



Melrose Primary School

Parent/carer bulletin 7: January 2026

Welcome Back!

We hope you all had a happy and restful Christmas break after what can often be a busy and hectic time. The children have settled back into school life brilliantly and have returned refreshed, ready for full-on learning once again. This term, we are enjoying opportunities to celebrate Scottish culture, explore our local heritage, and learn more about biodiversity in our environment. It has been lovely to see such enthusiasm and engagement as we begin the new year together.

Scots Language Competition

Learners across the school have been working hard to learn Scots poems. P1 and P1/2 teachers selected groups of children to perform their poems. From P2 – P7 classes the class teacher selected a winner to recite their poem at assembly. The class winners, who presented in assembly were:

P2 – Ruairi Morton

P3 – Alex McKay

P3/4 – Grace Kerr

P4 – Sophia Crawford

P4/5 – Georgia Smith

P5 – Ewan McCarthy

P6G – Georgie Graham and Sadie Murray

P6ZT– Marah Watson

P7H – Angus Dyer and Julie Bergius

P7L – Hollie Mclean and Casey Cavanagh

UNCRC

Article 15 – The Right to Join Groups and Clubs

Every child has the right to meet with others and to join or set up groups and clubs, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights and is done safely and respectfully.

Our Pupil Council has chosen Article 15 as the Article of the Fortnight. They have created a video to share with classes so that pupils can learn about this right and discuss how it can be respected and embedded into the life of our school.

Below is the links to the videos created by the Rights Respecting Reps.

https://youtu.be/HL_9ewHRVmk

<https://youtu.be/Yr2PD5TqvEo>

Talent Show

We're excited to announce that this year's Talent Show will take place on Friday 27th March! Auditions will be held in class during the week of 9th March. More information will follow soon—get ready to showcase your talents!

Pupil Clubs – Help Needed!

Our pupils have successfully set up and been running a range of pupil-led clubs for learners from P1–P7. They are now keen to extend this further by setting up a couple of additional clubs, but these would require adult support to run safely and effectively.

The first club they would like to establish is a Cooking Club, to run on a Tuesday over lunchtime. The supporting adult would help learners to plan what they would like to make and accompany them to the local shop to purchase ingredients.

The second club is a Joinery Club, which would involve pupils being supported to safely handle tools and create simple items. This club would initially consist of a small group of P6 learners.

We would be grateful for any adult support that could help make these opportunities possible for our pupils.

Please let me know if you would like any further information.

Cross Country Club

It was an early start for the P6s who turned up for their first cross country running session with Miss Tait on Friday 30th January



P7H Digital Learning Session

P7H joined other classes from across Scotland to take part in a digital learning session run by The National Museum of Scotland. They learned about the biodiversity found within different Scottish ecosystems, looked at the skulls of different animals and used their detective skills to identify badger poo!



ELC

Our early learners have been very busy this week taking part in the RSPB Birdwatch Challenge. They spent time observing and talking about different birds, learning to recognise them by their appearance and behaviour. The children carefully counted how many birds they spotted and sent their results to the RSPB, helping to contribute to a national wildlife survey.

The learners showed great enthusiasm throughout the challenge and were very creative when making their own binoculars to support their birdwatching. This activity encouraged curiosity about the natural world while developing early numeracy, communication skills and teamwork.

Bird Feeders

P7H made bird feeders to hang up in the school garden before taking part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch. Unfortunately, they didn't see a wide variety of birds but they have plans to develop the school garden in order to make it more bird friendly.



P1/2 and P2 Trimontium Visit

P1/2 and P2 had a fantastic trip to the Trimontium Museum. A big thank you to Rob, who was an excellent guide, and to the parents who came along to help.

The children learned lots of interesting information linked to our Romans topic and were highly engaged, asking thoughtful questions and showing great curiosity about the artefacts.



World Book Day – Thursday 5th March

To celebrate World Book Day this year each class will dedicate some additional time to reading. Pupils are invited to bring a book from home, if they like, and a cushion or a blanket to school to use during this time, optional. There is a range of reading material in school if pupils choose not to bring from home.

The reading group took part in their first session last week with parents Hannah Longmuir and Tara Rankine. The group has created a survey to gather pupils' views on reading spaces across the school, with a particular focus on the school library. They have also been busy making "Ask Me What I'm Wearing" lanyards for pupils and staff.

Their first project is to celebrate the different cultures represented within our school, beginning with Chinese New Year. If anyone would be willing to come in and chat with the pupils about how they celebrate Chinese New Year, we would be very grateful.



Down Syndrome Awareness Day – Saturday 21st March

We will be celebrating World Down Syndrome Day on Friday 20 March. We invite children to choose some socks that are going to get noticed! They might be mismatched socks or your boldest and most colourful socks, whatever takes your fancy. The idea is to start a conversation, so when people ask you about your socks, you can tell them, “I’m wearing them to raise awareness of Down syndrome”.

Parent Council Meeting

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 4th February at 7pm at the school, with an option to join online. If you have any agenda items you would like to discuss, please email us at Hello@mpsparentcouncil.org. We are still looking for a secretary for the Parent Council. If you are interested, please get in touch at Hello@mpsparentcouncil.org.

Thank you for your support!

Clothing

We ask that children come to school with appropriate outdoor clothing for the weather – coat and suitable footwear as they will be outdoors throughout the day including at break times.

As we are in the winter months, we ask that children **bring a change of footwear**, wellies or outdoor shoes, these can be left at school. **All clothing and footwear must be named.**

PE will be outdoors, if possible, weather permitting. On PE days children should come to school wearing PE kit and a Melrose PS sweatshirt. Class teachers will have communicated which days the class have PE. PE kit: shorts/leggings/joggers, white T-shirt, gym shoes or trainers.

Lost property – we have huge amount of lost property in a box at the main entrance door. If your child has lost clothing, please check this box. There is an increased chance of lost clothing being found if **all** clothing is named.

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

While we appreciate that some pupils need to bring **phones** to school, for after school purposes, please understand that the school is not liable for phones that are lost/misplaced. A pupil who needs to contact home during the school day can do so from the school office. We request parent/carer support with this matter by not responding to calls or messages sent during the day. Please contact the school office if you need to communicate with your child. We also request that the same applies for emails sent between pupils and parents / carers during school time.

Smart watches are a proven distraction for pupils. We promote pupils taking responsibility for telling the time and time management however we do not allow pupils to use **smart watches** for reading / sending messages or making calls during the school day. Many thanks for your support with these matters.

Allergies

Please remember that we are a nut-free school. We have several 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.

Dogs in the Playground

Reminder: We do not allow dogs in the playground. Recently, we have noticed an increase in dogs, particularly at the end of the day. Please ensure this message is passed on to anyone who collects your children. We appreciate your support in keeping our playground safe for all pupils.

Rag Bag

There is a Rag Bag bin in the playground for the collection of old clothes, shoes etc. The school is paid per ton for the materials collected. If you have old clothes, shoes etc. we would welcome you dropping these into the bin in the playground.

Diary Dates

Monday 16 – Friday 20 February 2026 – holiday, school and ELC closed

Monday 23 February 2026 – in-service day, school and ELC closed

Friday 27 March 2026 Talent Show

Friday 3 – 17 April 2026 – Easter holiday, school and ELC closed

Monday 20 April 2026 - School and ELC open

Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 May 2026– May Day holiday and in-service, school and ELC closed

Tuesday 19 May 2026- P5 Countryside Day

Wednesday 20, Thursday 21 & Monday 25 May – Parent / Carer Consultations

Wednesday 3 & Thursday 4 June 2026 P7 visits to Earlston High School

Wednesday 10 June 2026 Sports day

Wednesday 17 June 2026 alternative Sports day

Friday 3 July – Friday 14 August – summer holiday school and ELC closed

Monday 17 & Tuesday 18 August – first day for staff school and ELC closed

Wednesday 19 August – first day of school for school and ELC