



Melrose Primary School

Parent/carers bulletin 2: September 2025

Term 1

We have had a fantastic first term at school, filled with learning, creativity, and new experiences. From our youngest learners in ELC to our senior pupils in P7, everyone has embraced challenges, celebrated successes, and shown real enthusiasm for their learning. As a whole school, we are on our journey to embed the 5Cs – Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, Curiosity, and Critical Thinking – into everything we do, helping our pupils develop skills for learning, life, and work. We are so proud of the progress made this term and look forward to even more exciting opportunities in Term 2!

Parent/Carer consultations

Parent/carers/teacher consultations will take place on Wednesday 19, & Thursday 20 November 1545-1755 for P1-P7 classes & Monday 24 November 1545-1715 for ELC – P7 classes), information about booking an appointment will be sent out after the October holiday. All consultations will take place in the school hall in the Main building

Book Fair

Pupils will get an opportunity to visit the Book Fair with their class teacher from Monday 10 – Thursday 13 November. Further information about the purchase of books will be sent out nearer the time.

Halloween

The Parent Council Fund Raising group have organised parties for children, after school, on Thursday 29 October: P1-P3 party 1530-1615, P4-P7 party 1630-1730. Details have been sent out, please contact the school office if you have not received notification for the parties.

School improvement

This term, our teachers have been working in groups to further enhance learning across the school: STEM, Outdoor Learning, and Pupil Voice. Staff training is being led by teachers and members of the SLT ensuring everyone has new skills and ideas to bring back to the classroom. Our first training session is centred around computing science. Staff will have the opportunity to explore a range of resources including blue bots and micro:bits. To increase Pupil voice, in the life and work of the school, pupils will have the opportunity to lead clubs such as sewing, reading, chess etc giving them a chance to take responsibility and share their skills with others. These activities also help pupils develop important skills for life, including Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking, and Curiosity – the 5Cs

National Improvement for Writing

Three of our teachers are involved in the National Improvement for Writing in Scotland this term. They have been working with colleagues across the country to explore best practice and bring new ideas back to our classrooms to further support children's writing development. Our staff are using tools such as Pareto charts and run charts to carefully track pupil progress. These strategies engage children in their learning and allow them to see their progress. The strategies help teachers identify where children are doing well and where additional support may be needed, ensuring every child can continue to make strong progress in their learning.

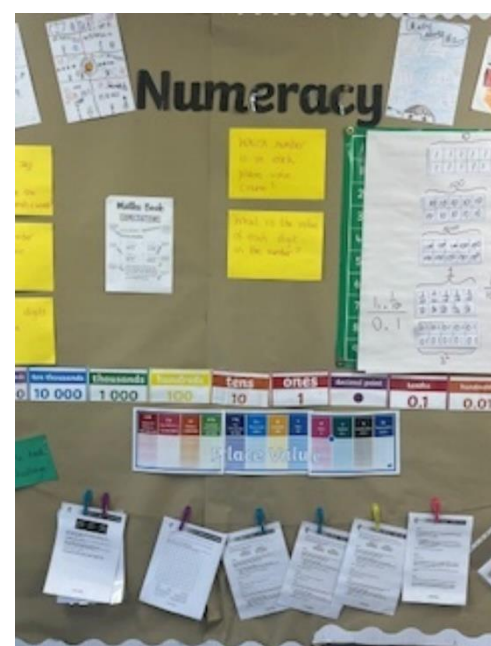
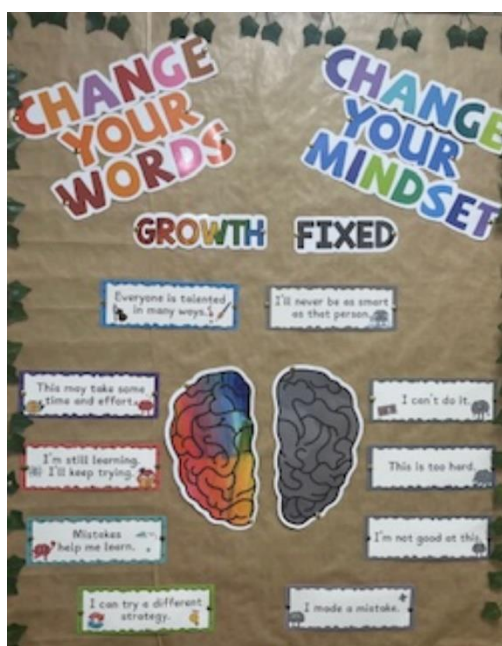
Quality improvement

Learning Environment Walkthroughs

This term, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) have carried out walkthroughs across the school to look at and celebrate the learning environments. The focus has been on:

- Class Charters linked to the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child)
- Literacy and Numeracy walls to support learning
- Our school values, the 5Rs (*Respected, Responsible, Resilient, Reflective, Receptive*)
- Our 5Cs (*Creativity, Communication, Critical Thinking, Curiosity, Collaboration*)

These help ensure our classrooms are engaging, supportive, and consistent across the school;



Looking ahead, our next SLT walkthroughs will focus on how Learning Intentions and Success Criteria are being used across the school to support children in understanding their learning and next steps.

Reporting to Parents

We have sent out a Reporting to Parents Guidance document via Groupcall. Please take a moment to read it, as we have made some updates to reflect the different levels your child may be working at. This will help you better understand your child's progress and next steps.

Rights Respecting School

We are putting children's rights at the heart of our ethos and culture, to improve well-being and develop every child's talent and ability to their full potential. As part of this plan, we are working towards recognition as a Rights Respecting School, an award given to schools on behalf of UNICEF UK.

UNICEF UK works with schools to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured and they are able to thrive. The Rights Respecting Schools Award supports schools to put in place a set of standards based on equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. These values stem from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Pupils will learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day. You can find out more about the Award here:

unicef.uk/About_RRSA

Miss MacDonald will be leading a group of pupils to become Rights Respecting Reps (Ambassadors), helping to lead pupil clubs and helping to give children a voice in their learning.



Official opening of the Playground



We invite you to join us at the official opening of our new playground. Invitations have been sent to those who supported the creation of this exciting new space, and we look forward to celebrating together.

Morning Events

- Children will enjoy a special treat of ice cream from Over Langshaw throughout the morning (vanilla and vegan vanilla available).
- 11:00am – Welcome and mural ribbon-cutting (whole school and invited guests).
- 11:15am – Tea/coffee in the marquee and a guided tour of the playground. Children will enjoy their ice cream and, weather permitting, sit together in the green space.
- 12:15pm – Parents are warmly invited to stay and play with their children.

After School

- Families are invited to stay and play in the new playground.
- Tea and coffee will be available in the marquee.
- Parents will also have the opportunity to learn more about the process and journey of developing our playground.

We can't wait to celebrate this special occasion with you!

Archaeological Dig

Our Primary 6 pupils had a fantastic time at the archaeological dig and thoroughly enjoyed the wide range of activities on offer. The afternoon was well organised and perfectly suited to the pupils. The staff were absolutely fantastic – they engaged the children brilliantly and really sparked their curiosity. Many pupils left talking excitedly about pursuing something similar in the future, which was wonderful to hear!



Dalguise

Our P7 pupils had an amazing time on their residential trip to Dalguise, taking part in a wide variety of exciting activities. Their favourites included Aeroball, the Giant Swing, and the Trapeze. Evening activities were just as memorable, with a campfire and a real-life Cluedo game adding extra fun and teamwork. A huge thank you to Mrs Innes, Miss Houghton, Miss Leckie, Miss Martin, Iain Ross, and Elaine Swanston for giving up their own time to accompany the children and make the trip so special.



Melrose Music Festival

The Primary 5 class recently took part in a fantastic workshop led by the world-class vocal ensemble The Marian Consort, hosted by Melrose Music Festival at St. Mary's School. The children were fully engaged, enjoying fun games and interactive learning while experiencing music-making with professional vocalists of the highest calibre.



Primary 1 and Primary 2 Judo Taster

Our Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils had the chance to take part in an exciting Judo taster session this term. The children were fully engaged, gave it their best effort, and most importantly had great fun trying out new skills!



Learning and Childcare (ELC)

The ELC children have been taking part in a sponsored walk in the local community. We are raising funds to support the child's right to play. The theme of our walk was an Autumn Scavenger hunt. The children, along with some parent/carers, went for walks in the local community with a checklist of autumn objects and animals to spot.

We found
pinecones!

I like the
leaves...they
change colour.

I liked the
pinecone tree in
the beautiful
garden.

When they arrived back to the outdoor satellite setting the children enjoyed an autumn themed snack and toasting marshmallows on the fire.

The objects they collected were also put to good use to make some transient art based around the book Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert and the artwork of Andy Goldsworthy.



Donations Early Learning and Childcare

We would like to say a big thank you for the many generous donations we have received recently — from games, books, and microscopes to a dolls' house and even a play kitchen. These resources make such a difference to our classrooms and play spaces, helping to enrich the children's learning and play experiences. We are very grateful for your continued support.

Sign up to parent portal

All parents, carers, and guardians should have received an email from Scottish Borders Council with details about the benefits of the Parents Portal. To get started, you will need a MyGovScot account. Once logged in, you'll be able to link your account to your child's school record.

parentsportal.scot | [The digital doorway to your child's school.](#)

After you make this link request, the school will approve it and you'll then be able to access the menu of services available through the portal.

What functionality is available to us from the Go Live date

View my child's attendance

Permission Slips – give consent to my child going on a class trip

Annual Data Check – update my details online

Class Timetable – view my child's timetable

Notice Board – be informed of school events

Calendar – view holidays/in service dates/events

Report Cards – view report cards for S4-S6 (depending on time of year)

Parent Council

Ceilidh & BBQ

Thank you to everyone who came to our first event on the 20th September, the event was a complete sell out and we raised £447.50 of valuable funds for the school. It was so great to see families from young children to Grandparents taking part and there was some very impressive dancing on show. Also congratulations to the Milne family for winning the GIANT chocolate hamper!

AGM

You are invited to attend the AGM on Wednesday 29th October, 7pm. Main school building and remotely on Teams.

Sustainability Shed

Our Sustainability Shed, which has second hand school uniform, is open for families to take items they need for free. The aim is to encourage reuse and sharing, helping us all to reduce waste and support one another. This is the shed in the school garden nearest to the main building entrance. The shed will be open during the school day, if locked please ask for the key from the office.

A group of parents have spent time, through the summer, re-organising the shed. Further information about the organisation will follow from the working group of parents.

While we are always grateful for donations, the main purpose of the shed is for families to use what is there. Please do feel welcome to come and take items without feeling you need to give something in return.

Lunches - ParentPay

Primary 1 to 5 pupils are entitled to a free school lunch. All lunches, free or paid, must be ordered through ParentPay. Please remember to order child's lunches in advance, preferably by the night before at the very latest, to ensure that your child receives the food you have chosen for them. Advance ordering limits time

spent on choosing meals during learning time in school. Meals can be ordered for an entire term if you wish.

What happens if I do not order a lunch?

If a lunch order has not been placed for your child, they will be offered a **soup and sandwich option**. Please note that we can only provide this choice, as all other meals are made to order in advance.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Nut Free School

Please remember that we are a nut-free school. We have a number of pupils, and staff, in school who are severely allergic to nuts. It is imperative these products are not brought to or consumed on school premises, including in the playground. Please check packaging especially cereal bars.

Snack Policy

- There will be one snack time, in class, during the school day - free flow snack will no longer take place
- Class teachers will choose an appropriate time during the school day for the class to have snack
- Children should bring a healthy and nutritious snack
- **Confectionary is not allowed – confectionary includes sweets and chocolate.** Children who bring confectionery will not be permitted to eat it
- **We also do not permit grab bags of crisps.**

We thank you for your support of this.

We encourage children to bring water to school, in a named bottle. There are water dispensers in both buildings for children to re-fill throughout the day. Water bottles need to be cleaned daily; we will support children to take them home at the end of each day. **Please no juice as we are a health promoting school** and support good oral health.

Diary Dates

Thursday 2 October 2025 – Flu Immunisations

Monday 13 October – Friday 17 October 2025 – Holiday

Monday 20 October 2025 - In-service Day, school closed to pupils

Tuesday 21 October 2025 – Pupils resume

Parent / Carer Consultations - Wednesday 19 & Thursday 20 November 1545-1755 & Monday 24 November 1545-1715

Monday 1 & Tuesday 2 December School closed – St Andrew's Day and casual holiday

Thursday 4 December School Christmas Fair

Thursday 11 December P1 Nativity

Thursday 18 December School Christmas lunch

Friday 19 December Church service led by P5 year group

Senior Leadership and Pupil Support contact details:

Head teacher	Mrs G Innes	gcinnes@scotborders.gov.uk
Depute Head teacher	Mrs N Cranston	Natasha.cranston@scotborders.gov.uk
Depute Head teacher	Mr J Wallace	Jamie.Wallace@scotborders.gov.uk
Principal teacher	Mrs S Thomas	Shona.thomas@scotborders.gov.uk