



Bankier Primary and ELC Newsletter

December 2025



Dear Families,



**'Twas the week before Christmas, at Bankier Primary School,
When the corridors shimmered with glitter and Yule.
The bairns were a-bustle, their jumpers bright red,
As visions of parties danced round in each head.**



**The classrooms were cosy, the windows frost-kissed,
And the sound of rehearsals no teacher could miss.
For the Nativity's coming—aye, shepherds and sheep,
With Mary and Joseph their vigil to keep.
The children spoke proudly, their lines held just right,
While tinsel-clad angels looked ready for flight.**



**Then over the playground there drifted a cheer:
"The Christmas Market's open! Come buy something here!"
Stalls decked with holly sold crafts made with care—
Salt-dough and snowflakes and shortbread to spare.
Parents came wandering with mittens and smiles,
And the scent of warm hotdogs could be scented for miles.**



**By afternoon's end came the grand party fun—
With party-style dancing and games on the run.
Crackers were pulled, and the jokes—oh, the groans!—
Made teachers laugh loud in their bright paper crowns.**



**And as dusk wrapped the school in a soft winter night,
The children skipped home, hearts merry and light,
For magic had nestled in every small hall—
A Bankier Primary School Christmas, the best time of all**

On behalf of everyone at Bankier Primary School, I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2026!

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 5th January at 9am.

Kind Regards

Sarah Ritchie, Head Teacher

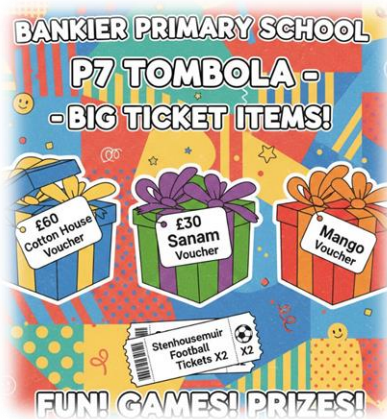
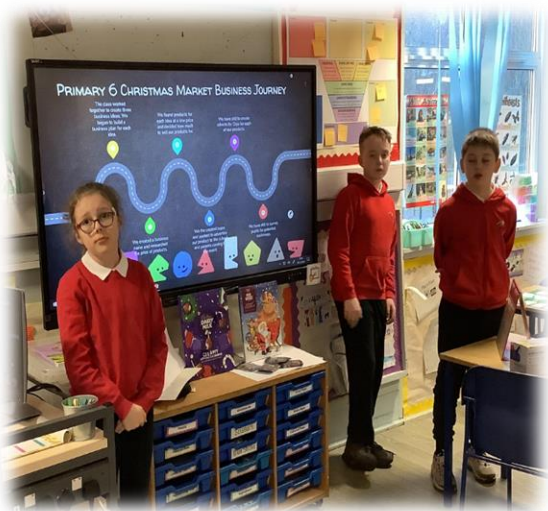




Resilient



Our Brilliant Bairns have demonstrated resilience when designing and making products to see at this year's Christmas Market. Pupils showed creativity, team work and confidence in their preparations. Pupils apply their maths skills to manage budgets and money on the day. They also use creativity and teamwork to design and make their products. Thank-you to everyone who came along to support the event. We raised an incredible £1776.32 which will go towards next year's school trip.



More resilience was shown when our talented Glee Choir entertained residents at our local care home. The choir also took to the stage during our Christmas Service alongside our Bollywood Dancers. Incredible performances by both groups.



Equal



Our Brilliant Bankier Bairns have been putting the fun into fundraising with our Fundraising Friday. This term it was led by Pupils in Primary 1 and 2. Our Brilliant Bairns made a small donation to identify staff members from their baby photographs. Thank-you to everyone who had a guess. It was much trickier than initially thought. Congratulations to Finlay and Isla who identified the most people.



Our Brilliant Bankier Bairns have also been hard at work fundraising to raise money for local charity partner, Strathcarron Hospice. In December alone, we managed to raise a fantastic £148.81 for charity. Thank-you to everyone who made a donation.



Achieving



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

			
This Brilliant Bairn supports younger pupils.	This Brilliant Bairn is good at literacy.	This Brilliant Bairn is helpful to others.	This Brilliant Bairn is confident and polite.
			
This Brilliant Bairn makes excellent contributions.	This Brilliant Bairn applies herself in all tasks.	This Brilliant Bairn knows his times tables.	This Brilliant Bairn learned her lines for the Nativity.
			
This Brilliant Bairn practised his songs.	This Brilliant Bairn keeps the class tidy.	This Brilliant Bairn is a good friend.	This Brilliant Bairn is a good friend.



Achieving



			
This Brilliant Bairn always tries her best.	This Brilliant Bairn knows her number bonds.	This Brilliant Bairn is helpful to others.	This Brilliant Bairn moved up a belt in karate.
			
This Brilliant Bairn makes a good effort.	This Brilliant Bairn brings a healthy snack.	This Brilliant Bairn always does her best.	This Brilliant Bairn joins the class discussions.
			
This Brilliant Bairn excels in writing.	This Brilliant Bairn is excelling in writing.	This Brilliant Bairn contributes in class.	This Brilliant Bairn tries her best.
			
This Brilliant Bairn includes everyone.	This Brilliant Bairn contributes in class.	This Brilliant Bairn never gives up.	This Brilliant Bairn always does her best.



Achieving



			
This Brilliant Bairn is excelling in writing.	This Brilliant Bairn can solve problems.	This Brilliant Bairn consistently works hard.	This Brilliant Bairn



Contributing



Families contributed to the life of the school when joining Primary 1,2 and 3 as they were gifted their Books from Book Bug. Thank-you to everyone who came along to share in the magic of reading.

Our Brilliant Bankier Bairns also contributed to the life and ethos of the school by leading us in assembly and in our Christmas Service. Pupils in Primary 4 presented their assembly and our Primary 1 pupils led the Nativity. Pupils from across the school led the Christmas Service in partnership with Reverend Raheel who represents our parish. Thank-you to everyone who came along to support these events. It is lovely to see so many families engaging with the school.



Farewell Mrs O'Brien



This month we say farewell to Mrs O'Brien. Mrs O'Brien retires from Bankier Primary School on 19th December 2025. Mrs O'Brien has worked at Bankier Primary School for 39 years. She began as a cleaner on a temporary contract. Mrs O'Brien moved on to join the catering team for a short while before moving into the school in her Support for Learning Role. Mrs O'Brien has been an incredible support to pupils and families at Bankier Primary School and we are indebted to her and all she has done. I am sure you will join me in wishing Mrs O'Brien and good wishes as she starts the next chapter in her life.



Contributing



The Months Ahead

Monday 5 th January	School and ELC reopens to pupils at 9am.
Friday 23 rd January	Scots' Assembly 1.45pm
Friday 30 th January	Burns Supper led by Primary 6 at 1.45pm
Friday 6 th February	Fundraising Friday led by Primary 6
Friday 13 th February	School closed for a holiday
Monday 16 th February	School closed for a holiday
Tuesday 17 th February	School closed for staff training



Healthy



Our Health Pupil Leadership Group has been hard at work this term. After reviewing pupil surveys, they identified healthy eating as a key focus and set out to support pupils in making healthier choices. The group analysed common playground snacks and created an eye-opening display showing the sugar content in some popular items. They proudly shared this display at Parents' Night and invited families to complete a survey about healthy eating habits.

Mr McFarlane and group representatives also met with the school catering team to explore further support. As a result, the team has kindly agreed to provide fruit at morning break—giving pupils access to a healthy snack even if they have not brought one from home.

We are also seeing more and more pupils bringing in healthier options for snacks too. Grapes and yogurt is a cracker!