



Co-operation Courage Respect Responsibility Resilience

"Learn and discover, care for each other"

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year!

While we were all pleased that Covid restrictions which had affected schools for the previous two years were removed last term, promotion of hand hygiene will continue including sanitisers outside each classroom.

Meet the Teacher and Parents Evenings will return to being in-person in the school building and dates are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Each class will lead a school assembly during the year and parents/carers from the relevant class are invited to attend.

PE kits should continue to be worn to school by pupils, on days when their class PE is timetabled, but under a school jumper, to maintain school uniform expectations. Football strips should not be worn as PE kits.

This term, class PE days are as follows:

Monday – P5, P6, P7/6

Tuesday – P2, P3, P4, P7

Wednesday – P1, P5, P6

Thursday – P2, P3, P6, P7/6

Friday – P1, P4, P7

House System

Following our whole school consultation during the summer term, our House system has been refreshed for the year ahead. Each of the three school house names now include an inspirational woman from society – author, Julia Donaldson; poet, Amanda Gorman; and environmental activist, Greta Thunberg. Historical male figures, William Wallace, Robert Burns and Robert the Bruce have also been retained, creating the following refreshed houses:

**Donaldson and Burns
Gorman and Bruce
Thunberg and Wallace**

Pupil Achievements

Congratulations to the following P7 pupils who were selected at the end of last session by staff to be this year's House Captains.

Donaldson and Burns – Kate Twaddell and Anna Youens

Gorman and Bruce – Euan Jones and Robert Hancock

Thunberg and Wallace – Sophie Skinner and Sonny MacFadyen

P1 Buddy Co-ordinators – Sam Currie and Mark Nicolson. This role will involve both boys working closely with our P1 and P7 teachers to ensure that support for our new starts is effectively maintained throughout the year.

Class Assemblies

We are again able to open our class led assemblies to parents of pupils who are presenting. Parents should arrive just before 2:45pm for our Friday class assemblies. Dates are listed below:

7 th October	P7
25 th November	P7/6
20 th January	P6
10 th February	P5
10 th March	P3
12 th May	P4
26 th May	P2
9 th June	P1

Homework and Meet the Teacher

Homework for P1-P7 will begin on Monday 5th September, with teachers able to explain the formats for the year ahead and answer any questions at Meet the Teacher on Wednesday 7th September from 6.00pm -7.00pm. A class newsletter will also be sent home to families summarising how learning will be planned from August to December.

Our Meet the Teacher evening will be divided into two sessions, 6.00pm – 6.30pm and 6.30pm – 7.00pm and will provide parents in P1 – 7 the opportunity to meet with their child's new teacher, find out about class routines as well as learning and teaching in the classroom. Individual pupil progress will not be the focus for the evening. The second session will be a repeat of the first one and allows parents to visit two different classes.

There will be no crèche facilities during Meet the Teacher though pupils are welcome to attend class presentations.

Flu Vaccine

Consent forms for annual flu vaccines are due to be delivered to schools shortly which will then be distributed to families. NHS Forth Valley have yet to confirm the date of the vaccinations for Balfron Primary. Attached to today's newsletter is an information letter.

Playground

Many of our children enjoy exploring our bushes and trees during playtimes. Playground staff as part of their supervision duties, encourage pupils to play creatively and the abundance of hedges and trees certainly support exciting and imaginative pupil ideas. While pupils are closely monitored and are not allowed to climb high within any hedge or tree, occasionally some children do get scratched by twigs etc when they climb or get down. When a child does get any kind of scratch or small injury a record slip will be sent home. If you do not want your own child to climb or explore within our school grounds please do make sure that they are clear of your expectations, as well as informing the school.

Dogs in the playground

Parents are reminded that dogs, even on leads, are not permitted in any part of the school playground either at the beginning or end of the school day.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are not required in school to support learning in class and therefore the expectation is that they are not brought into school by pupils.

If on an exceptional case, some parents require their child to have a phone for contact purposes after 3:15pm, for example if attending an after-school club or bus journeys, phones should be kept in bags at all times during the school day.

Photographer

We will be visited by the school photographer on Monday 24th October for individual and family photographs. Parents will be able to order photographs online or through school forms which will be issued nearer the date. Class photos will be taken in April.

Nut Allergy

We aim to be a nut free school, as some of our pupils have related allergies. Children should therefore not bring nut based snacks into school.

Sickness

At the start of the year it is important to remind parents that in order to reduce opportunities for spread of infections, when children suffer from a sickness or diarrhoea bug they should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

Head Lice

To help parents effectively check their children's head for lice I have once again attached the following link from NHS Scotland for your information

<http://www.healthscotland.com/uploads/documents/25-Head%20Lice-Dec2016-English.pdf>

One parent has recommended the product, Hedrin as an effective treatment for head lice.

The school also has head lice combs which are available from the office at the cost of 85p each.

Yours sincerely



Angus Black
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

September		
Monday 5 th	Parent Council AGM	7:00pm
Wednesday 7 th	Meet the Teacher	6:00pm – 7:00pm
Monday 19 th	Parent Council Meeting	7:00pm
October		
Friday 7 th	Class Assembly: P7	2:45pm – 3:10pm
Monday 10 th – Friday 21 st	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
Monday 24 th	Winter term starts	8:55am
Monday 24 th	Individual and Family photographs in school	morning
November		
Wednesday 16 th and Thursday 17 th	Parents Evenings	5:00pm – 7:00pm