



# Bothwell Primary School and Nursery Class

*Today's SMARTER learners, tomorrow's SMARTER leaders!*

Newsletter – September and October 2023

## Dates for your Diary



### Dates for your diary.

**P7 Bikeability** - Commences  
Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September

**P1 Parent Workshop** -  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September

**September Weekend** - School  
closed Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday  
25<sup>th</sup> September.

**Challenge Poverty Week,  
including Money Week** - Week  
commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> October

**School Photos** - Mon 2<sup>nd</sup>, Tues  
3<sup>rd</sup> and Wed 4<sup>th</sup> October - more  
information to follow

**R5 Assembly** - Friday 6<sup>th</sup>  
October

**Parent Council Meeting** -  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 6.30p.m.  
(in the school)

**Dress down day to raise fund  
for Meningitis Charity** - Friday  
13<sup>th</sup> October

**October holidays** – School  
closes on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October  
and re-opens on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Hallowe'en Celebrations** -  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October (within  
school day)

**Cash 4 Clothes Uplift** - Friday  
3<sup>rd</sup> November

**R11 & 12 Assembly** - Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>  
November

### Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the session and in particular a very special welcome to all of our new pupils and staff. Our 50 Primary One pupils and 13 Early Years' entrants, have taken to school and nursery like proverbial little ducks to water, and our other new pupils throughout the school are settling in beautifully too! It is a pleasure to see all of our new members fitting in so well, so quickly. This is a real credit to parents and carers who have prepared the children for their return to school, especially those for whom this is a new school. I thank you for preparing your child, irrespective of age and stage, for this return to school and this move onto the next stage in their education.

**Staffing** - We would like to welcome to Bothwell Primary, a lot of new class teachers; Mrs Cameron, Miss White, Mr Williamson, Miss Kerr, Mrs Kennedy, Mr Miller and Mrs Makey. Welcome back, Miss Walker and Mrs Nicolson. We are sure they will settle in well to our school and we are delighted to have them on board! At this point we are also wishing well our new mums, Mrs McSevney and Miss Campbell, who are currently on maternity leave, and a special good luck message to Mrs McFall, who is on secondment at Headquarters as a Development Officer. This is a busy year for everyone!

**Thank you for coming!** It was an absolute joy to see the inpouring of parents and carers at our recent *Meet the Teacher* event. I hope you gleaned the information you sought and if not, please let us know, via the parent survey issued following the event. We look forward to seeing you at the plethora of events planned over the year! Welcome back everyone! P1, having had their "Meet the Teacher" as part of the transition process, will have a workshop soon.

**P1 Parent Workshop** – We are delighted to offer the P1 Parent Workshop, which shall take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. At the workshop, we shall demonstrate our learning and teaching approaches to areas within literacy and numeracy. We look forward to sharing these with you!

**Breakfast Club** - This runs daily from 8.15 and 8.45a.m. If you wish to make use of this free facility, please contact the school office.

**Lunch and After School Clubs** – We are delighted to announce these clubs! This term we will be offering Choir, Sports Hall Athletics, Hockey, Netball, Sidekicks Multisport and Scripture Union clubs to selected stages. Miss Waters, our Acting Principal Teacher, shall be in contact with information regarding the clubs on offer for your child's stage in the school.

**JRSO**- Congratulations to Myla Bonnar and Nicholas McGill who have been appointed as our Junior Road Safety Officers this year.

**Parent Helpers** – We are delighted to offer parent helper opportunities enabling parents to have greater involvement in the Bothwell Primary School community. Mr Frame shall be "canvassing" for helpers for one-off events and also to assist in school on a regular basis. More information will be shared at the information session on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 2p.m.

**Period Poverty** – I wish to make you aware that we have free and readily accessible sanitary products for our young women. These are located in every toilet cubicle in the senior girls' toilets and are also always available at the school office.

**Stationery Pack** – Being mindful of the Cost of the School Day, using our Equity funding, all of our pupils have received stationery containing all the ingredients to being a super student! All are now ready and raring to go and learn!



**Promoting Positive Behaviour** – As a school, we have agreed to have one school rule:

“Do as you are asked”. We aim to work in a mutually respectful environment, with a calm ambience.

Every year, everyone at Bothwell Primary, all pupils and all members of staff, work so hard to promote positive behaviour, by following our “Go for Green” positive behaviour guidelines. At a whole school assembly, the children have been reminded of the importance of ensuring their good behaviour commences at the start of term and permeates all areas of the school and to all members of our school community. The children have adhered to this beautifully this session and we have got off to a marvellous start, which shows no sign of waning - well done everyone for pulling together to make Bothwell Primary be the best it can be! Every year we see an increase in the number of children who not only receive a Gold Award each term, but who turn that into a Platinum by having “All Golds”. At the end of session, we have a Go for Green Treat to reward the good behaviour of our children. This is a *positive* approach to encouraging good behaviour and the increase in the numbers is evidence of its success. The guidelines of the system were issued to all new pupils at the start of term. If you have lost your copy from last year, please see the school website for a reminder of the procedure we follow.

Please continue to support this system as positively as you have in previous sessions, as the children’s intelligence and maturity has been evident in their response to Go for Green and all agree it has made the school a very fair and pleasurable place to be!

**Fundraising** - As you will appreciate, fundraising looked quite different in the past few years. However, as you will be aware from the Calendar shared on the school website recently, we are now returning to business as normal, having reinstated most of our previous fundraising approaches, such as our Lovely Ladies and Marvellous Men stalls and our fabulous Christmas Fayre, which is our main fundraiser of the session. The date of the Christmas Fayre is Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November.

Our Parent Council meetings, at which the finer details of this event shall be determined, shall commence on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October – more details to follow, from Celeste Majcher, our Parent Council Chair.

We will however also continue to fundraise in ways which are in line with our Cost of the School Day approach of promoting equity and equality. Some of the fundraising opportunities are below, e.g. if you shop online and have not get joined up to our easyfundraising account (see below), then please join as soon as possible. It is free to join but the commission from your purchases raises funds for the school – *at no cost to you!* A win-win situation!

In addition, if you have been clearing out your cupboards and wardrobes – please bring your items for recycling to the school by 3rd November, when we have our next uplift. All proceeds from Cash 4 Clothes, go to school funds. If you have any other fundraising ideas which could take place in the current economic climate, please contact the school office or Parent Council.

**easyfundraising.com** - As previously intimated, we have put in place an easyfundraising.com link, whereby once an individual follows the link below and creates an account, purchases made online to a wide range of companies, result in commission to the school. Please help support the school by joining up as all funds raised will be spent on our pupils. Please see below for details on how to join:

- Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bothwellprimary/> and join for free.
- Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
- After you’ve checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

**Challenge Poverty Week, including Money Week** - The economy and the updates on the cost of living are regularly in the news at the moment. As such, this session we are introducing, in conjunction with our Money Week, a week where we shall Challenge Poverty and increase children’s awareness of managing finances and living within their means. This shall take place week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> October. If you have any ideas for this important area of education, please contact Mrs Jamieson, our Principal Teacher.

**Equity Committee** – We are currently in the process of setting up our Equity committee. This committee will be made up of all stakeholders of the school; parents, staff and children. Thank you to our parents who have volunteered to be part of this committee. We are still looking for further parents to join. If you are interested, please contact the school office. Mrs Jamieson shall be in touch to arrange our first meeting soon. One of the committee’s key roles shall be to decide how to spend our participatory budgeting funding. The Equity Committee shall also ensure we are considering the Rights of the Child within the school and also continuing with our drive to be a more equitable school.

**Dress Down Day** - We shall be having our first Dress Down Day for this session, on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October. On this date, children should pay £1 if they can, to raise funds for Meningitis, our chosen charity focus for this session. We shall be visiting this subject at whole school assemblies, to raise the awareness of Meningitis. The £1 donation shall be split between our school’s chosen charity this session and the school funds.

**Cash 4 Clothes** – As stated above, each term, we have an uplift from our recycling bin in the playground. The next uplift is Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Many thanks to all who have contributed items over the past few years as the funds raised by this means, have helped boost our school funds.



**Proud to be Part of the Bothwell Family!** – This term, it has again been an absolute joy to watch the children in the school, so smartly attired; school uniform and school shoes or P.E. kit and trainers, as requested. In addition to being a smart representation of our school, it ensures equity. Should your child wish to wear trainers on the MUGA pitch or for the Daily Mile, we will encourage them to change into their trainers at playtime to prevent major “scuffs” to their new school shoes! Please ensure all items are labelled. The school uniform is detailed on the school website. Please note that if you do not wish your child to wear their gym kit “uniform” to school, as listed in the handbook, they are welcome to wear their “normal” uniform every day and they can change into their P.E. kit in the toilets.

Please note that, in line with South Lanarkshire Council guidelines, at P.E. pupils should **not** wear:

- Jewellery (safety)
- Trainers which are not appropriately safe
- Sportswear advertising alcohol
- Team colours

Many thanks also to you for your support by continuing to purchase your child’s gym kit from our school – it also raises money to subsidise many “extras”, e.g. outings, materials, visitors, etc.

**Late coming/Absence** - Please remember to contact the school office before 9.30 a.m. if your child is late or absent. To ensure safety, the school shall call the main contact if a child has not turned up, but we have not received notification of absence by this time.

The office telephone number is 01698 852919, e-mail: [office@bothwell-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](mailto:office@bothwell-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)



### Nursery Class update

- This session, we have 18 returning children and 13 new starts, to date. Our pre-schoolers have returned to Bothwell Primary Nursery Class and we have welcomed our new children into the nursery class. Drop off is 9a.m. and collection is at 3p.m. Children should come dressed for all weathers. We aim to have the children outdoors as much as they are in indoors. Please take a moment to look at our noticeboard in the nursery foyer. All key information is displayed here and shared on the Learning Journals.
- Infection prevention and control - We shall continue to practise good levels of hygiene with regular hand washing and daily cleaning of our playroom, resources and outdoor area.
- Care Plans - are being regularly updated. The nursery team will inform you about your child’s Care Plan appointments. Please ensure all named contacts are up-to-date and staff know who will collect your child. It is very important to share all details on your child’s Care Plan.
- Food - Your child will have a snack at nursery. The snack is free-flow and available for your child throughout the day and water is always available for the children. If you send a water bottle with your child, please ensure their name is clearly marked on it. The children will select their own lunch each day. A hot or cold lunch is provided for each child including a carton of milk. Children are encouraged to try our lunches and our catering staff are especially helpful in meeting individual needs and requirements. You can see the lunch choices on the South Lanarkshire Council website.
- Learning Journals are an important method of sharing the learning and stories from the nursery class. Please access them regularly. If you require any assistance with this, please speak to a member of the nursery staff team. We would also recommend uploading learning from home, so we can share their achievements with them.
- Our planning “in the moment” responds to children’s needs and interests. Staff are planning daily experiences and adapting to what the children need, supporting and encouraging them to grow and develop.
- If your child requires medication, appropriate medical forms need to be completed. All medication must be prescribed and labelled. Please speak to Ms Talent for more information.
- *Can you help please?* - If anyone has any unwanted household items (e.g. kitchen utensils, vases, picture frames etc.) to make our home area more realistic, any donations will be welcome. We are also looking for any games, toys, dolls, doll houses, play items and loose parts like shells, acorns and twigs for play in our P1 classes. Finally, any children’s clothing or footwear would be gratefully received too! Thank you for all the donations, so far.

**Nut allergies** - A further reminder that due to a number of children in the school having nut allergies, any snacks being brought into the school must not have any traces of nuts in them. This includes Nutella chocolate spread.

### **School Improvement Plan for 2023-24**

- Raising attainment in Numeracy and Maths.
- Raising attainment in writing, through a consistent approach in the use of Learning Intentions and Success Criteria and enhanced use of data at all levels.
- Developing and implementing learning pathways in Expressive Arts as a vehicle to promote positive mental health and reduce stress and anxiety.
- Deepening play-based learning pedagogy within the Early Level, to support children's creativity, depth of learning and curiosity.
- Ensuring equity.

Please contact me if you have comments regarding our school or suggestions which could be of benefit to our pupils.

### **Our Vision is:**

To work in partnership with all stakeholders, to provide a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment in which **every** child can achieve their full potential in preparing for their role in society.

### **Bothwell Primary's Values - Be SMARTER**

We wish all of our pupils to display SMARTER attributes. As such, our school values are to be:

- **Sensible**
- **Mature**
- **Ambitious**
- **Respectful**
- **Thoughtful**
- **Eco Friendly**
- **Responsible**

### **Our Visionary Aims:**

We in Bothwell Primary School and Nursery Class aim to:

- Foster a compassionate and caring ethos, through nurturing approaches and ensuring equity, in an inclusive, diverse, learning culture.
- Implement creative high-quality learning and teaching, which is responsive and relevant, to the children's interests, the community and the wider world.
- Embed skills for learning, life and work through experiences which further develop partnerships, independence, strategic thinking and resilience.

Our school is:

- where children feel safe and cared for
- where children are encouraged to be healthy and where they understand why health is important
- where children are included equally, regardless of their sex, race, faith or ability
- where children are honest with themselves, their friends, other children and staff
- where all children are encouraged to do well and where their efforts and achievements are recognised
- where all children learn as much as they can and where their knowledge, skills and personal interests are developed as fully as possible
- where our staff act as a team with our parents, carers and the local community to improve learning
- where children respect the rights of others.

**Family Holidays during Term Time** - Please note that S.L.C. requests that we record family holidays taken in term time as an **unauthorised absence**. This must also apply to additional time taken in the run-up to an official school holiday or end-on to a holiday period.

When parents have difficulty obtaining leave outwith the school holiday period and evidence is produced by an employer, this however, may be recorded as an authorised absence.

**Mobile Phones** – We appreciate that some parents wish their children to carry their phone to and from school. However, we do request that the phones are switched off during school hours, kept in the child's bag out of sight. Phones, including the use of the camera, are not to be used in the school.



**Medical** – If your child is requiring medicine whilst at school, please ask the office for a form, which must be completed by the parent, before any medicine can be administered by the school office. Many thanks.



**School App Communications!** – As an Eco School, we are always keen to protect the environment wherever possible and also to work in as sustainable a manner as possible. As previous sessions we shall be sharing the majority of information via the school app, which works in conjunction with the school website. The app means we can communicate with you quickly and efficiently. Important information shall be shared this way, however, we will continue to use twitter @BothwellPrimary to share celebratory works and good news from the classes. We kindly request that you keep your notifications for our app on, to ensure you keep up to date with all communications.

We understand that at times information may not come to you as quickly as you wish, but we will always try our best to give timely and accurate advice and guidance.

Please note the following:

- all information being issued apart from that listed below, shall be shared via the school app
- where a personal response is necessary, an email will be sent

As such, *please ensure your email address stays current and advise the office of any changes when they occur.*

If you are unable to access the app, please contact Mrs Jamieson and she will aim to assist you.

The newsletter shall also be uploaded onto the school website. Please note that as notified via the school app, the Bothwell Primary Standards and Quality Report for 2023 and the School Improvement Plan 2023-24 are available on the school website.

**Hallowe'en** – You will note in the “Dates for your diary” we plan to have Hallowe'en celebrations. Children can if they wish, wear their Hallowe'en costumes to school on *Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October* where they will have Hallowe'en activities and games.

### **Keeping you Informed!**

The school newsletter shall be sent out approximately every two months, keeping you informed and detailing recent and forthcoming events, plus highlighting achievements made by the children, both in school and out. Please do not be modest, share your children's successes with us and we shall be delighted to tell the wider school body! A copy of the newsletter will also be displayed on the notice board outside the main office. The school calendar has been shared on the website, as previously stated, giving you an overview of the school year, indicating dates of assemblies, parties, parents' evenings, holidays etc. Hopefully this will enable you to “save the date” so you can come and see your little stars on the stage! Each newsletter will however highlight the upcoming events as a little reminder.

**C.O.O.L. Officers** – This session, for one year only, both our P6 *and* 7 pupils have had the opportunity to apply for the role of being a C.O.O.L. Officer in the P1-3 playground. This role involves caring for others, helping others play and become involved in the playground. There were over 50 applicants, all of extremely high quality with very impressive references, and I am delighted to share that all the successful applicants were informed at the assembly on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September. A rolling 2-week rota is now planned for all successful officers to be involved in this exciting venture. Thank you everyone who helped with this.

**Ambassadors** - Finally, good luck to our P7s who are planning on submitting an application for being a Bothwell Primary School Ambassador! Closing date for applications is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September, with interviews being held shortly afterwards. I'm looking forward to hearing all of your fabulous ideas!

As always, if you wish to discuss matters regarding your child's education, please contact the school – your child's wellbeing is our highest priority.

I wish you and your child a successful first term.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P Ross

Head Teacher, September 2023.



# Achievements - September 2023

## Well done everyone!



Nursery Class	Olly Dickson	Received star of the week at tennis club
R1	Alexander Thomas	Football trophy
R2	Harrison Combe Charlotte Campbell	Football certificate Drama certificate
R3	Zara Blair Jude Sommerville Isla Bailey Evie McGall	1 <sup>st</sup> place for Irish dancing Football trophy Moved onto level 2 for swimming Moved onto level 2 for swimming
R4	Angus Fraser Sophia Brown Lachlan Brady	Football trophy Dancing trophy Football medal
R5	Harry Simpson Gemma Smith Luca Clemente	Football trophy Ski certificate Medals for football tournament
R6	Skye Bell	Medals for Tae Kwan Do
R7	Jack Provan Maya Munro Cally Sommerville Sam Moody	Moved up a level in swimming Dancing medal Dancing medal Player of the week for football
R8	Ethan Watson Alexa Allan Isla Rose Morrison Madison Jack	Signed for Hamilton Academicals' football club Distinction in ballet Became a seconder in Brownies Moved up a level in swimming
R9	Kimmy McClounie Eilidh Graham Cayden Foster Fraser Black	Has learned to jump to a height of 50cm on a horse Moved to senior level at gymnastics Won a football tournament Will be performing songs at the Scarecrow Festival
R10	Holly McKee Nieve MacFarlane Lily Porter Everley Aitken	3 <sup>rd</sup> s place in high jump competition Winning an award at drama school Moved up to level 5 in swimming 4 <sup>th</sup> place at horse riding
R11	Jenson Boland James Wallace Mack Hopcroft Blake Langford Andrew Mannering	Graduated from Cubs to Scouts Graduated from Cubs to Scouts Graduated from Cubs to Scouts Graduated from Cubs to Scouts Graduated from Cubs to Scouts
R12	Grace Fox Eilidh Kinney Tharaya Leitch Alastair Thomas	3 <sup>rd</sup> place in horse grooming competition. Moved up a class in gymnastics. Achieved grade 1 in violin. Working hard to build strength back in his legs after operation so he can get back to his swimming.