



Dear Parents/Carers,

This month I have the following news items:

Staff

We have appointed a new member of the school's support staff team. Mrs Forsyth will begin her role as SLA next week and will be mostly providing support in P5 with Miss Brown. Thank you to Mrs Brown who has temporarily been covering this vacancy, created by Mrs Steel who left her post at the end of last session.

Mrs Toal continues her temporary teaching role in P6 during the period of Mrs Grisanti's current absence.

Flu Vaccine

Parents are reminded that annual flu vaccines for pupils take place in school on the morning of Monday 3rd October.

School Photographer

Individual and family photographs will be taken in school on the morning of Monday 24th October, which is the first day of the new term.

Specialist Teachers

This term, all classes have had weekly music sessions with our visiting specialist, Mrs Stuart. The music block comes to an end next week and after the October holidays, specialist teacher Miss McKie will begin the first of two PE blocks across P1-P7 before the end of year:

Specialist PE timetable			
P1- P5	October - December	Starting 24 th October P4- P5 Starting 31 st October P1-P3	Mondays
P6 – P7	April - June	Starting 17 th April P6- P7	

Please note that due to the photographer being in school on the first morning of the new term and the need for school uniform, P1-P3 will begin their PE sessions with Miss McKie on 31st October. Pupils in P4 and P5 should come to school in their uniform for the photographer and have a PE kit to change into for the afternoon PE sessions on 24th October.

Parents' Evening Appointments

Parents' Evening appointments will take place on Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th November in the primary school. To help us arrange the appointments, parents are asked by Friday 7th October, to complete the following very brief questionnaire, if they have a preference of day for their appointment:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDeylvBDkIb_eaAxfqDKVBBcHg7Q5PIPerWxOi8JMkqBQGmw/viewform?usp=sf_link

Allocated appointment slips will be sent home at the beginning of November.

School Website

Our school website can be accessed at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronprimary/> and we hope that parents/carers will use it as a reference point for key information, so please keep checking throughout the year.

Recently added to the website is:

1. Standards and Quality Report

Our school's 2021/2022 Standards and Quality Report details the progress made by the school last session as well as listing all of our improvement priorities for session 2022/2023

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2022/09/07105111/SQR-BALFRON-PS-2021-2022.pdf>

2. Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP)

Parents will be able to find links to the national resource <https://rshp.scot/> used by all teachers to support our updated school programme which is in line with Curriculum for Excellence. Lessons take place across all stages throughout the school year.

While this national resource is available in its entirety including lesson resources, our updated school programme is also clearly identified on the website at:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronprimary/rshp/>

- *RSHP Curriculum for Excellence Outcome Overview*
- *Early Level progression – nursery to P1*
- *First level progression – P2 to P4*
- *Second level progression – P5 to P7*

Links to parent information videos on our website include –

- *Why does RSHP matter?*
- *Is the national RSHP age and stage appropriate?*
- *What do children and young people want from RSHP education?*
- *What is the role of parents and carers in RSHP education?*

3. Homework Policy

Our refreshed homework policy for session 2022/2023 provides a summary of our approaches to supporting children and families with set home learning tasks.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2022/09/07105403/Home-Learning-and-Home-Work-Framework-2022-2023.pdf>

More detailed information for each class was provided in the recently issued class newsletters.

Parent Council and Halloween Disco

Teachers have been given £100 to spend on any additional resources for their class by our Parent Council. This type of support is especially helpful to teachers at this time of the year as they plan activities and organise their classroom.

The Parent Council will be running a Halloween Disco on Wednesday 26th October in the school hall.

P1-P4 6:15pm – 7:15pm

P4-P7 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Pupils in P4 have the option of attending either of the two discos. Permission forms will be sent home before the holidays.

Christmas Cards

Pupils have been busy designing Christmas Cards in preparation for the annual Parent Council fundraiser, where parents and family can order packs of cards designed by their own child. Proofs of cards are due to be sent home the week beginning 24th October with the deadline for parent orders set as Wednesday 2nd November.

Club Programme

This year all teachers will be helping to create additional opportunities for children to take part in clubs. The clubs will mostly take place over blocks of time during the lunch breaks although some will be arranged for after school, which would result in permission forms being sent home for those children interested.

The club programme is still being fully finalised but so far includes:

P1-P3 Christmas craft
P6-P7 cross-country, football and netball
P3-P7 reading schools group
P4-P7 gardening
P5 recorder
P3-P4 cooking
P4-P7 chess
P5-P6 backgammon
P7 basketball
P5-P7 creativity/nurture

Pupils also often volunteer to lead a club for peers or younger groups and support will be provided to ensure that this can take place successfully.

School Football and Netball

This year we have three P6-P7 football teams that take part in weekly training and Active Stirling festivals. Well done to all of the players from Inter Yellows, Real Whites and City Blues who performed brilliantly with a sporting attitude in all of the games against other schools during our first festival, last week. Campbell Curtis and Andrew McLean, senior pupils from Balfron High are playing a valued role as coaches this year.

We are currently in the process of arranging some additional games against other schools, including Balfron v Strathblane on Friday November 18th at 4:00pm. These matches will be longer in duration and players will be selected from across all three of our training and festival squads. Permission slips for those involved will be issued nearer the time.

Our school also has three netball teams who successfully took part in a festival against other schools, earlier this week.

Active Stirling

This term, on a Tuesday morning, different classes have been experiencing some Active Stirling sports taster sessions – P3 and P4 rugby as well as P5 athletics. The programme of tasters will involve all classes over the course of the year.

Board Games

As well as being part of our club programme for the year ahead, chess is proving a popular choice of activity for pupils across different classes. While it is our intention to purchase some new chess sets for pupil use, if there are any fully intact sets at home that are no longer required, we would be delighted to make use of them. Please hand any unwanted chess (or scrabble sets) into the school office.

P6 Bikeability

We are currently finalising arrangements for all P6 pupils to take part in Bikeability 1 training during November. Once dates are confirmed, further information will be sent out to families.

GDPR

Parents are asked to contact the school office if there are any changes to the permissions that are currently held by us relating to data – this includes information about your child's inclusion in Twitter; school website; photographs; local press etc.

Primary Counselling Service

This year, across all Stirling schools, pupils are able to access counselling services if required. At assembly last week, children watched an introductory video about the helpful role that counselling might play if they have persistent worries or need to talk.

In primary schools, parents and carers are fully involved in the planning of any child taking part in weekly counselling sessions. Further information about counselling services available are attached.

School Garden

Earlier this month the produce of our growing garden was used by P6 and P2 who worked together to make some delicious vegetable soup. P2 have also been learning more generally about farming this term and enjoyed the visit of local farmer, Mrs Nicolson to the class in her role with RHET (Royal Highland Educational Trust)

Young Leaders of Learning

Miss Brown and four pupils from P5 visited Riverside Primary School last week where the focus was to find out more about a Young Leaders of Learning training programme. Rebecca Gribben, Shona Coull, Alex Bark and Cameron Shearer met some other pupils from Deanston PS and Braehead PS and shared ideas and experiences of learning from their own schools. Our whole P5 class will continue to investigate and consider different and effective ways to learn that can be shared across our other classes.

Lost Property

Lost school jumpers and jackets without name labels are stored in the school main entrance. Please feel free to come and look for that missing item of clothing before or after school.

Water Bottles

We are trying to avoid using disposable plastic cups in school and to help us achieve that target all children are encouraged to carry their own water bottle which can be accessed at any point during the day when they need a drink. Parents are reminded that bottles from home for use during class time should be filled with water and not juice.

School Lunches

Free school meals for pupils up to P5 continued from the start of term. Extension of free provision beyond P5 has not yet been arranged nationally and once in place, confirmed details will be sent out to P6 and P7 parents/carers. The current cost of lunch for pupils in P6 and P7 is £2:20 through Parent Pay.

Stirling University Maths Trails

Maths Week Scotland <https://www.mathsweek.scot/> have organised a range of activities including a local event that might be of interest to some of our families. Maths walks around the University of Stirling campus on Saturday and Sunday 1st and 2nd October at 2pm have been arranged. They do not need to be booked and will start from the Willow Court car park and go up to the Garden of Time. It is suitable for primary aged pupils and above. The link for the guided walks is at <https://www.mathsweek.scot/events/stirling-university-maths-trail-guided-walk-2>

Parking/Campus Congestion

Following some recent incidents of concern, parents are asked to please show increased awareness of the school crossing patrol areas in and around the school campus and village.

To help avert an accident from happening, entering the school grounds by car during busy periods including 8:45am - 8:55am and 3:15pm - 3:25pm, unless absolutely essential, is not permitted.

Some residents on Moor Road have contacted the school, requesting that cars are not parked across driveways, or on the white lines, even for a short period of time, as this is blocking access.

A recommended alternative, used successfully by many parents, is parking at Donaldson Park and walking the short distance to school via the path.

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>

Hedrin is one product which has been recommended previously by some parents as an effective treatment for head lice. Combs are also available from the school office on request.

Information from Schools, Learning and Education, Stirling Council Review of Organisation of Classes Policy 2022-23

If you would like to take part in a survey which is helping to review council policy on how classes are organised including the formation of composite classes – please follow the information below:

Three years on since the last review of Stirling Council's Organisation of Classes Policy, we are asking our parents/carers, staff and pupils in our primary schools 'What works well in relation to organisation of classes?' and 'What could we do better?'

While individual experiences from within the Stirling area may be different, we want to hear from a wide cross-section so we can continue to ensure our services and supports are meeting our children's needs.

This 2022/23 review will consider relevant existing policies from across Scotland, national requirements and advice, and will include feedback gathered from primary headteachers, school staff, pupils and parents/carers. An online consultation on Engage will be one of the methods used to gather views. Information from the review will inform the revised Organisation of Classes Policy.

This consultation is open to parents/carers, members of staff and headteachers in Stirling Council primary schools.

The existing policy is available for download below:


<https://stirling.gov.uk/learning-education/schools/classes/>

There are 3 ways to participate in the consultation:

- Directly through this googleform
<https://bit.ly/OrganisationofClasses2022>
- Access the google form through Engage
<https://engage.stirling.gov.uk/en-GB/projects/classes>
- Request a paper copy of the consultation via your child's school.

If you would prefer a copy of the consultation translated into another language please contact educ-comments@stirling.gov.uk

Yours sincerely



Angus Black
Headteacher

September		
Tuesday 27 th	P5 Active Stirling Taster – Fun In Athletics	11:00am
Tuesday 27 th	Active Stirling P6 & P7 Netball Fixture at Balfron High	4:00pm – 5:30pm
Friday 30 th	P6 & P7 Football training	3:15pm
October		
Monday 3 rd	Flu Vaccines P1-P7	
Tuesday 4 th	P5 Active Stirling Taster – Fun In Athletics	11:00am
Friday 7 th	P7 Class Assembly – parents/carers welcome	2:40pm
Monday 10 th – Friday 21 st	October Holidays	School closed to pupils and parents
Monday 24 th	New Term	School open to pupils and staff 8:55am
Monday 24 th	School Photographer	morning
Tuesday 25 th	All P6 Active Taster - FIA	11:00am
Wednesday 26 th	Halloween Disco	P1-P4 6:15pm P4-P7 7:30pm
November		
Wednesday 2 nd	Christmas Card parent orders deadline	
Friday 4 th	Parents Evening appointment slips issued	
Friday 11 th	Sample of jotters sent home ahead of parents evenings	
Wednesday 16 th and Thursday 17 th	P1-P7 Parents Evening Appointments	5:00pm – 7:30pm
Friday 18 th	Children in Need Day	
Friday 18 th	P6 & P7 School Football match	4:00pm
Friday 25 th	P7/6 Class Assembly – parents/carers welcome	2:40pm