



Education Resources
Executive Director **Lyndsey McRoberts**
Burnside Primary School
Head Teacher – Ms. Gayle McDonald

September 2025

Dear parent/ carer,

Welcome to the September newsletter. This is a busy one, with lots of important updates to share with you, and information about current issues. I hope you find this useful, and as always, if you have any questions- please ask!

School App/ Bluesky

Like many schools, we have used the School App successfully for a long time to communicate effectively with families. In this time, South Lanarkshire Council have invested a lot in streamlining communications using ParentsPortal, and a decision has now been made that schools should be using ParentsPortal, and that our contract with the School App will not be renewed at the end of this month. **From the end of September, our letters to you will all be sent through ParentsPortal.**

However, we do feel that we would like a way of reaching you quickly with short alerts and messages. The use of Twitter/ X was phased out last session, but we now have a new, approved Bluesky account! Bluesky works very much like Twitter, but is approved by South Lanarkshire Council. To see pictures and updates, please follow us on Bluesky. Our page is [@burnsideps](#) so please have a look!

Share your Opinion- Homework at Burnside Primary

Homework is a topic that affects everyone, and everyone holds different views and opinions about how it works best. At last month's Parent Council meeting, parents expressed how they would like greater consistency around homework across the school. I agreed that a refreshed homework policy should be written, and to do this, I feel it is important to hear from as many families as possible about what you think would work best as a homework model. As such, I invite you to share your views via this questionnaire, in the first instance:

<https://forms.office.com/e/B33g7skBdb>

The questionnaire is open immediately for responses and will close on **30th September**. Please take a few minutes to share what would work best for you and your family.

Book Fair and New Book Showcase

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open at Parents' Night, on **Tuesday 7th October**. This

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was very well-supported last year, and we raised over £1600 for the school! We were able to buy lots of new books for classrooms, and the school library.

Part of our Reading Schools work is to share more about reading with families. We are excited to invite parents and families into school on **Wednesday 1st October from 2.30pm -3.30pm** to explore our wonderful collection of new books for our school and class libraries! Sharing books together is a fantastic way to build a love of reading at home, and we are working hard to raise the profile of reading for pleasure as part of our journey to becoming a Reading School. We'd love for you to join us, browse the new books, and see how we are trying to inspire a lifelong love of reading in our pupils. We know that some of our P7 families will be coming along to school later that evening for a presentation on the Lockerbie excursion - don't worry, we'll leave the books out for you so that you don't have to come in twice.

Participatory Budgeting (PB)

Every year, schools receive additional funding (Pupil Equity Funding, or PEF) to support those in our communities most affected by poverty. A percentage of this is given over to participatory budgeting, where members of our community help to decide how we spend this money. This year, just over £2000 has been earmarked for PB.

We need representatives from our parents, staff and pupils on a small 'PB committee'. The committee will come up with 3 ideas about how to spend the money, and the whole school community will vote on the final spend. If you would like to be part of the committee, please let me know via this form: <https://forms.office.com/e/V36AvjhVf8>

Lockerbie Manor Information Session

Mr. Millar will be running a Parent Information session about the P7 residential trip to Lockerbie Manor, on **Wednesday 1st October at 6:30**. Please come along to find out more about this trip, which will take place from 5th – 8th May 2026.

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting will be on **Wednesday 1st October, at 7:10**. Anyone is welcome to join us, and previous minutes can be found on the school website: [Home | Burnside Primary School](#)

Dressing for the Scottish Weather

We are now in Autumn, and there has certainly been a change in the weather. Please remember to send your child in to school with a jacket each day, as the weather can be changeable as the day goes on. As an Eco School, we value spending time outdoors, so we will be outside at playtime and lunchtime in weathers (unless it is very extreme!)

We will also be going out on class walks as part of our Beat The Street effort, so jackets are needed for these too. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Hot Food at Lunchtime

Some of our senior pupils are bringing hot food in flasks for their packed lunch, for example, soup and hot water to make pot noodles. This is fine, but we ask that any children having hot food for lunch eat this in the lunch hall and not in the playground. It is too dangerous to have hot liquids outside when people are running around, and we can

help with opening flasks in the lunch hall if necessary.

School Photos

Individual and family photos will be taken in school on **Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th October**. Full uniforms should be worn on these days.

Reminder: Office Hours

The office is open from 8:30- 3:30 every day to provide assistance. *It is closed each day for lunch between the hours of 11:40 and 12:20.* We are happy to help at any other time- feel free to pop in, email or call.

Dates for the Diary

We will include upcoming dates in each newsletter, but here are some dates that we already know about. Other dates will be firmed up soon (e.g. festive dates for later in the term) and we will add them to the list for the first newsletter in a few weeks' time.

Friday 19 th September	Buddy lunch
Tuesday 23 rd September	Room 6 Sharing the Learning 2:15 – 2:40
Friday 26 th and Monday 29 th September	September weekend- schools closed
Wednesday 1 st October	Lockerbie Manor Information Session 6:30 Parent Council 7:10
Thursday 2 nd October	Simon Lamb visiting upper classes
Friday 3 rd October	Work samples sent home to parents
Monday 6 th and Tuesday 7 th October	Individual and family photos
Tuesday 7 th October	Parents' Evening
w/b 13 th October	October holiday- schools closed
Monday 27 th October	Flu Vaccinations
Thursday 30 th October	Halloween Disco
Friday 31 st October	Buddy lunch
Monday 10 th November	Inservice day 3- schools closed
Wednesday 12 th November	Parent Council 7:10
Wednesday 26 th November	Pantomime in school (Snow Queen)
Saturday 6 th December	Christmas Fayre
Monday 8 th December	Parent Council 7:10
Friday 19 th December	School closes at 2:30
Monday 5 th January 2026	School reopens at 9am

Please get in touch if I can help you with anything at all. My email address is above, and I can also be reached via the school office on 0141 634 1916.

Kind regards,



Ms. Gayle McDonald
Head Teacher