

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:

Playground Trim Trail

A playground ROSPA report this summer highlighted some early deterioration in our playground Trim Trail. The wooden structure, installed more than thirteen years ago as a Parent Council project, is a key part of our playground which provides endless fun and games not only to our pupils, but also younger visitors to the campus in evenings and weekends.

Over the next 12-24 months, it is necessary to carry out certified repair /removal/ replacement work on the Trim Trail in order to meet the requirements of the recent ROSPA report.

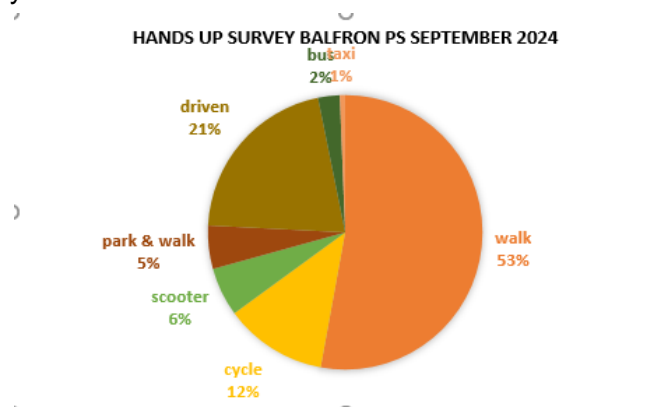
Costings for the different options were shared at the recent Parent Council meeting, which ranged between £3,665 and £16,300.

External funding sources will be explored, including an application to The National Lottery Community Fund, while Parent Council will prioritise their fundraising this year to the Trim Trail project. It is hoped that by the end of this school year 2024/2025, the level of funding in place both externally and through Parent Council will inform decision making around the options for the playground Trim Trail:

1. Removal
2. Partial repairs
3. Full replacement

Road Safety in the Campus

Thank you to our parents/carers who are avoiding driving their car into the campus. Each year schools across Scotland take part in a Hands Up Survey which asks children how they normally travel to school each day. The survey took place in September and the figures for our school show that almost 80% of our pupils normally are not driven to school.



This week our Pupil Council and P2 will be co-ordinating the artwork for one of two Park & Stride campus banners which will be displayed when the removal of the crossing patrols has been implemented.

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.

A school lunch page has recently been added which provides easy access to the current menu and also includes pictures of the daily meals provided this term.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronprimary/school-lunches/>

Club Programme

This term the following lunch or after school clubs have been taking place in partnership with Active Stirling and Balfron High sports leaders:

- P6 & P7 netball
- P6 & P7 football
- P2-P7 athletics (lunch)
- P2-P5 football (lunch)
- P3 gymnastics

Pupil Voice

One of our priorities this year is to ensure that pupil voice is heard in the planning and decision making around our school. As part of this focus, each class will have its own theme to help lead, on behalf of the other pupils across P2 - P7. A national Youth Voice Charter, Toolkit and Framework will be referenced to support the planning in the following class themes, with regular updates at school assemblies:

P2	Campus Road Safety (with Pupil Council)
P3	Eco Schools and School Garden
P4	Digital Well-Being
P5	Inclusion Ambassadors – neuro-diversity awareness and anti-bullying
P6	Children’s Rights (UNCRC)
P7	Sport & Health including First Aid
Pupil Council	Pupil ideas. Campus Road Safety. Young Leaders of Learning. Stalls from Home
House Captains	Whole School Charity Events

Learners in P1 and nursery will work together on helping develop effective transitions.

Harvest Assembly

Pupils and staff will have a harvest themed assembly on Friday 4th October, where produce from the school garden will be celebrated. We will also be joined by a local resident Dom McCafferty who will be talking about the Balfron Orchard project at Weavers Winnel while Balfron Church of Scotland’s recently appointed Locum minister, Rev. Peter Gill will share his experience of harvest.

Visiting PE and Music Specialist

After the October holidays we will have weekly visits from both our regular PE and Music specialist teachers.

P1 – P5 will be having Miss McKie for PE each Monday which will replace one of the normal weekly class PE slots. P1-P7 will be having Music with Miss Brown on a Thursday.

Pupils in P6 and P7 are timetabled to have Miss McKie in the summer term on a Monday morning.

Flu Vaccine

Flu vaccines for P1-P7 will take place on the morning of Monday 4th November. Consent forms from NHS Forth Valley have already been issued and should be returned to the school office by Monday 26th August.

School Photographer

Individual and family photographs will be taken in school on the morning of Tuesday 29th October.

Parents' Evenings

Our November Parents' Evenings will be held on:

- Tuesday 5th November 5:00pm – 7:30pm
- Wednesday 6th November 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Appointment slips will be issued to parents on Friday 11th October.

Rescheduled Food & Farming Class Visit

P5 and P6 will be attending a RHET Food & Farming Event at United Auctions in Stirling on Tuesday 5th November, rescheduled from 24th September.

The Farm to Fork event will focus on Health & Wellbeing, Developing the Young Workforce and sustainable living. It will feature a wide range of activity providers from across the food, farming and environmental sectors.

Permission slips for P5 & P6 will be issued this week.

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.

Yours sincerely



Angus Black
Headteacher

Balfroon Primary Parent Council

The PC AGM was held on 25th August. Full minutes from the AGM will be circulated later this week. By way of an update, we wish to introduce the new PC committee. This year the PC Chair role will be shared by Michelle Conway and Lorna Christie. The decision to share the role is in recognition of the fact that everyone who supports the PC does so on a voluntary basis and this allows the workload of the chair role to be shared. It is our plan to make the PC as inclusive and welcoming as possible, ensuring that if and when people want to participate and support the work of the PC that there is flexibility to ensure this can happen. Rachel Moir has taken over the role of treasurer and Claire McIlvenna is staying on as secretary.

PC Survey

We want to make sure that the PC is supporting and enhancing the school experiences for all the children and we are keen to hear from you. If you have a spare few minutes we would love to hear your feedback through our survey which will close on Friday 4th October. We have had a great response so far, with some useful feedback about areas the PC should focus on and some great suggestions about fundraising opportunities. If you have not already, please do consider sharing your feedback which can remain anonymous if you wish. We will be sharing the results of the survey at Parents Night in November, so you can see what difference your feedback has made.

Here is the link to the survey previously sent out -

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=beLYUyV0WUqTax9fv9XDy8xAmdzIHtdJjhXyZ6ilpVURjFBRDU40EVCVVFMWktQRDRKWTVBQUNZOC4u>

Should you wish to contact the Parent Council an updated email address is now available - balfronprimarypc@gmail.com.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any issues or points you would like raised at future meetings.

The next PC meeting is Tuesday 12th November in the school at 7pm.

All parents/carers are welcome.

Halloween Discos

The Halloween disco is always a highlight on the calendar for the children and we are already in full swing with planning for the discos on **Tuesday 29th of October**. There will be two discos as usual -

P1-P4 disco running from 6.15pm-7.15pm

P5-P7 disco running from 7.30pm -8.30pm.

We are always so grateful to anyone from our school community who is able to offer some time to help with set up, running and tidy up for the discos. Please email balfronprimarypc@gmail.com if you are able to offer your support.

This year, the Parent Council are fundraising to support essential maintenance of the much loved Trim Trail in the playground. Although the Halloween disco is not a fundraiser, we have requested a suggested donation of £4 on your child's ParentPay account if they plan to attend. This will allow us to provide some treats at the event and any extra money will go towards the trim trail. You are welcome to make the donation bigger if you would like to!

We understand that for some families this donation may be difficult. We would not want any children to miss out, so please be aware these donations are voluntary. If this is the case for your family, we would ask that you contact the school to let them know your child will be attending.

Donation buckets will be available at the front door on the night if you wish to drop in any loose change.

Thanks as always for your support,

Michelle Conway and Lorna Christie
Co-chairpersons Balfron Primary PC

Dates for the Diary

October		
Monday 14 th – Friday 25 th	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff. Nursery remains open
Monday 28 th	Winter term starts	8:55am
Tuesday 29 th	Individual and Family photographs in school	morning
Tuesday 29 th	Parent Council Halloween Disco	6:00pm – 7:15pm P1-P4 7:30pm – 8:30pm P5-P7
November		
Monday 4 th	P1-P7 Flu vaccines	morning
Tuesday 5 th	P5 & P6 to RHET Farm to Fork visit	morning
Tuesday 5 th	P1-P7 Parents Evenings	5:00pm – 7:30pm
Wednesday 6 th	P1-P7 Parents Evenings	3:30pm – 6:00pm
December		
Thursday 12 th	P1-P3 Nativity	1:45pm & 6:00pm
Friday 20 th	End of term church service – P4 leading	9:45am
Friday 20 th	End of Term	12:45pm
Monday 23 rd – Friday 3 rd January	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
January		
Monday 6 th	New Term	8:55am