



Co-operation Courage Respect Responsibility Resilience

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Organisation of classes - Session 2024/2025**

Based on projected school roll figures, the number of classes next year across P1-P7 will reduce from this year's 8 classes, to 7 classes in session 2024/2025. Our classes and teachers next year are:

- P1 (20 pupils) – Miss Mitchell
- P2 (20 pupils) – Mrs Robertson (Term1) / Miss Rennie (Terms 2-4 maternity cover)
- P3 (19 pupils) – Miss McLernon & Mrs Muir
- P4 (17 pupils) – Mrs Small & Mrs Bradnam
- P5 (27 pupils) – Miss Holms
- P6 (25 pupils) - Mrs Witherspoon & Mrs Macmillan
- P7 (30 pupils) – Mrs Darroch & Mrs Grisanti

Pupils in this year's P1-P6 will have a 'Moving On' session on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June, where they will spend some time their new teacher.

Plans for next year currently do not involve any composite classes, which for our school is unusual.

While the planned organisation of classes ensures there is capacity for possible further enrolments at all stages over the summer, classes always do remain provisional right up to the start of term in August. When deciding how to populate composite classes the following criteria are applied in line with Stirling Council's Policy for the Organisation of Classes:

- 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

Miss Hopkins, who has been P6 teacher this session, will be leaving us at the end of term and we wish her well as she takes up a new teaching post to which she has been recently appointed.

### **First Day of Term for New Primary 1 2024/2025**

Children in P1 are going to arrive in 2 groups to avoid congestion in the Primary 1 classroom on the first day of school. Group 1 will arrive at 9.10am and Group 2 will arrive at 9.30am. Parents will encourage their child to line up in the infant playground, they will be collected by their class teacher. Parents/carers are welcome to come into the classroom with your child and get those very important moments photographed then we will ask you to politely leave at 9.25am for Group 1 or 9.45am for Group 2. All Primary 1 children will be dismissed at 3.15pm from the infant playground door. On Day 2, all children will arrive by 8.55am, and will line up in the playground. Can we please ask all parents/carers to stand well clear of the lines. Children will be dismissed from the infant door at 3.15pm.

### **Thursday 15th August 2024**

All children line up at 8.55am, with parents staying back from the line to allow Miss Mitchell to carry out her morning meet and greet. Children will be collected at 3.15pm outside the infant door when the bell rings.

## **Campus Traffic**

Council budget decisions means it is expected that the remaining two current road crossing patrol officers at the entrance to our school campus will be replaced over the summer holidays by the installation of traffic calming measures.

A campus/community group has already met twice to collaborate on what positive steps can be taken to maintain existing levels of travel safety for children, families and staff once crossing patrols have been removed. Represented within the group are Balfron Community Council, Balfron Primary School, Balfron High School, Bellrock, Forth Environment Link and Police Scotland.

From the start of next session, parents will be asked not to drive into the campus at the beginning, end or during the school day. A recommended alternative, used successfully by many parents, is parking at Donaldson Park and walking the short distance to school via the path.

A visible message campaign around the campus, including signage is being planned to ensure the expectation around car use within the campus is clearly understood.

## **Anti-Bullying**

Our school website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronprimary/> provides a range of information about Balfron PS including approaches when dealing with bullying behaviours. There are specific links to -

- The whole school anti-bullying policy

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2022/09/07105614/Balfron-PS-Anti-Bullying-Policy.pdf>

- Pupil policy which was developed this year

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2023/10/26094810/No-to-Bullying-poster-Oct-2023.pdf>

- Stirling Council's policy – Respect for All which is aligned with our school approaches

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2024/05/23091259/stirling-council-approach-to-respect-for-all.pdf>

- Respectme – national anti-bullying advice

<https://respectme.org.uk/>

This session, our Parent Council has been interested in making sure that all parents fully understand how approaches to dealing with bullying behaviours work in practice. To support with this a Question & Answer section has therefore recently been added to the website

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2024/06/11071830/Bullying-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

## **Reading Scheme**

This year, thanks to our Parent Council, we replaced our older Storyworld reading scheme with a new Word Sparks scheme. All of the books from Storyworld have been donated to a local based charity, Changing Lives Malawi.

## **Parent Council**

Our Parent Council have recently supported our school in the following ways –

- Providing £1500 to school for the purchase of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts & Maths) equipment that will be used across the school.
- Buying a leavers' gift for all P7s. Pupils will receive their new high school tie at the leavers' assembly on 25<sup>th</sup> June
- Contribution towards the P7 leavers' party which will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June
- Partnership working in relation to helping ensure safe access to the school campus for children and families, once crossing patrol has been removed.

## **Pupil Achievements**

Well done to the following pupils who were awarded rosettes for their school entries at the Drymen Show last month.

Young Poet		
Imogen Patrick	P1	1 <sup>st</sup>
Oscar Comerford	P3	Merit
Alex Bark	P6	Merit
Dmytro Toporkov	P7/6	1 <sup>st</sup>
Nathan Ritchie	P7/6	1 <sup>st</sup>
Kendell Gibbons	P7	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Brody Tucker	P7	Merit
Young Writer		
Zach Fitzgerald	P2	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Heidi Harper	P5	Young Writers Shield
Isobel Campbell	P6	Merit
Art		
Imogen Patrick	P1	Merit
Miah Simmons	P7/6	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Craft		
Angel Border	P2	1 <sup>st</sup>
Lewis Skinner	P5	Merit
Class Frieze		
	P1	3 <sup>rd</sup>
	Nursery	1 <sup>st</sup> - Nursery Cup

## **Royal Scottish National Orchestra**

Edie Dunn, P7/6 recently performed in a RSNO concert at the Usher hall, Edinburgh. Well done Edie!

## **Scottish Mathematical Challenge**

Alex MacLaren, P7/6 attended the University of Stirling to collect a Gold Mathematical challenge Award for his participation in the Scottish Mathematical Challenge this year. Alex has completed a series of school based problems, solving challenges throughout the year and we are delighted that he achieved the Gold Award.

Other children who have been recognised are Alba Wilson P7/6 received a Silver Award and Donnie Cant P7/6 received a Bronze Award. Certificates will be presented to children at their P7 Leavers' Assembly. Well done to all participants who took part this year.

## **P4-P7 Interhouse**

On the afternoon of Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, House Captains will be organising teams for a fun interhouse tournament of dodgeball and football matches. Anyone in P4-P7 that would like to be involved should bring their PE kit with House Captains using rolling substitutes throughout the games.

## **P5 Summer Fair**

On Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June, P5 are using enterprising approaches to hold a summer fair, selling items for pupils in P4-P7. There are a range of stalls including a tombola, 'Guess the Teddy's Birthday', bookmarks, lemonade and marshmallow top hats. Prices for the stalls will be from 20p to £2.

## **P7 Leavers**

All of our P7 pupils have been busy with high school transition activities recently while farewell events will be taking place during the final week of term. Thank you for the energy and generosity of our P7 parent team who have organised a P7 leavers' party which will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7:00pm. We are very proud of our P7 group and look forward to hearing of their successes at high school.

## Ardroy 2025

It is our plan that next session's P6 will take part in a residential excursion to Ardroy Activity Centre from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Further details of the planned trip will be issued at the start of the new school year, including a parent information evening and payment details.

## Hygiene

Attached to today's newsletter is helpful guidance for parents produced by Public Health Scotland on infectious diseases. Please take time to read this important information detailing periods when children should/should not stay off school –

**Should I keep  
my child off  
school or childcare?**

**✓ Yes**

Illness	Until...
Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the advice on NHS inform if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics




**✗ No**

**but make sure you let their school or childcare know about...**

Hand, foot and mouth	Head lice	Threadworms
Glandular fever	Tonsillitis	Slapped cheek

Parents and carers can find further health advice on [nhsinform.scot](https://nhsinform.scot)

**Advice and guidance**  
To find out more, scan the QR code or visit [publichealthscotland.scot/hpcyp](https://publichealthscotland.scot/hpcyp)



We continue to be advised by a few parents that their children have contracted threadworms; therefore we attach the NHS guidance for your information and would ask that you check and get the appropriate treatment from your GP/Pharmacist if required and remain vigilant over the coming weeks. Handwashing is particularly important and this message is also being reinforced in school.

[Threadworms | NHS inform](#)

Vigilance around head lice is always needed and again we attach NHS guidance for your information.

[Head lice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

## **Bikeability**

Pedal into summer with Recyke-a-bike! The majority of our activities are **free**, so head to [Eventbrite](#) to find out what they have on offer-

- Cycle lessons- Small groups or 121
- Tailwinds - Wellness Bike Rides
- Rabelles- Women + NB Bike Rides
- Bike Maintenance Classes
- Dr Bike – bike health checks
- Affordable second-hand bikes for sale

Recyke-a-bike

Tel: 01786 447 559

## **End of Year Balances**

As we approach the end of term can we please remind you to check your child's balances on Parent Pay and ensure that for N5's and P7's that all balances are sitting at zero at the end of term as they move on to High School or Primary School.

School meals arrears should be cleared by the end of term for all pupils.

Lastly, just a gentle reminder that all trips for the P1 + P2, P6 and P7 if these could be brought up to date prior to the trip dates.

Thank you for your continued support.

## **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/>

## **Last Day of Term**

Term finishes at **12:45pm** on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Packed lunches can be ordered on the last day of term, with the choice of sandwiches listed below:

- Red – ham sandwich
- Green – cheese sandwich
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## **And finally...**

As session 2023/2024 draws to a close, I would like to thank everyone within our school community for their support and help during the year. Whether it be achievements, successes or dealing with challenges; all staff and families in our school do pull together effectively to improve outcomes for children. I hope that everyone manages to have a safe, restful and enjoyable summer, hopefully with some sunshine.

Yours sincerely



Angus Black  
Headteacher

## Dates for the Diary

<b>June</b>		
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	P1 Class Assembly	1:45pm
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	All P7s class trip to Gravity Active Glasgow	Full Day
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	P5 enterprise fair for P4-P7	9:30am – 11:30am
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	P1 & P2 class trip to Amazonia  All P6s class trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park	Full Day
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup>	P1-P7 pupil end of year reports issued	
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Leavers' Assembly	1:45pm
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Leavers Assembly	9:30am
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Leavers' Party	7:00pm – 8:30pm
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	P1-P6 Moving On Afternoon – visiting new classroom and new teacher	2:00pm – 2:30pm
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	P1-P7 Balfron Primary's Got Talent Show	9:30am
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	End of term	12:45pm
<b>August</b>		
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Development Days	School closed to pupils
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	New Term	School open to pupils