

Co-operation Courage Respect Responsibility Resilience

"Learn and discover, care for each other"



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year!

Annual Permissions

Two updated school permission forms for session 2023/2024 have been created and should be completed using the Google links provided –

- GDPR/Data <https://forms.gle/tSj46hXZ3iYHd76K6>

- End of Day Protocols

P1-P3 <https://forms.gle/fJVrrXK7beWXh5yX6>

P4-P7 <https://forms.gle/F6zqxPVkPMGg244NA>

All parents are asked to complete the permission forms as soon as possible.

Flu Vaccine

Flu vaccines for P1-P7 will take place on the morning of Tuesday 19th September. Consent forms from NHS Forth Valley have already been issued and should be returned to the school office by Thursday 31st August.

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 2022/2023 Standards and Quality Report details the progress made by the school last session as well as listing all of our improvement priorities for the year ahead.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2023/08/28082741/SQR-BALFRON-PS-2022-2023-.pdf>

2. School Uniform Policy

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2023/08/28082738/BPS-School-Uniform-2023-2024.pdf>

Please note that parents can get pre-loved school uniform items every Friday at 3:30pm from a stall being run by our Parent Council. The stall will be located in the playground or the main school entrance depending on the weather.

3. End of Day Protocols

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2023/08/28082739/End-of-school-day-Protocol-Balfron-PS-August-2023.pdf>

4. As well as a range of other information our website also provides a link to our policies on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP)

Parents will be able to find links to the Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) 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/balfonprimary/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?*

Homework Policy

Our homework policy, refreshed last session provides a summary of our approaches to supporting children and families with set home learning tasks.

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

More detailed information for each class will be provided in class newsletters later this term.

Homework and Meet the Teacher

Homework for P1-P7 will begin on Monday 4th September, with teachers able to explain the formats for the year ahead and answer any questions at Meet the Teacher on Wednesday 6th September from the earlier time of **5.00pm -6.00pm**. 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, 5.00pm – 5.30pm and 5.30pm – 6.00pm and will provide parents in P1 – P7 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.

Lunch Costs

Parents are reminded that the cost of a pupil lunch in P6-P7 has increased to £2:30 this term. Pupils in P1-P5 receive free school lunches.

P6 Bikeability

All P6 pupils will take part in Bikeability 1 training on Thursday 7th September. The recyke-a-bike team who will be delivering this year's training, as well as Bikeability 2 in April 2024, will be able to provide some bicycles and helmets where required. Further information will be sent out to P6 parents this week.

Class Assemblies

The dates for class led assemblies to parents of pupils who are presenting is shown below. Parents should arrive just before 1:45pm for our Friday class assemblies.

3 rd November	P3
24 th November	P5
1 st March	All P6s
10 th May	P4
31 st May	P2
14 th June	P1

This year, instead of separate class assemblies it is planned that in March, all of our P7s will be organising and performing a School Show – more details to follow nearer the time.

P7 Roles

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

Donaldson and Burns – Alba Wilson and James Youens
Gorman and Bruce – Sara Nicolson and Joel Watt
Thunberg and Wallace – Maja Paluch and Maggie Kidd

P7 Big Buddies – All P7 pupils have responsibilities to look out for an allocated P1 child in their role as Big Buddies. This year's P7s have shown kindness and commitment in this role since the beginning of term. Some pupils are given additional responsibilities of being Buddy Co-ordinators and will link with Mrs Macmillan in addition to the P1 and P7 teachers to ensure that enjoyable extra opportunities are created for our oldest and youngest pupils to spend time together.

Buddy Co-ordinators will be rotated each term with the group for responsibility August – October being: Edie Dunn, Alice Meridis, Charlotte Stevenson and Brody Tucker.

The work of this year's Pupil Council will be co-ordinated by two P7 pupils – Millie Conway and Michael Johnstone.

Wet Weather Class Monitor Co-ordinators – Karys Sutherland, Miah Simmons, Cameron Montague and Donnie Cant will co-ordinate the P7 monitoring of younger classes during wet intervals.

Community Groups

Our Community Groups which were created last year will continue during session 2023/2024 and are listed below as a reminder. Classes will work together throughout the year on their focus aspects.

The groups provide all children with the opportunity to have their voice heard during key planning and decision making around the school.

Class representatives from our Community Groups will share progress at monthly Pupil Council meetings as well as regularly at Friday assemblies.

Community Groups	
P1 & all P7s	Health & Sport
P2, P3 & all P6s	Eco
P4 & P5	Community
House Captains	School Celebrations /Events

Gold Sport Award

We were delighted to again be awarded a Gold Sport Award at the end of last session, which is awarded by Sport Scotland to schools in recognition of successfully promoting sport and activity.

Thank you to teacher, Mrs Rankin and Neil Thomson from Active Stirling, both of whom played a key role in our successful 2023 application.

Pupil Achievements

Just before the end of term last year, we were pleased to learn that Amber Leggate P6, along with her older sister Jessica, sat their Trinity College London Drama. Along with their class, the girls performed Gangsta Granny, with Jessica playing Granny and Amber the narrator. They also took part in a production of Treasure Island at the Theatre Royal Glasgow on the 21st and 22nd of July. Well done to Amber and Jessica!

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.

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.

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 a 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.

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.

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.

Head Lice

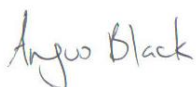
To help parents effectively check their children's head for lice I have once again attached the following link from NHS Scotland for your information

<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 4 th	Homework begins	
Wednesday 6 th	P1-P7 parents - Meet the Teacher	5:00pm – 6:00pm
Thursday 7 th	Bikeability 1	
Thursday 7 th	Parent Council Meeting	7:00pm
Tuesday 19 th	P1-P7 Flu Vaccines	Morning
October		
Monday 9 th – Friday 20 th	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
Monday 23 rd	Winter term starts	8:55am
Tuesday 24 th	Individual and Family photographs in school	morning
November		
Friday 3 rd	P3 Class Assembly – Parents/Carers welcome	1:45pm – 2:15pm
Tuesday 7 th	P1-P7 Parents Evenings	5:00pm – 7:30pm
Wednesday 8 th	P1-P7 Parents Evenings	3:30pm – 6:00pm
Friday 24 th	P5 Class Assembly – Parents/Carers welcome	1:45pm – 2:15pm
December		
Friday 22 nd	End of Term	12:45pm
Monday 25 th – Friday 5 th January	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
January		
Monday 8 th	New Term	8:55am