

Co-operation Courage Respect Responsibility Resilience

"Learn and discover, care for each other"



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year!

New P1s

Well done to all 15 of our new P1 pupils who have made such a super start to the new school year.

Meet the Teacher

We will be providing an opportunity for parents/carers to meet their child's new teacher on Wednesday 2nd September. The format will be the same as was introduced last year; one which allows parents to drop-in for ten minutes at anytime between 3:30pm and 4:30pm to briefly meet their child's teacher, see the classroom and look at some resources that will be used during the year ahead.

There will be no presentation from the teacher with class newsletters being issued during the following week, summarising all key information including how learning will be planned from August to December.

Parents can of course bring their child to the Meet the Teacher drop-in session.

Staff

We were delighted to welcome two new teachers to our teaching team for the year ahead. Miss Wilson and Miss Dickinson are P2 and P5 teachers respectively.

The recruitment process for a new Headteacher is also underway. Both our Parent Council and Pupil Council will have a role in the assessment of candidates in line with Stirling Council policies. My last day as Headteacher will be at the end of this term on Friday 9th October.

Parent Council

Parent Council is holding its AGM in our school hall on Wednesday 26th August at 7:00pm. All parents from the both the primary and nursery will be very much welcome at the AGM and are encouraged to be part of Parent Council this year.

The first meeting of the year will be held on Tuesday 8th September at 7:00pm. An agenda will be sent out nearer to the date.

The new painted playground games were paid for by last year's Parent Council team through the excellent fundraising and generous partnership working that took place during session 2025/2026. It is important for our school that we again have a strong Parent Council, so please come along and get involved on Wednesday evening.

Flu Vaccine

Flu vaccines for P1-P7 will take place on the morning of Thursday 12th November. Consent forms from NHS Forth Valley have been issued today and should be returned to the school office by Thursday 27th August.

Parents' Evenings

Our Parents Evening dates for the full year are shown below.

- Tuesday 6th October 5:00pm – 7:30pm
- Wednesday 7th October 3:30pm – 6:00pm
- Wednesday 3rd March 5:00pm – 7:30pm
- Thursday 4th March 3:30pm – 6:00pm

Parents who would like to request a specific day for October's parents evening should use the link below to indicate their preference. The link will close on Friday 18th September.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pQzGLBmBrf0xeUg52i5-qJAX3k-vXSYu4xScbmwzAeU/edit>

Appointment slips for the first set of parents evening appointments will be issued to parents on Friday 25th September.

Additional Curricular Events

Established additional curricular events have been arranged across the school in the following way this year:

P1-P3 Christmas Nativity – Wednesday 9th December 1:45pm and Thursday 10th December 9:30am

P4 Christmas Church Service led by P4 – Tuesday 22nd December December 9:45am.

The dates for class led assemblies to parents of pupils who are presenting are listed in the following table. Parents should arrive just before 1:45pm for our Friday class assemblies.

As shown below, open mornings for some classes will take place with dates still to be arranged based on the curricular focus.

	Class Assembly to parents/carers	Other
P1	11 th June	P1-3 Nativity 9 th & 10 th December
P2	21 st May	
P3	7 th May	

		Other
P4	Open Morning for parents/carers - Dates and times to be confirmed later in the school year	Leading Christmas Church Service 22 nd December

	Class Assembly to parents/carers	Other
P5	19 th March	Open Morning for parents/carers - Dates and times to be confirmed later in the school year
P6	26 th February	Open Morning for parents/carers - Dates and times to be confirmed later in the school year

P7	Open Morning for parents/carers - Dates and times to be confirmed later in the school year	School Play – dates of the performance will be confirmed later in the school year
		Leavers' Assembly – June date tbc

School Photographer

Individual and family photographs will be taken in school on the morning of Tuesday 27th October.

P7 Roles

Throughout the year all of our P7s have different leadership roles and responsibilities, tasked with helping other pupils and staff while acting as excellent role models. We are delighted with the start to the year shown by our current P7 class.

The pupils have been given the following additional responsibilities:

House Captains

Donaldson and Burns – Martha Callander and Craig Wilson

Gorman and Bruce – Violet Thomson and Noah Smith

Thunberg and Wallace – Elouise Sutherland and Finlay McTavish

P7 Big Buddy Activity Co-ordinators

Abi Alison, Aaron Hamill, Harlow Billington, Savas Ozturk and Sonya Onika

All P7 pupils also take on the role of Big Buddies, supporting and helping an assigned P1 settle into school and playground.

Sports Co-ordinators

Joni Greig, Abigail Patrick, Finlay Anderson, Murray Conway and Finlay Wright.

Wet Weather Class Monitor Co-ordinators

Alyssa Montague, Jude Ritchie, Archie Gibson and Kian Border.

Monitors

Mark Hirenko, Riley Craig and Kai Menzies.

Pupil Council Co-ordinators

Cory Miller, Ruairidh Campbell and Helena Mandt

P6 Playground Squaddies

Our P6 class also have an important leadership role this year. Putting their playground squaddie training from P5 into good use, P6s will work in small teams each week to support younger pupils with ideas for successful games. Our Squaddie rota will begin next week.

Campus Safety

All parents/carers must continue to avoid driving into the campus between 8:30am and 3:30pm.

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

Ultimate responsibility for ensuring that pupils arrive and leave the campus safely, remains with parents and we therefore anticipate and welcome an expected increase in numbers of parents walking to and from the school with their children, providing necessary supervision.

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.

Children who have forgotten or are without a morning interval snack, can this year, get a free piece of fruit from the school office.

School Website

Our school website can be accessed at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronprimary/> and we hope that parents/carers will use it as a reference point for key information, so please keep checking throughout the year.

The following key documents are available on our website:

1. Standards and Quality Report

Our school's 2025/2026 Standards and Quality Report details the progress made by the school last session as well as listing all of our improvement priorities for the year ahead.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2026/08/17145125/SQR-BALFRON-PS-2025-2026.pdf>

2. School Uniform Policy

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronprimary/school-uniform/>

3. End of Day Protocols

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2025/08/18134239/End-of-school-day-Protocol-Balfron-PS-August-2025.pdf>

4. The whole school Anti-Bullying Policy

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2022/09/07105614/Balfron-PS-Anti-Bullying-Policy.pdf>

b. Pupil Policy

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2023/10/26094810/No-to-Bullying-poster-Oct-2023.pdf>

c. Stirling Council's Policy – Respect for All which is aligned with our school approaches

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2024/05/23091259/stirling-g-council-approach-to-respect-for-all.pdf>

d. Respectme – national anti-bullying advice

<https://respectme.org.uk/>

e. Anti-Bullying : School Question & Answer

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2024/06/11071830/Bullying-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

5. Our established Homework Policy provides a summary of our approaches to supporting children and families with set home learning tasks.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/public/balfronprimary/uploads/sites/3193/2026/08/21091521/Home-Learning-and-Home-Work-Framework-2026-2027.pdf>

Homework for P1-P7 will begin on Monday 31st August

6. RSHP - As well as a range of other information our website also provides a link to our policies on Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP)

Parents will be able to find links to the [Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood \(RSHP\)](#)

national resource <https://rshp.scot/> used by all teachers to support our updated school programme which is in line with Curriculum for Excellence. Lessons take place across all stages throughout the school year.

While this national resource is available in its entirety including lesson resources, our updated school programme is also clearly identified on the website at:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/balfronprimary/rshp/>

- *RSHP Curriculum for Excellence Outcome Overview*
- *Early Level progression – nursery to P1*
- *First level progression – P2 to P4*
- *Second level progression – P5 to P7*

Links to parent information videos on our website include –

- *Why does RSHP matter?*
- *Is the national RSHP age and stage appropriate?*
- *What do children and young people want from RSHP education?*
- *What is the role of parents and carers in RSHP education?*

Pupil Voice

One of our priorities this year is to continue fostering and promoting pupil voice, so that children's ideas are heard in the planning and decision making around our school. As part of this focus, each class will have its own theme to help lead, on behalf of the other pupils across P2 - P7.

P2	Litter – including weekly playground litter rota
P3	School Garden
P4	Digital Well-Being Award/Cyber Resilience Internet Safety
P5	Inclusion Ambassadors
P6	3Ls – Lost Property /School Uniform
P7	Sport & Health including First Aid
Pupil Council	Pupil ideas. Campus Road Safety. UNCRC Assemblies
House Captains	Whole School Charity Events & UNCRC Assemblies

Learners in P1 and nursery will work together on helping develop effective transitions.

Residential Trip

In previous years, P6 have attended a residential trip to Ardroy Activity Centre. This year, however, there will be no residential trip for P6. This change is because all of the local primary schools which feed into Balfron High have agreed to work towards arranging a shared transition residential trip at the start of P7.

More details of the residential trip for P7 session 2027/2028 will be provided later in the school year.

School Lunches/Clothing Grant

To apply for free school meals and clothing grant (P1 to P7), parents should click on the following link <https://www.stirling.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals-and-clothing-grant/>

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.

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/free-school-meals-and-clothing-grant/#free-school-meals-for-children-in-p1-to-p5-4>

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-a-clothing-grant-or-both/>

The meal cost for P6 and P7 is £2.60 for a 2 course meal, drink and access to a salad bar and bread.

Mobile phones

Mobile phones are not required in school to support learning in class and therefore the expectation is that they are not brought into school by pupils.

If on an exceptional case, some parents require their child to have a phone for contact purposes after 3:15pm, for example if attending an after-school club or bus journeys, phones should be kept in bags at all times during the school day. ***Please note that Smart watches with phone access should also not be brought into school.***

Playground

Many of our children enjoy exploring our bushes and trees during playtimes. Playground staff as part of their supervision duties, encourage pupils to play creatively and the abundance of hedges and trees certainly support exciting and imaginative pupil ideas. While pupils are closely monitored and are not allowed to climb high within any hedge or tree, occasionally some children do get scratched by twigs etc. when they climb or get down. When a child does get a scratch or small injury a record slip will be sent home. If you do not want your own child to climb or explore within our school grounds please do make sure that they are clear of your expectations, as well as informing the school.

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.

Sickness

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.

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 –

 **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

Advice and guidance

To find out more, scan the QR code or visit publichealthscotland.scot/hpcyp



Yours sincerely

Angus Black

Angus Black
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

August		
Wednesday 26 th	Parent Council AGM	7:00pm
Monday 31 st	Homework begins	
September		
Wednesday 2 nd	Meet the Teacher drop-in session for parents	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Tuesday 8 th	Parent Council Meeting 1	7:00pm
October		
Tuesday 6 th	Parents Evenings	5:00pm – 7:30pm
Wednesday 7 th	Parents Evenings	3:30pm – 6:00pm
Monday 12 th – Friday 23 rd	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff. Nursery remains open
Monday 26 th	Winter term starts	8:55am
Tuesday 27 th	Individual and Family photographs in school	morning
November		
Thursday 12 th	Flu Vaccine day	morning
December		
Wednesday 9 th	P1-P3 Nativity	1:45pm
Thursday 10 th	P1-P3 Nativity	9:30am
Tuesday 22 nd	End of term church service – P4 leading	9:45am
Tuesday 22 nd	End of Term	12:45pm
Wed 23 rd December – Monday 4 th January	Holiday	School closed to pupils and staff
January		
Tuesday 5 th	New Term	8:55am