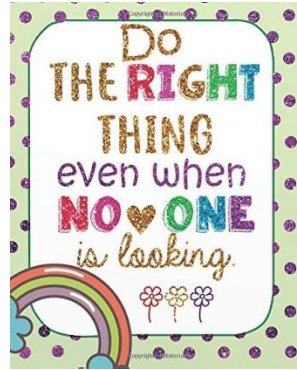


In August we celebrated the value of Friendship, September we expressed our thanks through our value of gratitude and this month we have been focusing on honesty. Our children are learning about integrity and what it means to do the right thing, even when no-one is looking. Recent visitors to the school have commented on how our values are embedded in our ethos and that is supported through partnerships with our families. Thank you.



It has been lovely to see our House System (Lomond, Tay and Ness) working so well and encouraging our children to display our values and respect the rights of others, striving as a team to be the best they can be. All of our houses have now been successful and for the rest of the term will work towards the fantastic trip that has been planned at the end of this term for the house with the most achievements. Our house representatives presented their banners at our recent Star Pupil/House assembly and they were outstanding. They now take pride of place in our gym hall, where we celebrate the success of our children. The next challenge for the children will be to decide on a mascot for their house. I can't wait to see the winning designs.



Our children are displaying lovely manners as they come to the office as messengers for their class or to ask for help and support. We have wonderful Primary 3 pupils really taking pride in their environment and regularly ask to litter pick in the playground. I want to express my sincere gratitude to them, they are doing a fantastic job and showing me just what wonderful children we have in Balmalloch. The ECO committee will make a rota for Primary 3 pupils who are interested in taking on this leadership role in our school, for the benefit of all in Balmalloch. A big thank you also to my little helpers who help me each and every morning, I really appreciate their generosity and kindness.



I want to wish our Cross- Country team all the best for their upcoming competition at Ravenswood. They have been working so hard, displaying perseverance and having a responsible attitude, attending their club each week. A big thank you to Mrs Vernet for her time and commitment to providing this wonderful experience for our pupils. Go Team Balmalloch! Believe in Yourself, Achieve your Goals! There will be more clubs on offer, including Fundamentals for P2 and Handball for P4 led by HND students. Next week some of our senior pupils will be 'leading' the dance club for younger pupils, I can't wait to see their routines.

As you know, we regularly contribute to charities that are of particular importance to our school community. As a school, we will have a three-year plan outlining the charities we will support each year – 2 in each session. Although we will not be able to support all charities every year, we will ensure children are still involved in awareness days to develop their knowledge and understanding of how the work of charities support many families across the country. One of the charities we will be supporting this year is 'Brakes'.

Our Community Pupil Partnership Team



Thank you to our P7 pupils for the contribution they are making in their leadership roles.



Thank you to our parents who recently participated in the consultation on the Positive Relationships and Behaviour Policy. Discussions and feedback were very positive, contributing to the final version of the policy.

A big, big thank you to all the volunteers who have committed time each and every week, despite the weather, to accompany our children to the swimming pool. By doing this, our children have been able to participate in developing a life skill that will make a valued contribution to their health and wellbeing. I would also like to thank our parents who have volunteered to give of their time to support learning in school, which will make a difference to the learning experiences of our children. We also have S6 students from Kilsyth Academy working with our children on a weekly basis, contributing not only to their learning but their future career prospects. It is fabulous to see this partnership working in action, impacting on 'cultural capital' a focus in Character Education:



“Cultural capital is a term used in education to describe the knowledge, skills, and behaviours that pupils can use to succeed in society, their careers, and the world of work. It's a way to help students achieve their goals and rise up the social ladder without necessarily having wealth or financial capital.”

We understand that families will pass on **cultural capital** to their children by introducing them to dance, music, theatre, galleries, historic sites, art and literature. An awareness and understanding of these enables young people to confidently “hold their own” in a range of settings; from a job interview to a conversation with a neighbour or building a professional network. It enables young people to be able to learn new things. Some of our pupils this term will be participating in the Mini Duke and Junior Duke challenges with Mrs Patrick, which prepares them for the next stage in high school - Duke of Edinburgh Award. We wish

them well with their project and look forward to them sharing their experiences with the rest of the school.



Finally, if you contact the school to speak to a member of staff, it would be helpful if you could advise our clerical staff of the reason for the call to ensure the member of staff has the relevant information when returning your call. If the reason for the call is of a sensitive nature, please let the office staff know and they will simply inform the member of staff. Thank you for your support with this.

Wishing you a wonderful term ahead,

Miss McCarthy and the Balmalloch Team