

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:

#### Church service

As Christmas approaches and another busy term at school draws to a close, parents and families are invited to join us at Balfron Church tomorrow morning, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Our Christmas Service will start at 9.45am (running until approximately 10.30am), however, we would ask you to arrive and be seated beforehand. Doors will be open from 9.15am, with the balcony seating allocated to parents, carers and families. If accessing the gallery is an issue, some lower seating will also be available.

P4 will be leading this year's service with their recital of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas. There will also be some carol singing, a performance from our strings players and a song from this year's nativity, Prickly Hay.

#### It's Snow Joke

Pupils in nursery and P1-P7 will be set a fun challenge on the last day of term – tasked with working together to unlock a Christmas padlock. If successful some tasty rewards await! Thank you to our Parent Council for organising this activity.

The minutes of November's Parent Council meeting are attached as an appendix to today's newsletter and have also been placed on the school website.

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 7pm in school and also available online.

#### "Balfron Cares" – Stalls From Home Day

An amazing £667.07 was raised towards costs for the new Trim Trail which was installed last month to all of the children's delight. Well done to the 23 stall holders and families for a super effort. The official opening of the Trim Trail was shared on the Council website:

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/news/upgrades-to-balfron-primary-school-playground-unveiled/>

#### Staffing

At the start of next term, we look forward to two new teachers joining our team. Miss Smith, who has previously taught at Balfron PS, will become P2 teacher while Mrs Robertson begins maternity leave.

Miss Bruce will take over as P5 teacher, replacing Mrs Toal who has been appointed to a promoted teaching post in another school.

#### 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](http://www.stirling.gov.uk)

### Climate Ready Classrooms

P5 and P6 pupils recently took a deeper study into the climate as part of lessons that were taking place across Scottish schools. Well done to both classes who were awarded 'Climate Ready' certification for their participation.

### Crossing Patrol

Crossing Patrol at Roman Road is expected to stop on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January, meaning that Ann Adams' role comes to an end after many years of excellent service. Staff and pupils thanked Ann for her great service to our community when she joined a school assembly earlier this month.

Some parents have also suggested that they would like to present a gift to Ann and a link through Parent Pay has therefore been set up for any parent who would like to contribute. A large card will also be left in the school office at the start of next term for anyone who would like to add their name.

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.*

### **Some Other Important Reminders:**

#### Uniform

While at this time of year party clothes and Christmas jumpers are being seen in school, all parents are reminded of our school uniform policy and **we look forward to seeing all of our pupils wearing a full school uniform at the start of the new term.** Our aim is to structure occasions of pupils wearing clothes which are non-uniform to a minimum and communicate these through whole school approaches like newsletters. Our school uniform policy is attached an appendix.

#### Dogs in the playground

Parents are reminded that dogs, even on leads, are not permitted in any part of the school playground either at the beginning or end of the school day.

#### 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.

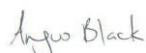
### Sickness Reminders

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.

### And Finally

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for the huge support and encouragement that is given to our school every day. I hope that parents, pupils and staff have an enjoyable and safe Christmas holiday.

Yours sincerely



Angus Black  
Headteacher

### Dates for the Diary

December		
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	P4 Open Morning – Christmas Books	9:30am – 10:15am
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch for pupils	
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Christmas Party	Afternoon
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	End of term church service – P4 leading	9:45am
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup>	P3 & P4 Christmas Party	Afternoon
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	End of Term	12:45pm
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
January		
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup>	New Term	8:55am
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Council meeting	7:00pm