

Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class



Parent Council Meeting – 7th November, 2023 6-7pm (in school)

A PLACE OF ENTHUSIASTIC LEARNING AND ACHIEVEMENT

ResponsiBility

grAitude

BELIEVE IN YOURSELF

huMility and forgiveness

perseverAnce

Love

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS

hOnesty and generosity

Compassion and respeCt

friendsHip

COST OF LIVING:

NLC webpage for information and signposting to benefits and supporting agencies.

https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/benefits-and-money/cost-living?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=Talk+Money+Week+2022

PARENT COUNCIL MEETINGS

05.09.23

07.11.23

06.02.24

26.03.24

AGENDA

- AGM - Parent Council Election
- Swimming
- Homework
- Injury Policy/Contacting Parents & Carers
- Flagship Family Award & Family Engagement Group
- Reporting

VALUE OF THE MONTH

November - Respect

December - Family

January - Perseverance

Self-Help for Parents/Carers

www.solihullparenting.com – free online course 'understanding my child'

www.opfs.org.uk – support and advice for single parents

www.relationships-scotland.org.uk – advice and resources for parenting apart

www.sleepscotland.org – help with children's sleep issues

www.sdsscotland.org.uk – guidance on your child's health and education

www.enquire.org.uk – advice for parents about additional support for learning

www.youngminds.org.uk – mental health charity for children, young people and their parents

www.familiesoutside.org.uk – support to families affected by imprisonment

www.sfad.org.uk – Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs

AGM - PARENT COUNCIL ELECTION

- PCs meet regularly (see dates above). Some PCs may wish to have a mix of online and in-person meetings.
- Parent Councils are responsible for setting the agenda for meetings. This is not the role or responsibility of the HT.
- For each meeting (including the AGM) that is held please ensure that you send all agendas and minutes to Catherine Sweeney SweeneyCa@northlan.gov.uk. We require this information for our records and for Audit purposes.
- Invites to PC meetings, as well as the agenda, can be sent to your elected members (Councillors).

Elected Chairperson:

Elected Secretary:

SWIMMING - PRIMARY 7

We do not have enough helpers to take our Primary 7 pupils to swimming for some of the sessions. It is vital, for health and safety, that we have a 1:10 ratio, adults to children. **Volunteers required - please contact the school office - 01236 632058.** We have volunteers for Group 1 but a number of weeks for Groups 2 and 3 require helpers. **(Diane may be able to support and will advise.)**

SWIMMING HELPERS - Nov 23 – March 24			
	1st Session – P6/7 leave school 10.45am Session 11.15 – 12noon Leave pool 12.20pm	2 nd Session – P7B Leave school 12.15pm Session 12.45-1.30pm Leave pool 1.45pm	3 rd Session – P7A Leave school 1.15pm Session 1.45 -2.30pm Leave pool 2.45pm
8th November	Debbie Smith to walk down & stay until 12noon Heather Finnie – go down for 12noon and walk back up	John Duncan (confirmed) Robert Irvine (Confirmed)	Brian Hall (confirmed) Kamala Hall (confirmed)
15th November	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Hazel Muldoon (confirmed) Robert Irvine	Brian Hall Frances Pender
22nd November	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	Brian Hall Kamala Hall
29th November	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Hazel Muldoon Robert Irvine	Brian Hall Kamala Hall
6th December	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	
13th December	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	
20th December	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	
10th January	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	Brian Hall Kamala Hall
17th January	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	Brian Hall Kamala Hall
24th January	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	Brian Hall Kamala Hall
31st January	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	Brian Hall Kamala Hall
7th February	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	Brian Hall Kamala Hall
21st February	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	Brian Hall Kamala Hall
28th February	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie AS ABOVE	Robert Irvine	Brian Hall Kamala Hall
6th March	Debbie Smith Heather Finnie		Brian Hall Kamala Hall

Wednesday 8th November, 2023 - 6th March, 2024

Group 1 - Primary 7B - 12.45-1.30pm (26 Pupils) & Primary 6/7 (4 Pupils)

Group 2 - Primary 7A - 1.45-2.30pm (23 Pupils) & Primary 6/7 (4 Pupils)

Group 1 - 4 helpers required (1 reserve)

Group 2 - 4 helpers required (1 reserve)

The day before the swimming was due to start 8 parents/carers had not contacted the school to advise if their child was attending swimming. The clerical team had to contact parents/carers individually as arrangements had to be made for children to stay in school whilst their class was at the swimming pool. It is essential we have this information when the letters go out to families as we need to give the swimming pool notice if we are cancelling a session. This also impacts on the parent helpers who have offered to help but are no longer required for the morning session. It is also essential that we organise the classes children are going into if they are not taking part and this can have an impact on the children if they don't know in advance.

HOMWORK - PRIMARY 1-7

Experiences - Parent Council feedback from Parent Forum.

Parent Focus Group supporting the Family Learning priority, will have a focus on homework.

Homework would also be required to be on the improvement plan next session to ensure there is a clear focus on this for improvement.

HEAD INJURY - REPORTING TO PARENTS/CARERS

HEAD INJURIES AND CONCUSSION

Background

A concussion is a type of brain injury that changes the way the brain normally works. A concussion is caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head. Concussions can also occur from a fall or blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move rapidly back and forth. Even what seems to be a mild bump to the head can be serious. All concussions are serious. Most concussions occur without loss of consciousness. Recognition and proper response to concussions when they first occur can help aid recovery and prevent further injury, or even death.

Children and adolescents are at greatest risk of concussions with the greatest risks occurring during activities where collisions may occur. This can happen in or outside of school. Concussions can have more serious effects on a young, developing brain and need to be addressed correctly to prevent further injury and help with recovery. It is important to note that subsequent concussions can be much more threatening than a single concussion.

Head Injuries at School

Head injuries may occur at school if a child's head comes into contact with a hard object such as a desk or the floor or during potential collisions in physical education classes, school based activities or recess times. These incidents are significant because students must be screened and staff must understand that concussion symptoms can be delayed or progressive

Procedures for Head Injuries at School

- Parent/Carer will have written confirmation of the head injury that has occurred, with a copy being stored in school to ensure Health and Safety procedures are being followed.
- Parent/Carer is notified by telephone to ensure they check their child's bag for written confirmation.
- Emergency contact will be contacted if 3 attempts to contact the parent/carers have failed.
- Children should be monitored for 30 minutes after a forceful head injury. National advice highlights that anyone sustaining a forceful head injury should seek medical attention.
- Children who have no symptoms may return to class if parents/carers are in agreement but must be advised to return if symptoms develop as symptoms are not always present immediately. This is an important consideration 48 hours following a concussion.
- Children with underlying neurological conditions, should be dismissed to home if any forceful blow occurs. Children with cognitive impairments that are difficult to assess, or children that developmentally unable to articulate symptoms should be deferred to medical care rather than being observed at school. Children who have sustained a recent brain injury or are recovering from prior concussion should be dismissed home and must see a medical professional before returning to school and activities.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT GROUP

- Parent Helpers - To increase number of helpers by 60% on initial uptake. Parent/Carer helpers will contribute to and enhance the learning outcomes of children in the school. This can be linked to parent helpers required for swimming or on trips but also to support groups in school.
- Parent Council Membership- - Parent Council membership to increase by 60% to improve outcomes for learners through effective partnership working.
- Family Focus Group - Create and implement a Family Focus Group of members across the school to provide and support family-centred approaches in learning in school and at home.

Unfortunately, at this time we have only had two parents putting themselves forward to join a Family Focus Group to support this priority. We need the support of our families to take this priority forward to improve outcomes for children, working with Mr Paterson - Acting Principal Teacher.

WORKING WITH YOUR PARENT COUNCIL

Head Teacher will be attending a training session on Thursday 30th November (4.30-6pm) as part of the improvement priority - Family Learning and Engagement.

FAMILY LEARNING, FAMILY ENGAGEMENT AND VALUES - FLAGSHIP FAMILY AWARD

This is part of our 'Family Learning and Engagement' priority and journey as a Character School, promoting 'civic duty' and knowledge and understanding of our values in the community. As a school, we are supporting our children to develop their skills not only at school but as part of a wider community (e.g.) choir performing at the care home for residents, digital leaders supporting skills in the community, supporting younger pupils or taking care of our environment, for example, showing our values in all aspects of life.

Parents/carers/family member can participate in as many activities with their child as they want to. As a school, we want to recognise the contribution made by members of community. Over the years we have organised many activities and events, with these now planned across the school year. North Lanarkshire Council asked the Head Teacher to contribute to the 'Parental Engagement Strategy' refresh as a result of the steps we have taken to promote and encourage family engagement in learning. Our Flagship Family Award has been highlighted as good practice, with a copy being shared with other Parent Council Chairs and the strategy group.

Poppy entries have been displayed on the reception window and in the reception with points being awarded. Our Pupil Representatives were the judges and a great job they did. Well done all pupils who contributed with their family members, all designs were very creative and used recyclable materials.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT, FAMILY LEARNING
SCHOOL OF CHARACTER – VALUES
Flagship Family Award – Challenge of the Month






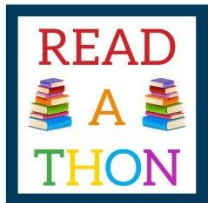



During the session 23-24, families and children are encouraged to participate in activities that demonstrates civic service.




Civic service/engagement means working to make a difference in the civic life of your community. It involves developing knowledge, skills, values, motivation and commitment to make that difference. We encourage our families to engage in as many activities as they can over the session, including **stage specific** and **monthly whole school** activities. Each activity families participate in and contribute to, will support the ‘Flagship Family Award’ – Infants, Juniors and Seniors. The award will be presented at the Leavers and Awards Ceremony in June.

New to Balmalloch - Each term, we would like to welcome our families into school for a ‘biscuit and a blether’, developing relationships within the community. This will be led by our P7 Pupil Representatives and Community Pupil Partnership Team. More information to follow, please let us know if you would like to join us.

MONTH & DATE	VALUES	ACTIVITY	WHO?	WHAT? HOW MUCH?
August/September  21.08.23 to 30.09.23	Friendship Family	<u>Adventure Friend</u> Families engage in an activity to promote and develop friendships (e.g.) walk in the park, play date ... Photographs shared with child’s class – point awarded for participation.	Parents/Carers Pupils Partnership Schools Committee	Relationships
October  11.10.23	Generosity Gratitude Friendship Family Perseverance	<u>Sponsored Dance-A-Thon</u> Working towards improving experiences for learners and an opportunity to make new friendships – adults/children, promoting community spirit. Registers and sponsor sheets showing participation/contribution – a point for each.	Parents/Carers Pupils Staff Sports Committee	School Funds £3, 722.00 THANK YOU!
October/November  23.10.23 to 30.11.23	Generosity Gratitude Family Responsibility	<u>Foodbank Donation & Wrap-up Campaign</u> Helping others in the community. Doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason. Please give your name to office staff when donating. A point for contributions from families.	Parents/Carers Pupils Staff Fairtrade Committee	Donations to support families.
October  27.10.23	Responsibility Family Love Generosity Gratitude	<u>Polio Plus</u> Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Paint your ‘pinky’ purple and raise funds for polio. Donation of 20p, if you can, for each pinky. All families who participate are awarded a point for participation/ contribution. Send in your photos.	Parents/Carers Pupils Staff Pupil Council/ Rota Kids	Rotary – Raising funds to eradicate Polio.

<p>November</p>  <p>Entries submitted by 06.11.23 Remembrance Day 11.11.23</p>	<p>Respect Family</p>	<p><u>Poppy Competition</u> Remembrance Day – acknowledging the courage and sacrifice of those who served our country, to find peace in our world.</p> <p>Design and make a poppy as a family at home. Try to use recyclable materials.</p> <p>A point will be awarded for poppies submitted by families, contributing to our school display.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers Pupils RRS Committee</p>	<p>International recognition – working towards peace and unity.</p>
<p>November to March</p>  <p>08.11.23 to 06.03.24</p>	<p>Generosity Gratitude</p>	<p><u>P7 Swimming Lessons</u> Volunteering to support the learning of others.</p> <p>A point will be awarded for escorting children to Kilsyth Swimming Pool and back to school. Children’s participation relies on the support of the community and we appreciate what our families can do to ensure learning of life-skills can take place.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers (Volunteers) Staff P7 Pupils</p>	<p>Volunteering to support learning and values.</p>
<p>November</p>  <p>Entries submitted by 20.11.23</p>	<p>Respect Family</p>	<p><u>Collage of Respect</u> Collage of a person who demonstrates respect in words and actions.</p> <p>This could be a famous person, a member of the community or a member of your family.</p> <p>Make your collage as a family at home it could include words, pictures or quotes. All collages will contribute a collective school wide display. A3 size – approximate dimensions 42cms x 30cms.</p> <p>A point will be awarded for those submitted.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers Pupils RRS Committee</p>	<p>Relationships and Values.</p>
<p>November</p>  <p>17.11.23</p>	<p>Generosity Gratitude Love</p>	<p><u>Children in Need</u> Sponsored event</p> <p>Donations for charity and dressing up for the event – a point will be awarded for taking part.</p> <p>If families dress up for the event in the community and send in a photograph, another point will be awarded.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers Pupils Staff Partnership Schools Committee</p>	<p>Proceeds To Charity</p>
<p>November/December</p>  <p>Entries to school W/C 20.11.23</p> <p>8 entries submitted to Scottish Parliament – 27.11.23</p>	<p>Family Love</p>	<p><u>Christmas Decoration Competition</u> Monica Lennon MSP.</p> <p>A point for all entries received from our families. 8 selected entries will receive another point and will be sent to the Scottish Parliament. Winning entry will receive 5 points with their entry being displayed in the newspaper and in the Scottish Parliament.</p> <p>Video Link - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zsmc-KFDr0s</p>	<p>Parents/Carers Pupils Community Pupil Partnership Committee Pupil Representatives</p>	<p>Uniting Communities</p>

<p>November</p>  <p>25.11.23</p>	<p>Generosity</p> <p>Gratitude</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Friendship</p>	<p><u>Christmas Fayre</u> Volunteering – Family member and Child</p> <p>Volunteers will receive 5 points for their commitment to supporting work in the school community. This may be the adult and child running a stall, helping to set up or supporting the PTA.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>PTA</p>	<p>All proceeds from the Christmas Fayre will contribute to school funds – learning experiences.</p>
<p>December</p>  <p>22.12.23</p>	<p>Family</p> <p>Respect</p> <p>Love</p>	<p><u>Christmas Service</u> Promoting 'Christmas Spirit' in the community, celebrating together, understanding the true meaning of Christmas – Balmalloch Family.</p> <p>Join with us in Anderson Parish Church – 9.30am. Attendance/volunteering as a helper – a point awarded for donation of time.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Choir Musicians</p>	<p>Donation of time, sense of community spirit.</p>
<p>January</p>  <p>Date TBC</p>	<p>Perseverance</p> <p>Family</p>	<p><u>Read-a-Thon</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Medal & Certificate (Pupils) - Voucher (Staff/Parents & Carers) <p>A point will be awarded for pupils and families participating in this event.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Staff</p> <p>Reading Schools Committee</p>	<p>Relationships and Values</p>
<p>February</p>  <p>Date TBC</p>	<p>Family</p> <p>Friendship</p> <p>Perseverance</p>	<p><u>Read with me in the Li-bra-ry (ee)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Library Event - Parent/Carer favourite book share (AV Room) - Author Visit – Families - Author's Live Event for Families <p>A point will be awarded for families participating in each event.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Reading Schools Committee</p>	<p>Relationships and Values</p>
<p>March/April</p>  	<p>Generosity</p> <p>Gratitude</p> <p>Friendship</p> <p>Love</p>	<p><u>Support in my Community</u> <u>Donation of Time</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean Up Your Community Park or Playground. - Donate Time at a Food Bank or Soup Kitchen. - Help Out at a Local Animal Shelter. - Read, Perform, or Help Out with an Event at a Local Nursing/Retirement Home or Hospital. - Host a Bake Sale, Car Wash, or Car Boot/Garage Sale for Charity. - Pack shopping for others in the supermarket, raising funds for Charity. - Work together to take care of an elderly person's garden – watering, mowing the lawn, feeding the birds. - Use your skills to tutor/teach peers and their families. <p>5 points will be awarded for families participating in a selected activity to show</p>	<p>Parents/Carers</p> <p>Pupils</p> <p>Pupil Representatives and Community Pupil Partnership Team.</p>	<p>Supporting the community.</p> <p>Funds donated to charity.</p>

Date TBC		civic service. Photographs should be sent to show engagement in activity.		
March/April  <small>shutterstock.com - 1580844955</small>	Love Respect Responsibility	<u>Make a bird feeder</u> Caring for nature Send finished bird feeders into school to be used within our school grounds. A point will be awarded for families participating in the activity.	Parents/Carers/ Pupils ECO Committee	Supporting our environment and caring for nature.
May WALK-A-THON 	Perseverance Believe in Yourself, Achieve your Goals	<u>Walk-a-Thon</u> Sponsored Walk – 5K – 4 weeks/ Go Yellow Registers and sponsor sheets showing participation – 5 points for each will be awarded, supporting the school community and charity.	Parents/Carers Pupils Staff HWB Committee	School Funds Strathcarron Hospice
June 	Believe in Yourself Achieve your Goals Family Love	<u>Sports' Day</u> Parent/Child Orienteering A point will be awarded for families participating in the event.	Parents/Carers Pupils Sports Committee	N/A
Date TBC				

Annual Home-School Partnership Projects

STAGE	VALUES	PROJECT	WHO?	SHARED – HOW? WHEN?
Primary 1	Family Friendship Love Responsibility	Bookbug Tea Party Everywhere Bear (one weekend per pupil)	Pupils Parents/Carers	Class/School celebration. <u>TERM 2</u> Photographic Evidence of Adventure – Display <u>TERM 1/2/3/4</u>
Primary 2	Responsibility Perseverance Family Believe in Yourself/ Achieve Your Goals	<u>Create a model castle</u> At home with an adult, children will make a model castle out of recyclable materials such as paper and cardboard. Please try to include one or more of the following features; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a tower • a turret • a drawbridge • an archway 	Pupils Parents/Carers	Celebration Display <u>TERM 2</u>
Primary 3	Gratitude	Create a model of planet Earth, the moon and the sun.	Pupils Parents/Carers	Assembly Celebration

	Responsibility Respect Believe in Yourself/ Achieve your Goals	The model can be used to assist children in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describing the pattern of movement of the sun and moon over time. • describing how the Earth spins around its axis in 24 hours resulting in night and day. • describing how the tilt of the Earth on its axis as it circles the sun causes the seasons and changes the number of daylight hours over the course of a year. 		Display <u>TERM 3</u>
Primary 4	Family Love Respect	Design and make a bedroom from the Titanic. You can use a shoebox, decorate and include furniture and people.	Pupils Parents/Carers	Assembly Celebration Display <u>TERM 1</u>
Primary 5	Responsibility Perseverance Family Believe in Yourself/Achieve Your Goals	Create a model of a Scottish Castle from 13 th /14 th Century. Allow children to discuss similarities and differences between own life and life in the past. Present information to another class using parent/pupil model, showing learning.	Pupils Parents/Carers	Assembly Celebration Display <u>TERM 3</u>
Primary 6	Family Friendship Responsibility	<u>Personal Talk</u> Children will create a presentation with their chosen family member, detailing what their life was like in the past compared to the pupil's life today. Children will include information about themselves and their chosen adult – hobbies, school, family life, entertainment, values ...	Pupils Parents/Carers	Delivered in Person/Video Recording, enhancing digital skills. <u>TERM 2</u>
Primary 7	Family Perseverance Responsibility	<u>Personal Talk</u> Children will be creating a presentation about someone who inspires them. This should be completed with a family member, who would contribute to the project by also recording someone who inspires them, comparing and contrasting their qualities/values. This could be a public figure, celebrity or someone that they know.	Pupils Parents/Carers	Delivered in Person/Video Recording, enhancing digital skills. <u>TERM 3</u>

A point towards the Flagship Family will be awarded for participation in stage projects

UPDATES

ANDERSON CHURCH - CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Since COVID we have tried to arrange our traditional Christmas Service again, where our families can come together as a community to be part of the celebrations. This year our service will start at 9.30am on 22nd December, 2023. We will share the Order of Service with Anderson Church in preparation for the event.

All Pupil Representatives - Captain/Vice Captains/Prefects - will be involved in the service.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Newsletter each month is providing up to date information for families. There will be times when emails need to be sent out and cannot wait until the publication of the newsletter but we will do our utmost to keep this to a minimum.

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

Dates for the Christmas Concerts will be as follows:

12/12/23

14/12/23

15/12/23

Unfortunately, we cannot have a concert on 13/12/23 as this would impact on P7 swimming.

To meet Health and Safety requirements, tickets will be allocated 2 per family. Tickets will cost £3.00.

We plan to have early lunch on the above dates to allow the doors to open at 1.15pm with the aim of the concert beginning at 1.30pm.

PEF FUND 2023/24

PEF ALLOCATION (PUPIL EQUITY FUND) - £66150.00

As a full-time member of staff has been redeployed following the completion of the 'actual' staffing exercise in September, our PEF plan had to be reviewed. Initially, two PEF teachers were being funded by Balmalloch Primary PEF allocation and match funded by North Lanarkshire Council. After the redeployment of Miss Steel, Primary 3b did not have a class teacher so Mrs Patrick, previously Nurture Teacher, took over the role after the October holidays. As a result, this impacted on the nurture provision that could be provided.

It is essential to ensure all classes have a teacher before any interventions can be supported through human resources. It would not have been an effective decision to restructure 14 classes to make 13 classes to allow a nurture teacher to be in place. Increased class sizes can have an impact on attainment, therefore 14 classes remain for the session 23-24, with all teachers now class committed or delivering Non-Class Contact Time which is a legal requirement.

It is our intention to have some nurture sessions on a Friday for identified pupils, making the best possible use of the resources we have available. This will be fully discussed with staff during the Inset day on Monday 13th November, 2023 to support a plan moving forward.

WATER IN SCHOOL

As a health promoting school we follow North Lanarkshire Council's policy which encourages pupils to drink water in class. Some parents/carers have highlighted that their child does not like water but this is the only drink that is permitted in class during learning time. Fizzy drinks are not permitted in school at all. Through discussion with our Pupil Representatives in Primary 7, they feel that children who do not like water can access diluting juice or flavoured water during the day but this would be at the teacher's discretion as this would greatly impact on children's learning if they were leaving the class too often. Although there would be no change to NLC policy regarding drinking water in class, we are keen to seek the views of parents/carers on this issue. The link below would give you access to the Diet and Nutrition Policy.

[Diet and Nutrition Policy \(northlanarkshire.gov.uk\)](http://northlanarkshire.gov.uk)

Miss McCarthy
Head Teacher