



Newsletter 3

November 30 2023

Dunbarney Primary School

Updates & News for Families and Friends of our School



Louise Kelly HT

Dear Dunbarney families and friends,

Welcome to our latest newsletter with updates, information and school dates for your diary.

Staffing Update: First and foremost is to formally share with you that Mrs Gail McLaren (currently P5 Class teacher) will be completing her last teaching day on the last day of term, she has made the life-changing decision to take early-retirement. I am sure you will agree that this is a great loss for our school and our teaching team but will join me in wishing Mrs McLaren a long, healthy and happy retirement.

We will be writing to all Primary 5 class families with an update as soon as we have finalised the plans for Mrs McLaren's replacement in class.

A Festive calendar is attached for your information and we hope this supports planning for the month of December as we enter a very busy month of the year!

Finally, thank you everyone for your support over the term, please do have a wonderful and healthy month of festivities and enjoy quality time with family and friends.

Miss Kelly

Attendance & Absence

We are aware of an increase in pupil absence from school for a range of reasons. Whilst we totally understand children may have illness and need to have time off, we have a duty to review absence on a termly basis.

You may be sent a letter which identifies the percentage of attendance your child has had and, in some cases, may be asked to come in to discuss this. PKC are tracking attendance and are asking schools to be vigilant for increases in individual absences.

Term time holidays are also impacting on children's attendance and we are aware this can also impact on learners' progress in school. We acknowledge that sometimes term time holidays are cheaper or fit in with working parents but it is worthwhile thinking about what that may affect in terms of learners' confidence and progress in school. Please note that any absence for a holiday will be marked as unauthorised. Please see the leaflet attached for further information.

[Pupil Absence from Learning leaflet](#)

Volunteers in School



We love having helpers in school to support in classes, share their skills or tell us about their jobs as adults. If you have any time to offer to help in school or if you have a talent to share, please get in touch.
dunbarney@pkc.gov.uk

Foodbank Donations



A great big thank you to everyone who donated to this collection last term, the donations were handed over to the foodbank before we left for the October holidays and were gratefully received.

Sponsored Fun Run – School Fund Total Raised

It probably seems like a while ago now, but the money has been coming into us since the October break and we are over the moon to share that a whopping £2100 was raised for school fund during this event. This newsletter is full of thank you messages and we sincerely mean them all. Thank you to everyone who sponsored the children and donated money which will allow us to continue to purchase school equipment, resources, and cover/reduce costs of events as they are offered to our learners. The biggest thank you goes out to the children from P1-P7 who ran and ran around the pitch at the park to secure their sponsorship money. SUPER STARS!

Bikeability

Bikeability 1 and 2 training is now complete for the 2023-24 session, thank you Mrs McLaren, Mrs Chan, Bikeability trainers and parent volunteers. Congratulations to all our P6 and P5 learners for passing their levels. P5 and P6 have been awarded their certificates in assembly for BA1 and BA2 respectively.



Night Cycling Training Opportunity

Night Cycling Training

6.30pm to 8:30pm starting Wednesday 17th January
Meeting at Balhousie Primary Playground.



Cycling in the nighttime under the streetlights can be a scary experience, over the 3 week course, come learn how to cycle safely in the dark looking at visibility and correct use of equipment. To book a space please follow the Eventbrite link, qr code or contact directly.

To find out more,
please contact:

E: neill.mcdonald@sustrans.org.uk
T: 07825 833940

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/night-cycle-training-tickets-760451499907?aff=oddtcreator>

Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle.

We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the schoolrun and deliver a happier, healthier commute.

Join us on our journey.

www.sustrans.org

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Intergenerational Community Initiatives

We have recently linked with manager Sarah and the residents of Earnbank Servite Housing to embark on some relationship building between generations in our village community. We are well placed to facilitate this as a school and some of P4/5 have already enjoyed some poppy themed art (led by Mrs Cochrane -Art Specialist Teacher) with some of the residents, then the rest of the class visited later in November to try their hand at some Origami! All involved have said that they thoroughly enjoyed the time together.



Class Visits and Trips out of School

Our Primary 1 and 1-2 classes have been on their excursion this term. They had a fabulous day being scientists at the Dundee Science Centre. They learnt about their bodies, forces and even about volcanoes. They had fun creating clouds and windmills and enjoyed making the skeleton dance and also being doctors and vets to make all the sick animals better. Safe to say, they had a great time and they returned to school with even bigger smiles on their faces, with lots of stories to tell about their learning for the day.



Thank you to our parent volunteers for coming along and making it happen.

Watch this space for more class excursions and thank you to our Dunbarney PS Parent Council for their generous donation of £7 per child to reduce the cost of a school trip for every child.

Primary 2/3 Class Learning Insight



In Primary 2/3 this term they have been exploring the world of data collection and presentation. They have created a 3D Pictogram showcasing the variety of hair colours in their class. Using their creativity and maths knowledge the class crafted their unique faces and used colourful string to represent individual hair colours.

Primary 3/4 Class Learning Insight

It has been a very busy term for Primary 3/4. Their learning about Space has started with a Big Bang? They had so many questions about what they want to learn about. Lily asked 'What is in Space?' Georgie wanted to know 'How did the Universe start?' Alex was interested in learning about black holes and Orlaith was wondering 'Why can't we breathe in space?' The class are so enthusiastic to carry out their own research and have been learning how to take notes. They aim to make their very own non-fiction books!

In PE P3/4 have been learning to play cricket and rugby. There may be some future sport stars in the making! Harris said, 'Rugby was really fun, we learned how to throw the ball to our teammates and ducking and dodging'.

Finally, Mrs Drysdale was extremely proud of all the confident individuals that led P3/4 whole school assembly about feelings. The singing was fantastic, and the rest of the school and the parents really enjoyed taking part in the brain breaks.



Primary 5 Class Learning Insight

In P5 gymnastics, the class have been learning to plan and perform a sequence, demonstrating the skills of rotation, balance and flight. Some have supported each other to do head stands and handstands. Good constructive feedback has been given so that all were able to improve and present their sequence with a clear start and finish. They worked well together at setting up equipment safely. Well done P5.



Primary 6 Class Learning Insight

This term Primary Six have enjoyed learning through their context for learning, World War 2. In maths, we have started to develop our understanding and knowledge of calculating the perimeter and area of shapes. Numicon has been a helpful tool allowing us to practise and consolidate any misconceptions we had. We are looking forward to using these skills soon to create models and scale drawings of air raid shelters and allotment gardens. We have been busy in ICT learning skills to save and upload photos, research facts and use this information to create group Kahoot quizzes. The teamwork, responding to feedback and implementing changes to improve questions and layout have been phenomenal! 😊.



Primary 7

Class Learning Insight

P7 are writing about the outbreak of WW2. First of all, they researched how Hitler came into power, and then Neville Chamberlains speech. They achieved this by making a script and then presented it to the whole class. They have also been learning about factors and multiples. Miss Menzies has made it fun by showing the class how to do Blookets, this helps the class because it gets them thinking and problem solving but also having fun and working together at the same time.



Promoting Scottish Authors for St Andrew's Day

Mrs Chan invited all the school to participate in a special event on St Andrews day which was promoted by Kids Literature Scotland. We were asked to read for 20-30 minutes between 9.15 and 9.30 am on the day, the challenge was to read books written or published by Scottish authors so we could try and get as many readers joining in as possible. Here are some pictures of the children participating in their reading, reading to each other or being read to. Mrs Chan will update us on whether we managed to be part of a record-breaking attempt!

The KILTS (Kids' Literature Scotland)

St Andrew's Day 2023 Reading Record-Breaker



KILTS - KidLit Scotland

156 likes • 190 followers





Junior Coding Club

In junior coding club the children have been learning about algorithms and debugging. They have learned what an algorithm is, how to use one and how to create their own one. With the beebots, they are exploring carrying out their algorithms and how to debug them (fix the mistakes) when necessary. Next week will be moving onto coding on the i-Pads.



Sporting Achievements



Congratulations to Zak in P7 who has been selected to represent St Johnstone FC in their under 13's team (S1/S2). He played 45 minutes last weekend on a full-size pitch at 11 a side against Dunfermline. He played really well and received great feedback from his coaches. We are so proud of his achievement 😊



Congratulations to Alex and James achievements in the recent Tayside Schools Swimming Championships. Alex came 1st in the Boys 12 & Under 50 Metre Backstroke with James taking 2nd place to make it a family double! Then Alex took 2nd place in the Boys 12 & Under 50 Metre Butterfly. Alex will now go forth to swim in the SCOTTISH SCHOOLS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS in January 2024. Well Done boys, you made everyone proud.

Do you have a recent extra-curricular achievement that you would like to appear in our February newsletter? Please email dunbarney@pkc.gov.uk with a photo and a one- or two-line description and we will make this a regular feature.

Makaton Choir

Mrs Paterson and Mrs Cant accompanied our Makaton Choir to a Capability Scotland coffee morning event recently where they performed a number of songs for their audience. Everyone had a smashing time and we thank all of our parents who helped to transport the children to and from the event. We're certain you will agree it was a worthwhile adventure for the children. Well done to our choir.



Pupil Leadership Groups

We have presented our digital leaders with their Digital Leaders badges. They are also assisting Mrs Chan with running the junior coding club. The role of Digital Leader was popular with the children so we now have leaders from P3/4, P4/5, P5, P6 and P7. Congratulations to:

P3/4 - Sam, P4/5 - Zac, P4/5 - Anna, P5 - Daniel, P5 - Ethan, P5 - Mollie, P6 - Ben, P6 - Rowan, P7 - Elijah & P7 – James

Our Student Council met on and will meet again on 1st December. Here are their most recent minutes from the last meeting:

Dunbarney Student Council
 The Cheese in the Bread Council! – 06/10/23 (9.30am)
 Chairperson Anna Lee P7, Secretary – Amy P7
 Present: James, Camille, Lacey, Dominika, Amy, Anna Lee, Rosa, Josh, Theo, Holly, Duncan, Alex, Madison, Neiva, Miss Kelly HT
 Apologies: P5 class reps Kate & Ethan

Agenda Items	Discussion	Actions	Actions Completed
Suggestion box for every class.	Noone has done this yet Each person to bring in a box for their class.	To be completed !	TBC?
Trim Trail /Fundraising	Miss Kelly has organised a meeting with the property managers and 2 people from student council are coming to the meeting.	Duncan & Alex, James, Anna -lee & Madison Meeting with Brian Reid – 30 October 2023 @ 11am Student Council wish to attend this meeting	Meeting held and two quotes have been given by two companies for the cost of the work.
Duncan and Madison asking Mrs Johnston to ask a company to see how much it is to fix the trim trail.	The company are coming out in the October holidays to price it. 16 th October	Await cost of the work, and money raised at Fun Run and see what we can afford. Then put together also submit Lochelbank app.	We have also had 2 safety inspections of the equipment since the meeting on 6/10/23 This last quote is significantly less than the first and we have now actioned the work to go ahead from school fund. Speak with Parent Council as to another project for Lochelbank funding.
Miss Kelly to ask staff at Bertha Park if the children can go and ask older teenagers to help	We need to email the headteacher to ask if we can come up to speak with them about this matter.	Curtis & Lacey will write the email for Miss Kelly to send on to. Choose a date after we hear back from BPHS HT Miss Kelly might book a minibus and take children up. Rosa and Holly want to speak on behalf of Student Council when we visit BPHS	We are going to arrange a Teams meeting with Mr Clyde at BPHS instead of all going up. We will see if he can support us in any way by appealing to the older children to look after our trim trail and property if they use it. Various meetings and communication with property. Proposals for fencing to block off the car park, more lighting and mobile CCTV for school. Waiting to hear outcome.
A.o.B Safety concerns	People are unsafe on the bars outside primary 1	Ethan, Kate, James and Nieva making posters for the bars.	TBC?

Free School Meals & Uniform Vouchers


Please note the following:-

Applications for free school meals and assistance with school clothing/ footwear for school session 2023/24 opens from 1 July 2023. Parents will be able to complete the form online **on or after** 1 July 2023 here - [Free school meals and school clothing grants - primary and secondary - Perth & Kinross Council \(pkc.gov.uk\)](#)

An application is required for pupils moving into P6 as they will no longer automatically be entitled to free school meals.

Tayside School Contracts

 Let your kids choose their favourite dish!

Check out our menu  tc-document (tayside-contracts.co.uk)

and our Nutrition and Allergen Webpage

 Lower Primary [Home - Tayside Contracts - tcprimaryad \(mysaffronportal.com\)](#)

 Upper Primary [Home - Tayside Contracts - tcprimary \(mysaffronportal.com\)](#)

Crossing Patrol

Just a quick note to let everyone know that we continue to have no crossing patrol for the children and we will update families as soon as possible when this changes.

Severe Weather

It is that time of year when we need to be prepared for the weather changing for the worse and possibly impacting school opening and closing.

Please keep these details somewhere handy for future reference.

Should there be severe weather prior to the start of a school day, our school group call text will contact you, our Dunbarney Parent Council and School Facebook page and our X feed will be updated and will intimate any school closure as soon as this information has been decided. In addition to this, information regarding emergency closure due to snow or flooding will also be available from the following sources: *(It is important to note that Radio Tay will be used in all instances and that this should be the main source of information. The other information services will only be updated in the event that the severe weather is widespread and is not a localised situation.)*

The information sources are as follows:

➤ **Radio Tay** (used in all instances)

Frequency AM 1584 FM 96.4 - Perth only

Frequency AM 1161 FM 102.8 - Everywhere else

➤ **PKC X and Facebook** – www.pkc.gov.uk/socialmedia

➤ **Dunbarney School X and Dunbarney Parent Council and School Facebook page** (see above)

➤ **PKC Website** – www.pkc.gov.uk Closures will be **will be flagged up on the**

Home page, or alternatively access the information on <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/Schoolclosures>



- **Perth and Kinross Council Customer Service Centre**
(Available from 08:45 hours to 17:00 hours Monday – Friday)



Parents/Carers should dial 01738 475000. Calls are charged at the local rate.

Remote Learning will take place for all classes via Seesaw if there is a severe weather school closure

School Closure during the School Day

Should the children already be in school and the weather conditions worsen the school will always remain open. Parents may make the decision to collect their child/ren from school early and should come to the School Office if this is their intention. You are the best judge when deciding whether or not weather conditions are likely to cause difficulty or danger for your children returning home.

In the unusual event of the school having to close during school hours, the school office will communicate this to parents/carers by text, email and our online social media accounts. Parents should then come to the School Office to collect their child/ren. No child will be sent home to an empty house. The school will not close until the last pupil and staff member has left it.

Entrance to School

As with previous years we will have one entrance and exit into the building kept clear during severe weather conditions. Our Janitor will attempt to keep a path along the length of the playground clear but if weather is severe all pupils should enter and exit from the main school reception entrance on the main street. A member of the Senior Management Team will be at this door. **All other gates will be open but paths not cleared.** Please take care if weather is icy as our paths can be extremely slippery.

Parents of nursery children should take extreme care when crossing the playground during icy/severe weather.

Staff Car Park during Periods of Extreme Weather

As at all times of the school year the use of the staff car park for parent parking is not permitted. Snow clearing and emergency vehicles require access at all times. Parents must not park in this area as it is restricted to staff only. Please adhere to these rules to keep all service users safe.

Please note it is permitted for parents and carers to use the car park after school hours (3:45 p.m.) for pick up from clubs etc.

Suitable Clothing

Over the coming months we are unsure how or what the weather may do and would like to take this opportunity to remind all pupils that they should come to school suitably dressed for the weather. The children will have every opportunity to go outside and play but this may be limited depending on the safety of the playground. Playground staff will assess the playground on a daily basis and determine the activities suitable.

Diary Dates

Please note our school website now has a diary page, click on the link below:

[School Diary](#)

December Festive Calendar

In addition to the information in the calendar image, we can confirm that the Parent Council Mince Pie Tea and fundraiser will run from 2pm- 4pm in school on Friday 1st December. There will be a selection of fundraiser stalls and hampers to be raffled. The children from P7 (2.10pm), P5, P4/5, P3/4 (2.40pm) and our Makaton Choir(2.20pm) will be singing some Christmas songs between 2.15pm and 3.15pm to contribute to the festivities. Information has been sent home from our Parent Council and you can follow them on their Facebook page for all the info.

DUNBARNEY PRIMARY SCHOOL DECEMBER COUNTDOWN 2023		
Date	Event	Info
Friday 1 December	Parent Council Mince Pie and Raffle fundraiser	time tbc after Parent Council Meeting on 16 Nov 23
Friday 1 December	Bridge of Earn Church Community Advent Calendar	Day one Dunbarney window and sheets issued via school
Monday 4 December	Nursery Christmas Themed Stay & P Lay	9-10:30am 1:30-3:00pm
Wednesday 6 December	Sleeping Beauty Nursery & P1-P7 Pantomime	in school (am)
Monday 11 December	P1 & P2s Nativity Dress Rehearsal for school	Performance is at 2pm for school pupils only
Tuesday 12 December	P1 & P2 Nativity Performances	Performance 1 @ 2pm Performance 2 @ 6.30pm
Wednesday 13 December	Nursery Nativity	Performance @ 2pm
Wednesday 13 December	Parent Council ELF SHOP	all day in school
Thursday 14 December	P6 & P7 Christmas Party	1:20-3:00pm
Friday 15 December	Cosy Jumper Day School Christmas Lunch	lunch 11.45-1.15pm
Monday 18 December	Nursery & All P1s Christmas Party	1:20-3:00pm
Tuesday 19 December	P3/4 & All P4s Christmas Party	1:20-3:00pm
Wednesday 20 December	P2/3 & All P2s Christmas Party	1:20-3:00pm
Thursday 21 December	All P5s Christmas Party	1:20-3:00pm
Friday 22 December	Christmas Church Service	time tbc school closes 12noon

Other Event Dates

Thursday 30 November	Makaton Choir Singing at Dunbarney Church for a Community event	2.30-3pm
Friday 1 December	Student Council 4	9.50-10.30am
Monday 4 December	Last Junior Coding Club Term 2	3.15-4.15pm
Tuesday 5 December	Last Netball Coaching session this term	
Wednesday 13 December	Outdoors Marshmallow & Firebowl Day with Playleaders (Hamish & Shona) n	A slot for each class across the day, including nursery.

Friday 15 December	Intergenerational project -P3/4 & P4/5 Singing Christmas songs at Earnbank Housing	Time and Date tbc
Friday 22 December	End of Term	School closes 12noon
Monday 8 January 2024	Term 3 begins	School starts 9am
Friday 12 January - Friday 2 February	Gymnastic Comp Coaching begins again for selected teams	3.15-4.15pm school hall with Miss McCall
Thursday 18 January - 8 Feb	Rugby Coaching blocks start for P5 class and P6class with Jess Martin	P5class 1.25pm P6 class 2.15pm
Friday 26 January	Scottish Poetry Recitals	9.30-10.30 tbc
Friday 2 February	Student Council 5	9.50-10.30am
Wednesday 14 February	School closed – Staff Inservice training	Closed all day to pupils
Thursday 15 & Friday 16 February	School Holiday	School Closed
Monday 19 February	School open	9am
Thursday 21 March and Tuesday 26 March 2024 – Parent Contact Dates		

Thank you for the Parent Council Donation of £3 per child which will significantly reduce the cost of the Pantomime experience for our families

Our end of term Christmas service will be led by Rev Allan Wilson in the Dunbarney Church B.o.E and will start at 9.30am, families are welcome to join us all there.

Please note that information for each event will be shared with parents / carers closer to the date. We have assemblies in school most Friday mornings, this year each class will host an assembly to share their learning.

- **P6 Class Assembly Friday 8 Dec 9.50-10.30 am – Parents/carers welcome to attend – 1 visitor per child max. (hall capacity)**
- **P2/3 Class Assembly Friday 15 Dec 9.50-10.30 am – Parents/carers welcome to attend – 1 visitor per child max. (hall capacity)**
- **P4/5 Class Assembly Friday 23 Feb 9.50-10.30 am – Parents/carers welcome to attend – 1 visitor per child max. (hall capacity)**
- **P6 Class Assembly Friday 1 Mar 9.50-10.30 am – Parents/carers welcome to attend – 1 visitor per child max. (hall capacity)**
- **P1 Class Assembly Friday 8 Mar 9.50-10.30 am – Parents/carers welcome to attend – 1 visitor per child max. (hall capacity)**

