



Co-operation Courage Respect Responsibility Resilience

"Learn and discover, care for each other"

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new term!

School Diary Dates

At the end of today's newsletter, some key school dates have been listed up to the end of the school year. Further dates will be added as other activities and events are able to be confirmed.

Staffing

Mrs Macmillan, Depute Headteacher, will be starting maternity leave after the Easter holidays. The process has started of appointing a temporary Acting Depute Headteacher for the period of April 2025 - April 2026.

We have been pleased to welcome back Mrs Robertson as P2 teacher over the past few weeks. Miss Rennie, who has made a fantastic contribution to our pupils over the past 18 months, will begin teaching in other schools, additional to Balfour PS, from Monday 17th February.

P1 enrolment

We will be holding an information session for parents of all children, within our school catchment area, who able to start P1 next session. The 'Thinking About P1' evening will be held on Tuesday 11th March at 7:00pm in the primary school.

Organisation of Classes – 2025/2026

The process of organising classes for next session begins this term, based on P1 enrolment figures which remain provisional until placing requests and deferred entries are confirmed.

Stirling Council's 'Organisation of Classes' policy was explained at the recent Parent Council meeting and a copy has been attached as an appendix to today's newsletter.

Composite classes are often required. The decision to create composite classes is taken in the best interest of all children in the school and is also guided by the requirement for our school to make sure that there is capacity to enrol any new pupils who move within the catchment area during the course of next session.

In deciding how to populate composite classes, headteachers will apply the following criteria:

- Each composite class shall have a maximum of 25 pupils as per national requirements.
- The lead factor in determining the population of the class shall be the date of birth of the child i.e. the oldest children from the younger stage join with the youngest children from the older stage. This criterion shall be used because it is unambiguous and transparent: for the purposes of school provision, age is not a 'protected characteristic' in the Equality Act 2010. This means that in relation to the provision of education, schools may lawfully use the criteria of age to organise classes.

- A reasonable balance in terms of gender, where possible.
- The range of Additional Support Needs spread reasonably across classes, evidenced through the Staged Intervention process.

Sensitivity should be given to exceptional individual circumstances related to additional support needs, with opportunities for discussion between home and school in relation to Additional Support Needs.

The overall decision should be made in line with policy and criteria, with the final decision resting with the headteacher, who has knowledge of all children and families in the school.

Plans for how our classes will be organised in session 2025/2026 along with teachers will be confirmed to parents and pupils during the summer term.

P1 Health & Weight

On Tuesday 18th February, pupils in P1 will have their height and weights checked. Letters from NHS Forth Valley have been issued.

P1 Open Afternoon

Parents/Carers from P1 are invited to come into class on Thursday 6th February 1:45pm – 2:45pm so that children can share some of this term's learning.

P3 Open Morning

Parents/Carers from P3 are invited to come into class on Wednesday 26th February 9:30am – 10:15am so that children can share some of their learning from this term.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening appointments will take place on Wednesday 19th March 5:00pm - 7:30pm and Thursday 20th March 3:30pm - 6:00pm

To help us arrange the appointments, parents are asked by Friday 7th February, to complete the following very brief questionnaire, if they have a preference of day for their appointment:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pQzGLBmBrg0xeUg52i5-qJAX3k-vXSYu4xScbmwzAeU/edit>

Ardroy Information Evening

An information evening will be held in the primary school on Thursday 6th February 6:30pm – 7:30pm for P6 parents/carers and pupils ahead of the Ardroy residential 3rd – 6th March.

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 finalists at our Scots assembly on 31st January –

P1	My Wee Doggie	Nate Comerford, Lorena Gilbert, Ella Hailstones
P2	Scottish Rain	Amelie Fraser, Orlaith McCafferty, Rory Simpson
P3	Lament for a Lost Dinner Ticket	Phoebe Catnach, Cooper Christie, Zac Fitzgerald
P4	When Granda got the Internet	Annabel Cousins, Effie Larkin, Olivia Strachan
P5	A Dug, A Dug	Violet Thomson & Elouise Sutherland Joni Greig & Martha Callander Abigail Patrick & Abi Allison
P6	The Ballad of Janitor MacKay	Lewis Corish, Jess Henton, Patrick Dunn
P7	To a Louse	Barney Cousins, Martha Gormley, Noah Spriggs

Balfron 10k and Fun Run

The Balfron 10k and Family Fun Run will take place again this year on Sunday 4th May. Entries to the main race are now open and the organising team are currently looking to get the fun run entry up and running soon. The Fun Run was a sell out last year so hold the date in your diaries and watch this space for more info on entry. The Fun Run is only made possible by our lovely community volunteers so if you are able to help in any way, please contact Rachel at balfronfunrun@gmail.com . Roles available include marshalling for just the run (9am-10:30am), manning the catering stall (9am - 1pm ish) and manning the activity area (9.30-1pm). We would love to see you there and you will get all the support you need - it really is a fun day!

Stirling Schools Cross-Country

Well done to the following pupils who took part in the Stirling schools cross-country races in Dunblane this week:

P6 girls – Rosie Sutton and Jess Henton

P6 boys – Finlay Stevenson

P7 girls – Lacy Harrower Rebecca Gribben Shona Coull, Emily MacDonald, Ashley MacDonald

P7 boys – Alex Bark and Kayden Smeed

Reading Challenge Awards

Well done to the following pupils who have recently achieved different Reading Challenge awards:

Bronze	Silver
<u>P5</u> Abigail Patrick	<u>P6</u> Aaliyah Ali
<u>P6</u> Robin Fitzgerald Ker Gilbert Heidi Harper Lewis Corish Finlay Stevenson Rosie Sutton	<u>P7</u> Rebecca Gribben Ashley MacDonald
<u>P7</u> Liam Hallyburton Ella McTavish Natalie Fraser Emma Mitchell Shona Coull Emily MacDonald	

Class Newsletters

P1-P7 class newsletters detailing some of the planned learning and activities from January to June have been sent out to parents and will also be added to our school website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronprimary/>.

Class Community Groups Updates

P5 Inclusion Ambassadors

Last term, as part of national anti-bullying week they presented to the rest of the school. This term, P5 have also had a successful class visit from Enable which helped pupils learn more about disability awareness and discrimination.

The class are also receiving training as Peer Mediators which will result in a group of P5 pupils being equipped to help younger peers resolve arguments and disagreements.

P7 Health

This month, all classes were visited by groups of P7 pupils who shared some of their curricular learning on first aid.

Lunch Clubs

This term, on Tuesdays up to the February mid-term break, P1-P5 pupils have the opportunity to join in organised playground games led by S3 Sports Leaders.

Some of our P7 pupils have also asked to run different lunch clubs for younger pupils during terms 3 and 4 with plans to offer netball, short tennis and chess.

P7 Play

On Wednesday 21st May at 7:00pm P7 pupils will be performing a play to parents/carers as part of their end of term celebrations.

“Balfron Cares” – Stalls From Home Day

In total £435:10 was raised across 10 different charities on our Stalls from Home morning which was held on Friday 13th December. Well done to everyone who contributed.

Pupil Council Survey

Ideas and opinions of all pupils P1-P7 are being gathered this term by the Pupil Council. P4-P7 will be asked to complete individual Google questionnaires with whole class discussions in P1-P3. A range of topics will be covered by Pupil Council including classroom, playground and school lunches, with results shared at assemblies and in a newsletter before the end of session.

SNSA – P1, P4, P7

Pupils in P4 and P7 will be taking part in SNSA (Scottish National Standardised Assessments) as part of their class work during February. The assessments are part of established practice in Scottish schools covering curricular areas of reading, writing and numeracy. P1 pupils will complete their SNSA assessments after the Easter holidays.

I am Me Scotland Learning Platform

From this term, teachers will be using an additional resource to support the Health & Well-Being curriculum. ‘I am Me’ has been produced by Police Scotland and provides additional P1-P7 resources in the key areas of:

- mental health
- bullying
- hate crime
- smoke and vaping
- alcohol and substance education
- disability awareness including ADHD, Down’s Syndrome, Dementia
- Children’s Rights
- Keeping Safe

Yours sincerely



Angus Black
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

February		
Thursday 6th	P1 Open Afternoon - parents/carers invited	1:45pm - 2:45pm
Thursday 6th	P6 Ardroy Information Evening - parents/carers and pupils invited	6:30pm - 7:30pm
Monday 10th & Tuesday 11th	INSET Days	School closed to pupils
Wednesday 12th - Friday 14th	Mid Term Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
Tuesday 18th	P1 height & weight checks	
Wednesday 26th	P3 Open Morning - parents/carers invited	9:30am - 10:15am
Friday 28th	P5 Class Assembly - parents/carers invited	1:45pm - 2:45pm
Friday 28th	P6 & P7 Football Team fixtures 1& 2	4:00pm & 4:30pm
March		
Monday 3rd - Thursday 6th	P6 residential trip to Ardroy	
Tuesday 11th	Thinking About P1 - parent information evening	7:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday 14th	Glasgow Science Centre visit to Balfron PS	
Friday 14th	P6 & P7 Football Team fixture 3	4:00pm
Wednesday 19th	P1-P7 Parents Evening	5:00pm - 7:30pm
Thursday 20th	P1-P7 Parents Evening	3:30pm - 6:00pm
Friday 21st	P6 & P7 Football Team fixture 4	4:00pm
Friday 28th	P3 class assembly - parents/carers invited	1:45pm
Friday 28th	P6 & P7 Football Team fixtures 5 & 6	4:00pm & 4:30pm
April		
Monday 7th - Monday 21st	Easter Holidays	School Closed to pupils and staff
Tuesday 22nd	New Term	8:55am - school open to pupils and staff
Monday 28th - Wednesday 30th	P6 Bikeability 2 training week	
May		
Friday 2nd	INSET Day	School closed to pupils
Sunday 4th	Balfron Family Fun Run	
Monday 5th	May Day Holiday	School Closed to pupils and staff
Tuesday 20th	Parent Council Meeting	7:00pm
Wednesday 21st	P7 Play - Parents/carers invited	7:00pm

Friday 23rd	P2 Class Assembly - parents/carers invited	1:45pm
Monday 26th	Whole School Sports Day	9:30am - 11:30am
June		
Friday 13th	P1 Class Assembly - parents/carers invited	1:45pm
Wednesday 25th	P7 Leavers' Assembly	1:45pm
Friday 27th	End of Session P1-P7	12:45pm