



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

### **Depute Headteacher**

Mrs Macmillan's last day with us, before she begins a twelve month period of maternity leave is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April. We all wish Mrs Macmillan and her family our very best wishes.

We look forward to welcoming Mr Logan to our school as Acting Depute Headteacher on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Moor Road Parking**

All parents are reminded that the turning point at Moor Road must not be used for car parking, as this creates general congestion and also acts as a hazard in the event of access being required by emergency services route to the school.

Recommended alternative parking is in the Church/Donaldson Park car park which is only a short walk to the school.

### **Staff Development and May Holiday**

Parents and carers are reminded that school will be closed to pupils on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May for staff development. School will reopen to pupils and staff on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May following the May Day holiday on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May.

### **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](mailto:balfronfunrun@gmail.com). Roles available include marshalling for just the run (9am-10:30am), manning the catering stall (9am - 1pm) 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

### **School Self-Evaluation**

Last term, we gathered pupil and parent views about different aspects of school life.

P1-P3 completed an active questionnaire by walking to different zones in the hall, to demonstrate their views which were then recorded by P7 Pupil Council representatives.

All pupils in P4-P7 completed an individual Google Form questionnaire.

Pupil Council have looked at the results from across P1-P7 which covered areas of pupil learning; getting extra help; school lunches; playground; pupil voice and feeling safe; and shared the main results at assembly.

During last month's Parents Evenings, some P7 pupils asked parents to record their ideas & view on two different boards – things that are going well in our school; and ideas/suggestions for things to be even better.

Views from parents and pupils are attached as a newsletter appendix and they will be used as an important part of the process which helps the school as we begin improvement priority planning for session 2025/2026.

### **Peer Mediation**

This term all pupils in P5 will be receiving training in peer mediation during some joint working with our partners within the Educational Psychology team. Following three weekly training sessions on how to support younger pupils with conflict resolutions and repairing playground disagreements, groups of Peer Mediators from P5 will begin their role this term.

### **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

### **P2 Open Morning**

P2 will be opening their class to their parents and families on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 9:30am – 10:15am in order to share some of this term's learning.

### **Pupil Achievements**

We are delighted to share the following pupil achievements from last term:

#### Reading for Gold

Congratulations to Rebecca Gribben P7, who has become the first pupil this year to achieve a Gold award for Reading for Gold.

#### School Football

Our P6 & P7 football team retained the Killearn Garage Cup by finishing top of the league following games played over February and March against all of the local schools. Well done to all of the pupils who took part in the Killearn Garage Cup matches:

Robin Fitzgerald, Ker Gilbert, Harry Morgan, Innes Nelson, Marc O'Neill, Joe Saunyama, Lewis Skinner, Finlay Stevenson, Fynn Wyper, Mason Beale, Lucy Harrower, Harrison Mather, Calay More, Maxwell Morris, Joseph Reilly, Cameron Shearer and Kayden Smeed.

#### National Joke Competition

Pupils in P2 and P3 created lots of laughter last term by taking part in a school joke competition. Volunteers told their favourite jokes in class and at assemblies as part of a Voice Box competition <https://www.rcslt.org/scotland/voicebox/> where the focus was on clear delivery and audience awareness when telling a joke.

After listening to the jokes of five finalists, Pupil Council decided that Lara Allison's joke would be entered as our school's competition entry:

*"Why can't Elsa have a Balloon?  
Because she will just Let it Go, Let it Go!"*

## **School Lunches/Clothing Grant**

To apply for free school meals and clothing grant (P1 to P7), parents should click on the following link  
[Free school meals and clothing grant | Stirling Council](https://www.stirling.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals-and-clothing-grant/apply-for-free-school-meals-p6-p7-only/)

Whilst P1-P5 children automatically receive free school meals, holiday payments for P1-P5 is an entitlement under specific criteria which is explained within the link, along with eligibility for a clothing grant.

P6 & P7 parents/carers are able to apply for free school meals at any point during the school year, using the link below

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals-and-clothing-grant/apply-for-free-school-meals-p6-p7-only/>

The cost of school lunches will increase to £2.60 from 4<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

## **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](https://www.nhsinform.scot/conditions/threadworms)

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/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/)

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

# Should I keep my child off school or childcare?

✓ Yes

✗ 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](http://nhsinform.scot)

## Advice and guidance

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



✓ Yes

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## Donaldson Park

The secretary to the Donaldson Recreation Park in Balfron and its committee are hoping to attract young parents from the community on to its board of trustees. They meet 3 times a year, normally February, June and October with the aim of keeping the park as a very useful recreation area for the community.

If as a parent of the Primary school you are interested to either hear more about the Trust and its Trustees or if you are interested in becoming a trustee please e-mail Tina Morrison, Secretary of the Donaldson Recreation Park – [tina.morrison20@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tina.morrison20@yahoo.co.uk).

Yours sincerely

Angus Black

Angus Black  
Headteacher

### Dates for the Diary

April		
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  Preloved uniforms able to be collected from school 9:00am – 12:00pm
Sunday 4th	Balfour 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 Balfour 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 Balfour High	
June		
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	P2 Open Morning	9:30am – 10:15am
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

