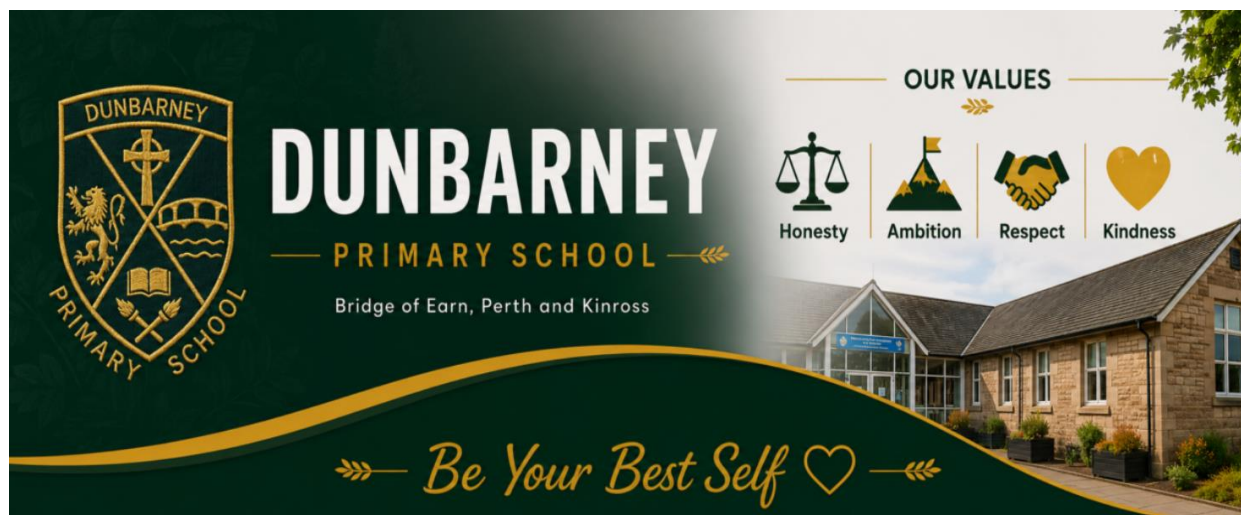




Dunbarney Primary School Newsletter

September 2026

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to all our children, families and staff as we begin another exciting school year at Dunbarney Primary School.

It has been a busy start to the session, and it has been wonderful to see our classrooms full of happy, engaged learners. The children have settled quickly into their new classes and routines, and staff have been delighted to see the enthusiasm, confidence and kindness already being demonstrated across the school. We would also like to extend a special welcome to the families who are new to our school community this year. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the session ahead and meeting many of you at our Meet the Teacher on Wednesday 16 September.

Louise Hope – Headteacher

Staffing Updates

As we begin the new school year, I would like to make families aware of a few staffing changes.

Following an internal restructuring within Inclusion Services, **Mrs Kathryn Lloyd**, our Primary Pupil Support Teacher, has now moved to another school. We thank Mrs Lloyd for her contribution to the Dunbarney community and wish her every success in her new schools.

We are pleased to welcome **Mrs Tracy Lawson** to our staff team as our new Primary Pupil Support Teacher. We are delighted she has joined us and know she will be a valuable addition to the school.

Following a further staff restructuring, **Mr Simon Calvin** has moved on from his role as our Peripatetic Teacher. We thank him for his support and commitment to our learners and wish him well for the future.

We are delighted to welcome **Mr Iain Howie**, who joins Dunbarney Primary School in this role. We look forward to working with him this year.

Exciting Learning Opportunities Across the School

There has already been lots happening across the school, and we are delighted to see children engaging in a wide range of exciting learning experiences.

Our P5 learners have begun their work with Beat Box Music, developing their musical skills, creativity and confidence through this unique programme. The children are thoroughly enjoying their sessions, and we are looking forward to celebrating their achievements with a performance later in the year.

Pupils in P3, P4 and P5 have started work on the Tree for Every Child in Perthshire Project. This exciting initiative helps children learn more about our environment, biodiversity and sustainability while developing a sense of responsibility and connection to the natural world. We look forward to seeing this learning grow throughout the year.

This week also marked the beginning of Mark Brown's leadership programme, where a group of our P6 and P7 senior learners are developing leadership skills, confidence and responsibility through a range of challenges and learning experiences. We are excited to see the positive impact this work will have across our school community.

We are also delighted that strings lessons are now fully underway. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Jane Colvin to Dunbarney Primary School as our new strings teacher, who will work alongside Mrs Jack to support our young musicians. Over the coming weeks, P5 and P6 learners will have the opportunity to be recruited for cello tuition, adding to the excellent range of musical opportunities available within our school.

Finally, we are excited to share that Gymfest is returning this year. This is always one of the highlights of the school calendar and an opportunity for children to showcase their talent, commitment and teamwork. Information about auditions will be shared shortly, with practice sessions beginning soon afterwards for those selected to take part. We know many children will be eager to get involved and look forward to another fantastic Gymfest year.

P7 Leadership Roles

We are delighted to introduce our newly elected House Captains, Vice Captains and Senior House Pupil Council Leaders for this session. These important roles give pupils the opportunity to lead, represent their peers and help shape life at Dunbarney Primary School. The standard of applications and candidate speeches was exceptionally high, and we would like to thank every child who put themselves forward. It takes confidence, commitment and courage to stand for election, and we are incredibly proud of all those who participated. Congratulations to our successful candidates, and we look forward to seeing them lead by example throughout the year.

GLAMIS

Captain, Vice Captain and Snr Pupil Council Leader



CULZEAN

Captain, Vice Captain and Snr Pupil Council Leader



DRUMMOND

Captain, Vice Captain and Snr Pupil Council Leader



URQUHART

Captain, Vice Captain and Snr Pupil Council Leader



Learning Journals- Online Learning Profiles

This year, we will continue to use **Learning Journals** as our online platform for sharing learning with families.

Feedback from parents and the Parent Council (June) highlighted that families value the increase in information shared on Learning Journals last session and would particularly like to see more information about class learning, general learning experiences and events taking place throughout the school day. In response to this feedback, I will be encouraging staff to regularly populate Learning Journals with class stories and learning updates, alongside individual pupil learning where appropriate.

Our aim is to provide parents and carers with a clearer overview of the rich learning experiences taking place across the school and to strengthen the connection between learning at school and conversations at home.

Thank you for your continued support with engaging with the platform.

The Importance of Good Attendance

At Dunbarney Primary School, we know that every day in school matters. Regular attendance helps children build confidence, develop friendships, establish positive routines and, most importantly, make the best possible progress in their learning. Research consistently shows that children who attend school regularly are more likely to achieve positive outcomes both academically and socially.

We understand that family time is important and opportunities to create special memories together are invaluable. However, we would ask parents and carers to consider carefully the impact that taking holidays during term time can have on a child's education. Even a short period away from school can result in missed learning, disrupted routines and gaps in knowledge that can be challenging to catch up on.

Where possible, we encourage families to plan holidays during the school holiday periods. This helps children benefit from every learning opportunity while still enjoying valuable family time throughout the year.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us give every child the best chance to thrive, grow and achieve their potential. Working together, we can ensure our children make the most of every school day.

Positive Behaviour and Relationships

At Dunbarney Primary School, we are committed to creating a safe, nurturing and respectful learning environment where all children can thrive. Our **Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy** sets out the approaches we use to support children to develop positive relationships, make responsible choices and demonstrate our school values of **Honesty, Ambition, Respect and Kindness (HARK)**.

Over the coming weeks, staff will be revisiting the policy with children in age-appropriate ways to ensure everyone understands our shared expectations. We are also looking forward to working with our newly elected **Pupil Council**, who will play an important role in helping us share and promote key messages from the policy across the school community.

Families can view the full policy on our school website under School Policies:

Dunbarney Positive Behaviour and Relationships Policy

By working together, we can continue to ensure that Dunbarney remains a welcoming, respectful and positive place for all children to learn and grow

Smart Watches and Mobile Devices

We would like to remind families that **smart watches are considered mobile devices under our school policy** and will be treated in the same way as mobile phones. As set out in the school's Personal Mobile Device Policy, smart watches must not be used to access communication, internet, gaming or camera functions during the school day. Parents are asked to lock or disable these functions before children arrive at school. Smart watches should only be used for basic timekeeping whilst in school.

If a device is used in a way that breaches the policy, it may be temporarily confiscated and parents/carers will be informed.

A copy of the school's Personal Mobile Device Policy can be found on our website:

Dunbarney Primary School Policies

We would appreciate families discussing these expectations with children to help ensure a safe and focused learning environment for everyone.

Toys, Collectables and Personal Items

To support learning and minimise the risk of items being lost, damaged or causing distraction, we kindly ask that **toys, collectables and precious personal belongings remain at home** unless there has been a specific request from school.

Children will be provided with everything they need to support their learning throughout the school day.

Where a child has an identified need for a specific support item, such as an approved sensory or fidget tool, this will be discussed and agreed through the child's support planning process and recorded as appropriate within their individual plan.

We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a calm, focused and equitable learning environment for all children.

Lost Property and School Uniform

Already this term we have accumulated a sizeable collection of lost property and unnamed uniform items. With children moving around different learning spaces, it can be very difficult to reunite items with their owners when they are not named.

We would ask all families to **clearly label every item of clothing and personal belonging**, including jumpers, cardigans, jackets, water bottles, lunch boxes and PE kit. Named items can usually be

returned to children very quickly, whereas unnamed items often remain in our lost property collection for long periods of time.

We will continue to display lost property regularly and encourage children to check for missing items. Your support with labelling belongings helps staff and pupils return lost items promptly and reduces unnecessary replacement costs for families.

Parking and Road Safety Reminder

The safety of our children is everyone's responsibility. We would like to remind families to take extra care when parking and dropping off or collecting children from school.

Please avoid parking on yellow lines, blocking driveways, parking across dropped kerbs or stopping in areas which reduce visibility for pedestrians. We would also ask drivers to be mindful of residents living near the school and to follow all local parking restrictions.

Where possible, please consider parking a little further away and walking the final part of the journey to school. This helps reduce congestion around the school gates and supports a safer environment for all members of our school community.

Please refrain from using the school staff car park to park and traverse to and from school- this carpark also accommodates deliveries to and from school and is very busy every day. Please enter and exit school via the main street or Manse Road gate.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us keep our children safe.

PE Kit

All children will have two sessions of PE each week. On those days we ask that children wear the **school PE kit**. Please note that we are seeing more and more 'labelled' garments instead of the PE uniform. We would like children to stick to the black shorts, joggers and white t-shirt or house t-shirts. Fashion items are not appropriate for PE and staff will ask children to wear something more appropriate if this is noticed. We try to keep things plain so that families are not pressured to spend unnecessary amounts on school uniform.

In addition, the wearing of jewellery is dangerous for PE so we ask that any are removed on PE days.

Thanks for your co-operation with this.

Arriving at School Safely

Many of our children choose to travel to school by bicycle or scooter, which is a fantastic way to stay active and healthy.

To help keep everyone safe, children should dismount from their bicycle or scooter when they reach the school playground and walk it carefully to the bike and scooter stands.

Thank you for supporting us in creating a safe environment for all members of our school community



Parent Training Offer

Keeping children safe online - with Police Scotland and Education

Scotland - Wednesday 23 September, 12-1pm or 5:30-6:30pm, online

This webinar is being delivered in partnership by Parenting Across Scotland,

Police Scotland's Cybercrime Harm Prevention Team and Education Scotland. There will be a short presentation by Police Scotland exploring how you can help keep yourself and your loved ones safe whilst online, followed by Education Scotland discussing concerns about the use of technology in schools and digital awareness in the curriculum, then an opportunity to ask questions.

To book the lunchtime session (12-1pm): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/keeping-children-safe-online-webinar-lunchtime-session-tickets-1996626549758?aff=oddttdtcreator>

The evening session (5-30-6:30pm): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/keeping-children-safe-online-webinar-evening-session-tickets-1996626517662?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Parent Training Offer

Incredible Years



Basic Incredible Years is aimed at parents/carers of children aged 3-6 years old. Incredible Years can help you:

- Build your child's language, academic, emotional and social skills.
- Build strong relationships with your children.
- Support your child to develop independent behaviours and routines.
- Manage behaviours such as tantrums, defiance, and aggression.

Upcoming courses –

Tuesday 1 Sep – 2 Feb 9.30 – 11.30 at Perth Grammar School
Thursday 3 Sep – 4 Feb 9.30 – 11.30 at Loch Leven Campus
Thursday 29 Oct – 18 Mar 9.30 – 11.30 at Strathearn Community Campus
Wed 4 Nov – 24 March 9.30 – 11.30 at Tulloch Primary School
Wed 4 Nov – 24 March 6-8pm online group

Book your place today



Parenting@pkc.gov.uk



01738 477697

Parenting and family learning - Perth & Kinross Council





Parent Council

We have an active and supportive Parent Council at Dunbarney. If you are new to the area or school then it can be a great way to meet parents/carers from across the school and get involved with events. Our Parent Council meets a minimum of four times each year and these meetings are based in the school.

Over the years our PC have provided much needed and appreciated funds for our cultural and artistic experiences for the children, digital technology and play equipment and to name a few. We have a selection of fund-raising events throughout the year and are always looking for some volunteers even for a short time. No experience necessary!

The Parent Council also provides the opportunity to have an update from the Headteacher on current plans and any other issues affecting the school community. Please do come along if you can - we are all very friendly!

AGM 2026/27 Wednesday 16 September 2026 @ 6pm

Saints in the Community

Get fit for FREE
at
McDiarmid Park

13 week programme, delivered by
Saints in the Community
Weekly 90 minute session at
Rodney Fitness Centre
Get fitter, healthier and happier

Who is it for?
Women aged 35-65 who want to improve
their lifestyle
Participants should have a waist size of at
least 38 inches

When is it?
Monday's from 21st Sept
6:30pm - 8:00pm

Register Interest
projects@saintsinthecommunity.co.uk

New Quality Improvement Plan

This year, our improvement work is focused on helping every child become a confident digital learner, experience more active and creative learning, and understand how to improve. We will keep equity, wellbeing and our HARK values of Honesty, Ambition, Respect and Kindness at the heart of our work. [See here.](#)

Here is a link to our [Dunbarney Primary School Standards and Quality Report 2025/26](#) for the past year.

Allergy Aware School

We are committed to being an allergy aware school. We have children who have nut allergies. Thank you for checking snack and packed lunch contents and keeping our school safe for all. Please not, items containing nuts will be removed for safety reasons.

Child Protection Officers



 Article 19

I have the right to be protected from being hurt or badly treated

Governments should make sure that children are properly cared for. There should be laws to protect children from violence, abuse and neglect from adults.

As part of safeguarding all schools have to have trained Child Protection Officers to support staff and families when wellbeing concerns are raised. The school and nursery Child Protection Officers are [Mrs Louise Hope HT and Miss Angela Dow DHT](#)

Key Term Dates for 2026-2027

To help families plan ahead, please find a reminder of the main term dates and holiday periods for the remainder of the school session. These dates are also available on the school website and the Perth & Kinross Council website.

Date	Event
Friday 9 October 2026	School closes for October Holiday
Monday 26 October 2026	School reopens
Thursday 12 & Friday 13 November 2026	In-Service Days (school closed to pupils)
Wednesday 23 December 2026	School closes at 12 noon for Christmas Holidays
Thursday 7 January 2027	School reopens
Wednesday 10 February 2027	In-Service Day (school closed to pupils)
Thursday 11 & Friday 12 February 2027	Occasional Holidays
Thursday 25 March 2027	Last day of Spring Term
Monday 12 April 2027	School reopens
Monday 3 May 2027	May Day Holiday
Friday 28 May 2027	In-Service Day (school closed to pupils)
Friday 2 July 2027	School closes for Summer Holidays*

AUGUST 2026

Mon 17 Aug	09:00 - 15:15	Staff In Service Day (1 of 5) - School Closed
Tue 17 Aug	09:00	Term 1 Begins - First Day of Session 2026/27!
Mon 31 Aug		Term 1 HOMEWORK begins

SEPTEMBER 2026

Wed 2 Sep	09:30 - 10:30	PEEP (Week 1 of 5)
Wed 9 Sep	09:30 - 10:30	PEEP (Week 2 of 5)
Tue 15 Sep	15:15 - 15:45	Nursery Parent Drop-In
	06:00 - 07:30	Parent Council AGM All Parents/Carers Welcome 😊
Wed 16 Sep	09:30 - 10:30	PEEP (Week 3 of 5)
	16:30 - 17:30	Meet the Teacher Event
Wed 23 Sep	09:30 - 10:30	PEEP (Week 4 of 5)
Wed 30 Sep	09:30 - 15:00	P7 Rugby Festival at Bertha Park High School
	11:15 - 12:00	P1 Parent & Child School Dinners Experience (x1 parent/carers per child) Letter to follow with Parent Pay instructions for parent orders

OCTOBER 2026

Mon 5 Oct	13:45 - 14:30	P5 Beatbox Performance for P5 Parents
Fri 9 Oct	15.15	Last School Day of Term 1 - Close for October Holidays (x10 school days)
Mon 26 Oct	09:00	Term 2 Begins - Children & Staff Return to School
Thu 29 Oct	18:00 - 19:00	Nursery to Primary 3 Halloween Disco
	19:15 - 20:15	Primary 4 to Primary 7 Halloween Disco

We appreciate that family calendars fill up quickly, so we hope this advance notice helps with planning for the term ahead and we are working on the year of dates to share with you. Please note that events are booked daily and may not appear in this diary page.

Contact Us

School Office - Tel: 01738 474175, dunbarney@pkc.gov.uk (for absence recording too)

Headteacher P4-P7 - Mrs Louise Hope- dunbarney@pkc.gov.uk

Depute Headteacher N-P4 Miss Angela Dow - dunbarney@pkc.gov.uk

Visit our website - [Dunbarney PS Website](#)

Looking Ahead

We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead this year and look forward to continuing to work in partnership with families to ensure every child can be their very best self.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Dunbarney Primary School.