



Melrose Primary School

Parent/carers bulletin 4: 31 October 2025

An Action-Packed Term of Learning and Creativity!

It's been a busy and exciting term full of opportunities for our learners to shine! Pupils have taken part in author visits, reading competitions, and novel studies across the school, helping to build a real buzz around books and storytelling. ELC have also enjoyed visits to our local library.

Our learning has been guided by our school's 5Cs – Creativity, Communication, Curiosity, Critical Thinking, and Collaboration – with pupils exploring how these important meta-skills (life skills) help them to learn, solve problems, and work together effectively.

We've also been busy engaging in hands-on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) learning specifically computing science, developing curiosity and problem-solving skills through practical challenges. It's been wonderful to see such enthusiasm, teamwork, and joy for learning throughout the school – well done to all our amazing pupils for making this term so inspiring!

Parent/Carer Consultations

Parents and carers will have received communication about how to book consultation appointments using the provided link. If you are having any technical issues please contact the office. Please remember that you can also make an appointment with our Support for Learning teachers, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Kershaw, if you would like to discuss any specific concerns, for example, around your child's reading or learning progress.

These appointments will also be 10-minute consultations, giving you the opportunity to share information, ask questions, and work together to support your child's learning journey. To book an appointment with our Support for Learning teachers please do so through the office rather than the link.

Supporting Learners with Dyslexia/Dyscalculia

Last year, we began reviewing how we identify children with dyslexia and dyscalculia. To support this process, we worked closely with Education Psychologists to ensure we are using the best approach for every child.

This year, to gain a fuller understanding of each learner (learners who have dyslexic profiles), we will ask parents, children, and teachers to complete a short questionnaire. This is just one part of the process. Learners will also complete reading and spelling assessments, and teachers will gather evidence from classroom work and how children approach different tasks. Together, this information will help us get a complete picture of each child's strengths and needs, so we can provide the right support for their learning journey.

We have also asked children if they would like to become our **Dyslexia/Dyscalculia Champions**. These learners will present to their peers and provide support to others, helping to raise awareness and share strategies across the school.

Remembrance

The Primary 7s will be holding a Remembrance Assembly on Friday 7th November from 9:00–9:30am. P6 pupils and P7 parents/carers are invited to attend. Due to the size of our P7 year group, we are capping attendance at 2 family members per child.

On Sunday 9th November, Primary 7 pupils are invited to represent Melrose Primary School at this year's Remembrance Parade. We will meet outside the Corn Exchange at 10:15am, with the parade starting promptly at 10:30am. Pupils will march to the War Memorial and must wear school uniform.

We would love to see as many members of our school community as possible there to support our young pupils in this important event.

Halloween

A huge thank you to our fantastic Parent Council and Fundraising Team — Miss Martin, Mrs Wright, and Mrs Wight — along with our wonderful parent volunteers, for organising and running this year's Halloween parties. The events were a great success, raising an amazing £650 for our school. Fun was had by all, with spooky games, dancing, and brilliant costumes adding to the excitement!

Reading Accreditation

We are excited to share that our school is taking part in the Reading Schools Award at Core Level, a national accreditation programme developed by the Scottish Book Trust. The award celebrates and supports schools in building a strong reading culture, where reading for pleasure is promoted across all areas of school life.

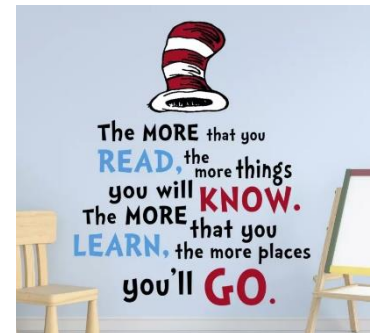
Through this programme, we aim to inspire a love of reading in every child—both at school and at home—by creating opportunities to enjoy books, share stories, and connect reading to everyday experiences. Taking part in the Reading Schools Award links closely to our commitment to literacy, wellbeing, and inclusion, helping ensure that every child feels engaged, motivated, and confident as a reader.

We are also excited to announce the launch of our Reading Challenge, which began this term at our Gathering with an author visit from Bruna De Luca. The challenge will run through to June, with the aim of encouraging a lifelong love of books and reading for pleasure at home.

Children will receive a Reading Record sheet to record what they read, whether it's a novel, a comic, a magazine, or a bedtime story! Every child who takes part will receive a certificate to celebrate their efforts and enthusiasm.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

Let's make this term full of stories, imagination, and the joy of reading!



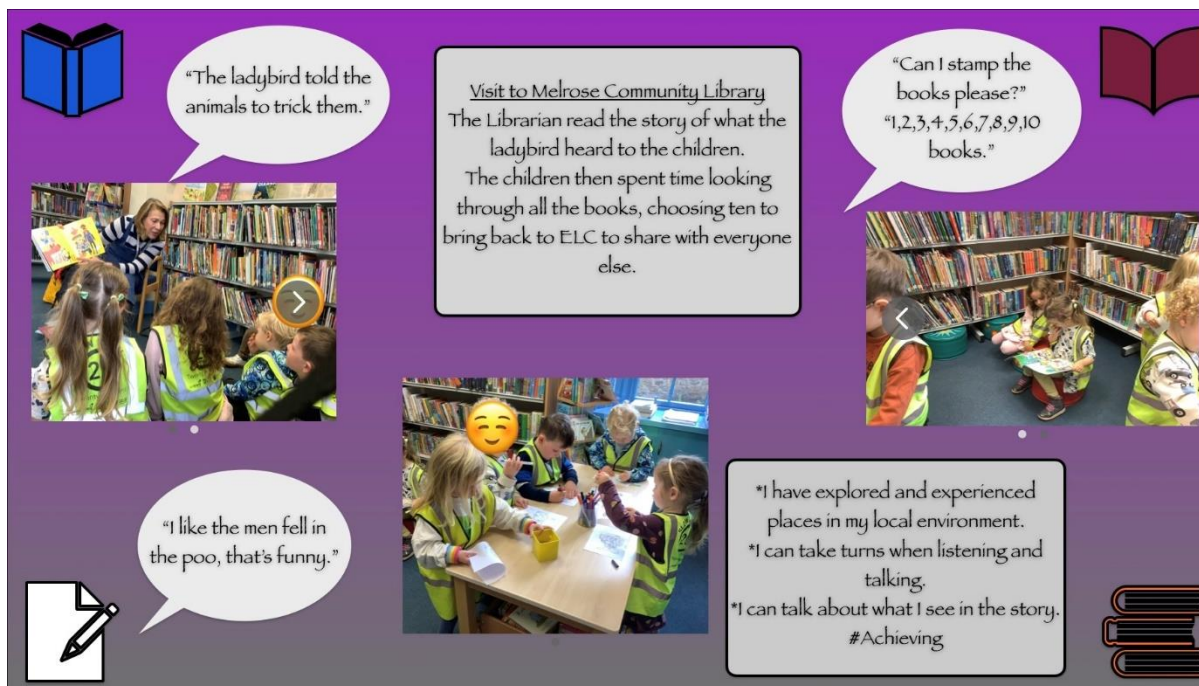
As part of our Reading Award, two parent helpers, alongside our pupil library monitors, will be working through our action plan for the accreditation. We hope to involve learners in shaping ideas for the library environment, creating recommended reading lists, and taking part in initiatives such as **"Ask me what I'm reading" badges**.

In line with this, we want to celebrate the diversity in our school by making books available in different languages for our **EAL (English as an Additional Language) learners**. To support this, we are kindly asking for donations of a range of **fiction books**. If you are able to contribute, please hand them in to the school office.



ELC

The ELC have been enjoying trips to Melrose Library to choose new books to enjoy.



We are really looking forward to our intergenerational community project, visiting St Johns Care Home. Mrs Patterson and Mrs Scott have some fantastic activities planned for the children and residents to take part in together.

Author Visits

P4 and P6 were invited to St Mary's to take part in an exciting author visit from MG Leonard. The children had the opportunity to hear from the author, ask questions, and be inspired by her stories and creative process. It was a fantastic experience that encouraged a love of reading and storytelling.



Rugby/Hockey Festival

Team Spirit Shines at Sports Festivals!

Our pupils have been showing fantastic teamwork and enthusiasm at recent sporting events. P5 pupils took part in a rugby festival, demonstrating great determination, collaboration, and sportsmanship throughout the day. Meanwhile, our P7 pupils represented the school at a hockey festival, working brilliantly together and showcasing their skills with pride.

Both groups were excellent ambassadors for our school, supporting one another and showing respect to their teammates and opponents alike.

A huge thank you to everyone who volunteered to help at these events — your support and encouragement are greatly appreciated and help make these opportunities possible for our pupils

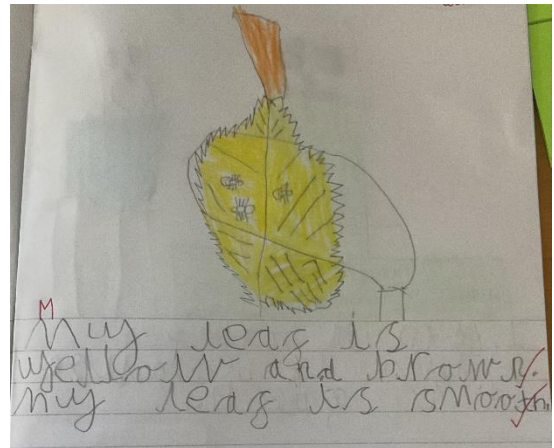
P6 Ukelele Lessons

Since September, P6 have been very fortunate to have had Miss Rowan, from Borders Youth Institute, come into their classroom on Thursday afternoons. They have been learning how to play different chords as well as how to read music. They are currently learning *Shotgun* by George Ezra.



P2 Autumn Walk

Primary 2 recently enjoyed an autumn walk with the children, exploring the outdoors and collecting leaves. Each child chose their favourite leaf, shared it with the class, and then used adjectives in their writing to describe it.



Fairy Tale Fun in Primary 1 and 2!

Primary 1 and 2 have been having lots of fun exploring STEM through fairy tales! The children used their creativity and problem-solving skills to grow and measure beanstalks like Jack, build strong bridges for the Three Billy Goats Gruff, design their own fairy-tale castles, and bake and decorate delicious gingerbread men. It's been a wonderful mix of imagination, hands-on learning, and teamwork — well done.





Harvest

This month, we celebrated Harvest during our school Gathering (assembly time). It was a wonderful opportunity to come together as a school community to reflect on thankfulness and helping others.

A huge well done to P6T, who organised a collection for the local foodbank as part of our celebrations. Their efforts and leadership helped raise awareness of the importance of giving and supporting those in need.

Thank you so much to all families who donated, your generosity is greatly appreciated and will make a real difference to others in our community.



Playground Event

Last term, we celebrated the opening of our new playground with a special play session and ice cream for all pupils. A huge thank you to Karen and Jamie Blackport for generously providing Overlangshaw Ice Cream to make this celebration even sweeter for our children!

The new play equipment is a huge boost for the school community and is the culmination of four years of research, planning, and fundraising by teachers, parents, and pupils. Equity and accessibility have been central to the project, and the playground now features a wide range of equipment, including wobbly and arched bridges, covered wooden forest story houses, climbing frames, and a sensory tunnel—all designed to promote safe, sensory, and active play.

We invited lots of people who have helped us along the way to join the celebrations, and marked the occasion with tours of the playground, teas, coffee, and scones.

A highlight of the playground is the 'What Makes Us Melrose' mural, created in collaboration with author Vivian French, artist Astrid Jaekel, and pupils from all year groups. This vibrant artwork incorporates elements that represent the children and their school—from the River Tweed and Eildon Hills to the Abbey and the school colours black and yellow. The mural now serves as a lasting celebration of the school's identity and community spirit. A special thank you to Andrew and Jane Deans for their very generous donation, which helped make the 'What Makes Us Melrose' mural possible.



UNCRC Award

We are delighted to announce that Melrose Primary School has achieved the Bronze Award for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), marking an important step on our journey to becoming a Rights Respecting School.

As part of this initiative, our Rights Respecting Reps have been consulting with pupils to find out which clubs they would like to see introduced. We are excited to have launched some pupil-led clubs, including sewing, and Positive Press. In the coming weeks, we hope to introduce LEGO, chess, gymnastics and more.

If you are able to support any of our pupil-led clubs, we would love to hear from you! Please get in touch with the school office for more information.



**UNICEF UK
RIGHTS RESPECTING
SCHOOLS AWARD**

BRONZE – RIGHTS COMMITTED

Enrolment

Enrolment for ELC and P1 for the 2026/2027 school year will take place during the week commencing 17th November. Please see the attached guidance for full details.

We are also holding a pre-enrolment event on Thursday 13th November from 9:30–10:30am. Parents and carers of children who will be enrolling for ELC or P1 entry in August 2026 are invited to visit our ELC provision, both indoors and outdoors, and meet staff.

School Uniform

We ask all children to wear school uniform. On PE days, pupils should wear their PE kit with their school jumper. On wet days, we kindly ask that children bring a change of footwear, so they do not have wet feet or carry mud into the school from the green space.

Football tops and kit with brand names should not worn to school, including on PE days. Parents / carers will be contacted directly if this is not adhered to. As part of our school uniform expectations, we kindly ask that pupils do not wear short shorts or skirts to school. Clothing should be comfortable, practical and suitable for learning and play, while also reflecting our school values.

Thank you for supporting us in maintaining a smart and consistent school uniform for all pupils.

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, 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.

Mobile Phones

We would prefer that mobile phones are not brought to school however we do recognise that pupils may need them for use after school. Please note that Melrose Primary School is not responsible for any personal property, including phones, which is brought to school. **Pupil phones must be switched off and kept out of sight** (in the child's bag or tray) during the school day. Additionally, smart watches should not be linked to phones in school – this is not an issue if phones are switched off.

If pupils need to contact home throughout the day they can do so at the school office. For data protection, **pupils must not take photos or videos of others (children and adults) without [parental] permission**. This includes people who may be in the background of photos unknowingly. Please talk to your child about this and support us by monitoring their phones and deleting any images which may breach data protection.

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.

Diary Dates

Friday 7 Novem – P7 Remembrance Assembly 0900-0930

Sunday 9 – Remembrance Service 1030 Corn Exchange (Parade to War Memorial)

Thursday 13 – Open morning for pre-enrolment ELC and P1

Wednesday 19, Thursday 20& Monday 24 November 2025 – Parent / Carer Consultations – times and dates to be confirmed

Monday 1 and 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:

HT	Mrs G Innes	gcinnes@scotborders.gov.uk
DHT	Mrs N Cranston	Natasha.cranston@scotborders.gov.uk
DHT	Mr J Wallace	Jamie.Wallace@scotborders.gov.uk
PT	Mrs S Thomas	Shona.thomas@scotborders.gov.uk