



Bankhead Newsletter—Bankhead will SOAR

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

August 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

A huge welcome back to all the children. It has been great to see them coming back looking pristine and ready to get stuck into their classwork, and reacquaint themselves with friends they maybe haven't seen for a few weeks. A particularly warm welcome to our P1s and the number of children who have started at Bankhead across the stages.

Staffing

As always there are staffing changes in schools at the start of every session. It is a bit like a football team with teachers moving on and others coming in to take their place before the transfer window closes!

This year we welcome back Mrs McGregor our Principal Teacher, who has been off on maternity leave. She will be taking Room 3 this year. We also welcome Mrs Farrell who will be taking the GP Room. We are also delighted that

we have managed to get Mrs Holtham back for 4 days. She will share Room 4 with Mrs Urquhart but will also be working in Room 2 on Fridays.

Miss Boyd got married during

the summer and the children can now call her Mrs McCusker. Congratulations to her and I'm sure we will all eventually get used to the name change,



Uniform

It is great to see almost all the children turning up to school in their school uniform. We still have a large stock of uniforms that are available to children for free. These are our "previously loved" uniforms. They are all in good condition and parents / carers are invited to take what they need, rather than paying for brand new ones in shops. Just come in to the office and you can look through what we have available.

Our Annual Plea

Please could you make sure that your children's names are clearly marked on all items that could be lost. This includes jumpers, cardigans, jackets, packed lunch boxes, water bottles, bags and anything else that might get lost or mixed up with others. It would save us

a lot of bother trying to return items, but also save yourselves money and your children tears when they can't find a lost item.



Water Bottles

Please provide your child with a water bottle for school. This should be taken home every day and filled up at home before coming to school. Please put their name on it. Only water is allowed in the water bottles which children will have access to throughout the day. Don't forget to put your child's name on it.

Attendance and Latecomings

We urge all parents / carers to ensure that the children arrive at school in good time. The playground is open from 8.50, with a reminder bell going at 8.55. By 9.00 all children should be in their line ready for the teacher bringing them into school.

Any child arriving after this should enter via the lunch hall. A note will be taken of their arrival time. This is then recorded by the office staff on our system.

We understand that there will be times when children are ill and are unable to attend school, but we want to make sure they are here at all other times. Even being five minutes late every day can have a significant impact on your child's learning over a period of time. You will receive more information about this soon

Reporting Absence

Please remember that you must phone the school first thing in the morning if your child is going to be absent. You can leave a message or speak to the office staff if there is someone available. This avoids us having to make possibly several phone calls to try to find out why a child is absent.

Breakfast Club We run a free Breakfast Club in the school for all pupils. It is open from 8.15 a.m. every morning.

The children can get cereal, toast, yoghurt, fruit and a drink.

Parents / Carers can use this club as and when it suits. The children are signed in on arrival and stay in the lunch hall until the playground is supervised at 8.50 a.m. The younger ones are taken round to their lines.

Friends of Bankhead

Our Parent Council group—Friends of Bankhead—meet on the first Tuesday of every month in the school. They are a great source of support to the school and provide a lot of much needed funds to provide opportunities for the children—both educational and social—throughout the whole year. The first meeting this session (the AGM) will take place in the school on Tuesday 3 September at 6.30 pm. New members are always welcome.

Annual Data Checks

You will have received annual data check forms. It is important that these are returned to the school promptly so that we can make any necessary changes to our stored information. We would appreciate it if any letters sent home that require a return are returned as soon as possible.

Communication

All important communication with parents / carers will be through the school app. Please update your settings for your child's new class if you haven't already done so. This is done through the filter button in the top right hand corner of the Messages section in the app. You will find lunch menus and a list of dates in the app as well as important messages, information and school and class news. If you know of anyone who doesn't yet have the app on their phone please encourage them to download it.

Free School Meals P1-P5

All children in P1-P5 are entitled to free school meals. In the current financial situation, we would encourage all parents / carers to take advantage of this. The meals are healthy and tasty and the children very much enjoy them. It could save families a fair amount of money if the children take a free school meal every day rather than bringing a packed lunch to school.

Change for Charity

We are very proud of the generosity of the Bankhead community in supporting our monthly Change for Charity days. Children come to school dressed in casual clothes on those days and we suggest a £1 donation per family. There is no obligation to take part. We support local, national and international charities throughout the year. First CFC day is Friday 30 August.

P.E. Safety

For safety reasons, children should remove their earrings for PE. If they have newly had their

ears pierced and can't remove them, then their ears should be covered by a piece of tape, which we will provide.

Similarly, children should not be coming to school with nail extensions, as these can be a hazard to themselves and others in a P.E. environment. Remember also that PE must be done in appropriate footwear, so the children may have to bring in separate shoes for PE. We thank you for your support with this.

Car Parking

There is limited space in the surrounding streets for dropping off and picking up. Please move on quickly once you have dropped your child off to leave spaces for others. This will help avoid double parking and make the roads safer for our children. We have already had complaints from residents in Cityford Drive and King's View about cars parking illegally or thoughtlessly in these streets. Please be aware that traffic wardens and the police regularly check these areas and have issued tickets to cars not parked properly in these areas. We have good relations with our neighbours and we'd like to keep it that way. Thanks for supporting us with this.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 29 August—P7 to Largs—Activity day
Friday 30 August—Change for Charity
Thursday 3 September—Friends of Bankhead (AGM) 6.30 pm
Wednesday 11 September—Parents in Partnership—pm
Friday 27 and Monday 30—September weekend holiday
Monday 14—Friday 18 October—October holiday week
Thursday 7 November—Parents' Evening
Monday 11 November—School closed—In-service day for staff
Wednesday 20 Nov—P7 Swimming starts.
Saturday 30 November—School Xmas Fair
Thursday 12 and Friday 13 December—Infant Nativity and P4-7 Xmas Shows
Friday 20 December—close at 2.30 for xmas holidays, returning on Monday 6 January.
Monday 17-Wed 19 Feb—school closed—half-term holiday and IS day
Thursday 27 March—Parents' Evening
Monday 7 April—Monday 21 April—Easter Holidays
Thursday 1 May—School closed—IS day
Monday 5 May—School closed—May holiday
Friday 23 and Monday 26 May—school closed—May weekend holiday
Wednesday 25 June—School closed at 1.00 pm for summer holidays.

Gerry Hamill,
Head Teacher

