

## Bankier Primary

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## Falkirk Council

Children's Services

### December 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

Although Christmas has looked a little different this year, our Brilliant Bankier Bairns celebrated in style. There were parties, magic shows, pantos, a Christmas lunch and even a Santa dash! Our school was decorated from top to bottom with homemade decorations and pupil art work. 2021 brought challenges that we did not foresee. Nevertheless, when I look back across the year at all that our Brilliant Bankier Bairns have achieved, I am extremely proud. We began the year in lockdown with the community coming together to ensure our pupils continued to Reach for the Stars. Many of you took on the role of teacher, and did a fantastic job. When we came back together, we were able to build on all the incredible learning that had taken place at home. 2021 has shown us just how much we can achieve and as we move forward, I am confident that in 2022 we will continue our success.

On behalf of everyone at Bankier, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kindest Regards

Mrs Sarah Ritchie, Head Teacher



# Bankier's Brilliant Bairns



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





## Wonderful Work

Wonderful work was showcased all through our community during lockdown. We are delighted to share that this has continued now we are back in school. Here is some of the wonderful work from our Brilliant Bankier Bairns.



# CHRISTMAS AT BANKIER

Christmas looked a little different at this year, but that did not mean that the fun disappeared.



**SANTA DASH**

This year one of our Brilliant Bankier Bairns came up with the Brilliant idea of hosting a Santa Dash for Strathcarron Hospice. Thank-you to all our Brilliant Bairns who took part and to everyone who donated to the cause. We managed to raise an incredible £174.87



## PANTO PANDEMONIUM

We have a tradition of hosting a show at Christmas. This year we had to move online and our Brilliant Bankier Bairns presented Panto Pandemonium. Pupils from the nursery to Primary 7 entertained with a song with a few of our senior pupils taking on main parts.





**Welcome to Mr Farrington**

We have welcomed a new member of staff to our team at Bankier. Mr Farrington is a highly experienced teacher who has joined us in the role of Acting Principal Teacher, replacing Mrs Webster. Mr Farrington is settling in well and has been working hard to get to know the boys and girls. Mr Farrington will take on responsibility for the management of additional support needs in the school. If you see him at the gate, please say hello, he is really keen to get know our families.



**House News**

Pupils have been working harder than ever to earn points for their house. Here are the point earned in December.

|           | Braeface | Castle Rankine | Wyndford | Underwood |
|-----------|----------|----------------|----------|-----------|
| Primary 1 | 160      | 108            | 82       | 80        |
| Primary 2 | 98       | 102            | 128      | 85        |
| Primary 3 | 132      | 109            | 100      | 143       |
| Primary 4 | 55       | 136            | 116      | 162       |
| Primary 5 | 426      | 327            | 444      | 497       |
| Primary 6 | 1202     | 454            | 791      | 994       |
| Primary 7 | 1324     | 940            | 1144     | 940       |
| Total     | 3342     | 2176           | 2805     | 2901      |

House of the week with an incredible 3342 points is.....

# **Braeface!**

## *Brace, Blazing, Brilliant!*

### **Planned Changes to School Lunch Service from Wednesday 5th January 2022**

Our catering team have made temporary changes to our lunchtime arrangements for the new term.

- Grab Bags will be served to pupils on the 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022. This will be reviewed in the new term. Lunches should continue to be ordered through Ipay.
- ELCC– the ELCC will continue pin the weekly menus to the ELCC twitter page and these will be updated as necessary.

### **Covid Update**

The self-isolation rules have changed and so I am writing to clarify the new position.

We are following the national guidance which applies to ANY variant of COVID (Omicron and Delta).

- If a member of your household tests positive for COVID, then all members of the household should book PCR tests and self-isolate for 10 days. This applies even if they are fully-vaccinated and even if the PCR test is negative.
- If you are identified as a close contact (by NHS Test & Protect) of someone you do not live with (non-household contact) you should isolate and book a PCR test. If the result is negative, then you may return to work/school if you are symptom free.
- Any adult or child who develops symptoms of COVID-19 (high temperature, new continuous cough or a loss or change to sense of smell or taste) must self-isolate immediately in line with NHS Guidance. People living in the same household, for example any siblings, must also isolate while awaiting the outcome of the test result of the case (adult or child).
- Any adult or child who tests positive using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) must self-isolate immediately and book a PCR test within 48 hours to confirm the result. As above, people living in the same household, for example any siblings, must also isolate while awaiting the outcome of the test result of the case.

These self-isolation rules are more stringent that we have ever experienced and indicate the gravity of the situation, whilst we learn more about the Omicron variant. It is worth noting that Covid related absences do not impact your child's attendance record.

## Nursery newsletter

December has been such a busy month for the staff and the children. We started off the month with our special story 'The Stick Man'. Mrs Przybylinski introduced the story to the children where they used their good listening skills. The children then used the provocations provided by staff to create their own stick men and retell the story.

Can your child make their very own stick man at home? We would love it if you could share your pictures to @bankier\_nursery.



staff  
new  
showed  
stick  
their  
pictures



We have also been working on good listening, sharing and turn taking skills. These children done an amazing job during a Christmas pairs matching game. Well done!

Do you play board games with your child at home? What are their favourite ones? Or is Santa bringing one for Christmas? Once again we would love you to share any pictures or videos you have with us. Playing board games offers lots of opportunities for different kinds of learning such as boosting their language skills, helping your child focus, teaching the value of teamwork and can even help sooth anxiety.

As the Christmas celebrations began the children wanted a wrapping station outside so they could wrap 'presents' to give to their friends. We shared the resources and used good gross motor skills and co-ordination to wrap our presents.





There was a flutter of snow one morning and the children said they wanted more, the best we could do was to create our own snow for the water tray so they could have some scooping and moulding fun that day.

The children have been busy decorating the art area by making their very own paper chain, look how long it is, wow!



The children worked with Miss Dobson to make some yummy homemade fruit and cheese scones. The children showed great concentration and listening skills throughout. The children looked at the pictorial cards and managed to follow the recipe themselves. Do you bake with your child in the house? Maybe you will be making some yummy treats over Christmas, if you do then please share your pictures with us.



As the party season continues all the children enjoyed a Christmas lunch together. It got a big thumbs up.



Finally we finished of the term with our Christmas party. The children looked fantastic in their outfits. We played party games, sang Christmas songs, danced and enjoyed some party food treats. Santa even managed a quick visit and brought all the children a special gift.



Although things look and feel a little different this year, Christmas is still a very special occasion in Bankier nursery. The children have been working very hard on their song for the pantomime and although this cannot be viewed in person this year the link to the You Tube channel has been sent out to all our parents. Here is the link again in case you missed it – <https://youtu.be/UZ4vvrXNBpE> This is a good opportunity to gather the family together, get cosy and enjoy the pantomime.

Please keep an eye out on our twitter page for any updates on the guidance from the government. At the moment parents/carers/grandparents are still required to wear a mask when dropping off and collecting your child. If you are exempt from wearing a face covering please show an exemption certificate or badge to the staff, otherwise you will be asked by staff to wear a face covering. Just a polite reminder that staff are doing their job and are trying to keep everyone including your and their own families safe at this time. We would like everyone to be able to enjoy Christmas with their families so we appreciate your support in helping us to achieve that.

The school and nursery both close on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> of December and reopen on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> of January. May I take this time to wish you and your families a lovely festive break we look forward to another busy but exciting year ahead.