



Melrose Primary School

Parent/carers bulletin 5: 30 November 2025

A Festive Term of Learning, Creativity and Leadership!

This term has been filled with excitement, community spirit, and rich learning experiences as we prepared for one of the biggest events of the year – our Christmas Fair! Across the school, pupils have been busy designing, making and marketing. Their entrepreneurial spirit has been fantastic to see, with children showing creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills as they brought their ideas to life.

Our P5 pupils have also been working hard preparing for their Church Service, exploring themes of kindness, celebration, and community. Meanwhile, P1 have been rehearsing for their Nativity, learning songs, actions, and storytelling skills as they get ready to share this special performance with families.

Celebrating Children's Rights & Our School Values

At our Gatherings (assemblies) this term, we have been learning about the ABCD of Children's Rights, taking time to explore what each part means for us as a school community. We have taken a deeper dive into Article 12 – the right to be heard, with P7 creating videos for our Parent Council to share their views, ideas, and experiences.

We have also been exploring Article 2 and Article 29, thinking about diversity, identity, and what makes each of us unique. Pupils have been reflecting on their talents, abilities, and strengths, celebrating the individuality that makes our school such a vibrant and inclusive place.

As part of this learning, classes also heard from our Dyslexia and Dyscalculia Champions, who helped us think about how every learner can thrive, how our brains all work differently, and how we can support one another.

Pupil Power in Action!

Our Rights Respecting Representatives have been hard at work this term gathering pupil voice across the school. They conducted surveys to find out what lunchtime clubs' children would like — and thanks to their leadership, several new clubs are now up and running, including:

Sewing Club

- Crochet Club
- Positive Press Club
- Board Games Club

The reps are currently working on launching Cooking and Carpentry groups. Our budding carpenters already have their first project lined up: creating a lid for the sandpit!

If you would be interested in supporting any of these groups, particularly the new Cooking or Carpentry clubs, please get in touch with the school. Your skills and support would be greatly appreciated.

Netball Tournament

A huge well done to our P7 and P6 girls who represented the school brilliantly at the recent netball tournament at Earlston High School. We entered two teams – Melrose A and Melrose B – and both teams played with fantastic skill, determination, and sportsmanship throughout the event.

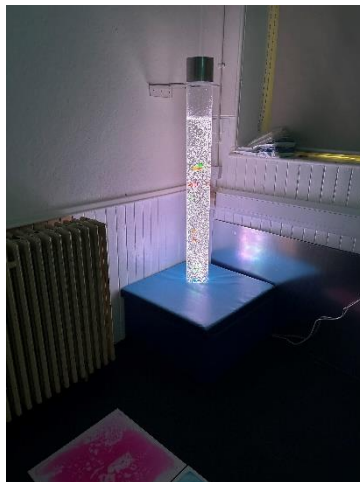
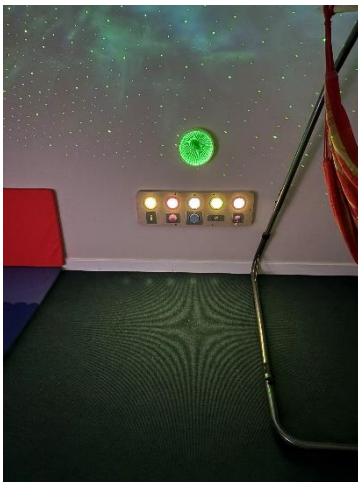
- Melrose B competed strongly and showed excellent teamwork.
- Melrose A progressed all the way to the semi-finals and then the final!

The final was incredibly close, finishing 0–0 at full time, with Melrose narrowly missing out to Lauder on a Golden Goal. A tremendous achievement — we are very proud of every player for their effort and attitude.



Sensory Room

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jamie and Karen Blackport, Melrose Primary School parents, for generously funding the sensory equipment and the Parent Council for funding the painting of the room. This space plays an important role in supporting learners who benefit from a sensory diet—a personalised set of activities and tools that help children regulate their emotions, stay calm, and feel ready to learn. The new equipment will provide opportunities for movement, deep pressure, calming input, and sensory exploration, ensuring children can access what they need to feel settled and successful throughout the school day. We are incredibly grateful for this contribution, which will make a real difference to many of our pupils now and in the future. Thank you for helping us create an environment where every child can thrive.



Speech and Language Support – NHS Borders

Did you know NHS Borders has a dedicated phoneline for parents and carers? If you have any concerns about your child's speech or language development, you can call 01896 826710 on Tuesdays between 1:00pm – 4:00pm.

A trained therapist will be available to:

- Listen to your concerns
- Offer advice and guidance
- Add your child to the waiting list if needed

This is a fantastic opportunity to get professional support early. Please don't hesitate to make use of this service!



Dyslexia and Dyscalculia Champions

The 2025-26 Dyslexia and Dyscalculia Champions presented at our November Gathering, sharing information about each neurodivergence and some personal experiences too. They are going to hold monthly drop-in sessions where pupils who are, or think they might be, dyslexic or dyscalculic can meet and chat together.



Wider Achievements – Can you link this to our 5Rs?

At Melrose Primary, we love recognising the amazing things our children achieve both in and out of school. We are asking our learners to link their achievements to the 5Rs - Responsibility, Respectful, Resilient, Receptive and Reflective.

We would love to hear about your child's wider achievements — big or small! This could be:

- Overcoming a fear
- Showing kindness to a sibling
- Trying something new
- Mastering a new skill or recipe
- Reaching a personal goal

If your child has achieved something they're proud of, please share it with Miss Lee so we can celebrate their success together.

New Speaker System

Funded by Melrose Primary Parent Council

A message from Mr. Wallace –

“On behalf of the learners and staff at Melrose Primary School I would like to thank the parent council for the purchase of a new portable speaker system for the school. For a long time, we have struggled with an ailing sound system which has made delivering gatherings really challenging. The parent council gave us over £800 to install a new projector screen and supply us with a Bluetooth speaker with wireless microphones. I tested the system this week during a school gathering and was able to use the microphones to gather responses from the learners. It was so much fun! The P1s have also been using it for their Christmas Nativity work. We are truly thankful for the Parent Council's support. This system has already improved the experiences of our learners!”



Primary 1 Learn About Red Squirrels

Primary 1 enjoyed a visit from Jenny at Bright Green Nature, who spoke to the pupils about the importance of protecting habitats and red squirrels. She shared a wonderful puppet show based on the book *One More Tree*. After the show, the pupils—supported by their P7 buddies—had great fun building their very own squirrel dreys. It was a hands-on, memorable learning experience for everyone!



Christmas Fair

Thursday 4 December 2025

1:45pm – 3:15pm

In the **Main School Building**

We warmly invite family, friends, and members of our community to join us for our annual Christmas Fair! Pupils and staff have been working hard to prepare stalls, games, crafts and performances, and we cannot wait to welcome you.

What's Happening on the Day

Singing Performances in the Hall

Each year group will perform Christmas songs and carols at the times listed below.

Please ensure your child arrives in the P1/2 bay 10 minutes before their singing slot.

Singing Time	Year Group Meet Time (P1/2 Bay)
13:45–13:55 P7	–
13:55–14:05 P1	–
14:05–14:15 P6	13:55
14:15–14:25 P2	14:05
14:25–14:35 P3	14:15
14:35–14:45 P4	14:25
14:45–14:55 P5	14:35

After singing:

- P1 children will return to the P1 bay and can be collected from there after 2:05pm.
- P1s and P2s without an attending adult will be supervised in the P1 bay. P7 helpers will take them around the fair.

Stalls and Activities Across the School

A floor plan will be displayed in the main foyer to help you find your way around. Stalls include:

- P1, P2, P3/4, P4, P4/5, P5, P6, P7 & ELC stalls
- Tea/coffee and tray bakes
- Raffle
- Chocolate tombola & bottle stall
- Learning Station
- Rights Respecting Ambassadors (RRA)
- Positive Press, crochet, sewing and more!

Parents/carers can collect their child from the bay where their class stall is located.

Money & Uniform

If children wish to buy items or play games, they will need some money (small change preferred) in a named purse or envelope. Children are responsible for their own money. School uniform should be worn.

P1 & P2 Sign In/Out

There will be a sign out/sign in sheet for P1 and P2 children in the P1 bay.

End of the Fair

All children should return to their designated bay by 3:00pm.

Pupils will be dismissed as normal at 3:15pm.

Raffle

The raffle will be drawn at 3:05pm in the P7 bay, with the first 10 prizes announced. Winners will be notified on the day or the following day.

Early Years Play Resources – Donations Welcome

We are refreshing the play resources in our Early Years classrooms and would greatly appreciate any donations of items no longer needed at home. We are looking for:

- Wooden train sets
- Wooden playhouses or dolls' houses
- Accessories such as figures, trains, furniture, or tracks
- Garage

If you have any of these items at home that are no longer needed, we would be delighted to give them a new life in our play spaces. Your donations help us create rich, imaginative learning environments for our youngest learners.

Thank you so much for your support and generosity!

ELC Intergenerational Learning with St John's

Our ELC learners have been enjoying regular visits to St John's, taking part in a range of wonderful intergenerational activities with the residents. The children have been playing board games, singing nursery rhymes, and listening to stories kindly shared by the residents. These sessions have been a joy for everyone involved — it has been especially lovely to see the smiles on the residents' faces when the children arrive.

We have invited the residents to join us for our school Nativity, and the school is also preparing a special hamper to gift to St John's as a token of our appreciation.

This partnership continues to be a heartwarming highlight of the term, strengthening community connections and bringing joy across generations

Intergenerational Visits Week 4



Caption

This week we introduced our sharing basket, each child brought in an item that was special to them. These items did as we had hoped, spark conversations where the children shared their interest with the residents.

#communication

We used our gross motor skills and hand eye coordination to play don't drop the balloon. Passing the balloon to each other and the residents.

"Indoor squirrels"
"We do lots of things with lots of toys"
"Is it like brownies?"
"You'll have to show us your badges when you get them".

"I wonder what this is"
"It's a horse"
"I went on a horse called cracker"

"Diplodocus are the biggest dinosaur"

"And then I had to screw it in"
"It's a plant eater"

We used puppets to retell the story of the 3 little pigs.

#collaboration



Caption



Playground & 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. Through the winter months we ask that children bring a change of footwear, wellies or outdoor shoes, these can be left at school.

Children can choose where they play and have a responsibility for what they wear – the younger children are supported and encouraged to wear jackets etc. If they get muddy or wet, they have responsibility to change their footwear and outdoor muddy clothing at the end of breaks. The Green Space (Gibson Park adjacent to the playground) is muddy at this time of year and there can be puddles in various parts of the playground. In sub-zero temperatures some children enjoy sliding on the bank, on the Green Space. The rules for using the slides are one person on a slide at a time, no pulling, pushing or holding onto people on the slide. We want children to have fun in the playground and enjoy the variety of play they create through the seasons. We are supporting them develop life skills one of which is taking responsibility for their actions including getting wet and muddy.

Children will be outside at most break times and learning takes place, on a regular basis, outdoors. Slips and falls, as well as jumping in puddles, do happen from time to time which is the reason we suggest that pupils bring a change of clothes and footwear to avoid wearing wet or muddy clothing for the remainder of the day. 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.

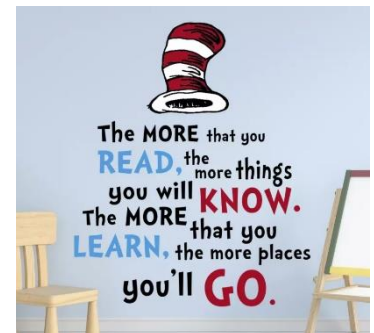
Lost property – we have huge amount of lost property in a box at the main entrance door. If your child has lost clothing, please check this box. There is an increased chance of lost clothing being found if all clothing is named. We ask that children, who like to play on the Green Space (Gibson Park adjacent to the playground), in puddles or mud. Children will be outside at most break times and learning takes place, on a regular basis, outdoors. Please ensure that all clothing and footwear is named. Slips and falls, as well as jumping in puddles, do happen from time to time so we suggest that pupils bring a change of clothes in their bag to avoid wearing wet or muddy clothing for the remainder of the day. We request a change of shoes is brought to school for indoor use if outdoor shoes become muddy to keep our indoor spaces as clean as possible.

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

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.

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.

Dates for your Diary

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

Monday 22 December 2025 – Friday 2 January 2026 – Christmas holiday

Monday 5 January 2026 – School and ELC open

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

Senior Leadership and Pupil Support contact details:

HT	Mrs G Innes	gcinnes@scotborders.gov.uk
DHT	Mrs N Cranston	Natasha.cranston@scotborders.gov.uk
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