



Education Resources
Executive Director **Carole McKenzie**
Burnside Primary School
Head Teacher – Ms. Gayle McDonald

October 2024

Dear parent/ carer,

October Newsletter

Thank you for taking the time to read this update on the life and work of the school. October has been an exciting and busy month already, as we move into the autumn season. I hope this update provides useful information, and as always, we are here to help if you have any other questions or concerns.

House System

We have officially launched our new House system, introducing **Arran**, **Harris**, **Orkney** and **Skye** houses. Following a democratic election just before the September weekend, our first ever House Captains and Vice Captains were elected. Our pupils showed excellent responsibility and respect during this process.

House points will be given out to pupils when a staff member notices them doing something which shows a school value (respect, safe, responsible, active or healthy). For pupils who receive a Values Certificate at assembly, they will receive a star token which is worth 10 House Points!

Throughout the year, our House Captains and Vice Captains will plan House challenges and activities, to promote team building and build life skills such as collaboration, communication and resilience. The first duties of the house captains and vice captains will be to narrow down our many entries to our house logo competition to just 3 so the pupils in each house can vote for the winning design. Watch this space!

Halloween Disco

Our Parent Council have organised Halloween Discos on Thursday evening, for P2 – P7 pupils.

Primary 2-3 @ 6:15 – 7:15

Primary 4- 7 @ 7:30 – 8:30

Mobile phones should not be brought to the disco, and we would really appreciate your support with this.

P1 pupils will have their own party in school on Thursday 31st October so P1 children are welcome to come to school dressed up

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that day for their party. Since they will be wearing their costume all day, please make sure it is comfy enough and please leave any accessories (particularly items like swords) at home.

Parent Council Dates

All parents are welcome to come along to our Parent Council meetings, which take place in the gym hall of the school at 7:10. The dates for the remaining meetings this year are:

Wednesday 6th November
Monday 2nd December
Wednesday 5th February
Monday 10th March
Wednesday 7th May
Monday 9th June

Mobile Phones in School

Our position on pupils bringing mobile phones to school is in line with the new Scottish Government guidelines: [Mobile phones: guidance for Scotland's schools - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/mobile-phones-guidance-for-schools/pages/default.aspx)

We appreciate and understand that some of our older pupils have mobile phones to keep in touch with parents when walking to and from school. We ask that pupils who have mobile phones switch them off and keep them in school bags during the school day in the playground and in the building.

Our pupils are great at respecting this rule, and if we ever had any issues with a pupil not abiding by this, we would contact their parents to ask for their support in reinforcing our policy.

Participatory Budgeting (PB) Update

You may recall from a previous newsletter that we have £2058 of our Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) earmarked for Participatory Budgeting. Thank you to the staff, parents and pupils who attended our small PB Committee meeting and helped to decide on our top 3 ideas. All staff, parents and pupils were given the opportunity to vote, and the most popular idea was to spend the money on **outdoor learning**.

Idea	Total Votes
Expressive Arts workshops, like we had from East Kilbride Arts Centre	91 (22%)
Musical workshops, and musical instruments	76 (18%)
Outdoor learning equipment, e.g. seats, den building and loose parts	252 (60%)

We have already been in initial talks with Grow73 and parents in our community about sourcing items for loose parts play, outdoor seating and den building, so this money will come in very useful and help to enrich our outdoor play opportunities. We will keep you posted on how we spend this money and how you can get involved.

JRSO/ Safe Parking

Our Junior Road Safety Officers have been elected and had their first meeting this week. They would like to raise awareness of the importance of 'being bright, being seen' during

the darker months by organising a Be Bright, Be Seen non-uniform day on **Friday 8th November**. Pupils can wear bright colours that day, and we will ask for a donation for the Christmas Fayre (more details to follow).

Bonfire Night Menu

To coincide with Bonfire Night, the kitchen will provide a special menu on Tuesday 5th November.

Firecracker Pizza & Fries (v)
(Pizza with spicy topping served with chips or potato croquettes and sweetcorn)

Banger & Fries
(Sausage in a finger roll served with chips or potato croquettes and sweetcorn)

Sandwich Selection
Cheese or Tuna Sandwich
or Ham Finger roll

~
Toffee Apple Sponge

Sharing the Learning

Over the year, the classes will invite you in for an open afternoon to share their learning. We have a few in the diary for before Christmas. All run from 2:15 – 2:45.

- Rooms 5 and 6 sharing their learning about baking shortbread in class, Friday 25th October
- Rooms 1, 2 and 3 (**P1s only**) sharing soup on Friday 25th October, in the canteen
- Room 4 will be sharing their learning linked to their topic on Wed 27th November.

NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe

All schools in South Lanarkshire deliver an assembly from the NSPCC called “Speak Out, Stay Safe” which is part of our safeguarding measures for pupils. The assembly is age-appropriate and child-friendly, designed to help provide children to understand their right to be safe and free from abuse. Our pupils will receive this assembly on Friday 1st November.

[Speak out Stay safe programme | NSPCC Learning](#)

More information, including the content of the assembly, can be found at the above website. If you have any questions, please ask.

Christmas Fayre

The Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 23rd November. Here is some information from the Parent Council.

IT'S OUR BIGGEST CHRISTMAS FAYRE YET 🦌 🎄 🍷

Our school Christmas Fayre is just around the corner and this year it's going to be bigger and better than ever! With exciting



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games, Santa's Grotto, craft stalls and our legendary cafe, it's set to be a festive extravaganza for the whole community.

But we need your help to make it happen! 🙏

We're looking for volunteers to assist with setup and on the day – even just 1 hour of your time would make a huge difference 🤝

This is one of our biggest events, and it's all powered by volunteers like you 🙌

Let's come together to make this year's Fayre one to remember 🎄

If you can allocate some time please email christmas@burnsideprimary.org

Festive Arrangements

Despite it only being October, I thought it would be useful to share some information in advance of our festive plans for this year. We have made a small change to the Christmas show format following feedback from parents, staff and the Pupil Council that the current format can be too long.

This year, we will perform our Primary 4 nativity show, written by our very own talented Mrs. Anderson, as usual. As part of this show, P5- P7 will also perform Christmas songs. P1- P3 will perform in a separate "Christmas Family Singalong" show.

Here are some festive dates for your diary:

Sat 23 rd November	Christmas Fayre
Fri 29 th November	Pantomime (thank you, Parent Council!)
Tues 10 th December	P4 Nativity, featuring P5 – P7 singing Christmas songs (2 showings, at 9:30 and 1:45)
Wed 11 th December	P6 Christmas Unwrapped (Chaplaincy Team) – more info to follow
Thurs 12 th December	P1- P3 Christmas Family Singalong (2 showings, 9:30 and 1:45)
From 13 th December	Parties (children can wear party clothes to school) Fri 13/12/24: P6 parties Mon 16/12/24: P4 and P5 parties Tues 17/12/24: P2 and P3 parties Wed 18/12/24: P1 and P7 parties

Dates for the Diary (in addition to festive dates)

Friday 25 th October	Sharing the Learning (see above) for rooms 1, 2, 3 (P1 only), 5 and 6 P7/ P1 Buddy Lunch
Thursday 31 st October	P1 Halloween party (pupils can wear costumes)
Friday 1 st November	NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe assemblies

Tuesday 5 th November	Flu Vaccinations
6 th and 7 th November	SAHM Mental Health Awareness workshops for P6 and P7
Friday, 8 th November	Non uniform day- “Be Bright, Be Seen” – donations for Christmas Fayre
Monday 11 th November	Inservice day 3- schools closed
Friday 15 th November	Non uniform day – donations for Christmas Fayre
Friday 22 nd November	Buddy lunch (a week earlier as P7s are at athletics next week)
Wednesday 27 th November	Sharing the learning (see above) room 4
Friday 29 th November	Pantomime in school P7 athletics team competing
Friday 20 th December	School closes at 2:30
Monday 6 th January 2025	School reopens at 9am

We can also be reached via the school office on 0141 634 1916, and we are usually in the playground at the start and end of the day. Please do get in touch if we can help with anything.

Kind regards,



Ms. Gayle McDonald
Head Teacher