



Co-operation Courage Respect Responsibility Resilience

"Learn and discover, care for each other"

Dear Parents/Carers,

This month I have the following news items to share:

Morning Routine

To help ensure that all children are safely in school each morning, ready for the important daily routine of registration, lunch ordering and getting ready for the first learning task, all parents/carers are reminded of the following:

Be in school on time

- Avoid lateness – please have your child in the playground morning line at 8:55am

Parking

- 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.
- Moor Road parking – the turning point or on the kerb at the playground double gates is not for parking. This creates additional congestion around the school which can be dangerous. New signage for the turning point is being ordered by the school as a permanent reminder to parents and other visitors.
- Moor Road parking - some residents 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.

Parent Council

The next meeting of our Parent Council will be held on Wednesday at 24th April 7:00pm in the primary school.

This year we have worked closely with the Parent Council committee on replacing the current Storyworld reading scheme which is used mostly in P1-P3. In addition to a new Word Sparks reading scheme for our youngest classes, we have also purchased a 3-year licence for Oxford Reading Buddy which is an online resource that will be used for comprehension mainly in P4-P7.

The total cost of new reading resources purchased is £6,020.50

Parent Council	£936
Individual donation to Parent Council	£5,084.50

We would like to thank the Parent Council very much for their support and also recognise the amazing generosity of a grandparent of one pupil who has made a very significant individual contribution, based on a love of literacy.

The new reading scheme is a major investment and therefore is one that we hope will last and be well looked after by all families when children take reading books home for practice. We do not have a bank of additional reading books and any damaged at home or lost will need to be replaced.

Lost Reading Books

We have a number of individual books from the following resources that have not been returned to school, therefore all parents are asked to please look under beds or in cupboards for any Literacy World, Tree Tops or Oxford Reading tree books so that they can be returned to school.

School Uniform

Thank you to everyone who is supporting our school uniform policy this year. Uniform expectations were shared at the start of the year and can be accessed on our school website –

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

Scots Poetry

Well done to everyone who learned their Scots poem recently or chose to take part in the school competition, with a special mention to the following pupils who were awarded 1st place certificates at our Scots assembly on 26th January –

P1	Wabster The Spider	Krystal Waugh-Critchlow
P2	Scottish Rain	Cooper Christie
P3	Lament for a Lost Dinner Ticket	Annabel Cousins
P4	When Granda got the Internet	Violet Thomson
P5	A Dug, A Dug	Jess Henton & Patrick Dunn
P6	The Ballad of Janitor MacKay	Noah Spriggs
P7/6	To a Mouse	Alba Wilson
P7	Address to a Toothache	Olivia Cao

“Balfron Cares” Stalls from Home Day

At the beginning of February a total of 13 very successful ‘Stalls from Home’ were held in the playground with £375.93 in total being raised by selling a range of wonderful craft items (bracelets, lip balms, stress balls, bags, lego figures, clay beads, rings, loom bands, football cards, toys, keyrings, pom-poms, pebble pals) made by the pupils.

The chosen charities and the groups are listed below –

Beatson Cancer	Emily, Ashley, Natalie, Amber, Ella, Martha, Edith
Beatson and CHAS	Joni, Elouise, Martha, Violet
Cancer Research	Fynn, Patrick, Robin, Finlay
Children with Cancer UK	Ellen
Children and Families of Gaza	Joe, Lewis, Blue, Marc
Cancer Research	Harry, Innes, Ker, Finlay
Young Minds	Cameron, Kaz and Zak
Children and Families of Gaza	Aaliyah, Lily, Ellie, Holly
Riding for the Disabled and MIND	Millie, Karys, Connie
SSPCA	Carys, Chloe, Charlotte
PSP Association	Alba, Craig
Dogs Trust	Esmae, Alyssa, Abigail, Abi

Ellison also sold some loom bands and asked to donate the money she raised to the school.

Well done to everyone involved and based on the success of this event, another ‘Stalls from Home’ day will be held next session.

Countryside Rangers

To encourage more wildlife within our school grounds, last week P6 worked with Countryside Rangers to build a Bug Hotel in our wood.



They will also be taking responsibility for a area of wilding that is currently being developed in one of our grass areas.

P6 will also continue their study on sustainability by completing the John Muir Award when on residential to Ardroy next week.

Thursday Sports Leaders

This term S6 Sports Leaders are again providing lunch sports clubs for P1-P7 each Thursday at the astroturf. The sessions are always very well attended due to the range of fun activities available. Following the conclusion of the P1-P7 sessions, the Sports Leaders then move down to the nursery to provide an adapted session in our playground.

P1 Height and Weight

Pupils in P1 will have their height and weight checked by NHS Forth Valley on the morning of Thursday 7th March

P1 enrolment

We will be holding an information session for parents of all children able to start P1 next session. The 'Thinking About P1' evening will be held on Tuesday 12th March at 7:00pm in the primary school.

World Book Day

This year World Book Day is on Thursday 7th March. Throughout that week, Miss Rennie will be running a related daily Star Book Club over lunchtime –

- Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th P1-P3
- Wednesday 6th P7
- Thursday 7th P1-P3
- Friday 8th P4-P5

P6 will be on their residential trip to Ardroy.

All well as the Star Book Club, all children will be given a £1 reading book token. Pupils can if they wish, also come to school on Thursday 7th dressed as their favourite book character.

Class Open Afternoons/Mornings

During the course of the year, all classes P1-P7 invite parents and carers into school or their classroom to share some learning that has taken place. P7/6 and P7 have already held a successful Christmas Fair for family last term and arrangements for all other classes are listed below

Wednesday 13 th March	P1 Toys Technology	1:45pm – 2:30pm
Thursday 14 th March	P2 & P3 Eco Fair	1:45pm – 2:30pm
Wednesday 27 th March	P4	9:30am – 10:25am
Summer term – date to be confirmed	P5 & P6	tbc

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening appointments will take place on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st March in the primary school.

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

Wednesday 20th March 5:00pm – 7:30pm

Thursday 21st March 3:30pm – 6:00pm

To help us arrange the appointments, parents are asked by Friday 1st March, to complete the following very brief questionnaire, if they have a preference of day for their appointment:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10JZMz0W72Tvp38SVJugQNMNvlo78W0vLVUWNdWr3pT0/edit>

P7 School Show

P7 pupils will be performing in a production entitled 'The X-Factory' on Tuesday 26th March. The show which was chosen by the pupils, will take place in Balfroon High's theatre. Tickets will be on sale next month but please add the following details to your diary if you would like to come along and enjoy the show.

***The X Factory by P7s
Balfroon High Theatre
Tuesday 26th March 2024
7:00pm***

There will also be a dress rehearsal performance to pupils and senior citizens from the community at 2:00pm on the same day. Any P7 parents/carers unable to make the evening performance are also invited to attend and should contact the school so that arrangements can be made.

An online P7 transition information evening for parents has been organised by Balfroon High, also on 26th March, however, the meeting is short and begins at the much earlier time of 5:00pm, providing no clash. The full transition letter has been issued to P7 pupils today and will be in their school bags.

Balfroon Family Fun Run

The Balfroon Primary Parent Council are excited to bring back the Balfroon Family Fun Run on Sunday 28th April as part of the Balfroon 10k Race festival. This was great fun last year and promises to be even better this year. 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. Fancy dress encouraged! There will also be activities for the kids and for the first time, Balfroon Primary Parent Council will be providing the tasty treats! Runners need to be at the start line for 10.00am to join in the fun. To participate, sign up online at www.entrycentral.com/balfroon-fun-run. Entry is £2.50 and 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 for a number of jobs including set-up, marshalling, activity coordination and catering stall assistance. If you can help at all at any point between 8am and 1:30pm on Sunday 28th April, please get in touch with Rachel at rachelmoirern@gmail.com. We really need your help to make this a great event once again and without volunteers, we won't be able to go ahead. We would love to have you on board!

Footwear & Clothing Grants/Free School Meals Application Forms for Session 2024/25

Application forms to apply for the footwear & clothing grants/free school meals for pupils returning to school in August will be available online at the end of June 2024.

This is especially important for children starting school in August. If parents submit the application form that is currently available online this will be rejected and the parent advised to apply again at the end of June.

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals-and-clothing-grant/>

Latest Headlice Advice

Please use the link below for the updated advice to parents on the prevention and treatment of headlice

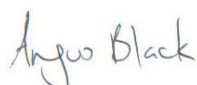
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

The school also has head lice combs which are available free from the office.

School Dates

Attached as an appendix to today's newsletter are the dates of school holidays for session 2024/2025

Yours sincerely



Angus Black
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

March		
Friday 1 st	Whole P6 Assembly	1:45pm
Monday 4 th – Friday 8 th	P6 residential to Ardroy	
Thursday 7 th	P1 height and weight checks	
Tuesday 12 th	Thinking About P1 – Parent Information Evening	7:00pm
Wednesday 13 th	P1 Open Afternoon	1:45pm – 2:30pm
Thursday 14 th	P2 & P3 Open Afternoon	1:45pm – 2:30pm
Wednesday 20 th	Parents' Evening	5:00pm – 7:30pm
Thursday 21 st	Parents' Evening	3:30pm – 6:00pm
Tuesday 26 th	P7 School Show 'The X-Factory' in Balfron High School theatre	2:00pm – dress rehearsal to primary school 7:00pm – performance to parents//families/community
Wednesday 27 th	P4 Open Morning	9:30am – 10:25am
Thursday 28 th	End of term	3:15pm
Friday 29 th – Friday 12 th April	Spring Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
April		
Monday 15 th	Summer Term starts	8:55am
Monday 15 th – Wednesday	P6 Bikeability 2	

17 th		
Wednesday 24 th	Parent Council meeting	7:00pm
Sunday 28 th	Family Fun Run – Balfron 10K Running Festival	10:00am
May		
Friday 3 rd	Staff Development Day	School closed to pupils
Monday 6 th	Local Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
Friday 10 th	P4 Class Assembly	1:45pm
Monday 27 th	Nursery to P7 School Sports Day	9:30am – 12:00pm
Tuesday 28 th	P7 – S1 transition – parent information evening	5:45pm
Friday 31 st	P2 Class Assembly	1:45pm
June		
Wednesday 5 th – Friday 7 th	P7 transition days at Balfron High	
Friday 14 th	P1 Class Assembly	1:45pm
Tuesday 25 th	P7 Leavers' Assembly	1:45pm
Friday 28 th	End of term	12:45pm
August		
Monday 12 th – Tuesday 13 th	Staff Development Days	School closed to pupils
Wednesday 14 th	New Term	School open to pupils