classrooms by clicking on the different icons.



Sharing Completed Work

You can upload completed work to your Class Team for feedback. Your school may give you instructions for doing this.



Help

If you need any support with Glow or applications you can ask an adult or go to Guides. You can use the [Feedback](#) link to report any issues.



Further Assistance

Please contact your school with any questions or for assistance.

Classroom Feedback

It would be really good to get your feedback about the classroom. Look out for this.

School Improvement Plan

Improvement Plan Summary	
Cluster Priority:	To improve mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, including those affected by the poverty related attainment gap, ensuring earliest and effective intervention.
School Priority 1:	To improve the quality of learning provision for learners in the Four Contexts of learning through the development of effective planning, learning and teaching, assessment and moderation approaches.
School Priority 2:	To develop a consistent and shared understanding of the wellbeing indicators (SHANARRI) and nurture principles across all stakeholders, using data effectively from robust tracking and monitoring to improve outcomes for learners.

School Priority 3:	To further develop a 'digital school' ethos and improve outcomes for learners through the provision of high quality learning STEM experiences supporting the development of skills, knowledge and understanding for life-long learning and work.
Nursery Class Priority 1:	To ensure all children are making progress across all aspects of their learning and development; reflecting on the balance of adult led and child led experiences to track children's progress and improvement, with a particular focus on early language skills, mathematical thinking and emotional and social wellbeing.
Nursery Class Priority 2:	To develop a shared understanding of nurture principles across all stakeholders and increase understanding of NHS 'What Matters to Me' campaign to improve outcomes for all learners.

3. COVID - Learners' Catching-up

- School database includes 'Year End' levels for all pupils providing clear transition information for class teachers to build on prior learning/progress.
- Single Word Spelling Test/MALT assessments/Benchmarking - Reading/YARC Assessments - Reading Rate, Comprehension, Fluency/Literacy Box and Number Box/Rainbow Reading/IDL Spelling & Numeracy/Build Back Better Teacher - P7 Pupils/NLC Learning Support Teacher - P4 Pupils - Data analysed - Targeted interventions recorded on the school database to support robust monitoring and tracking.

4. Teacher Comments on the Last Day

5. Parent Council Roles/Members Update

6. Dates for Your Diary & Important Information

See Appendix A

7. Ordering/Budgets/Emails

System changed over the holidays and at present we are unable to access the school budget information.

Staff emails have changed in NLC:

Enquiries checked daily by office staff/Principal Lead in Nursery during holidays - enquiries-at-balmalloch@northlan.org.uk

Ruth McCarthy - HT - NLMccarthyr@northlan.org.uk

Louise Chambers - DHT - NLChamersL@northlan.org.uk

Deborah Convery - PT - NLConveryD@northlan.org.uk

John Paterson - APT (1st November, 2021) - NLPatersonJ1@northlan.org.uk

Ruth McCarthy

Head Teacher

1st September, 2021

Appendix A

Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class



Dates for your Diary – 21/22 - Terms 1, 2, 3 & 4

WHEN? TERM 1	TIME	WHAT?	WHO?
Th 12.08.21	ALL DAY	INSET	STAFF ONLY
Fri 13.08.21	ALL DAY	INSET	STAFF ONLY
Mon 16.08.21	9-3PM	PUPILS RETURN	PUPILS & STAFF
Fri 20.08.21	9.30AM	STAR PUPIL/COOL CLASS CUP	PUPILS & STAFF
Fri 27.08.21	N/A	HT/DHT/PT AWARD NOMINATED BY SUPPORT STAFF	PUPILS & STAFF
Mon 30.08.21	N/A	CLIMATE CHANGE COMPETITION ENTRIES SUBMITTED	P6 & P7
Tues 31.08.21	ALL DAY	SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS	ALL PUPILS
Wed 01.09.21	N/A	POLICY OF THE MONTH REVIEW ISSUED BY PRINCIPAL TEACHER	PARENTS/CARERS
Wed 01.09.21	6-7PM 6-7PM	PARENT COUNCIL MEETING – VIRTUAL PTA MEETING - PLAYGROUND	PARENT COUNCIL/HT & PT PTA & DHT
Fri 03.09.21	9.30AM	STAR PUPIL/COOL CLASS CUP	PUPILS & STAFF
Wed 08.09.21	N/A	VIRTUAL FAMILY LEARNING DAY	PARENTS/CARERS
Fri 10.09.21	N/A	HT/DHT/PT AWARD P5-7 – PUPIL NOMINATIONS	PUPILS & STAFF
Fri 17.09.21	9.30AM	STAR PUPIL/COOL CLASS CUP	PUPILS & STAFF
Th 23.09.21	N/A	HT/DHT/PT AWARD NOMINATED BY SUPPORT STAFF	PUPILS & STAFF
Fri 24.09.21	ALL DAY	HOLIDAY FRIDAY	ALL STAFF & PUPILS (SCHOOL CLOSED)
Mon 27.09.21	ALL DAY	HOLIDAY MONDAY	
Tues 28.09.21- Fri 01.10.21	ALL DAY (4 DAYS)	P7 TRIP TO STRATHCLYDE COUNTRY PARK 4 DAYS - £88.00	P7 PUPILS/IDENTIFIED STAFF
Fri 01.10.21	N/A	POLICY OF THE MONTH REVIEW ISSUED BY PRINCIPAL TEACHER	PARENTS & CARERS
Fri 01.10.21	N/A	SNAPSHOT JOTTERS – EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS LEARNING LOGS – STRENGTHS & NEXT STEPS PROGRESS REPORTS	PARENTS & CARERS
Fri 01.10.21	9.30AM	STAR PUPIL/COOL CLASS CUP	PUPILS & STAFF
Mon 04.10.21	N/A	SNAPSHOT JOTTERS/LEARNING LOGS RETURNED – PARENTAL COMMENT/SHANARRI TARGET	PUPILS & PARENTS
Tues 05.10.21	ALL DAY	P1-7 FLU IMMUNISATION & STAFF	PUPILS
Wed 06.10.21	3.30- 5.30PM	PARENTS' AFTERNOON (TO BE CONFIRMED)	PARENTS/STAFF
Th 07.10.21	5-8.30PM	PARENTS' EVENING (TO BE CONFIRMED)	PARENTS/STAFF
Fri 08.10.21	N/A	HT/DHT/PT AWARD P5-7 – PUPIL NOMINATIONS	PUPILS & STAFF
Mon 11.10.21- Fri 15.10.21 (INCLUSIVE)	N/A	OCTOBER WEEK HOLIDAY	PUPILS & STAFF



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is so lovely to have all of the children back to school and I would like to thank you for the effort you have made to follow the uniform policy, it really gives the children a sense of belonging and pride in being a valued member of our school community.

Our school mascots, whose names were chosen by the children last session (Lola, Tim and Willow), want to also welcome our children back, including our new P1 children, new children in other stages and also our new members of staff.

There are some important pieces of information to share included below:

Parent Council/Virtual Family Learning Day/Parents' Afternoon & Evening

- We are still looking for Parent Council members so if you are interested, please contact the HT for more information. (Temporary email - gw09mccarthy ruth@glow.sch.uk)
- Virtual Family Learning Day - This will be shared on TEAMS to enable families to access at a time suitable to them. The first Family Learning Day will be about your child's return to school.
- Parents' Afternoon/Evening will be confirmed after the First Minister's announcement in approximately 5 weeks. Provisional dates have been included in the Dates for your Diary but if these cannot go ahead, we will find an alternative way to allow you to discuss your child's progress.

Learning Logs & Snapshot Jotters

- Learning Logs will move with your child through nursery and into their primary years to support effective transition. These have been published to improve consistency across stages and to encourage children to take pride in their work/achievements.

- At the end of their time in nursery, Early Years' Practitioners from Balmalloch Nursery Class and feeder nurseries will complete final assessment information in Learning Logs - Success Criteria/Benchmarks/Target Setting - to ensure learning is progressive and takes into account learners' prior learning.
- At the back of the Learning Log, the practitioner will include their initials, the stage the child was in when the target was assessed and the date. The information will be highlighted BLUE/GREEN/ORANGE/RED to show your child's progress at that time. In this section, the teacher or member of the Senior Leadership and Management Team will assess children's progress in Literacy and Numeracy across the curriculum. Prior learning and achievement can be clearly tracked and ensures learning is progressive.

Excellent Progress	Good Progress:	Steady Progress:	Limited Progress:
Above Level in Some Aspects	On Track in Most Aspects	On Track in the Majority of Aspects	On Track – Minority/Few Aspects
Universal Support	Universal Support	Universal/Additional Support	Additional/Intensive Support

- Snapshot jotters and Learning Logs have been designed to support engagement in learning by pupils, staff and parents/carers. You will clearly see evidence of your child's strengths and next steps, allowing you to support your child throughout the session.
- If your child has not made the desired progress in a particular area, they may progress in this area over the course of the session or into the new session. You may therefore, see more than one assessment included for a particular benchmark/target but this allows success to be experienced by children at their pace.

Example: **P4 10.12.21 RMC** **P5 09.09.22 LC**

- These jotters replace end of year report cards and will include termly progress reports, evidence of your child's progress (Snapshot Jotters) and Teacher/SL&MT assessment of progress (Learning Logs). We will review these over the course of this session with our families, staff and children.
- At the start of the Learning Log, information has been included appropriate to the age and stage of development, allowing children to refer to this to support their learning.
- In Snapshot Jotters, clear presentation guidelines and assessment codes have been provided to support use.
- Children will include a title, a Learning Intention and the date at the start of each new piece of work, which will show the learning that has taken place (age/stage

appropriate). The comments, providing feedback for pupils, will be linked to Success Criteria showing children how they can achieve the Learning Outcome. A traffic light will be included on the piece of work to highlight their progress and the assessment comments will support this.

The +, = and - box at the top of the page links to the child's previous piece of work and if they have taken on board the comments made, showing improvements in the new piece of work being assessed. Children should know what their strengths and next steps in learning are. (Age/Stage appropriate)

- If the child has taken on board all of the comments and this is shown in their new piece of work, a plus would be highlighted.
 - If the child has taken on board some of the comments, evident in their new piece of work, the equals sign would be highlighted.
 - If the child has not reflected on the teacher's comments in the previous piece of work in order to apply to their new piece of work the minus sign would be highlighted.
- Snapshot Jotters and Learning Logs must be returned on the date outlined in the Dates for your Diary to ensure children's progress can be assessed throughout the session. These jotters will be passed to your child's next teacher to support the transition process. A copy of your child's progress report will be provided at the end of the session for you to keep. New Snapshot jotters and Learning Logs cannot be issued as the assessment evidence would be lost. It is essential children take care of their jotters and get into a routine of bringing them back to school at the agreed time.

If your child does lose their jotter(s) a 'normal jotter' will be issued for their work. If your child loses their Learning Log, a paper copy of targets/benchmarks/success criteria will be provided but will only contain the assessment from that point, which will impact on progress/achievement being recorded.

- A section for parental comments each term is included in the middle section of the Snapshot Jotter, which separates numeracy and literacy work contained within the jotter.
- A SHANARRI Web section for parents/carers and children to complete together is included to support children in working towards a health and wellbeing target based on their own assessment of their progress. We encourage children to discuss this with their family so that they are also part of this process.

School Transport/Kids Club

- Miss Bonds (ASNA) will be leaving in approximately 2 weeks to take up a new position, we wish her well for the future. Mrs Connelly will be increasing her hours to full-time soon and will take responsibility for the school bus. In the meantime, please contact the school office if you have anything you wish to discuss. (01236 632058) We will receive an updated transport list from the authority but it would be helpful if you could advise the days your child will be using the school bus to ensure children do not get on the bus on days alternative arrangements have been made. Please telephone the school office if your child will not be using the school bus on a particular day.

Playground and Safe Play

Mrs Hourigan, Mrs Smith and Mrs Connelly will continue to provide support in the playground and each member of staff will be responsible for one area - Infant Area, Junior Area and Senior Area. We must continue to encourage the children to display the school values both inside and outside of school, supporting our support staff to keep them safe and happy. It is not possible for staff to see everything that happens in the playground, so it is important to remind children to let the member of staff responsible for their area know if something happens at the time it happens. Your support with this would be greatly appreciated.

Breakfast Club

- Miss Agnew, Breakfast Club Supervisor, finished in this role on Friday 20th August, 2021. The position will be advertised on My Job Scotland but until this vacancy has been filled, Mr Paterson has agreed to cover to enable the Breakfast Club to continue. I am sure you will join with me in thanking Mr Paterson for the support provided to our children and their families.

Senior Leadership & Management Team - Year Groups

- As always, our Senior Leadership and Management Team will be responsible for identified members of staff and year groups throughout the session. In the first instance, please contact your child's member of the Senior Leadership and Management Team to allow support to be provided effectively.

P5a, P5b, P6, P7/6 and P7 - Miss McCarthy - Head Teacher

P3a, P3b, P4 and P4/5 - Mrs Convery - PT or Mr Paterson - Acting PT (November)

P1a, P1b, P1c, P2a and P2b - Mrs Chambers - DHT

School Complaints Procedure

As we have many new families and members of staff, it is important to provide a reminder of the complaints procedures, should you require this. We hope through the hard work and commitment of all staff it will be evident that decisions made by the Senior Leadership and Management Team in consultation with Teachers are in the best interests of your child. However, if you have anything you would like to discuss, please contact the school in the first instance as we have all the information for children, which is the basis of our decisions, including classes, interventions, progress etc. After having discussions with a member of the Senior Leadership and Management Team, if you do not feel the matter has been resolved successfully, please follow the complaints procedure on the website, allowing it to be directed to the appropriate employee in North Lanarkshire Council, which may be the Education and Families Manager. If this is the case, we want to do our utmost to support you to a successful conclusion, however the Education and Families Manager should not be contacted directly but our Senior Leadership and Management Team can contact them on your behalf in the first instance to ensure they would be the correct member of staff to speak to. I thank you for your support with this.

Emails and Contacting Us

Over the next few weeks our emails will be changing, so we will send out this information as soon as this becomes available. At present the email addresses for the above members of the Senior Leadership and Management Team are as follows:

gw09mccarthy ruth@glow.sch.uk gw09chambreslouis e2@glow.sch.uk
gw15converydeborah lo@glow.sch.uk

Thank you for your continued co-operation and support, it is greatly appreciated.

R. McCarthy
Head Teacher



