

Co-operation Courage Respect Responsibility Resilience

"Learn and discover, care for each other"



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of term one, I have the following news items to share.

Staffing

Once appointed, the Acting Headteacher will take up post at the start of term on Monday 26th October, following a handover from me.

Mrs Carey, who has been SLA since 2018, has a new job and will be leaving our school on Thursday 8th October. Mrs Carey has been a hugely valued member of the support team at Balfron and all pupils and colleagues will greatly miss her.

Mr Curtis has joined the SLA team on a temporary basis for the rest of the school year. Mr Curtis is already familiar to many of our pupils, having previously worked in the school as part of Active Stirling's programme delivery.

We are delighted to be welcoming back Miss Holms from maternity leave next term. Miss Holms will be teaching three days per week –

- Wednesday – P1 and P6
- Thursday & Friday – P6

Mrs Witherspoon and Mrs Muir will both revert to their normal working week of Monday – Wednesday and Thursday – Friday respectively.

Additionally in P6, Mr Malkin will begin a student teacher after the October break and will be working with Mrs Witherspoon and Miss Holms during the rest of that term.

Christmas Term

Last month's newsletter listed the incorrect date for the end of term in December. The last day of term will be *Tuesday 22nd December* including:

- 9:45am Church Service where all parents/carers and families are invited. The service will be taken by Rev Alex Smeed and P4
- 12:45pm - end of term bell for P1-P7

Parents' Evenings

We look forward to welcoming everyone to Parents Evening appointments next week. Like last year, to ensure appointment times run to schedule, a warning bell system will operate.

- Tuesday 6th October 5:00pm – 7:30pm
- Wednesday 7th October 3:30pm – 6:00pm

School Photographer

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

Parent Council

Please find attached the minutes of September's Parent Council meeting and the previous month's AGM. Thank you to everyone who has returned the permission slips and made payment for the Halloween Discos which are again being organised by our Parent Council on Wednesday 28th October.

Pupil Council

This year's Pupil Council reps are:

P3 Zoey Keenan

P4 Florence Stewart

P5 Robbie Easton

P6 Rae Crawford

P7 Ruairidh Campbell, Helena Mandt, Cory Miller & Jude Ritchie

As well as reps, other class members from P3-P7 have the opportunity to volunteer at Pupil Council meetings, which take place every month. This term, P5-P7 Pupil Council reps have been involved in the new Headteacher recruitment process.

Flu Vaccine

Flu vaccines for P1-P7 will take place on the morning of Thursday 12th November.

Balfron Book Festival

We were delighted to support this year's Book Festival, with pupils from P3-P7 writing poems about why reading was important to them. Some poems were read out by a group of children who visited the village Lunch Club, while others shared their poetry at assembly in the same week.

Anti-Racism

P5 - P7 pupils received an anti-racism presentation from Police Scotland earlier this month. The talk was delivered very effectively with all children fully engaged throughout. Thank you to the team at Police Scotland for their contribution.

Active Stirling

We are delighted to be again working in partnership with Active Stirling so that extra-curricular sports can be provided throughout the year. The school's P5-P7 netball and P6-P7 football clubs have already started and this year are being taken by Miss Wilson and Mr Curtis respectively, with the help of Neil Thomson, Active Stirling's local schools coordinator.

Sports Taster sessions are also delivered by Active Stirling supporting Balfron High senior students to lead all of our classes at different times during the year including this term:

P4 rugby

P5 rugby

P5 athletics

P6 handball

Next term's programme will include:

P2 wrestling

P3 rugby

P5 athletics festival

P7 handball

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.

Thank You

I have been touched by all of the kind words and messages that I have received since announcing that I would be retiring from my role as Headteacher of Balfron Primary and Nursery.

Since my appointment to Balfron in June 2012, the work that I have led has only been made possible by the genuine support that I have always felt from across the whole school community - staff, parents/carers, and the wider village but most importantly of all, the children of our great school. Thank you to everyone.

As most people know, I am fortunate to live locally but my future now is away from Balfron Primary and I am looking forward to spending some of my time on interests outside of schools.

The appointment of a new Acting Headteacher will bring fresh and exciting opportunities and I have no doubt that the school community will offer the same encouragement, patience and practical help that has always been extended to me.

Thank you and best wishes



Angus Black
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

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
Wednesday 28 th	Parent Council Halloween Discos P1-P4 P5-P7	6:15pm - 7:15pm 7:30pm - 8:30pm
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