

Co-operation Courage Respect Responsibility Resilience

*"Learn and discover, care for each other"*



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new term. This month I have the following news items:

### Organisation of Classes – 2023/2024

Stirling Council updated its Organisation of Classes policy in February, following a wide ranging consultation process where all stake holders were invited to take part. The full consultation report is available on request at the school office.

The updated policy, which is attached as an appendix in today's newsletter, sets out that in Stirling Council schools, the way that classes and learning are organised need to take into account:

- Numbers of children in the school
- Children's dates of birth
- Gender – to ensure a good mix of boys and girls
- Additional needs – to ensure a spread across classes

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

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

While configuration for classes may change right up to the start of the new term in August, based on future enrolments, planned teachers for next session will be confirmed before the end of term, with a Moving On Afternoon taking place on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June which will enable pupils to spend some time with their new teacher.

On Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 3:30pm – 5:30pm will also be a Headteacher led drop-in session in the P6 classroom for any parents interested in, or with questions about, how the updated Organisation of Classes policy affects your child.

### Parent Council

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April at 7:00pm in the primary school.

Thank you to the Parent Council for organising the end of term visit by two mounted Police Officers, who along with an Easter Bunny, generously delivered eggs to all of the pupils.

### Balfron Family Fun Run

The Balfron Primary Parent Council are excited to bring to you the Balfron Family Fun Run on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April as part of the Balfron 10k Race festival. The run is open to all ages and abilities - it would be great to see as many of our school kids and families participating as possible! The route starts at the High School and heads along Roman Road to the Dunmore St roundabout and back with a distance of around a mile (with options to turn back earlier for a shorter route). This is a run not a race but there will be some lovely spot prizes and goodies for all at the end. It's a great opportunity to take part in the race day atmosphere along the official route. Runners need to be at the start line for 10.05am to join in

the fun. To participate, sign up online at [www.entrycentral.com/balfron-fun-run](http://www.entrycentral.com/balfron-fun-run). All funds raised will go towards the Primary School.

### **We need you!**

In order for the Fun Run to go ahead, we are looking for some lovely, willing volunteers to help out on the day. We promise this will be an easy job, and more importantly, fun! We need volunteers to man the course to provide encouragement to our runners, help with registration, man our stall and give out prizes/goodies. Ideally, volunteers are needed from 9:30am to 11am, but if you are only available for part of that time and want to help out, please still get in touch. Even if you are running in the 10k, you can still be back for the start! If you can help out in any way, please get in touch with [rachelmoirern@gmail.com](mailto:rachelmoirern@gmail.com). Essentially, if we don't get enough volunteers, we will need to cancel the event, so please, if you can, get in touch. We would love to have you on board!

### PE Specialist – summer term

Miss McKie our visiting PE specialist teacher will be back with us from Monday 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

### School Menu

The existing school lunch menu will remain during the summer term, with a new menu being issued after the summer holiday in August.

We will continue with the current menu, returning after the Easter break wc 17<sup>th</sup> April on Week 2 . The menu weeks will continue thereafter as follows

Week 1 – wc 1<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 12<sup>th</sup> June

Week 2 – wc 17<sup>th</sup> April, 8<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> June

Week 3 – wc 24<sup>th</sup> April, 15<sup>th</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June

### School Vision, Values & Aims

Attached to today's newsletter are all of the comments from our Parents Evening consultation on our revised school aims and the wider five different books, summarising our ethos, vision, expected behaviours, school aims and values. Thank you to everyone who was able to contribute.

### Class Photographs

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

### Lacrosse

Well done to the following P6 and P7 pupils who represented Balfron PS at a recent Lacrosse tournament against other local schools at Balfron High -

P6 Team - Mollie Mackay, Charlie Anderson, Connie Callander, Marcus Kelly, Archie Kember, Scott Muir, Carys Lengden, Chloe Wight

P7 Nathanael Allan, Josh Nicholas, Ethan Glasgow, Harry French, Olivia Kinnear, Cassie Tucker, Korrin Feeley, Fiona Campbell

### Euro Quiz

P6 have been learning more about Europe this year and the following pupils took part in a Euro Quiz last month against other schools from Stirling:

Brodie Tucker; Carys Lengden, Donnie Cant, Olivia Cao, Alba Wilson, Edie Dunn

### Comic Relief Day

Well done to P4 and P5 pupils for co-ordinating some super activities for last month's Dress Funny for Money Day. In total £200.25 was raised and sent to Comic Relief.

### Class Trips

We are currently in the process of arranging class trips and it is hoped that all children will have the opportunity to have an outing with their classmates before the end of term. Further information along with permission slips will be issued over the next few weeks.

Well done to pupils across P6 who have already had their residential trip to Ardroy last term. Although the weather was mixed and there were a few sickness bugs, staff reported how impressed they were with all of the children who took part in a range of rewarding and exciting activities.

We have already made a booking for Ardroy 2024 which will again take place in March for next year's P6. More details of the proposed residential will be provided early in the new school year.

### Open Afternoons

It was lovely to welcome P2 and P6 parents and families to their class open afternoons last term. Before the end of session, all others parents are also 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 –

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May – P7/6, P4, and P1

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 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/1FAIpQLScT3j5JOSU5ZcgmET7ajjInjLfOclPOdCDqphMGZaUYKWSi2A/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScT3j5JOSU5ZcgmET7ajjInjLfOclPOdCDqphMGZaUYKWSi2A/viewform?usp=sf_link)

The window for completing the link will remain open up until the end of April due to the low completion rate following last month.

### 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.

### 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.

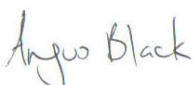
### Head Lice

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

<b>April</b>		
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Council Meeting in the primary school	7:00pm
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Development Day	School closed to pupils
<b>May</b>		
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup>	Local Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photographs	Morning
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Bank Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	P4 Class Assembly	<b>1:45pm</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Open Afternoons – P1, P4, P7/6	1:45pm – 2:30pm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	P2 Class Assembly	<b>1:45pm</b>
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup>	School Sports Day	9:30am – 12:00pm
<b>June</b>		
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	P7- S1 Transition Parent & Pupil Information Evening in Balfron High	5:45pm – 7:00pm
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Open Afternoons – P3, P5, P7	1:45pm – 2:30pm
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	P7- S1 Transition Blazer Fitting at Balfron High	5:30pm – 7:30pm
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	P1 Class Assembly	<b>1:45pm</b>
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery – P1 Transition – Information Morning	9:30am
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	P7- S1 Transition Day at High School	Full Day
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	P7- S1 Transition <b>Sports Day</b> at High School	Full Day Sports Kit and Packed Lunch needed
Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup>	P7- S1 Transition Day at High School	Full Day
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	'My Year of Learning' end of year pupil reports issued	
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Organisation of Classes Policy – Parent Drop-In Session	3:30pm – 5:30pm
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Leavers Assembly in primary school hall –	1:45pm

	parents joining	
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Leavers Party	7:00pm – 8:30pm
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	P1-P6 Moving On Afternoon – visiting new classroom and new teacher	2:00pm – 2:30pm
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	P1-P7 Balfron Primary's Got Talent Show	9:30am
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	End of Session	<b>12:45pm</b>
<b>August</b>		
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Development Days	
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	P1-P7 Pupils return to school	8:55am