

## Bankier Primary

Bankier Road, Banknock, FK4 1TF

Telephone: 01324 840206

Headteacher: Sarah Ritchie BEd MEd



**Falkirk Council**

Children's Services

### January Newsletter

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

Happy New -Year and welcome back to the new term. Our Brilliant Bankier Bairns have made an excellent start to the new year and are working hard to achieve their very best. Already the House Points are building up and Praise Postcards are piling up!

The focus in most classes this month was Scots' Language and Robert Burns. Pupils made an excellent job of learning a Scot's poem and some were even treated to a Scots' celebration complete with Haggis, Neeps and Tatties. Pupils in Primary 7 showed excellent leadership skills when planning and delivering our annual Burns' Supper. It was nice to see so many of you taking time to view this on our You Tube channel.

Current Covid mitigations remain in school for the time being although there is the good news that we are entering the endemic. We will keep you informed of any ease in mitigations as they arise. Until then, please look after our Brilliant Bankier Bairns and stay safe, stay well and stay connected.

Kindest Regards

Sarah Ritchie, Head Teacher



# Bankier's Brilliant Bairns



Congratulations to these pupils who reached for the stars and achieved their very best!



This brilliant bairn is making great progress in maths.

This brilliant bairn thinks creatively and solves problems.

This brilliant bairn completes every task to a very high standard.



This brilliant bairn has shown enthusiasm for the Romans topic.

This brilliant bairn is kind and shares well with others.

This brilliant bairn works hard in all tasks.



This brilliant bairn is enthusiastic with every task.

This brilliant bairn is kind and helpful and has great ideas!

This brilliant is growing in confidence and is a good friend.

# Bankier's Brilliant Bairns



This brilliant bairn helps others if they are hurt.



This brilliant bairn is kind to others

Congratulations to these pupils who reached for the stars and achieved their very best!



This brilliant bairn is responsible and organised.



This brilliant bairn has a positive attitude to school and life.



This brilliant bairn participates well in class discussions.



This brilliant bairn is kind and helpful.



P1 This Brilliant Bairn includes others in play.



This brilliant bairn has made positive contributions.



This brilliant bairn has been her best self.



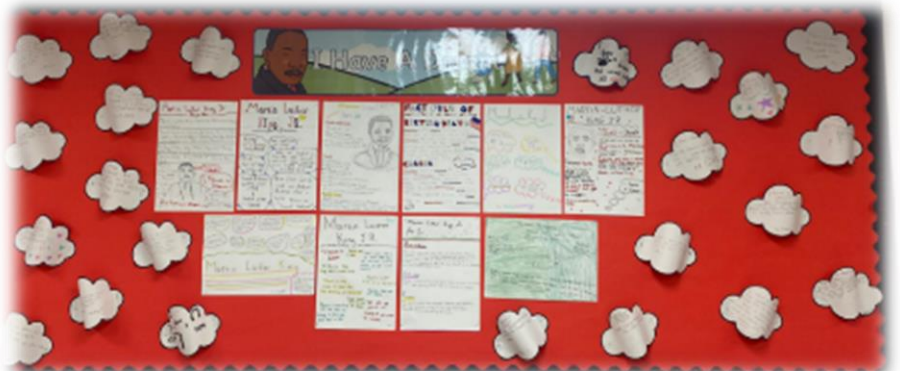
This brilliant bairn has put in extra effort to be kind.



This brilliant bairn is kind to others and always shares.

## Wonderful Work

Wonderful work is being showcased in so many places. Thank you to everyone who is isolating who has taken the time to share their work with us on Twitter and Glow. It is so nice to see so many of you reaching for the stars whilst at home.



## **Burns Competition Winners**

Our Scots' Poetry competition made a welcome return to our annual calendar of events. Pupils came together to celebrate the Scot's language in poetry and song. Although the event had to take place virtually, the celebrations was enjoyed by all. Well done to all our Brilliant Bairns who learned and performed a poem with a special congratulations to our class winners.

# Winners 2022



## **Congratulations Mrs Paddon!**

We would like to celebrate Mrs Paddon being appointed as STEM Raise Officer for Falkirk Council. The post is a temporary secondment until June 2022. Mrs Paddon will take up her post on Monday 31.1.22. Mrs Paddon has worked tirelessly to develop the STEM curriculum at Bankier Primary School and I am sure you will join me in wishing her well in her new post.

## **Young Person's Bus Travel**

From 31 January 2022, nearly a million 5–21-year-olds living in Scotland will be eligible for free bus travel. This means all young people aged between 5-21 within the Falkirk Council area will be eligible for free bus travel from 31 January 2022. All young people aged 5-21 will need to apply for a new or replacement National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot NEC. There are several ways to apply:

### Applying for a Young Scot/NEC Card online

To apply for a Young Scot National Entitlement Card online, please go to [getyournec.scot](http://getyournec.scot).

Full application details can be found on the website including requirements to use the online application service. Young people under 16 years old will need their parent/guardian to apply on their behalf and provide approval for free bus travel to be enabled on their card. This allows parents or guardians to exercise their responsibility for their children's safety.

### Through Schools

If you and your child/young person attends school and you are unable to use [getyournec.scot](http://getyournec.scot) please contact the school office and request guidance and an application form.



## New Holidays

Following the Council Executive decision on 18 January 2022 to agree the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday 2022 the following changes are now reflected in the amended holiday dates for school session 2021-22.

- Monday 2 May 2022 holiday moves to Thursday 2 June 2022
- Friday 3 June is agreed as an additional holiday

This means Monday 2 May 2022 will now be a normal school day. The Falkirk Council website has been updated accordingly:

- School life - School holiday dates | Falkirk Council

## Dates for Your Diary



Date	Event
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Parents Night Appointments
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Parents Night Appointments
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parents Night Appointments
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Parents Night Appointments
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	School and nursery closed for holiday
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	School and nursery closed for holiday
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	School and nursery closed for staff training
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Optometrist visiting Nursery and P1 pupils
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Primary 3 Virtual Assembly
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	School and nursery close at 3pm for the Easter Holiday

## Covid Update

Everyone at Bankier Primary School and ELC was delighted to learn that we are moving towards an Endemic. However, existing arrangements for the management of Covid-19 remain in place. For Bankier Primary School and ELC this means;

- Handwashing continues.
- Pupils can bring their school bag.
- Pupils can access different areas of the school in their bubble.
- Only 1 parent can accompany a Primary 1 pupil into the playground.
- Staff will continue to wear masks and undertake lateral flow testing on a regular basis.
- All visitors to the school building will remain strictly by appointment only.

We continue to manage Covid-19 in the same way. Your child should not attend school if your child has any of the following symptoms;

- A high temperature, above 37.8 degrees
- A persistent cough
- Loss of taste or smell

Those with symptoms should isolate and take a lateral flow test immediately.

If the test is negative, pupils can come to school. If a member of your household is positive, children can still attend school as long as they are symptom free and produce a negative lateral flow test result.

If you are unsure whether your child should attend school, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Staff are only too happy to help.

On behalf of all staff, I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents and the local community for their continued understanding and support throughout the pandemic. Together we have ensured that our Brilliant Bankier Bairns have stayed safe.

## Nursery newsletter

It was lovely to see all our children and families return after the Christmas holidays, which now seems like a distant memory. We hope everyone managed to have a nice relaxing break.

The children and staff have been busy since returning. At the start of the new term this month's special story of Jack Frost was introduced. The children enjoyed taking part in activities related to the story throughout the month. From next month our special story will be recorded and available to parents to listen to with their child in the house.



The children have been weaving in the sewing area where they were using their fine motor skills to create lovely snowflakes, just like the ones in our Jack Frost story.



The staff will also be recording bookbug sessions monthly which you can enjoy from the comfort of your own home with your child and any siblings who would also like to participate. More information on this will be sent out soon.



As we focus on our nursery improvement plan of developing our outdoor area, the staff and children helped clear the existing digging area away and create a new one. Forest Fridays will be up and running again and we will let you know which week your child will be going. As the weather has been chilly the staff have had the fire pit on a lot more and the children have continued to follow the rules and routines around the safety of this.

As you will have noticed the side of our sand pit was rotten and for safety reasons had to come down. Unfortunately the cats have decided to now visit and use it as a litter tray which means until we get it fixed the children are not able to access it. We were able to save the side fencing, however it now requires new posts to be cemented into the ground/sand. To enable us to do this we are looking for any parents who would be able to volunteer some of their time and expertise to help make this happen. Please speak to a member of staff if you are

able to help as I'm sure you agree it is a huge loss to the nursery garden and the children's experiences having to have the sand pit closed, especially with us heading into the nicer weather.

The nursery will be holding a sponsored obstacle course on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of February in the gym hall to raise funds to get the sand pit fixed and for new play sand to be delivered. We would be grateful for any penny you could spare, thank you. If you were not given a sponsor sheet or need another one please ask a member of staff at the door.

Our second improvement plan is focusing on building up our parental relationships and partnerships within the community. At the moment this is still virtually however we hope in the future as we start to open up and guidance is relaxed we can do this face to face. Please contact a member of staff if you think you have any talents/experiences you could share with us. This could be anything from playing a musical instrument to reading the children a story to sharing cultural experiences with us.

When guidance allows it we will also be out and about in the local community a bit more, we have missed our weekly visits to Cloybank and cannot wait to get back.

Thank you to the parents who took the time to write on our graffiti paper which was outside, as a staff team we will collate your feedback and look at how we can improve our service. A lot of people mentioned that they didn't know what their child was eating or which activities they were participating in throughout the day. Staff try to upload daily snap shots to Twitter however we have noticed that parental engagement through this media is low so as a school/nursery we may look at a different way of using social media to communicate this information to parents/carers. Watch this space.....

As per normal if you have any issues or would like to speak to a member of staff please feel free to contact the nursery on 01324 849971 or email the school at [Bankierprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:Bankierprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk) and someone will get back to you.