

Bankier Primary

Bankier Road, Banknock, FK4 1TF

Telephone: 01324 840206

Headteacher: Sarah Ritchie BEd MEd



Falkirk Council

Children's Services

**WELCOME BACK
TO SCHOOL**

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers,

It's good to be back!

I am sure, like me, you are all delighted that the new term is off to a successful start. It has been nice to welcome back our Brilliant Bankier Bairns and their families. This year we have also welcomed a few new faces to our staff, Miss Rodger who will be teaching Primary 5 and Mrs Barrie who will be teaching Primary 4.

There was a lot to celebrate this summer with two weddings in our staff team. Miss Donnelly returns as Mrs Buchanan and Miss France returns as Mrs Comire.

Last year I said that my word of this year was Together, and this is how we will continue to work with you at Bankier. This newsletter will give an overview of some of the ways that we hope to come together over the course of the year.

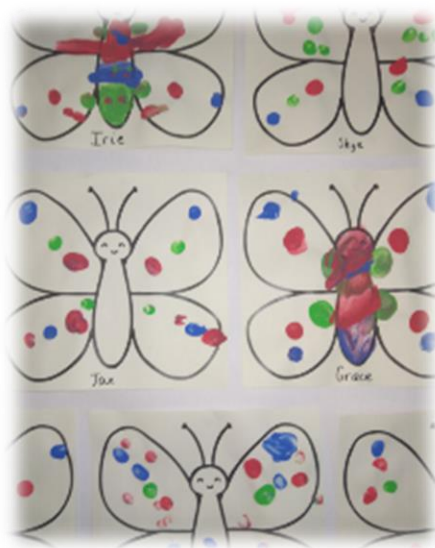
The entire team at Bankier Primary School and ELC is looking forward to working with you all this year. We hope session 23-24 will be our best yet!

Kindest Regards

Mrs Sarah Ritchie, Head Teacher

Wonderful Work

Wonderful work is already on show. Here is some of the wonderful work from our Brilliant Bankier Bairns.



Meet the Staff

Please find below a staff list for session 23-24. We encourage parents to approach the class teacher with any queries and concerns.

Head Teacher	Mrs Sarah Ritchie
Depute Head Teacher	Mr McFarlane
Principal Teacher (Acting)	Mr Iain Farrington
Primary 1	Miss Roisin Callaghan
Primary 2	Mrs Naomi Kee
Primary 3	Miss Holly Harris
Primary 4	Mrs Lynne Barrie
Primary 5	Miss Hannah Rodger
Primary 6	Mrs Victoria Paddon
Primary 7	Miss Melissa Crooks
Support for Learning	Mrs Lindsay Robertson
Pupil Support	Mrs Iona Buchanan Mrs Vicki Comrie
Support for Learning Assistants	Mrs Eleanor Kirk Miss Alison Gibson Mrs Mary Gray Mrs Jilly MacKenzie Mrs Lynn O'Brien
Support Worker	Lawrence Fletcher
School Counsellor	Beth Pritchard
Senior Early Years Officer	Mrs Laura Brown
Early Years Officers	Mrs Louise Noble Mrs Lynn Przybylinski Mrs Grace Wright Mrs Elizabeth Milligan Mrs Caroline Doctor Mrs Amanda Livingstone
Early Years Assistants	Mrs Saryia Riaz Mr Scott Hendry
Cleric	Mrs Moira Curle
Janitor	Mr Derek Stringer

Bankier at Play

I'd like to remind you of all the playtime activities and areas we have on offer for pupils. It is important that we encourage a wide range of physical activities as well as places to rest for pupils at breaks. Please consider appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing suitable for the weather conditions so that pupils can enjoy what's on offer at all times:

- Forest
- Adventure trail
- Stone Circle
- Picnic tables and chairs
- Climbing wall
- Assault wall
- Bike track (helmets must be worn)
- Bike and scooter racks
- Bike shelter
- Garden areas
- Astro turf
- Games on the ground
- Poppy Shelter
- Tree trunks
- Hard standing play areas
- Grassed areas

We encourage your children to walk, scooter or cycle to school but please note that we can only allow children to play on bikes, scooters etc. on the bike track if they **wear a helmet**.

Pupils can bring their own games to play such as balls, skipping ropes, collectable (e.g. cards and stickers) etc. However, the school cannot be responsible for any theft, loss or damage.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you applied for this support last year, you won't need to make a new application. You should have received a message to advise you of this recently from the Assessment Team. There are an estimated 500 families across Falkirk who are entitled to a meal who are not claiming. If you have never applied before, you will need to apply. If you need more information, or to apply online, visit www.falkirk.gov.uk/fsm.



SCHOOL CAR PARK

Can we politely remind parents that the school car park is for **staff use only**. We have noticed parents using the carpark in the morning to drop off children and in the evening for collections. Parking is available on the street and outside the Sports Hall and we ask that parents use these. This includes parents who are dropping their children at the Breakfast Club.



Uniform

Our Brilliant Bankier Bairns have all returned to school looking incredibly smart in their school uniforms. Over the last two years, uniform was relaxed to comply with Covid restrictions. As restrictions are removed, expectations change. Pupils should wear uniform every day. Our uniform comes in many forms;

- School trousers, smart shorts, leggings, skirt or pinafore
- Red checked summer dress
- Polo shirt, T-shirt or school shirt
- Red Jumper, Cardigan or Hoodie
- School tie
- Outdoor shoes

On gym days pupils should bring gym kit;

- Polo shirt or t-shirt
- Shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms
- Soft comfortable shoes



Brilliant Bairns looking smart in school uniform.

Younger pupils may wish to wear their kit underneath their uniform or simply remove their jumper. Changing spaces are available for older pupils.

Please ensure your **child's name** is on all his/her belongings – this helps greatly in reuniting lost property with its owners.

Uniforms are available to order from Logoxpres directly or through the school. You can order direct from Logoxpres either online at www.logoxpres-schoolwear.co.uk or by visiting them at 4 Kings Court, Glentye Road, Broadleys Business Park, Stirling FK7 7LH. Their opening hours are Monday to Friday 9am-5:30 or Saturdays 9am-12:30pm (October to April) and 9am-4pm (May-September).

We also have a wide range of preloved items, including winter jackets, available at no cost. Please contact the school if you would like any of our pre-loved items.

Class Dojo

ClassDojo is a free online/app based communication tool. Parents and carers can see a “whole-school story”, where whole-school announcements can be made and a “class story”, where you can see your child’s teacher’s announcements. There is also a messenger function where you can send private messages to teaching staff and vice versa.

ClassDojo is used as a method of sharing news and classroom activities. The school app/website will continue to be used to share school dinner information, extra-curricular clubs information and whole school events, so please continue to check and use the app/website also.



Please note that in the case of reporting pupil absence or to make appointments to speak or meet with members of staff this should be done via the main school phone on 01324 840206 or by email to bankierprimaryschool@falkirk.gov.uk

If you would like any further information on dojo, please contact the school and ask for Mr McFarlane.

IPAY

All new pupils have been given a letter which details the new electronic system available to parents, carers and others to pay for school meals, trips etc. Each pupil has their own unique reference so if you have two or more children in the family you must add in all the reference codes to be able to access that child account.

Setting up your ipay account is very easy.

In order to use the Falkirk Council iPayimpact web site you must have a Mygovscot account. To create one:

Visit: <http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/do-it-today/pay/schools/>

- Click on **Register for an account** and Register for a Mygovscot account
- Complete the 4 steps to create a Mygovscot account

Once registered and your account verified, go back to

<http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/do-it-today/pay/schools/>

- and select **Sign In**
- On first sign in, after accepting terms and conditions, you will be asked to provide the Account Ref for one of your children to make payments on their behalf. This Account Reference can be found at the top of this letter. **Enter the reference provided for one of your children and select Link Account.**
- Link additional child/ren (**if you have more than one child at this school or another school using Falkirk Council iPayimpact**)
 - Go to Accounts on the top menu – your first child will be displayed.
 - Click on the ‘**Link a New Account**’ button
 - Enter the Child Account Reference for your other child/ren as detailed in this letter or similar letter from another school.
 - Click **Find Account and Establishment** – choose the school from the list (if displayed)
 - Click the **Link Account** button

MAKING A PAYMENT

- Go to the home page and add items you wish to pay for into the basket
- Proceed to **Checkout**

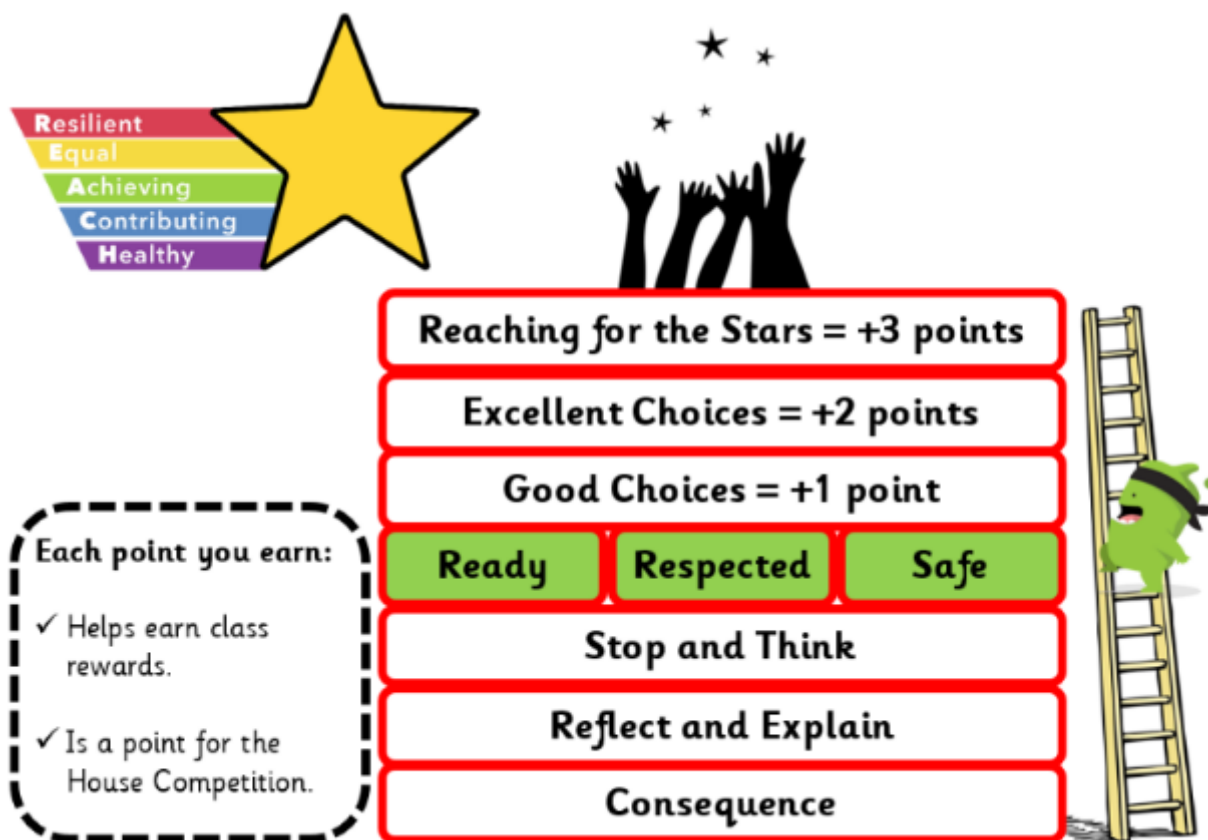
If you require any assistance with the Ipay system please contact us and we will do our best to assist.

Positive Behaviour

Bankier Primary School promotes Positive Behaviour through its Positive Relationships Policy.

Our aim is to ensure children are rewarded for positive behaviour, aware of their responsibilities and supported to make improvements where needed. This is based on the principles of Rights Respecting Schools, Emotion Works and restorative practice, all of which aim to help children understand, talk about and manage their feelings and actions.

In all areas of the school the following ladder approach will be displayed and used:



In each class and around the school we continue to expect all our children to demonstrate:

Our three School Rules- Ready, Respected, Safe

Our 5 School Values- Resilient, Equal, Achieving, Contributing, Healthy (R.E.A.C.H.)

Each child will be rewarded for positive behaviour and attitude that demonstrate these Rules and Values by being awarded points. These points will count towards class rewards that each class can earn by earning enough points as a team and also towards our termly House Competition. For particularly outstanding positive examples, your child may also occasionally be issued with a 'Reaching for the Stars' certificate.

If a child is not demonstrating Ready, Respected and Safe behaviour, then teachers may ask them to Stop and Think about their behaviour. If further support is required, they may then give the child time/space to Reflect and Explain their behaviour. At all steps the focus is on encouraging the child to reset towards more positive behaviour. If your child demonstrates behaviour that results in a Consequence, this will be managed in school but will ordinarily also involve a phone call home. This is to help ensure that you are kept up to date and to help school and home work together so that all children in our school community are supported in demonstrating Ready, Respected and Safe.

Please also remember that positive behaviour, effective learning and achievements are also regularly shared. For example, please look out for certificates your child brings home and updates on the 'Class Story' section of Class Dojo for your child's class.

A slice of the Stars!

As you know our Brilliant Bankier Bairns Reach for the Stars and are continually achieving their very best. Every week we issue Praise Post Cards to pupils who excel in their work. To celebrate these achievements pupils are invited to a Slice of the Stars.

Pupils join Mrs Ritchie to celebrate with hot chocolate, milkshakes and plenty of cake.

BHH

Bankier Primary School and ELC is very well supported by the Bankier Helping Hands (BHH) and a Parent Council. The BHH support the school by fundraising for pupil resources and experiences. The Parent Council is a group of elected parents who represent the views of parents in school matters.

Both groups meet regularly across the year and are always keen to welcome new members. The group will be hosting a welcome meeting very soon. Members of both groups will be there, along with school staff, to chat to parents. The welcome meeting will be followed by the Annual General Meeting. There is no expectation to commit to either group on the longer term so please look out for further details.



Accidents

From time to time children will have a slip, trip or collision in the playground which means they require first aid. As a school we will issue a letter to advise you of this. Historically we would ask this to be signed and returned. We no longer need these letters to be returned but we will continue to issue letters.

Calling in Sick

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school you should telephone the main office on 01324 840206 to advise of their absence. Messages can be left on the answering machine and will be collected before 9.30am. If we have not received a message from you, you will receive a text message at 9.30am advising you that your child is not in school.

Covid

The guidance for managing Covid in school has changed slightly. Children who test positive with Covid and are presenting with mild symptoms, runny nose, sore throat etc, should continue to attend school as normal. If a child tests positive for Covid and has a high temperature or fever they should stay at home until these symptoms have passed. If your child is diagnosed with having the Flu like Variant, your GP may advise that they stay home. If you are unsure whether or not you should send your child to school. Please telephone the main office who can give advice.



It's a Date!

We have planned a host of events for pupils and families over the course of this session. Here is an overview of what is on offer and some dates for your diary.



Assemblies

Every year, each class takes a turn to present an assembly to fellow pupils and parents. All assemblies will take place on a Friday afternoon at 1.45pm. This year our Primary 1 and Primary 2 will lead a Nativity and our Primary 6 pupils will lead a Burns' Supper. We will send invites out closer to each date but until then here is the timetable for this session

Primary 4	6 th October 2023
Primary 5	3 rd November 2023
Primary 1 and 2	16 th December 2023
Primary 6	2 nd January 2024
Primary 3	22 nd March 2024
Primary 7	7 th June 2024

Fundraising Calendar

Over the course of the year we hold fund raising events for our school, parent partner associations and charity partners. We recognise that charity is very personal and operate a "chuck it in the bucket" policy. Pupils can donate an amount of their choice if they wish. There is no expectation for everyone to give, but we expect everyone to be included in the fun. Given the current financial climate, we will host one event a month, with no events in shorter school months. Here is what we have planned for this year!

September	BHH Fundraiser- Details to follow
November	Children in Need
December	Santa Dash for Strathcarron
January	BHH Fundraiser- Details to follow
March	Sport Relief
May	The Big Fit Walk- School funds
June	Collection for Strathcarron

Meet the Teacher- Wednesday 20th September 2023 @4pm

Every year we invite you to join your child in their classroom. You will have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher, find out what your child is learning about at school and have the opportunity to tour the school. There will be a chance later in the year to speak in more detail to the class teacher at our annual parents' night.



Parent's Night/ Reporting

This year we will host two formal parents' evenings. Parent's Night is an opportunity to speak to the class teacher and find out how your child is progressing in school. Afternoon and evening appointments are available. Should you wish to speak with your child's class teacher at any other time, please telephone the school to arrange an appointment or message the class teacher through Dojo.

In response to parental feedback, we have restructured Parents' Night arrangements and reporting. Report cards will be issued in March, prior to the final Parents' Night in May. This will help parents prepare for the meeting and identify any questions they want to ask

Early Term

Tuesday 21st November 3.30pm-6.30pm
Thursday 23rd November 3.30pm-6.30pm

A full written report will be issued in March.

Late Term

Tuesday 21st May 3.30pm-6.30pm
Thursday 23rd May 3.30pm-6.30pm

Christmas Concert Tuesday 5th December and Wednesday 6th December

Following on from the success of our musical theatre production of Treasure Island, we are delighted to announce that we can welcome our community into our school for another performance. The whole school will come together in song and dance and we are confident that this year will be the best yet. Please note that both performances will take place during the day to allow all pupils to participate.

Tuesday 5.12.22 @1pm
Wednesday 6.12.22 @ 1pm

Christmas Market 18th December

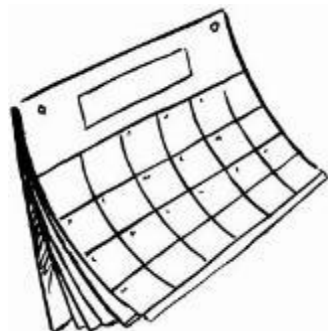
Returning for this session is our pupil led Christmas Market. Each class will invest a small budget in their very own enterprise. Classes will come together to promote their goods at our first Christmas market. Parents, Grandparents and friends of the school will be welcomed to a VIP shopping session at the market.



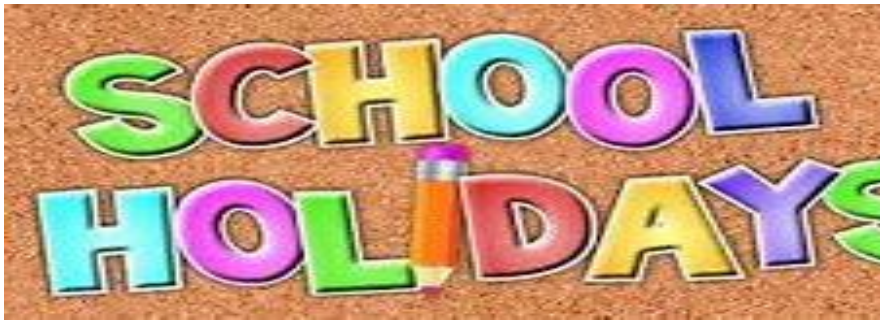
This is just a flavour of all we have planned this year. Reminders and invitations will be issued nearer the time. Please look out for information on your e-mails, class dojo, the school website and app.

September/October 2023

Every month we will give you an overview of upcoming events. Here is what to look forward to in the months ahead.



September Holiday	Monday 11 th September
Primary 1 Come Dine with Me	Friday 15 th September @ 12noon
Meet the Teacher	Wednesday 20 th September @ 4pm
Primary 6 Assembly	Friday 6 th October @ 1.45pm
October Holiday	Monday 9 th October- Friday 20 th October
Dressup/Dress Down day	Tuesday 31 st October



List of school holiday dates

September weekend	Monday, 11th September 2023
October holiday	Monday, 9th October 2023- Friday, 20th October 2023
Staff development day	Friday, 24th November 2023
Christmas and New Year	Monday, 25th December 2023-Friday, 5th January 2024
Local holiday	Friday, 9th February 2024- Monday, 12th February 2024
Staff development day	Tuesday, 13th February 2024
Easter holiday	Friday, 29th March 2024 – Friday, 12th April 2024
Staff development day	Thursday, 2nd May 2024
Local holiday	Monday, 6th May 2024
Summer holiday	Monday, 1st July 2024- Friday, 9th August 2024

Community Support

As the financial crisis continues, we remain aware that day to day living is becoming more challenging for many in our community. Roots is a local group that is there to support. Staffed entirely by volunteers the group provide support with, food, financial advice, advice on benefits, help to complete forms and anything else you might need at the time. Bankier Primary School work in close partnership with Roots and can put you in touch with someone who can help.

Alternatively, you can call 07808054211 or find them on Facebook. Jennifer and her team are only too happy to help.



School and Family Support Services - Denny Cluster

We are delighted to introduce to you our newest member of staff - Lawrence Fletcher. Lawrence is a Support Worker who will link with families and offer a wide variety of assistance to our school. He will be based at Bankier Primary on a Wednesday and Thursday, and will also be working in two other schools in the Denny Cluster. Families can email Lawrence directly at lawrence.fletcher@falkirk.gov.uk.

School and Family Support Service

Denny Cluster



Who we are?

We're proud to have a dedicated team who work across Denny cluster in ELC, primary and high school. There are 4 support workers in the team with each worker having their own school allocation.

We can be contacted through the email below or by contacting the school directly.

We have been employed by Education Services and work for each school.

Antonine, Bankier & Bonnybridge:
Lawrence Fletcher

Lawrence.fletcher@falkirk.gov.uk



What can we help you with?

We can offer you support and advice for all sorts of things.

A listening service to support children and families to support overall emotional well-being.

Support in ensuring your child attends school on a regular basis.

Bankier PS – every Wednesday and Thursday

What can we help you with?

We can offer you support and advice for all sorts of things.

A listening service to support children and families to support overall emotional well-being.

Support in ensuring your child attends school on a regular basis.

To work alongside families and children to help create positive relationships within the home and school environments.

We can put you in touch with a range of professionals, offer support schemes or simply provide you with the information you need. We are here to help.

Nursery

As the summer holiday ended and the new term began, we welcomed back our returning children and families. The nursery numbers grew as we met some new faces and welcomed back some familiar families with their younger siblings this year. We were delighted with how all our children have settled and started building new friendships.

The nursery staff completed their yearly self-evaluation which helped us decide which priorities we will be taking forward next year. Staff completed a benchmark exercise which indicated that the new Assessment and Progression framework would be a priority.

Children are constantly learning as they engage in the world around them. As your child progresses through early learning and childcare (ELC) and into primary school and beyond, their progress will be recorded and tracked at key points.

Bankier ELC is an early adopter of Falkirk Council's ELC Assessment and Progression Framework so your child will have their progress tracked around four specific areas:

- Early Language
- Early Mathematics
- Self, Social and Emotional Wellbeing
- Skills for Learning and Life

The Framework has been designed for use in Falkirk's ELC settings to support high quality provision, observation, recording and tracking of children's learning and development.

Within each of the core areas key features will be tracked.

Early Language	Early Mathematics	Self, Social and Emotional	Skills for Learning & Life
Concepts of Print Phonological Awareness Oral Language Mark Making	Number & Counting Measure Pattern & Shape Movement	Friendships Emotions Engagement & Involvement	Attention Curiosity Working Memory Problem Solving

As a setting we aim to track your child's progress in these areas twice a year.

The second priority is to ensure that 100% of the children in our nursery experience highly effective STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) learning experiences throughout our setting. This priority is being continued from last year. Last year Bankier ELC worked hard at gaining three out of the five elements from the STEM Nation Award and we will continue working towards this award this year.

Bankier ELC is very lucky in having been accepted to start our Froebelian journey to become a Falkirk Froebel Flagship nursery, at the moment there is only one other nursery in the council also working towards this. Our aim to achieve this to ensure Froebelian Principles underpin practice, and these principles are valued, lived and incorporated into all elements of early learning and childcare for the benefit of each child, family and practitioner.

Taking the lead on this is Donna Green, Early Years Pedagogue.



"Hi, my name is Donna Green, I am an Early Years Pedagogue within Falkirk Council Children's Services Early Years Central Team. In my role I lead Froebel in Falkirk, in my current role I am supporting both Bankier ELC and Inchlair ELCC to work towards their Falkirk Froebel Flagship. I have worked in Early Years for over 30 years and I am still as passionate today as when I started".

More information will be given out soon around our Falkirk Froebel Flagship journey.

Staff recently took part in the refresher training for our Sun Safety Policy, as it was time to renew our certificate. We are pleased to say that we have updated our policy and have now gained our accreditation certificate for another year. Everyone will be emailed a copy of the policy soon. Staff would like to thank our parents for their continued support with this.

This year Miss Riaz has been accepted to complete her Froebel in Childhood Practice course, Mrs Brown The Froebelian Futures, Practitioner Enquiry course and Mrs Ritchie will be completing The Froebelian Futures, Practitioner Enquiry course and the Leadership Froebelian course. These are all lead by Edinburgh University.

Please remember if you need to contact the nursery the phone number is – 01324 849971 or you can private message us on dojo where a member of staff will get back to you during working hours.