

Co-operation Courage Respect Responsibility Resilience

"Learn and discover, care for each other"



Dear Parents/Carers,

This month I have the following news items:

School Vision, Values & Aims

This year, part of our improvement planning has been to revise our listed School Aims, which appear in documents like the school handbook.

Pupils from all classes looked at the previous Aims and made suggestions demonstrating more 'child-friendly' language. The pupil suggestions have resulted in the following **4** redrafted School Aims:

At Balfron Primary our aims are that:

Successful Learners

- **We are encouraged, supported and challenged to be the best that we can be.**

Responsible Citizens

- **We are kind and helpful to the whole school community, always trying to include others.**

Confident Individuals

- **We believe in ourselves, show effort and learn from our mistakes**

Effective Contributors

- **We are heard, understood and our opinions matter in all aspects of school life.**

Our School Vision and Values were more recently refreshed and they therefore will remain unchanged:

5 School Values – Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Courage and Co-operation

Our stated vision comes in **2** parts – 'Learn and Discover, Care for Each Other'

We also continue to promote **3** Ls as part of our Positive Behaviour, Positive Relationships policy:

- Listening – active and respectful
- Lining up and moving through the school
- Looking after the school – cloakroom, resources and equipment

Importantly all of the 5 values, 4 aims, 3 Ls and 2 parts of a vision statement, sit under **1** over-riding and simply understood commitment to promote an ethos of Kindness within our school community.



This image of our five different books, summarising our ethos, vision, expected behaviours, school aims and values is on display at the main entrance and has been discussed at assemblies in recent weeks. As well as chatting to your own children at home, parents will also be able to hear some pupil views on this development work from Eva Hardie, Lucy Harrower and Lacy Harrower, P5 during Parents Evening this week.

Parents' Evening Appointments

Parents' Evening appointments will take place on Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th March in the primary school.

Please note that Wednesday and Thursday start and finish at different times:

Wednesday 8th March 5:00pm – 7:30pm

Thursday 9th March 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Cross Country

Well done to the following P6 and P7 pupils who have qualified for the Forth Valley Schools Cross-Country Championship in Alloa this Thursday -

P6 Mollie Mackay, Charlie Anderson, Donnie Cant

P7 Anna Youens, Kate Twaddell, Isla Limbert, Sam Currie, Sonny MacFadyen

Class Assemblies Time Change

To help reduce traffic congestion at the end of the school day, the time of the following class assemblies have changed from 2:45pm to now starting at 1:45pm. Assembly times for the rest of the school year are shown below:

P3 Friday 10th March 1:45pm – 2:15pm

P4 Friday 12th May 1:45pm – 2:15pm

P2 Friday 26th May 1:45pm – 2:15pm

P1 Friday 9th June 1:45pm – 2:15pm

Open Afternoons

Before the end of session, all parents are invited to visit their child's class for an Open Afternoon, where some of the learning and activities will be shared. Each Open Afternoon will be from 1:45pm – 2:30pm and are on the following dates –

Thursday 16th March – P2, P6

Wednesday 24th May – P7/6, P4, and P1

Wednesday 7th June – P5, P3, P7

Please note that for both class assemblies and open afternoons, parents should not park in the bus lanes.

Our school has only one disabled space and it is essential to those who require lower kerb access. Any car without a clearly marked blue badge should not use the disabled space.

Comic Relief Day

On Friday 17th March, P4 and P5 are organising a 'Dress Funny to Raise Money' Day at school. Both classes will be planning some fun activities across P1-P7 during the day.

Parents can pay £1 through Parent Pay

PE Specialist – summer term

Miss McKie our visiting PE specialist teacher will be back with us from Monday 17th April. During the whole summer term P6, P7/6 and P7 will have one of their twice weekly PE sessions with Miss McKie on a Monday afternoon.

Class Photographs

The photographer will be in school on the morning of Thursday 4th May to take class photographs. If children have PE that day, they should come to school wearing uniform with a change of gym kit.

Pupil Achievements

Well done to two P6 pupils, Sara Nicolson and Arabella McClelland who, last month, raised £57-87 for the Turkish/Syrian earthquake appeal by selling a range of beautiful handmade items including Loom Bands

Playground Snack

Any child who is hungry and is without a snack at interval is able to get something to eat from school, free of charge. Using some targeted donations and pupil equity funding, a supply of simple snacks are kept in the school office, which can be accessed by any staff member for a child.

Community Groups

This year, teachers and classes have been exploring the most effective way for all children to have their voice heard during the planning and decision making around the school. Class community groups are therefore being reintroduced with each class or stage working with others on a specific area of responsibility. The community groups as listed below will run up to the summer holidays and throughout session 2023/2024. Each term, rotating representatives from each class will meet with the Headteacher or Depute Headteacher to share progress or class ideas, while there will also be regular updates at weekly assemblies.

Community Groups		Including links to:
P1 & all P7s	Health & Sport	PEPAS Sports Day Mental Health Week Health Week
P2, P3 & all P6s	Eco	Growing Garden John Muir Award Green Flag applications
P4 & P5	Community	<u>Local:</u> Village events – Christmas Tree lights Church Lunch Club/Tea & Tunes Community Council <u>National:</u> Children in Need
House Captains	School Celebrations /Events	Identified at the start of the year – Burns Celebrations Anti-Bullying Week Online Safety Week etc.

Parent Questionnaire

A link to our annual questionnaire is shown below and we would encourage as many parents as possible to take part, to help us evaluate our progress as well as identify next steps.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScT3j5JOSU5ZcgmET7ajjlnjLfOcIPOdCDqbhMGZaUYKWSi2A/viewform?usp=sf_link

The questionnaire will remain open until Friday 24th March

Litter Picking

Part of last year's 10K committee donation to our school, was used to buy a class set of litter pickers. P3 have established links with the eco committee at Balfron High and have carried out litter picks both across the campus and in the village.

Organisation of Classes – 2023/2024

Based on our current enrolment figures, it is planned that classes will be organised in the following way next session –

P1, P2, P3, P4, P5, P6, P7/6, P7

A timetable of transition activities for next year's P1 class will be sent home to parents before the Easter break. Configuration for all of our classes and teachers for next session will be confirmed before the end of June.

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.

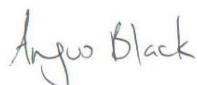
Head Lice

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.

Yours sincerely



Angus Black
Headteacher

March		
Wednesday 8 th	Parents Evening	5:00pm – 7:30pm
Thursday 9 th	Parents Evening	3:30pm – 6:00pm
Thursday 9 th	Forth Valley Cross Country Championships – West End Park, Alloa (P6 & P7 group)	
Friday 10 th	P3 Class Assembly	1:45pm
Friday 17 th	Red Nose Day – Dress Funny for Money	
Friday 24 th	Parent Council – Casino Night and Disco	7:30pm – 12:30am McLintock Hall
Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st	P6 Excursion to Ardroy Activity Centre	
April		
Monday 3 rd – Friday 14 th	Easter Holidays	School closed to pupils and staff

Monday 17 th	Summer Term Begins	8:55am
Friday 28 th	Staff Development Day	School closed to pupils
May		
Monday 1 st	Local Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
Thursday 4 th	Class Photographs	Morning
Monday 8 th	Bank Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
Friday 12 th	P4 Class Assembly	1:45pm
Friday 26 th	P2 Class Assembly	1:45pm
Monday 29 th	School Sports Day	9:30am – 12:00pm