

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:

Trim Trail

All children are enjoying our fabulous new playground Trim Trail which was installed last week. An official cutting of the warning tapes took place on Monday morning followed by a hugely enjoyable initial play, class by class. Our Parent Council deserves sincere thanks for their successful fundraising and grant applications which has provided our own children and wider community many years of activity and fun.

We will be holding an official opening of the new Trim Trail on Monday 1st December at 2:00pm which will include representatives from Parent Council, 10K Committee, Community Council and other organisations who have provided valuable funding, including CSET.



Our new Trim Trail opened for play on Monday 17th November

Book Scotland Week 17th - 23rd November

To celebrate Book Scotland Week all pupils in P1 and P2 will be receiving a Book Bag provided by the Scottish Book Trust.

P1 Enrolment

Details for P1 enrolment session 2026/2027 are attached as an appendix. Further information for enrolment procedures can also be found at www.stirling.gov.uk

Open Mornings

We will be holding two open mornings later this term. P6 parents, carers and families are invited to come into class on Wednesday 10th December 9:45am - 10:25am to share in the learning for the term which will include a History Museum theme. P4 are hosting a Christmas Story Book open morning for their parents/carers on Wednesday 17th December 9:30am-10:15am

Christmas

Class Christmas party dates are included below and at the end of the newsletter.

- Friday 12th - P5 & P6
- Monday 15th- P1 & P2
- Tuesday 16th- Nursery
- Wednesday 17th – P7
- Thursday 18th - P3 & P4

On the day of their party, children are encouraged to wear or bring separately in a change bag, some party clothes.

We are very grateful to the Parent Council who will also be providing some party snacks of crisps, sweets and drinks.

Details for P1-P3 Nativity tickets, along with Christmas Cards designed by pupils, were sent home earlier this week.

In class we will be practising some well-known Christmas carols, so that those who are attending the Community Council's Christmas tree light switch-on at the Tontine on Sunday 7th December 4:00pm, can join in with the music.

Headteacher Absence

From Monday 1st December, I will be absent from school for an expected period of two weeks, following a small operation. Mr Logan will take over day to day responsibility within the school before my expected return to work on Monday 15th December.

Pupil Council

"Balfron Cares" – Stalls From Home Day

Following the success of previous Stalls from Home Day, our school will be providing the same opportunity for interested pupils on Friday 12th December, which will have a Christmas craft theme.

Individual pupils or small groups of friends who have ideas to help raise money for the remainder of the Trim Trail costs, can collect a stall booking form from Mr Black up to Friday 28th November.

Pupil Council will again co-ordinate Stalls from Home Day 2025 and will provide further information and guidance to all classes for any child that would like to buy a Christmas item from the list of stalls organised.

Morning Routines

Punctuality - Please make sure that your child arrives at school in time to go into class with peers at the 8:55am morning bell, avoiding being marked 'late' on the school registration system.

Class Lines - Parents/carers are asked, where possible, to stand back a little from the morning class line. We are always delighted to have parents in the playground, but appreciate

when those who are not supporting an anxious or upset child, are able to watch their child into school, standing back, which will reduce a feeling of congestion and busyness for our youngest classes.

Standing back from the line will also be inclusive for children who do not have parents in the playground.

Parents who would like to speak to a teacher at the start or end of the day, can do so at the line, or contact through email or seesaw. Last week our office sent out a reminder to parents of our teacher email addresses.

Dogs - Please also ensure that dogs, large or small, are kept out of the playground at all times.

Crossing Patrol

Crossing Patrol at Roman Road will stop before the end of term, when Ann Adams' role comes to an end after many years of excellent service. Staff and pupils will thank Ann for her great service to our community when she joins a school assembly next month.

In light of the ending of crossing patrol, it is even more important now that walking or park and stride approaches are used by our parent/carer community.

Parking

- To help avert an accident from happening, entering the school grounds by car during busy periods including 8:45am - 8:55am and 3:15pm - 3:25pm, unless absolutely essential, is not permitted.
- Moor Road parking – the turning point or on the kerb at the playground double gates is not for parking. This creates additional congestion around the school which can be dangerous.
- Moor Road parking - some residents have contacted the school, requesting that cars are not parked across driveways, or on the white lines, even for a short period of time, as this is blocking access.

*A recommended alternative, used successfully by many parents, is **parking at Donaldson Park and walking the short distance to school via the path.***

Parents Evening

Based on comments from parents and teachers, the bell system used during last month's Parents' Evenings was successful and will therefore be operational again in March.

Questionnaires

Thank you to all of our parents/carers who completed last month's questionnaire which focussed on partnership working with school. Returns from 33 families provided evidence of how our school works successfully in different partnership based ways with parents and carers. The collected data is attached as an appendix.

Children in Need

Well done to everyone who contributed towards the £427 raised last week during Children in Need challenge day which was very successfully organised by P7.

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.

Anti-Bullying Week

At last week's assembly, P5 who lead as school Inclusion Ambassadors, shared key messages from national Anti-Bullying Week (10th - 14th November)

As well as encouraging all children to make use of their open area display board, all pupils were reminded that every week in school should be anti-bullying.



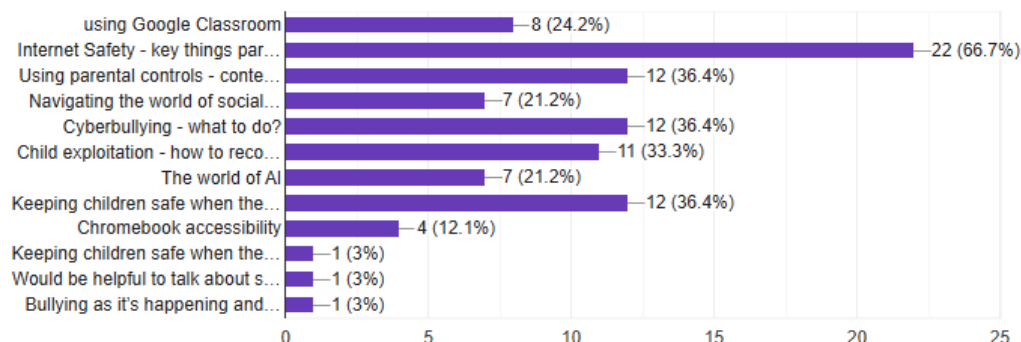
Internet Safety

This year, all of the local primary schools and Balfron High are working together on digital safety with a particular focus on internet safety.

A digital festival for parents P6 - S2 will be held at Balfron High on Thursday 26th March 7:00pm - 8:00pm which will include activities and keynote speakers on internet safety. Results from our recent survey showed the following as priorities.

Digital Well-Being - It is planned that a parents information event on digital safety will be organised during session 2025/2026. Please tick 3 areas that you would like to find out most information about -

33 responses



School Visits

Last term we were delighted to have a range of additional visits to enhance the curriculum across different stages including:

- P1 - library visit; air ambulance and crossing patrol
- P4 and nursery - harvest apple picking and pressing
- P4 bee-keeping with parent
- P6 - parent/social work presentation on inclusion
- P2, P3, P6, P7 - Dig at the Motte
- P4-P7 Poppy Bus Scotland

This term, the recently appointed Rev. Alex Smeed joined P1-P7 at our weekly school assembly while P7 have been enjoying learning more about coding from one of our Skills Directory parents.

Allergy Aware Schools

Our school is moving from a 'nut free' school to an 'allergy aware' position. The reason for the change is:

- It is not possible to guarantee and enforce a nut free zone - staff cannot monitor all lunches and snacks brought from home.
- A 'free from' environment creates a false sense of security and does not safely prepare children for environments where nuts may be present.
- We need to consider other children with different food allergies and it is not practical to restrict them all.

All situations where children have allergies should be reported to the school office so that we can support them with a care plan where required. Meetings can also be arranged with the Council's catering team.

Parents, when preparing packed lunches, are asked to continue being allergy aware for other pupils by not including nut based products.

NHS Pharmacy

Please find attached latest patient information produced by NHS Pharmacy Scotland

Sickness Reminders

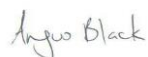
At the start of the year it is important to remind parents that in order to reduce opportunities for spread of infections, when children suffer from a sickness or diarrhoea bug they should not return to school until 48 hours after the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

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
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

Yours sincerely



Angus Black
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

December		
Sunday 7th	Village Christmas Tree - light switch on	4:00pm
Wednesday 10 th	P6 Open Morning – History Museum	9:45am
Wednesday 10 th	P1-P3 Nativity	1:45pm
Thursday 11 th	P1-P3 Nativity	9:30am
Friday 12th	Stalls from Home	morning
Friday 12th	P5 & P6 Christmas Party	Afternoon
Monday 15th	P1 & P2 Christmas Party	Afternoon
Tuesday 16th	Nursery Christmas Party	Afternoon
Wednesday 17 th	P4 Open Morning – Christmas Books	9:30am – 10:15am
Wednesday 17th	Christmas Lunch for pupils	
Wednesday 17th	P7 Christmas Party	Afternoon
Thursday 18 th	End of term church service – P4 leading	9:45am
Thursday 18 th	P3 & P4 Christmas Party	Afternoon
Friday 19 th	End of Term	12:45pm
Monday 22 nd – Friday 2 nd January	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
January		
Monday 5 th	New Term	8:55am