

Bankier Primary

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Falkirk Council

Children's Services

Newsletter March 2024

Dear Parents,

The month of March brought a busy term to a close. This month our Brilliant Bankier Bairns in primaries 3 and 5 led us in assembly. It was nice to welcome so many families into school to share in our learning about the Victorians and Friendship. As well as welcoming families in, our Brilliant Bankier Bairns were out and about in the community. Our Football team, Cross Country Team and Glee Choir represented the school at local competitions and events.

We marked the end of term with our Easter Service in the school and a very special assembly where we said goodbye to our beloved janitor, Mr Stringer. Our Brilliant Bankier Bairns have worked incredibly hard over the term and have earned the upcoming holiday.

On behalf of everyone at Bankier Primary School, can I wish you a relaxing holiday. We look forward to welcoming back our Brilliant Bairns on Monday 15th April.

Kind Regards
Sarah Ritchie



Today marks not only the end of term, but the end of an era as we say farewell to our beloved janitor, Mr Derek Stringer. Mr Stringer has worked at Bankier Primary School for 22 years. In that time he has dedicated himself to the role and worked with pupils, staff and families to achieve the very best.

As a school community we marked the occasion with a special pupil led assembly. Pupils shared fond memories of Mr Stringer from across the years. I know that many parents also have fond memories of Mr Stringer. So many of you have popped by with kind words and stories. He has been very touched by everyone who has stopped by to wish him well.

Mr Stringer is looking forward to the next chapter of his life. This year he looks forward to the weddings of both his children and then he and his wife will embark on a cruise taking in Singapore.

I am sure that you will join with me and the rest of the school community in wishing Mr Stringer, a long, happy and healthy retirement.



I loved how Mr Stringer always made time to listen to us and always made us laugh. Layla P6

He always made sure we could use the I-pads because he brought the trolley upstairs. Freddie P3

I remember in P3 Mr Stringer would pretend to take off his thumbnail and I would go home crying telling my mum. He is always having a good joke!
Ruby P7



Bankier's Brilliant Bairns



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



This Brilliant Bairn is making improvement in writing.



This Brilliant Bairn is writing persuasively.



This Brilliant Bairn can calculate decimals to 3 places.



This Brilliant Bairn knows his number bonds.



This Brilliant Bairn made an eye catching poster.



This Brilliant Bairn is making progress in maths.



This Brilliant Bairn uses punctuation effectively.



This Brilliant Bairn is always ready, respectful and safe.



This Brilliant Bairn is very good at story writing.



This Brilliant Bairn is making progress in reading.



This Brilliant Bairn is growing in confidence.



This Brilliant Bairn is a gracious winner.



This Brilliant Bairn is improving their writing.



This Brilliant Bairn is excelling in PE.

Glee Choir

Our Glee Choir visited our friends at Bankview Nursing Home to sing for them. We performed a series of mini concerts for residents and staff in each of the wings. A highly worthwhile experience that brought smiles, memories, laughter, tears and even some dancing to the faces and feet of our audience. Big thanks to Suse our YMI Music tutor for leading the choir.



ATTENDANCE UPDATE

25.6 per cent of primary school pupils in Scotland missed more than 10% of school last year. That equates to 19 days or more across the year. Bankier PS finished the 2022/23 session with 26% of pupils missing more than 10% of their school year.

Our figures for this year are much more promising however...

Compared to March 2023 where we had 32% of pupils missing more than 10%, we are now in a position where that figure is well below national average of 18%. That's a reduction of nearly half! Add to that the average attendance for March 2024 is currently at 95%, compared to 91% this time last year and I'm sure

you'll agree our families are doing a brilliant job of improving attendance at Bankier. We still have a long way to go but everyone is pulling in the right direction and we are seeing positive signs that our attendance drive is paying off.

Well done to all of our committed and resilient Bairns for making this excellent progress!

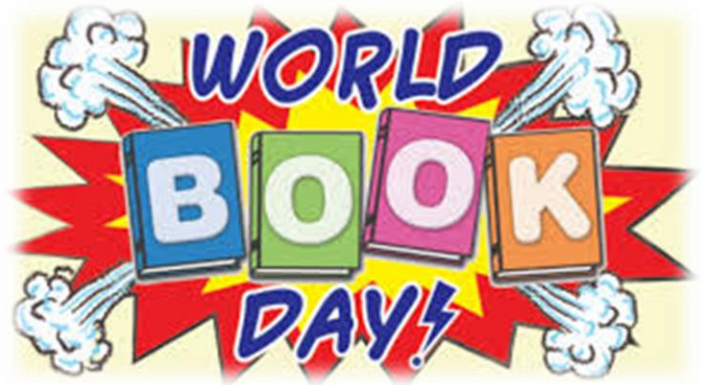
The article below outlines some key information about attendance in Scotland's schools:

<https://tinyurl.com/8ktyxszn>

World Book Day

This month we celebrated World Book Day. As well as extra activities in classes, our 3 main events were:

1. A fantastic online interactive quiz designed by our 7 House Captains, where all pupils competed live against each other. The winner from each class will compete in a final at an upcoming assembly. Our P6 and P7 pupils also helped our younger pupils with this too!
2. The video you can see with this post has our 'Masked Readers'. Classes had to work out who the mystery reader from each class was. Can you recognise any of them??
3. 'Drop Everything & Read' which saw the whole school stopping work at times throughout the day to enjoy reading instead.



Show Racism the Red Card

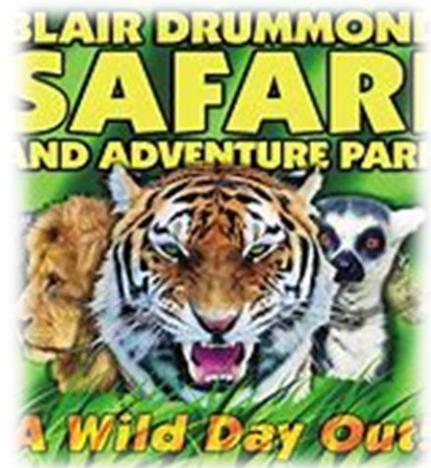
As part of our drive to build Racial Literacy in our pupil body we have linked with partner- Show Racism the Red Card. On Monday 22nd April the team will be in school to work with pupils in primaries 5 to 7. The team will lead workshops aimed at improving racial literacy.



Blair Drummond Safari Park

We are delighted to share that we have booked this year's school trip. On Wednesday 5th June pupils from primaries 1 to 6 will be spending the day at Blair Drummond Safari Park. Thanks to the generosity of our incredible school community, we are able to offer this trip at no cost to families.

Our Primary 7 pupils have been busy fundraising to ensure that they end their time at Bankier in style. We will share their plans once they have been finalised.



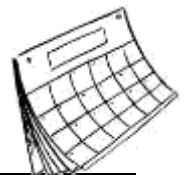


Wonderful Work

Some of the wonderful work from our Brilliant Bankier Bairns.



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



Date	Event
Thursday 28 th March	School and Nursery closed at 3pm for the Easter Holidays
Monday 15 th April	School and Nursery re-open for the final term.
Thursday 18 th April	BHH Meeting 6pm in the school.
Monday 22 nd April	Show Racism the Red Card Workshops in school.
Friday 3 rd May	School and Nursery closed to pupils for staff training
Monday 6 th May	School and Nursery closed for May Holiday
Tuesday 14 th May	Parents' Evening Appointments 3.30pm-6.30pm
Thursday 16 th May	Parents' Evening Appointments 3.30pm-6.30pm
Wednesday 22 nd May	Primary 7 Pupils to Dounans
Monday 27 th May	Health Week begins
Tuesday 28 th May	Sports Day
Thursday 30 th May	The Big Fit Walk- Sponsored Event

Nursery

As spring is on its way, and that hopefully means better weather as we are a sun safe nursery we will soon need to start applying sun cream again, when the daily UV levels reach a certain level, as per our sun safety policy. Can we ask if you haven't already done so can we ask for a new unused bottle of cream to be brought in for each child please, with their name on it. (Parents who need a new bottle have been messaged on class dojo).



We will label it when it gets opened and when it has to be used by. Many thanks for your cooperation.



We recently held a stay and story and stay and sing session. Thank you to the parents who were able to attend, we hope you enjoyed the sessions. I have attached the feedback and from the comments we were given we are now looking into lending resources home to the families to promote singing at home to help include the rest of the family.

I have attached this month's special songs sway. We hope to place the importance on the fun that can be had through singing at home and in the nursery.

<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/DOj4cRsZWRoYEtTH?ref=Link>

As we continue our Froebelian journey Mrs Brown has now completed her practitioner enquiry on the importance of relationships through the transition period. This has now been published and is available to read online.

Ms Riaz is completing her Froebel in Childhood Practice course around diversity and has been busy sourcing provocations for the children to enhance their learning experiences. Ms Riaz has provided pictures for the block area, a focus table and she has also been making authentic vegetable pakora with the children.



Bookbug returned from travelling round the world and brought some beautiful resources for the nursery. Bookbug shared his knowledge of various cultures and traditions.



Our special story for the month of March was 'Little Lumpty'. Has your child been talking about the story at home? We would love to hear all about it if they have been. The children have been singing the song around the nursery.

Next month the children will be introduced to the story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' which will be the focus for this year's transition to school.



We had some very exciting news, Bankier ELC was selected by Care Inspectorate and we were asked if we wouldn't mind getting some photos taken to be published in one of their new documents around our Marvellous Meals approach. Once the document has been published I can share it with families.

As our community continue to support us by handing in donations we would like to say a massive thank you. Our latest big donation was from this family who have donated pallets, piping/guttering and tyres for the children to help develop their learning and play experiences.



May we take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Easter break. The nursery re-opens on Monday 15th of April.



Stay and sing sessions at Bankier ELC Feedback Responses – week beginning 4 March 2024

8 respondents

Q. How much did you enjoy your stay and play session? (Please tick)

Very much	a lot	a little	not much
100% of feedback			

Q. Is there anything which you particularly enjoyed during your stay and play session?

The staff and the nursery environment is always very welcoming. They are so invested in the parents and kids and always at the heart of what they do. Mrs Noble was great and really explained the Froebel approach which I found really interesting.

Session was informative as a new parent to the nursery. Mrs Noble explained the Froebelian approach in an understanding manner. All the children really enjoy the special song, the singing spoons and stones.

It was lovely to see all the kids singing together. Really enjoyed my visit.

Loved seeing how all the children were excited to sit and join in with the songs and play parts of the story.

Lovely to hear about everything you are doing with the kids, the Froebel approach, seeing the nursery properly and what the kids are learning. Was so lovely. Thank you and well done.

Really enjoyed taking part with singing with my son. It was nice to see how he interacts with the singing session. I enjoy my son joining in with these group sessions as it helps build his social skills.

The time for me was memorable and one of the most highlights was the inclusion of the children. The children participating in character was fascinating.

Enjoyed seeing how attentive and interested the children were when Mrs Noble was talking to them and how much they enjoyed their songs.

Q. Is there anything which you feel could be done differently to enhance the stay and play session?

No it was fab. Really enjoyed it and can't wait to come back. (Ps do you loan out the singing spoons 😊)

Keep up the good work 😊

No I thought it was really good and was nice just a small group of parents/carers.

No, was very informative and gave lots of insight to what happens on a daily basis.

No.

No, it was a great session. Mrs Noble did a great job!! Great information to start with and a nice singing session with all the children to finish it off.

Though the session was good I think if the songs could be sung in rounds/turns so that everyone has a go. That I think will induce concentration.

Cant' think of any improvement.

Q. Would you like to join us for another stay and play session?

Yes	100% of feedback
No	

Stay and story sessions at Bankier ELC Feedback Responses – week beginning 11 March 2024

9 respondents

Q. How much did you enjoy your stay and play session? (Please tick)

Very much	a lot	a little	not much
89% of feedback	11% of feedback		

Q. Is there anything which you particularly enjoyed during your stay and play session?

Enjoyed learning about the special story and how it helps their learning.

I enjoyed seeing all the different stories and props. There was a big selection and lots that involved lots of interaction. I also like that they align with different seasons and months.

Understanding the story around the nursery and the principles more.

I enjoyed every aspect of the session. Learning about Froebel was very interesting and loved how the children are reading stories.

Making clay ghosts with ****.

Hearing what the children are learning so I can ask about it at home. Seeing them play independently in different areas of the nursery.

How the children were so enthusiastic about the stories and listened so well.

It's lovely to see all the stories and the props to go with them.

Seeing what the children experience and being part of it.

Q. Is there anything which you feel could be done differently to enhance the stay and play session?

No. x 6

No, I loved it.

Not really the whole concept is so well thought out.

Q. Would you like to join us for another stay and play session?

Yes	100% of feedback
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No	
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