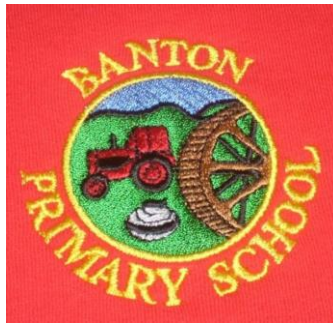


# ***Banton Primary School***



## ***October 2015 Newsletter***

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Term 2 and thank you for returning your child/ren to school after the holiday looking so smart in their uniforms.

### **Banton Blog/Communication**

I have been working on our blog and will use this to share regular news about what is happening in the school. Photographs will also be on the blog provided you have granted permission for this. If you have an email address you will be able to comment on the posts too. All posts will be checked before they go live. To protect children on the blog and websites, we will never put a child's name next to their photograph. Others who comment might name your child for example, "Well done Jemima, I am so proud of you." I would need to remove the name from a comment like that therefore, it would be helpful if you could explain this to family members.

Our blog is part of the Glow website. You can google 'Banton Primary Blog' to find it or use the address <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/banton/>

All pupils will be issued with a glow email address and this will allow them to comment too.

### **Harvest Assembly & Gifting**

All pupils shared their learning about the Harvest during this Assembly. We were delighted that so many people came to see this and I'm sure you will agree that the classes did a great job! You can see some photographs on our blog. We would like to thank Jamie Hepburn MSP, Jean Jones Depute Provost, Doreen Reid (Tesco) and Gordon McNally (Locum Minister) for coming along.

Our senior citizens were presented with a little gift in celebration of Harvest. Thank you very much to Mrs McKay (PT) for organising this. We will be delivering the remaining gifts in the community to people who were not able to attend. Thank you also for your very generous contributions for our harvest raffle which was a huge success.

### **Partnership Schools**

Being in a partnership with Chapelgreen Primary is working out very well. There have been competitions in the past that our pupils haven't been able to compete in because of numbers. We are hoping to join together with Chapelgreen Primary pupils to create more opportunities for pupils in both schools. Two great opportunities are happening this week.



### **What's happening this week?**

#### **Tuesday**

Primary 1 pupils are off to Tesco in Craigmarloch to take part in their 'Farm to Fork' project. They will find out about where some of our foods come from. Check our blog later in the week to see how they got on. Pupils from Primary 1-2 in Chapelgreen will also be going.

Some 4<sup>th</sup> Year pupils from Kilsyth Academy and Magi Hamilton, the High School Partnership Officer will offer some games to P6/7 pupils during their morning interval.

### **Wednesday**

Active Schools run a number of festivals each year encouraging pupils to take part in fitness activities and sports. There is a football festival (7-asides) at St Patrick's Primary this Wednesday and we have managed to make a team between ourselves and Chapelgreen Primary. Although each school has their own football strip I have made the decision for all pupils to wear the Chapelgreen strip on this occasion which has no school badge on it. As this partnership is the way forward for our pupils, we will be asking pupils to come up with a strip that brings the colours of both schools together. We wish our team the best of luck!

Primaries 5-7 are going out in the afternoon with Paul Carter (Scottish Wildlife Trust) to Dows Woods to look for evidence of seasonal changes, identifying leaves and tracks. Pupils should be dressed for the weather in waterproof jackets and wellingtons. I will post some photographs on the blog to share how they enjoyed this event. Thank you very much to Mr Carter.

### **Friday**

Our Primary 3/4 pupils will be going to the Craig en Goyne Care Home to help them plant crocuses.

### **Looking ahead....**

The Halloween Party is on Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> October starting at 1.30pm. Parents/carers dropping their child/ren off are welcome to come into the hall for the parade which will be judged by our lovely catering staff. We would really appreciate if you could contribute £1.00 towards some party treats. More information will follow.

### **Reminder!**

I thought it might be helpful to explain some of the procedures we use in school to help us work in partnership.

#### **What should I do when my child will be off school?**

If your child is unable to come to school, we would appreciate a phone call as soon as possible but before 9.20am. If your child doesn't attend school we will contact you to check your child is safe. North Lanarkshire has very clear guidelines for absence monitoring. As Head Teacher I may need to speak to you about your child's absence record, which can also include late-coming.

#### **Do I need to send in a note if my child is absent?**

Even though you have spoken to us about why your child is absent, **we still need a note** telling us when your child was absent and the reason for this. For example, 'Jemima was off school on Mon 19.10.15 because she was unwell.'



Please note, in line with advice from Health Services, children who are absent due to sickness and diarrhoea **should not return to school until there have been no episodes of sickness or diarrhoea for 48 hours.**

### **My child has an appointment/I have an appointment, what do I do?**

Pupils often miss part of their day at school to attend appointments. It would be very helpful if you could send in a note or phone the school office to let them know when the appointment is and when you will be collecting your child. This will help us to get your child ready on time. If possible, please try to make appointments after the school day so your child is not missing their teaching and learning time. If you have an appointment which makes it difficult to collect your child at home time please try to plan ahead and make an arrangement, if possible for another family member to collect your child or choose a more suitable time.

### **Contact Details**

It is your responsibility to keep the school informed about any change of details. This might be a change of address, or a new/temporary mobile phone number. We need to be able to contact you if your child is unwell, or in severe weather when there may be an early closure. Thank you.

### **Home Time Arrangements**

Sometimes arrangements need to be changed, especially at the end of the day if you are held up. Try to contact the school before 2.45pm to give us time to pass your message on. Prepare your child about what they should do if you are not there. **For example, we would always say that if no one was there to collect you at home time, always come back into the school.'** As a courtesy, a member of staff usually accompanies your child to the main gate. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to be on time. Please note that when weather is inclement a number of pupils walk down to their parent in a car. Although we will always do our utmost to ensure your child's safety, we do not escort every child to vehicles.

We value being part of a small community and try really hard to keep that ethos going despite changes in policy and legislation. It is always very heart-warming when members of our community look out for each other, particularly during inclement weather, for example, offering a lift to others. Sadly though, in a small number of instances, this has resulted in some upset for parents. If a child is waiting to be collected and you have their permission to give them a lift home, could I suggest that you let the school know? It may be that when you take a child home no one is there because they are on their way to school and this leaves you responsible for the child until their parent returns. I am sorry that I have to bring this to your attention but it is a changing world out there and sometimes it will impact on village life. Thank you.

### **And finally...**

I am delighted to say that our lunch time clubs are getting ready to begin with Football being offered on a Monday, Gardening/Nature on a Wednesday and Badminton on a Thursday. Chapelgreen are hosting after-school clubs which your child is welcome to attend if you can provide transport. There is Netball on Wednesdays for P4 onwards, Athletics on Thursdays for P5-7 and Fundamentals on Fridays for P1-3. Please let me know if you are interested as these will be starting soon.

*Is there anything else you would like information on? Please let us know.*

*I hope you have found this newsletter informative. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.*

*Kind regards,*

*Mrs S McLeod (HT)  
& the Banton Team*