



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

### **Acting Depute Headteacher**

Following interviews this week, Ewan Logan has been appointed as Acting Depute Headteacher to cover the period of Mrs Macmillan's maternity leave.

Mr Logan is currently Principal Teacher at Borestone Primary in Stirling and it is hoped that he will be able to begin his new role with us on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

Mrs Macmillan's last day with us, before she begins a twelve month period of maternity leave is due to be Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Parents' Evening**

Parents' Evening appointments will take place next week on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 5:00pm - 7:30pm and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 3:30pm - 6:00pm with individual appointment slips already issued.

### **Organisation of Classes – 2025/2026**

Due to a larger P1 enrolment than expected, it is anticipated that next year we will have a P1 and a P1/2 composite class.

The structure of all other classes in session 2025/2026 along with teachers have still to be organised and will be confirmed to parents and pupils during the summer term, once placing requests and deferred entries are finalised.

Stirling Council's 'Organisation of Classes' policy was explained at the recent Parent Council meeting and again at this week's Thinking About P1 parent information session. A copy has been attached as an appendix to today's newsletter.

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.

### **Guided Walks**

This week, pupils and teachers in P6 and P7 have taken part in a guided walk through Balforn, led by local historian Jim Thomson as part of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of Alexander 'Greek' Thomson.

### **Science Visit**

As part of national Science Week, we are looking forward to the visit of Glasgow Science Centre to school today. All classes will have a workshop:

Go, Oxygen, Go! Show (Nursery -P3)  
Get Active! Show (P4-P7)  
FitLab Exhibit Session (P5 – P7)

### **Parent Council Fundraising**

All pupils have been drawing pictures of themselves this week in school. With the help of some parents, a whole school tea-towel will be created and available for sale later in the year as a Parent Council fundraiser.

Please also add the morning of Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June to your diary as Parent Council will be organising a Summer Fayre.

### **Uniform**

Please come and check through the large lost uniform pile of clothes that is stored in the main foyer. Parent Council will be washing any unclaimed items and making them available on the inset day – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

### **End of term at Easter**

Parent Council hope to organise an Easter activity on the last day of term, which will include something fun as well as something tasty! Thank you to our Parent Council for all of their efforts.

### **Balforn 10k and Fun Run**

The Balforn 10k and Family Fun Run will take place again this year on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 [balfornfunrun@gmail.com](mailto:balfornfunrun@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!

### **Class Photo**

Class photographs will be taken on the morning of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May.

### **P2 Class Assembly and P7 Play**

As previously shared with parents it was necessary to change the dates of the P2 class assembly and the P7 play that were listed in last month's newsletter to avoid a clash with some new P7/S1 transition dates for our school.

The new dates are:

P2 Class Assembly – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1:45pm  
P7 Play – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 7:00pm

## **Hygiene**

Throughout the year we like 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.

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 –

Last session we were advised by a few parents that their children had contracted threadworms; therefore as a reminder for the year ahead we again include 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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

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

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

 <b>Yes</b>	
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
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics



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://www.nhsinform.scot)

#### Advice and guidance

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



### 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

### Dates for the Diary

March		
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		
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Council - Easter Activity and tasty treat	

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	
<b>May</b>		
Friday 2nd	INSET Day	School closed to pupils  Preloved uniforms able to be collected from school 9:00am – 12:00pm
Sunday 4th	Balfron Family Fun Run	Morning
Monday 5th	May Day Holiday	School Closed to pupils and staff
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photographs	Morning
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	P2 Class Assembly - parents/carers invited	1:45pm
Tuesday 20th	Parent Council Meeting	7:00pm
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	P1 Transition: lunch experience at Balfron High	11:30am
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	P7 Play - Parents/carers invited	7:00pm
Monday 26th	Whole School Sports Day	9:30am - 11:30am
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	P1 Transition: induction morning with parent information session	9:30am – 11:45am
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup>	P7/S1 Transition Days at Balfron High	
<b>June</b>		
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Council Summer Fayre	morning
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