



Bankier Primary and ELC

Welcome Back



Dear Families,

It is good to be back! Our Brilliant Bankier Bairns have made a positive start to school and school life. Everyone is looking relaxed, refreshed and smart in school uniform ready for the year ahead. Our school building is also looking getting a refresh with a much needed new roof. Thank-you for your patience whilst this happens.

This letter gives you an overview of all the wonderful plans we have for the year ahead as well as a few dates for your diaries.

We are all looking forward to the year ahead and working with our pupils and families as we Reach for the Stars!

Kind Regards

Sarah Ritchie, Head Teacher



Children's Rights are at the heart of all our practice and policies. Classes are working together to create classroom charters. Teachers are also working with pupils to reinforce our school and playground charters which promote resilience in all our learners.

Bankier Primary School Charter

UNCRC Article 3 The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect	UNCRC Article 28 Every child has the right to a good quality education. All children should be encouraged to go to school and do the best they can.	UNCRC Article 31 Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural activities.
UNCRC Article 12 Every child has the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them and to have their views considered and		
UNCRC Article 19 Every child has the right to be protected from violence, from being hurt and mistreated, in body and mind.		

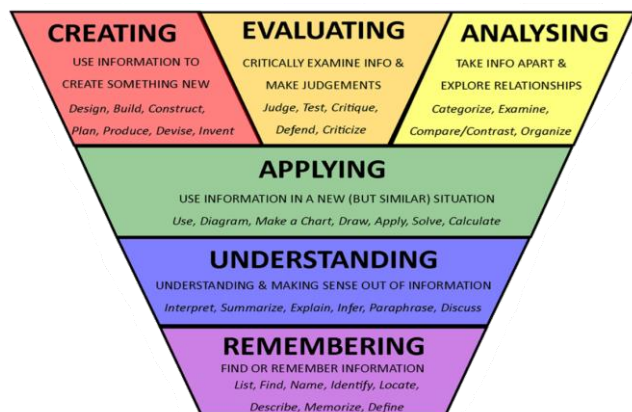
Resilient	Equal	Achieving	Contributing	Healthy
Learner Actions Ready/Respected/Safe by: ✓ Keep trying on all tasks ✓ Be patient ✓ Use errors to help you learn	Learner Actions Ready/Respected/Safe by: ✓ Let everyone take part ✓ Be kind ✓ Share	Learner Actions Ready/Respected/Safe by: ✓ Set targets ✓ Aim to improve ✓ Take pride in your work	Learner Actions Ready/Respected/Safe by: ✓ Share your ideas ✓ Try your best ✓ Co-operate with others	Learner Actions Ready/Respected/Safe by: ✓ Eat healthily ✓ Work and play actively ✓ Talk about how you feel
Staff Actions ✓ Provide new challenges ✓ Teach coping strategies ✓ Give help when needed	Staff Actions ✓ Treat all learners fairly ✓ Respect each individual ✓ Help all pupils to be heard	Staff Actions ✓ Encourage and reward effort, improvement and excellence ✓ Recognise all achievements	Staff Actions ✓ Provide various types of learning opportunities ✓ Lead by example ✓ Have high expectations	Staff Actions ✓ Nurture physical, mental and social wellbeing ✓ Engage learners in active work and play ✓ Be kind and supportive

Bankier Primary Playground Charter
 To be Ready/Respected/Safe we:

Resilient	
Pupil Actions ✓ Little deal = talk to sort it ✓ Big deal = walk away or talk to adult	Staff Actions ✓ Encourage children to keep trying ✓ Provide advice about challenges
Equal	
Pupil Actions ✓ Share and let people join in ✓ Respect people's space	Staff Actions ✓ Be friendly and fair ✓ Have calm, restorative conversations
Achieving	
Pupil Actions ✓ Play, have fun and try new things ✓ Make good choices	Staff Actions ✓ Observe what happens carefully ✓ Reward good choices
Contributing	
Pupil Actions ✓ Keep the playground tidy ✓ Look after equipment and each other	Staff Actions ✓ Join in with play ✓ Provide playground equipment
Healthy	
Pupil Actions ✓ Follow instructions ✓ Talk	Staff Actions ✓ Help people who are hurt ✓ Listen



Equal



As a school we are committed to supporting all children to develop skills for life and work. This year our much loved and highly respected Skills Academy will continue. Skills Academy 2025 launches this September.

Also continuing for session 2025-26 are our Pupil Leadership Groups. All pupils will participate in an intergenerational group to realise improvement in our school. Groups will include:

Eco Group

Pupil Council

Reading Ambassadors

Digital Leaders

Pupil Leadership Groups also launch in September.



Our Brilliant Bairns are looking very smart in their uniforms. We have a wide range of pre-loved items in every size for anyone who needs them. Many items are new with tags. Please speak to any member of staff if you need anything. We are happy to help.



Achieving



Every year we set down our improvement priorities for the year ahead.

This year we are seeking to realise improvement in the following;

- **Numeracy and mathematics by improved pedagogy**
- **Relationships by upskilling staff in de-escalation**
- **Writing by improving pedagogy**



Priority 1- Introduce a CVA approach in Numeracy and Mathematics

Why are we doing this?



A concrete, visual, and abstract (CVA) approach to teaching maths helps primary school children build strong conceptual understanding. Starting with concrete materials (like counters or blocks), children physically explore mathematical concepts. Visual representations (such as diagrams or number lines) bridge the gap between tangible objects and abstract symbols. This progression supports varied learning styles and deepens comprehension, especially for complex topics like place value or fractions. By connecting hands-on experience with visual cues and symbolic notation, children develop confidence, flexibility, and long-term retention in maths. The CVA method fosters active learning and helps prevent misconceptions at an early stage.



Priority 2- All staff to have a clear understanding of approaches and procedures to de-escalate behaviours

Why are we doing this?



Using de-escalation approaches to manage behaviour in primary schools promotes a calm, respectful, and safe learning environment. These strategies help defuse challenging situations before they escalate, reducing the need for punitive measures. By focusing on empathy, active listening, and emotional regulation, de-escalation supports positive relationships between staff and pupils. It encourages children to understand and manage their emotions, promoting long-term behaviour change. This approach also minimises classroom disruptions, allowing more time for learning. Overall, de-escalation fosters a supportive school culture where all pupils feel valued, leading to improved wellbeing, resilience, and academic outcomes.



Priority 3- Develop consistency in pedagogy for effective writing lessons

Why are we doing this?



A consistent pedagogical approach to teaching writing in primary schools provides structure, clarity, and progression for both teachers and pupils. It ensures that key skills are introduced, reinforced, and built upon in a coherent way across year groups. This consistency supports pupil confidence, as they become familiar with routines, expectations, and language around writing. It also enables targeted support and assessment, making it easier to identify gaps and track progress. For teachers, a shared approach fosters collaboration, planning efficiency, and professional development. Overall, it leads to improved writing quality, greater pupil engagement, and more equitable learning experiences across the school.



Achieving



Those of you with pupils in our ELC will be familiar with the incredible work undertaken by the ELC team.

- **Here are the priorities for the year ahead;**
- **Improve the delivery of the ELC Curriculum through High Quality Interactions**
- **Embed the Assessment and Progression Framework**



Priority 1- Improve the ELC curriculum through high-quality interactions and experiences.

Why are we doing this?



High-quality interactions in nursery education are vital for children's learning and development. They support language growth, social skills, and emotional well-being by fostering secure relationships and responsive communication. When educators engage in meaningful conversations, listen attentively, and extend children's thinking through questions and feedback, children feel valued and motivated to explore. These interactions build confidence, curiosity, and cognitive skills essential for school readiness. Consistent, warm, and intentional engagement helps create a nurturing environment where children can thrive. Ultimately, the quality of adult-child interactions directly influences the effectiveness of early education and long-term developmental outcomes.



Priority 2- Embedding Assessment and Progression Framework

Why are we doing this?



A robust assessment and tracking system in early education is essential for understanding each child's development, learning needs, and progress. It enables educators to identify strengths, spot delays early, and tailor support to individual needs. Ongoing, accurate tracking helps plan effective learning experiences and ensures no child is left behind. It also supports smooth transitions between settings by providing a clear picture of development. Additionally, it fosters meaningful communication with parents and professionals, promoting a consistent approach to learning. Ultimately, strong assessment systems improve outcomes by informing responsive teaching and helping every child reach their full potential.



Contributing



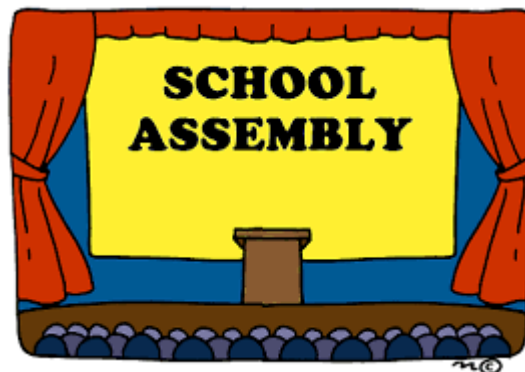
Bankier Primary School and ELC values and encourages contributions from all in the school community. Here are a few reminders of how to stay in touch and of how you can engage with us over the coming year.



ClassDojo

Every class has a Class Dojo page. Teachers will share information about your child's class here. You will find spellings, information on class work and photographs and videos of your child's class. This is the best and easiest way to contact your child's teacher. Messages will be responded to within 48 hours during the working week.

**We can also be contact be telephone on 01324 840206
And by e-mail; bankierprimaryschool@education.falkirk.gov.uk**



All class assemblies will take place on a Friday afternoon at 1.45pm. Space in the hall is limited, therefore we have to limit numbers to two adults per child. Tea, coffee and refreshments are available afterwards. We have made a slight change for Primary 7 who will present an assembly in February and then lead a celebration on their school career in June.

Assembly Calendar



Date	Class
10.10.25	Primary 5
21.11.15	Primary 4
12.12.25	Primary 1- Both classes
30.1.26	Primary 6
27.2.26	Primary 7
13.3.26	Primary 3
12.6.26	Primary 2
19.6.26	Primary 7 celebration and awards ceremony

Meet the Teacher

Our Brilliant Bankier Bairns are settling in well to the new academic year. Teachers and school staff are enjoying getting to know the new pupils in their care and are building mutually respectful relationships. As a school we strive to work in partnerships with our families and would like to extend a warm invitation to you to join us on Wednesday 3rd September from 4pm until 5pm to meet the class teacher and see the learning environment.



Your Primary School Needs You!

Our Brilliant Bairns are brilliantly supported by our Parent Council and Bankier Helping Hands (BHH). Both groups will meet on Monday 1st September at 6.30pm in the school. The group is welcoming and relaxed and there is no expectation to commit to attending on a long term basis. Why not come along and see how you can get involved.

FRIDAY!

Fundraising Friday!

New for this session are our fundraising Fridays. Every class will take responsibility for the planning and organising of a fundraising event. All monies will go directly to the school and to experiences for our Brilliant Bankier Bairns. We operate a “chuck it in the bucket” approach and there is no expectation that everyone makes a financial contribution.

Dates for your diaries!

Here is a calendar of events for the whole year. There is a little more detail from now until October. We will keep you updates about events through Class Dojo, Letters and Newsletters.

Date	Event
Monday 1 st September	Tempest Photographs- Whole School and ELC.
Monday 8 th September	School and ELC closed for September Holiday
Wednesday 10 th September	Falkirk Herald Photographs- Primary 1
Friday 26 th September	Fundraising Friday
Friday 10 th October	Primary 5 Assembly @ 1.45pm
Friday 10 th October	School and ELC closed for October Holiday @ 3pm
Monday 27 th October	School and ELC Open for the new term
Friday 7 th November	Reports Issued
Tuesday 11 th November	Parents' Appointments from 3.30pm-6.30pm
Thursday 13 th November	Parents' Appointments from 3.30pm-6.30pm

Friday 14 th November	Fundraising Friday
Friday 21 st November	Primary 4 assembly @1.45pm
Friday 28 th November	School and ELC closed for staff training
Friday 12 th December	Primary 1 Assembly @ 1.45pm, both classes
Wednesday 17 th December	Christmas Market 1pm-3pm
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Service @ 9.30am
Friday 19 th December	School and ELC close for the holidays at 1.30pm
Monday 5 th January	School and ELC re-open for the new term
Friday 30 th January	Primary 6 Assembly
Friday 6 th February	Fundraising Friday
Friday 13 th February	School and ELC Closed for February Holiday
Monday 16 th February	School and ELC Closed for February Holiday
Tuesday 17 th February	School and ELC closed for staff training
Friday 27 th February	Primary 7 Assembly @ 1.45pm
Friday 13 th March	Primary 3 Assembly @ 1.45pm
Friday 20 th March	Fundraising Friday
Tuesday 31 st March	Whole School Show 1pm
Wednesday 1 st April	Whole School Show 1pm
Thursday 2 nd April	Easter Service @ 9.30am
Thursday 2 nd April	School and ELC close for Easter Holiday @ 3pm
Monday 20 th April	School and ELC re-open for new term
Friday 1 st May	School and ELC closed for staff training
Monday 4 th May	School and ELC closed for May Holiday
Friday 29 th May	Reports Issued
Tuesday 2 nd May	Parents' Appointments from 3.30pm-6.30pm
Thursday 4 th June	Parents' Appointments from 3.30pm-6.30pm
Friday 5 th June	Fundraising Friday
Friday 12 th June	Primary 2 Assembly @ 1.45pm
Friday 19 th June	Primary 7 Celebration and Awards Ceremony @ 1.45pm
Friday 26 th June	School and ELC close for the summer holiday @ 1.30pm

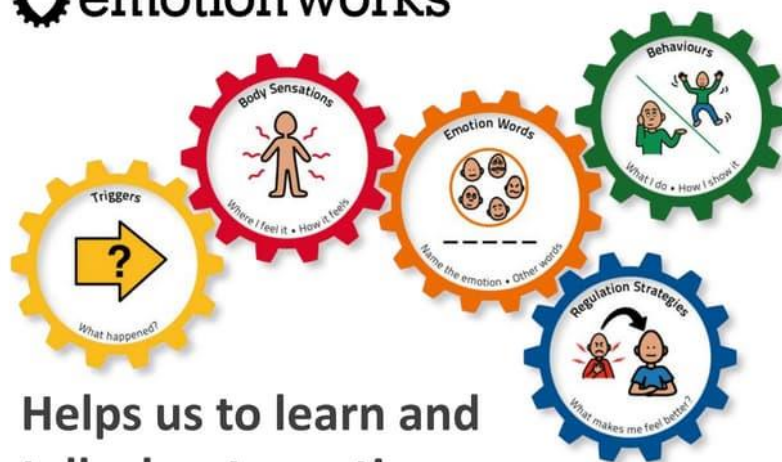


Healthy



The Health and Wellbeing of pupils remains a priority at Bankier Primary School. The school has a rich Health and Wellbeing Curriculum supported by Emotion Works, which promotes good emotional health and wellbeing.

emotion works



Helps us to learn and talk about emotions



You may have seen on media platforms that the Scottish Government is supporting schools to ban the use of mobile phones in school to help reduce anxiety. Pupils at Bankier are not allowed phones in school. If your child brings a phone to school they must keep it in their bag. Bankier Primary School does not accept any responsibility for any damage or loss of mobile phones.

Security- School doors will be locked at all times. This means that there is no access to the toilets before 9am. Anyone needing access to the building for the toilet, or otherwise, should report to reception. Staff will be on hand in the playground in the morning and will challenge any unknown faces. The school gates will be locked timeously. You can help us by vacating the playground as soon as your child has entered the building.

Thank-you for supporting us to keep our Brilliant Bairns Safe.