



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

January- February 2026

Dear parent/ carer,

In a flash, we find ourselves into February already! This week, we have all been noticing the start of the mornings getting lighter again, and the evenings coming that little bit later. We have had a great start to the term after the Christmas holidays.

Staffing Updates

We successfully appointed our new office/ Support Staff Team Leader after competitive interview last week. Mrs. Emma Murray is currently working for South Lanarkshire Council as a Team Leader for the Health and Social Care sector and has a lot of team leadership experience to bring to the role. We are excited to welcome her to the school, and I will keep you informed about her start date once we know more.

Our new School Support Assistant (SSA), Heather Macintosh, will be starting at Burnside in 3 weeks' time. Heather is most welcome, and I know she is excited about working with our fantastic children.

We are privileged to have the opportunity every year to contribute to the career journeys of student teachers and student SSAs. We currently have student teachers working in both P7 classes, and earlier in the session we have also had student teachers in P3, P4 and P6. They are a great asset to the school, and our student teachers often love Burnside so much that they return as fully qualified teachers in the future. We are also lucky enough to have our student SSA, Mrs. Boutaina Rachedi, working in P1 and P2, until June.

Rutherglen 900 Launch

Now that 2026 is here, Rutherglen is officially into its 900th year of being a Royal Burgh. Find out more about all the activities and celebrations taking place across the Rutherglen community here: [Rutherglen's 900th Anniversary - Rutherglen 900](#)

As a school, we have been learning the official Rutherglen 900 song, including a special chorus in BSL, and we are joining in different activities every month. 4 of our senior pupils represented us in the children's choir at the launch evening at Rutherglen Town Hall last week. We are so proud of them!

New Football Coach

We are delighted to announce that we have a new football coach, and thanks to them, we will be running a football team after school and have entered the league! Welcome aboard to Simon McNeill. He will be running trials on Tuesday 3rd February after school.

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Outdoor Classroom- the final push!

The summit of our fundraising goal is firmly in sight! Over the coming weeks, we will be doing a final push to reach our total, then we will make arrangements for the outdoor classroom to be supplied and fitted in our playground. The school community has really pulled together with a mixture of fundraising, community funding, matched funding from the Parent Council, and a generous personal donation- and it has only been 9 months since we launched the fundraising goal!

JRSO Campaign

Our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) are launching a new campaign this month to raise awareness of the importance of wearing a helmet when riding a bike or scooter. Look out for our JRSOs handing out House Points to people who are showing our school value of 'safe' by wearing a helmet on their way to school.

Participatory Budget Update (Expressive Arts)

Our Participatory Budget this year will be spent on Expressive Arts workshops in partnership with East Kilbride Arts Centre. We have arranged for 'Boppin' Beats' with P1 and P2, drama workshops for P5 and P6, and a samba/ drumming lunchtime club aimed at P3 and P4. These will all start around April.

Sensory Room

Our brand-new sensory room will be ready to use soon. Mr. Everett and Mrs. Russell have been busy this week, clearing and painting the room, to create a calm and relaxing environment. We received funding from the local authority, to buy sensory resources, so we have purchased items to provide different types of sensory feedback, like a giant bubble tube, sensory wall art, projectors, padded soft play furniture, bean bags, weighted blankets and much more. When the sensory room is complete, we will share pictures of it.

Homework Draft Policy

Thank you for your contributions to the homework consultation. Since Christmas, a staff team have been analysing the data from the consultation and pulling together a draft homework policy. Having a consistent approach is important to us, and we have tried to produce a policy that will fit into busy family life and support learning.

We will send out the draft policy soon, in separate correspondence, for you to provide feedback on. The staff team will continue to develop the resources mentioned in the policy, and once we have received feedback on the draft, we will write to let you know how we will roll it out operationally, along with timescales.

Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 3 rd February	Football trials after school
Wednesday 4 th February	Parent Council 7:10 (all welcome)
Monday 9 th February	Room 9 Sharing the Learning 2:15
Thursday 12 th February	Disco <ul style="list-style-type: none">• P1- P3 6:15- 7:15• P4- P7 7:30 – 8:30
Monday 16 th and Tuesday 17 th	School closed- holiday

February	
Wednesday 18 th February	In-service day (school closed to pupils)
Wednesday 4 th March	9:30-12 Cracking the Easter Code (Chaplaincy Team)
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day Clare Leonard (author) visiting Rooms 3 and 4
Monday 9 th March	Parent Council 7:10
Friday 13 th March	P1 and P7 dental inspections
Friday 20 th March	Pupil work samples sent home
Thursday 26 th March	Parents' Evening
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes at 2:30 for Spring Break
Monday 20 th April	School reopens at 9am after Spring Break
Wednesday 22 nd April	P5 input from Chaplaincy team
Monday 4 th May	Holiday- school closed
Tuesday 5 th May	P7s to Lockerbie on residential trip
Wednesday 6 th May	Parent Council 7:10
Thursday 7 th May	In-service: schools closed
Friday 22 nd May and Monday 25 th May	Schools closed- holiday
Wednesday 27 th May	P7 transition event (chaplaincy team) P6 Buddy training (chaplaincy team)
Saturday 30 th May	Car boot sale
Wednesday 3 rd June	New P1 induction- visit 1
Thursday 4 th June	Disco
Monday 8 th June	Parent Council 7:10
Wednesday 10 th June and Thursday 11 th June	S1 induction days at Stonelaw
Thursday 11 th June	New P1 induction- visit 2 Parent information session at Stonelaw- evening
Friday 12 th June	Report cards to parents
w/b 15 th June	New P1 induction- visit 2 (day TBC)
Tuesday 23 rd June	P7 leavers' service

We can be reached via the school office on 0141 634 1916 (except between 11:40 – 12:20 when the office is closed for lunch), 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