



Bankhead Newsletter—Bankhead will SOAR

<http://bankheadps.schoolwebsite.scot/>

January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our January Newsletter.



School Enrolment for P1 for August 2023

The online registration is now open. Parents / carers should complete the online enrolment by Friday 13 January. The school will then call all parents / carers who have enrolled from Monday 16 January, to complete the enrolment process. Please pass on these dates to anyone you know who is planning on sending their child to Bankhead for P1 in August next year. Below is a link to the SLC enrolment page:

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/392/enrolling_your_child_for_school

Childsmile

P1 and P2 children will have their teeth checked by Childsmile on Monday 16 January. They will let parents / carers know if there are any particular problems.

Bag2School



You will soon receive a leaflet home about Bag2School. They will be coming to school to collect unwanted clothing etc. on Thursday 26 January. This is a

great opportunity to have a post-Christmas clear out and earn some money for the school. Please drop off any bags from Monday 23 January. You can use any large bag but the company will provide one bag per child.

Change for Charity

Our next Change for Charity day is on Friday 27 January. Children need not wear school uniform that day. Suggested donation of £1 per family.

King's Coronation—Extra Holiday

We have been notified that all schools will be given a day off around the time of the King's Coronation. The school will be closed on Monday 8 May. Please take a note of this for your diaries.

Bikes and Scooters

Please remind the children that they should not be riding their bike or scooter within the school grounds. The playground is very busy first thing in the morning and especially at the end of the day. They should push their scooters and bikes at all times in the school grounds



to make sure no one gets run into and injured. We are delighted that children come to school on bikes and scooters and don't want to have to ban anyone from coming to school that way because they are putting

others in danger of injury in the playground.

Mobile Phones

Similarly, please remind children that their mobile phones should remain in their schoolbags whilst in the school grounds. If you need to contact them, they can access their phones once they are on the pavement outside the school grounds. If you need to pass on a message or instructions before this, please call the school office and they will pass it on. We have noticed some older children taking their phones out their bags as they come out the school building. Please help us to ensure that all children are following the rules.

School Uniform

All children are expected to wear full school uniform to Bankhead Primary every day. We understand that some children take a growth spurt throughout the year and it may not be cost effective to buy uniforms at this time of year if they will need new ones after the summer. To help parents / carers with this we

have a selection of pre-loved uniforms that can be collected for free from the school at anytime. Please just come to the office and let them know what you are looking for and we'll try to help out.



Friends of Bankhead

The next meeting is in school on Tuesday 7 February at 6.30 pm.

Attendance and Punctuality

At Bankhead we are working hard to ensure all pupils attend regularly and arrive on time. Parents / carers play a very important role in this. We appreciate your efforts to get your children to school to access as many educational opportunities as possible. However, attendance and late-coming continues to be a concern. We have had over 1000 incidents of late-coming so far this session and is higher than the total for the whole of last year. This is something we wish to improve upon. Some children will be receiving letters over the next week or two where we have a concern about attendance levels. Please read these letters carefully and discuss with your child the importance of attending school and arriving at school on time. To help improve punctuality, a bell rings at 8.55am to encourage pupils to be in line before the final 9am bell. Support your child by aiming to arrive in time for the first bell.

Potential Strike Day—Friday 3 February

As the current dispute between teachers and employers continues, it is worth noting that there is a potential strike by teachers on Friday 3 February, which would result in the school and nursery being closed that day. We will update you if there is any change to this.

Indoor Shoes / Gym kit

Can we again ask that you ensure your child has appropriate footwear in school to change into when they come into the building from outside? This is important in not only keeping the class-

rooms clean and hygienic, but in ensuring the children are dry and comfortable in class to do their work. Please check with your child that they have appropriate and fitting indoor shoes to change into when they come to school.

Please also ensure that your child brings appropriate clothing for PE on their PE days.

Winter Conditions

With the possibility of some difficult weather conditions coming up, it may be worth reminding yourselves and the children of arrangements for when there is dangerous ice or snow.

We will attempt to ensure there is at least one route cleared from the street to the school in the event of heavy snow or ice. This will be the walkway beside the car park gate. A path will be cleared from there to the front entrance and nursery. A path will also be cleared round the right hand side of the school building to the first entrance to the lunch hall. School pupils will come in to the lunch hall and be collected by their class teachers there. If we are able to clear the other walkway beside the MUGA we will do so. We would try to ensure it was cleared by the end of the day. However, if the poor weather were to persist that day, our priority would be to ensure the first route is safe, and children may be dismissed from the gym hall at the end of the day.

Only in extreme circumstances would the school be closed to pupils. The council's website, the school website, our Twitter feed and the school app would be the best place to look if you were concerned about this. These would be updated as quickly as possible. With a little under 400 children in the school and nursery, the phone lines can be extremely busy at such times, so checking online as outlined above would be your best option.

However, we are hopeful that it won't come to this and that we will be open as usual throughout the winter period.

Dates for your diary

Friday 3 February—Potential Teachers' Strike. School may be closed

Monday 13 -Wednesday 15 February. School closed—holidays

Thursday 23 March—Parents' Evening

Friday 31 March—School closes for Spring Break at 2.30. Re-opens Monday 17 April.

Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 May. School closed. Holiday and In-Service day.

Monday 8 May—school closed - holiday

Friday 26 and Monday 29 May—school closed—holiday.

Tuesday 27 June—school closes at 1.00 pm for summer break

Gerry Hamill,
Head Teacher