

Beancross Primary

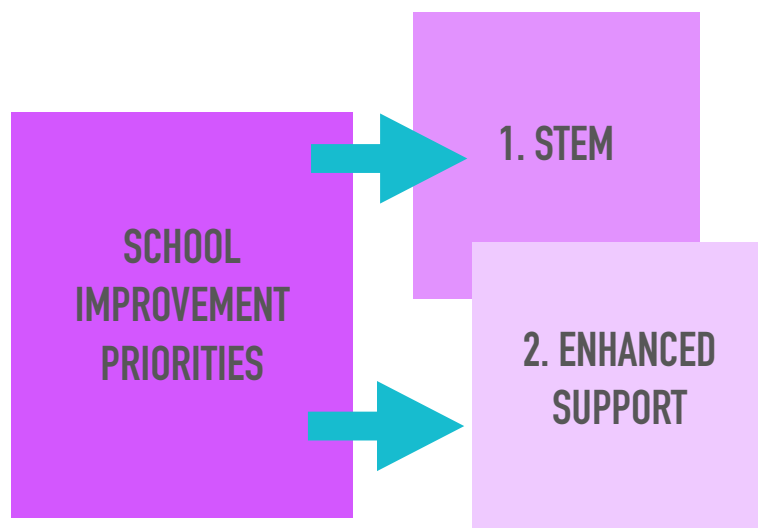


Welcome to the first newsletter of this school session! We are excited to share important updates, celebrate recent successes, and highlight upcoming events. Through these newsletters, we'll keep you informed about all the great things happening at Beancross, along with ways you can get involved in supporting our children's learning.

We are looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Andrew Watson
Headteacher

Stephanie Macfarlane
Depute Headteacher



Assemblies



In this newsletter, we share what we plan and deliver at our school assemblies.



School Clubs

We share our offering of clubs and celebrate a recent achievement.



Additional Support

We share news of Seasons for Growth.

School Assemblies

Every Wednesday, our school comes together for assemblies led by Mrs. Meneely and Mrs. McLeish. These sessions are a wonderful opportunity to address key well-being themes, recognise individual and class achievements, and celebrate the positive contributions our children make to the school community.

In each assembly, children are introduced to two new Makaton signs. This is part of our ongoing commitment to developing inclusive communication skills across the school. Be sure to ask your child about the signs they've learned this week, and perhaps they'll even teach you a few!

Our assemblies also feature uplifting songs and dances that reinforce positive values such as kindness, respect, and perseverance. One of the children's favourite moments is the Pupil Choice song, which never fails to bring excitement to the hall. Keep an eye on our X feed for updates and shoutouts, including our Assembly Superstars and Superstar Shoutouts from Mrs. McLeish (@MrsMcLeishBPS).



STEM Parent Volunteers

We are actively seeking **Parent Volunteers** to support these groups. Whether you have professional experience in STEM or just an enthusiasm for helping children explore these subjects, we'd love to hear from you!

If you'd like to get involved, please email the school at:
beancrossprimaryschool@education.falkirk.sch.uk.

STEM IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY

We are excited to be placing a strong emphasis on **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths)** learning this year, and we've created four key **STEM improvement groups** to guide our improvements:

1. **Computing Science:** Developing digital skills such as coding, computational thinking, and digital literacy.
2. **Craft, Design, and Engineering:** Offering hands-on projects in design and engineering that encourage problem-solving and creativity.
3. **Textiles:** Teaching practical skills like sewing and fabric design, which enhance fine motor skills and creativity.
4. **Practical Science:** Bringing science to life through experiments that engage children in topics such as chemistry, biology, and physics.



School Clubs

School Football Team

A big congratulations to our School Football Team, who recently won the Steve Burns plate in a tournament organised by Stenhousemuir Primary School. A huge well done to Mr. Blair and the team for this incredible achievement! We're looking forward to the next tournament.

After School Clubs

If your child is interested in joining one of our afterschool clubs, please visit Class for Kids to sign up: [Class for Kids](#). Our clubs are run by volunteers and typically operate in blocks of 4-6 weeks.

School Cross Country Team

Our school cross country team participated in a Falkirk wide cross country event on 1st October. The children were accompanied to Stirling by Miss Lesko and in total 13 children raced from Primary 5 - Primary 7. Miss Lesko shared that the children were all amazing and did very well. A big shout out goes to Blake in P5 who finished in the top 15! Well done! A big thank you to Hamish and Zak from Grangemouth High who coach our team.

Parent Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer or know more, please get in touch with the school office.



Seasons for Growth

We are pleased to announce that our **Seasons for Growth** programme will begin after the October holidays. Led by **Mrs. Meneely**, **Mrs. Rowan**, and **Mrs. Lang**, this programme is designed to support children who are dealing with significant life changes such as loss or separation.

Over the course of eight sessions, children will have the opportunity to share their experiences and learn strategies to cope with change. The programme is a safe and supportive environment where children can express themselves.

More information about the **Seasons for Growth** programme will be sent home soon.

Preparing for a Digital Future

We are committed to preparing our children for a future where digital literacy and technology skills will be crucial. Over the past five years, we've invested heavily in ICT, including iPads for use in the classroom. Our Primary 1 to Primary 5 children use school iPads, while Primary 6 and 7 receive iPads through the Connected Falkirk strategy.

We've experienced some accidents involving our school iPads, with quite a number requiring repairs. Our latest repair bill was just over £700. Our teachers are reinforcing the need to take extra care when using iPads in school. Similarly, some of the Connected Falkirk iPads have been damaged accidentally and we'd appreciate if you could reinforce at home the importance of taking a little extra care when using these devices.

We are grateful to the Parent Council, who are discussing the possibility of contributing to the repair costs. We are also planning a rolling upgrade of our iPads and other tech to ensure our learners have access to the latest technology.

Classroom Highlights – First Level

We're delighted to share some of the fantastic themes in our classrooms this month. We're focusing on Primary 2, 3 and 4 in this newsletter. Here are a few highlights from each class:

Primary 4 (Mrs. Swan & Mrs. Lang) have been exploring the human body. The children recently completed models of the digestive system and lungs, which helped them visualise and understand how these organs work. As part of the European Day of Languages, they designed posters promoting peace and understanding across cultures. They've also been working on a Lego-themed Class Charter, which aligns with our school's Rights Respecting journey.

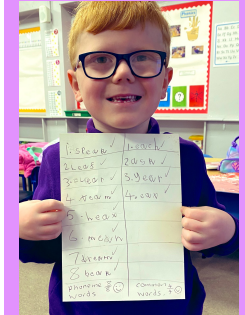
Primary 4 (Mrs. Scott & Mrs. Rowan) have been equally creative, producing Pokémon-themed Class Charters and self-portraits that reflect their personalities and favourite things. Their focus on peace for the European Day of Languages inspired thoughtful discussion and some fantastic poster designs. They also demonstrated their knowledge of symmetry, through expressive arts, by completing the other half of a celebrity's face as well as developing their understanding of how the lungs work by creating a model of a lung using a plastic bottle, balloons and a straw

Primary 3 (Mrs. McLachlan) has been digging deep into the past with their dinosaur project! The children have been learning about fossils and using digital technology, including videos and quizzes, to enhance their understanding. Their classroom is also decorated with a beautiful Class Charter and an inspiring quote from Winnie the Pooh: *"You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."* A wonderful reminder for our children!

Primary 3 (Miss McIntyre) have been thoroughly enjoying their dinosaur topic. The children have been learning about how fossils are formed and have explored the remarkable life of fossil expert Mary Anning. They have also created impressive dinosaur-themed artwork. Furthermore, the class has worked hard to design their Minions-themed Class Charter, supporting our school's Rights Respecting initiative.

Primary 2 (Miss Miller) have been making excellent progress in phonics, blending, reading, and writing. They've been using the 5 Finger Strategy to support their learning, and two of our learners even demonstrated this technique on X—well done! Miss Miller has also shared helpful phonics videos for parents, so be sure to check them out on X.

Primary 2 (Miss McQuade) have been busy crafting their bee-themed Class Charter, which ties into the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The children are proud of their work! They are also about to start a new topic about 'My Local Area' and have been writing about the Kelpies.



The Importance of Reading

One of the most powerful ways to support your child's learning is through regular reading. At Beancross, we encourage this with our daily '**Snack and Story**' time, where teachers read aloud to their classes while the children enjoy a snack. This is a great opportunity for teachers to model reading and ensure that every child is immersed in a story each day.

We are also thrilled to announce that Grangemouth Cluster recently won the 'Reading Schools Cluster' award after Moray and Bowhouse achieved their Reading Schools Award. Beancross earned this award a few years ago, and now, with all schools recognised, we are proud to be the first Reading School Cluster in Falkirk!

Reading at home can be a lovely experience. Here are a few ideas to help support reading time with your child:

- Explore books that match your child's interests to keep them excited about reading.
- Ask questions about the story as you go along to encourage conversation and comprehension.
- Take turns reading aloud—this can be a great way to build reading skills.

If your Child doesn't yet have a library card from Falkirk Libraries, please get in touch and we can help with this.

Happy reading!



Coat and Jacket Shop or Swap

We have a large number of jackets that were either donated to the school or were unclaimed lost property from last year. We've washed all of the jackets - some are like new!

Dr. Parnell has organised a '**Coat and Jacket Shop or Swap**' which will take place in the main hall from **3pm - 4pm on Wednesday, 9th October**. Please come along.

If you'd like to donate a jacket, please send this in on Monday 7th October.

To view and claim our lost property, please come into school on 7th October from 2.30pm - 3.30pm.

Upcoming Events

We've got some exciting events coming up that we'd love to share with you:

- **Daring to Dig – Monday, 7th October 2024:** Our Primary 2 and 3 classes will take part in this live performance by **The Audio Story Company**. Combining immersive audio, theatre, and a fun dinosaur theme, this show is sure to inspire imagination and excitement!
- **School October Holiday:** The school will close for the October holidays on **Monday, 14th October**, and will re-open on **Monday, 28th October**. We hope everyone enjoys a restful break!
- **Halloween Disco – Friday, 1st November 2024:** Save the date for our Halloween Disco! Further details about the arrangements will be sent home soon, but it promises to be a fun-filled, spooky evening.
- **Primary 6 Lockerbie Manor Residential:** In November, many of our Primary 6 children will attend a residential stay at Lockerbie Manor. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to try new activities, build confidence, and create lasting memories