

Balmalloch Primary School and Nursery Class



Parent Council Meeting – 6th February, 2024 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

- Twitter Feed & Communication
- Homework & Family Learning Group
- P7 Trip
- Class Cover/Staff Absence
- Literacy Open Afternoon

VALUE OF THE MONTH

February - Believe in Yourself/Achieve your Goals

March - Responsibility

April - Humility and Forgiveness

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

TWITTER FEED AND COMMUNICATION

Update from the Digital Leaders Team - Mrs Grant:

Unable to post on school equipment at present. Mrs Grant updates the menu each week and posts about the holidays but this can be done from home as it does not involve photos of children. An adapter was purchased this week to update the iPads but an ethernet cable is now required to connect them. We do not have these cables in school so more will need to be purchased or donated if families have some spare at home. Mr Paterson will continue to liaise with the authority.

HOMEWORK AND FAMILY LEARNING GROUP

Update from Family Learning Working Group - Mr Paterson

Unfortunately, Mr Paterson has been fully class committed since November and this has impacted on his management time. When Mr Paterson is no longer class committed, he will continue to take forward the school improvement priority - Family Learning, and arrange times to meet with the group - but at this stage we will not be able to advise when this will be due to staffing.

EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS

STAGE	EDUCATIONAL OUTING/TOPIC	DATE	TEACHER
PRIMARY 1	Almond Valley - Livingston Topic: Percy the Park Keeper	8 th May, 2024	Mrs Davidson Miss McNeil & Mrs Emslie
PRIMARY 2	Colzium House/Park - Workshop Topic: Houses/Homes/Castles	Term 4	Miss Martin Mrs Duff
PRIMARY 3	Science Centre - Glasgow Topic: Planets	TBC	Mrs Da Maia Mrs Patrick
PRIMARY 4	Motherwell Heritage Centre Topic - Vikings	Term 4	Miss McCarthy Miss McDonnell
PRIMARY 5	Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum Louvre, France - Online visit Topic: Compare and Contract - Scotland and France	September 2023	Mrs Hamilton Miss D Wright
PRIMARY 6	Science Centre, Glasgow Topic - Clyde in the Classroom National Museum of Scotland & Mary Queen of Scots Tour Topic - Mary Queen of Scots	January 2024 16 th April, 2024	Mr Clark Mrs Grant
PRIMARY 7	Strathclyde Park North Lanarkshire Council Event	15-19 th April, 2024	Mrs McCLung Miss A. Wright

End of Year Reward

- This will be paid for through money raised from events (e.g.) Dance-a-Thon, PTA events
- Date: TBC
- Consultation with Staff/Pupils/Families/PTA/Parent Council
- Linked to blue slips/Points

DANCE-A-THON FUNDS

- Funds from the Dance-A-Thon were discussed which in part will fund the end of year reward but the remaining money will be used to upgrade our digital equipment - Smartboards - which will enhance children's learning. These boards cost approximately £1,200 each, so priority will be given to classes where boards are not providing the quality expected.

VALENTINE'S DISCO - Thursday 15th February 2024

- If a child is supported in school by support staff, it is essential that the child is accompanied by an adult to the disco as this is organised and supervised by the PTA. Support staff do not attend these events.

PEF - 2024-25

- £66150.00 allocation, the same allocation as 2023-24, although there may be a General Election this year so things may change as a result. Teachers' salaries have increased, therefore more from PEF money is required to accommodate this. As a result, it may not be possible to pay for two teachers next session. If an additional teacher is the option we take as a school we would use this valuable resource to support learners (e.g.) Support for Learning.

STAFFING ABSENCE/COVER

- The first 15 days of a teacher's absence must be covered internally by the school (e.g.) Principal Teacher/Depute Head Teacher/NCCT Teacher
- After the 15th day of absence, the school can contact teachers on the supply list to cover the absence.
- Many supply teachers are already providing cover in other schools at present which has resulted in the school contacting part-time teachers on the supply list to arrange cover for classes where the teacher is on long-term absence.
- Some supply teachers have arrangements for holidays or cover for other schools has been booked in advance, therefore they may not be able to work for the school at all times required.
- Mrs McClung in P7a is covering a maternity leave at present and this has been consistent for pupils. Mrs Hashmi is covering a NCCT absence long term each Friday. Unfortunately, it has not been possible to secure full-time, consistent supply for other staff absences.
- We currently have some part-time supply teachers covering staff absence:
Ms. F. Hashmi Ms. L. Connelly
Ms. A. Watson Ms S. Shams
Ms. L. Goh

STAFFING 2024-25

Management Structure

<u>Head Teacher</u>		<u>Depute Head Teacher</u>		<u>Principal Teacher</u>	
Miss R. McCarthy	1.0	Mrs E. Diamond	1.0	TBC - Appointed by NLC to begin in August 2024	1.0

<u>FULL-TIME/ PERMANENT STAFF</u>		<u>PART-TIME/ PERMANENT STAFF</u>		<u>TEMPORARY STAFF MEMBER</u>	
Mr J. Paterson	1.0	Mrs N. MacFarlane	0.6 (3 days)	Miss H. McDonnell	1.0
Mrs D Davidson	1.0	Mrs L. Emslie	0.6 (3 days)	Miss H. McCarthy	1.0
Mrs R. Murphy	1.0	Miss C. McNeil	0.6 (3 days)	Miss D. Wright	1.0
Mrs L. Vernet	1.0	Miss K. Paterson	0.3 (3 days)	Mrs K. Hamilton	1.0
Mrs E. Duff	1.0	Mrs K. Patrick	0.8 (4 days)	Mrs C. Da Maia	1.0
Miss E. Martin	1.0			Mrs J. McCLung	1.0
Mr B. Clark	1.0				
Mrs L. Grant	1.0				
Miss A. Wright	1.0				

SCHOOL COURTYARD

- A group of parents and members of the community will be supporting the ongoing work in the courtyard area of the school. A let has been authorised for Saturday 10th February, 2024 between 10am and 1pm. If you can be of any assistance, please contact the school office on 01236 632058. (Approximately 20 volunteers attended)
- The group are also looking for spare wheelbarrows to move the decorative stones. The wheelbarrows will be returned to their owners when the job has been completed on Saturday. If you can provide a wheelbarrow for use on Saturday, please contact the school office on the number above.
- We are hoping to have enough tables in the courtyard for it to be used as an additional class learning space in the warmer weather, however we need support to purchase parasols or have these donated to protect children, providing shade, whilst they are working. Our nursery children will also be able to use this area which will also support transition.

LITERACY OPEN AFTERNOON

- This is being organised by the Writing Working Group and will be discussed at the staff meeting on the in-service day. Miss Simpson, Acting PT, has been covering staff absence and has therefore not had the opportunity to work on tasks which are part of her management time. The group will provide more information to families after the inset day - Wednesday 14th February, 2024.
- Miss Simpson - Acting PT Update: The event would give parents/carers the opportunity to find out about ways in which they can support their children with literacy at home.

Example:

Date: Wed 1st March 2024 for P2 and P3/P4 and P5 parents/carers

Overview of how literacy is taught in NLC and how parents can support at home. It will take place in the school hall.

Spelling

Overview of spelling across the stages and how it is taught.

Simple activities you can try at home to help with spelling. Helpful resources.

IDL Cloud

Reading

How to read with your child and support them in their reading.

How reading is taught in NLC

Writing

- Core targets across the stages
- Writing for different purposes at home
- Some simple things you can do that can make a difference.
- What do the children say? What would help them? What would they enjoy doing at home?

Format

- Share information
- Do a live lesson with children or show a video/photos.
- Handouts or information available to download.

BISCUIT & A BLETHER

- We have hosted two, one in December and one in January. The event in December focused on Christmas songs and in January, Scottish Poetry. The event in December was well attended and it was lovely to welcome our families back into school. Our Pupil Leadership Team were very supportive and organised/served tea/coffee/juice together with a range of biscuits. Unfortunately, the event in January did not bring in as many families but that may have been the time changing from afternoon to morning. We are happy to hear your thoughts on what works best for our families.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

- We now have two certified Seasons for Growth Companions in school - Mrs Diamond and Mrs Murphy. Seasons for Growth is a programme run in small groups across 8 core sessions, 1 celebration event and 2 reconnector sessions and provides children the skills and knowledge to adapt to change following loss or grief experiences i.e. death, separation, divorce, relocation.

In order for the programme to be most effective the child themselves needs to be willing and ready to participate, in addition parental/ carer permission must be given. A Groupcall will go out to parents tomorrow and the children have been briefed in assembly last week, with a new block beginning on Monday 19th February.

SCHOOL OFFICE






- **From Monday 12th February, 2024 office staffing/hours will be as follows:**




DAY	MEMBER OF STAFF	POSITION	HOURS	CONTACT AFTER HOURS
MONDAY	Mrs M. Mitchell	Senior Clerical Assistant	8.15-3.45pm	Nursery 3.45-6.00pm
TUESDAY	Mrs S. Mitchell Mrs M. Mitchell	Senior Clerical Assistant Clerical Assistant	8.15-3.45pm 9.00-2.30pm	Nursery 3.45-6.00pm
WEDNESDAY	Mrs S. Mitchell Mrs M. Mitchell	Senior Clerical Assistant Clerical Assistant	8.15-3.45pm 9.00-2.30pm	Nursery 3.45-6.00pm
THURSDAY	Mrs S. Mitchell Mrs M. Mitchell	Senior Clerical Assistant Clerical Assistant	8.15-3.45pm 9.00-2.30pm	Nursery 3.45-6.00pm
FRIDAY	Mrs S. Mitchell Mrs M. Mitchell	Senior Clerical Assistant Clerical Assistant	8.15-3.45pm 9.00-2.30pm	Nursery 3.45-6.00pm



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



MONTH & DATE	VALUES	ACTIVITY	WHO?	WHAT? HOW MUCH?
January  Date TBC	Perseverance Family	<u>Read-a-Thon</u> - Medal & Certificate (Pupils) - Voucher (Staff/Parents & Carers) A point will be awarded for pupils and families participating in this event.	Parents/Carers Pupils Staff Reading Schools Committee	Relationships and Values
February  Date TBC	Family Friendship Perseverance	<u>Read with me in the Li-bra-ry (ee)</u> - Library Event - Parent/Carer favourite book share (AV Room) - Author Visit – Families - Author’s Live Event for Families A point will be awarded for families participating in each event.	Parents/Carers Pupils Reading Schools Committee	Relationships and Values
March/April    Date TBC	Generosity Gratitude Friendship Love	<u>Support in my Community</u> <u>Donation of Time</u> - 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. 5 points will be awarded for families participating in a selected activity to show civic service. Photographs should be sent to show engagement in activity.	Parents/Carers Pupils Pupil Representatives and Community Pupil Partnership Team.	Supporting the community. Funds donated to charity.
March/April	Love Respect Responsibility	<u>Make a bird feeder</u> Caring for nature	Parents/Carers/ Pupils ECO Committee	Supporting our environment and

 <p>shutterstock.com · 1500844955</p> <p>Date TBC</p>		<p>Send finished bird feeders into school to be used within our school grounds.</p> <p>A point will be awarded for families participating in the activity.</p>		<p>caring for nature.</p>
<p>May</p>  <p>Date TBC</p>	<p>Perseverance</p> <p>Believe in Yourself, Achieve your Goals</p>	<p>Walk-a-Thon Sponsored Walk – 5K – 4 weeks/ Go Yellow</p> <p>Registers and sponsor sheets showing participation – 5 points for each will be awarded, supporting the school community and charity.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers Pupils Staff</p> <p>HWB Committee</p>	<p>School Funds Strathcarron Hospice</p>
<p>June</p>  <p>Date TBC</p>	<p>Believe in Yourself Achieve your Goals</p> <p>Family</p> <p>Love</p>	<p>Sports' Day</p> <p>Parent/Child Orienteering</p> <p>A point will be awarded for families participating in the event.</p>	<p>Parents/Carers Pupils</p> <p>Sports Committee</p>	<p>N/A</p>

Due to staffing at the moment and Acting Principal Teachers being class committed, some events have been postponed – January and February.

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 Responsibility Respect Believe in Yourself/ Achieve your Goals	Create a model of planet Earth, the moon and the sun. 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. 	Pupils Parents/Carers	Assembly Celebration 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	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>

	Your Goals			
Primary 6	Family Friendship Responsibility	<p><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.</p> <p>Children will include information about themselves and their chosen adult – hobbies, school, family life, entertainment, values ...</p>	Pupils Parents/Carers	Delivered in Person/Video Recording, enhancing digital skills. <u>TERM 2</u>
Primary 7	Family Perseverance Responsibility	<p><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.</p> <p>This could be a public figure, celebrity or someone that they know.</p>	Pupils Parents/Carers	Delivered in Person/Video Recording, enhancing digital skills. <u>TERM 3</u>

Miss McCarthy
Head Teacher