



# Children Matter

## *Learning to Achieve*



## Welcome to Children's Services!

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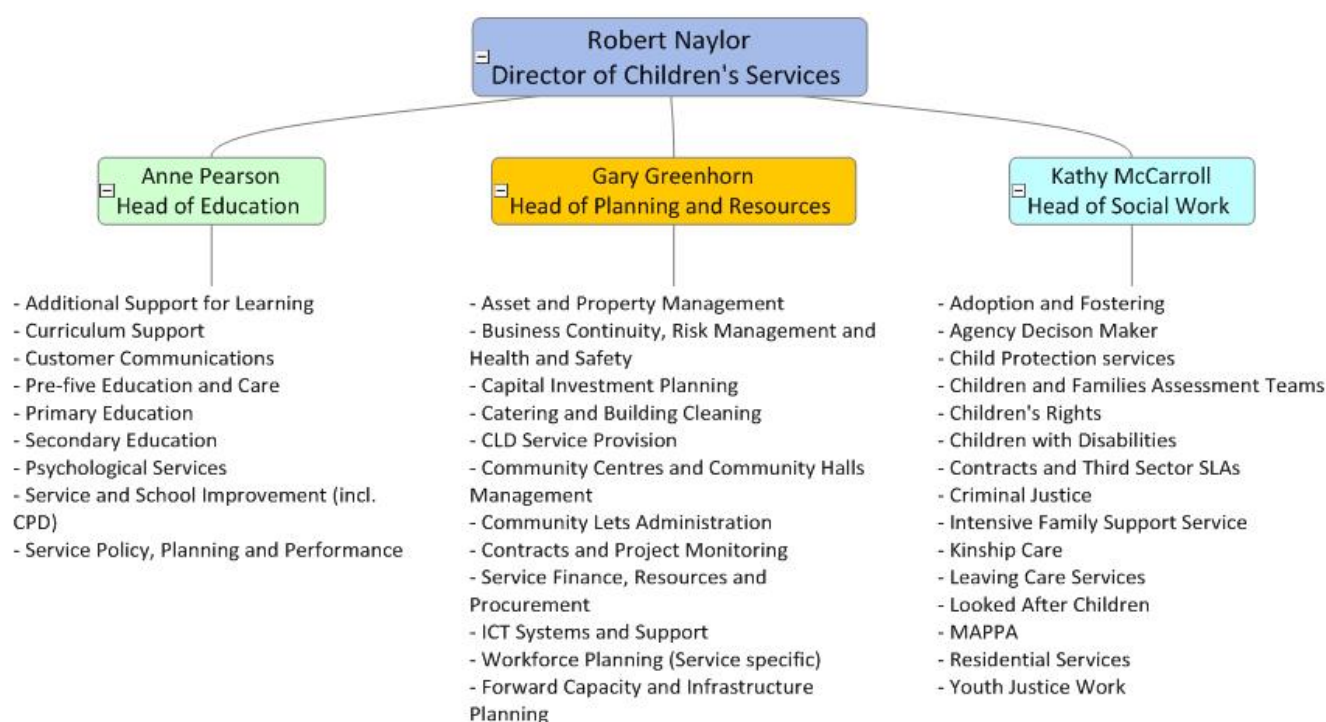
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As of the 1st of August 2015, catering and building cleaning, criminal justice, education and social work (children and families) teams joined forces to create the biggest Falkirk Council service - Children's Services. See below for an outline of the teams and services which sit within Children's Services.

As a consequence to these changes, this newsletter (formerly known as Education Matters) has to change to reflect the new structure and ensure it includes information and shares good practice for all teams in the new service. The name 'Children Matter' is a working title for now - until a better suggestion is made. As a reader and previous recipient of Education Matters, we would like your views on what the new newsletter should be called, what it should include and even if it should continue at all. Please find enclosed a short survey of opinion where you can express your views on this newsletter. You can also complete this survey online - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/EdMatts>. Please give your views before the 30th of September.

Pending a decision about the future of this newsletter, please continue to submit articles highlighting good practice and sharing information that is relevant to colleagues. Please also feel able to use this newsletter to introduce your team to others in Children's Services and showcase what you do. Please submit all articles to [CS.comms@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:CS.comms@falkirk.gov.uk) and they will be included in the next available edition.



## Laurieston Pupils meet Royal Visitor

At the start of the school holidays on the 2nd of July, HRH Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, visited Callendar House to find out about a World War I project collaboration between by Falkirk Community Trust and the school.

P6 children had worked in co-operative groups as history detectives, also working with a storyteller and artist to create displays of their work. Six Laurieston Primary pupils together with Linda McAlpine, head teacher, and school staff who participated in the FCT's Heritage Learning Team project led met the Prince. The Prince visited Callendar House to see the displays and enjoyed a guided tour of the venue accompanied by Trust and Falkirk Council dignitaries.



## Bo'ness Public School Successes

Our fantastic pupils had a very successful few weeks at the end of term and we just wanted to share some of their news.

### Gardening Scotland Pallet Gardens

P6F at Bo'ness Public School worked very hard this term creating a fantastic pallet garden which was entered into the national competition at Gardening Scotland. As well as planning, designing and making their display, pupils developed a lot of green-fingered skills while each nurturing their own plant to show quality.

Mrs. Fleming with her class waited anxiously to hear the results of the judging and were elated to learn they had achieved a gold medal. An excellent outcome for their first attempt!



The Pallet Garden and Planter Competition is organised for Gardening Scotland by the Scottish Gardeners' Forum.

The competition aims to encourage and foster future generations of young gardeners as well as being a fun and memorable experience for all involved.

### Maths Challenge

The Mathematical Challenge is a problem solving competition for individual pupils in Scottish secondary schools and upper primary schools. It has been running since 1976 under the aegis of the

Scottish Mathematical Council.

Pierre Lardet was successfully entered into the competition this year, winning a Gold Certificate and a much prized Mathematical Challenge Mug. On 4th June, Pierre and his mum travelled to St. Andrews University for the Awards Ceremony, to be presented with his Certificate.

### Fairtrade Group

Our school Fairtrade group won a "Social Enterprise in Education" award. The award is given to schools who run an enterprise project, giving their profits to a worthwhile cause. Our Fairtrade group has run many Fairtrade events throughout the year. The profits they made will be donated to the Falkirk Branch of the Samaritans.

- ★ Our school Accordion Band gave a wonderful performance at the Falkirk Creative Schools Concert.
- ★ Mya in P3/2 won the Johari Charity Design a T-shirt competition, her design has now been printed and is on sale from Johari.
- ★ P4 and P5 also helped to host the launch of their successful new guide book for Kinneil House.





## Falkirk pupils meet First Minister in Beijing

7 pupils from Falkirk met with the Rt. Hon Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister for Scotland at the Kerry Hotel in Beijing. The event was organised by the by the Scottish Affairs Office at the British Embassy in Beijing to give the First Minister an opportunity to hear from the pupils about their time in China.

Leah Ireland, Megan Sherdley and Robbie Hardie of Bo'ness Academy, and Ellise Bailey, Gregor Morrison, Lauren Yorston and Julia Orr of Larbert High were in China taking part in a two week language and culture immersion course with over 80 other young people from across Scotland. They were accompanied by Samantha Phillips, a teacher at Bo'ness Academy.

The First Minister spent time talking to the pupils about their language learning and culture classes as well as their visits to local landmarks, schools and host families.

Katie Hawkins, Project Coordinator for the Confucius Institute for Scotland's Schools (CISS), based at the University of Strathclyde said, "The

Chinese Bridge Summer Camp offers a unique and exciting opportunity for Scotland's young people. In Beijing the pupils met the First Minister and showed her what they had learned. It was a true mix of cultures!"

The Chinese Bridge Summer Camp welcomed young people from all over the UK. The programme offers young people the opportunity to immerse themselves in Chinese culture whilst learning Mandarin. CISS worked with schools around Scotland to put forward Scottish pupils for this opportunity.



## Dance Success at St Francis Xavier's Primary School



Special FX have been crowned Scottish Street dance Champions for the third year running at Glasgow Commonwealth arena in June 2015. Special FX are a school street dance team from St. Francis Xavier's Primary School who train with teacher Miss Williamson every week after school. The team were invited to represent Scotland at the National School Street dance Championships in Blackpool during the summer holidays. The children aged 6-11 competed alongside schools from all over the United Kingdom. Special FX won the National Titles in both Jazz and Theatrical, and placed second in the street category.

### School Staff News

**Airth PS** – Morag Carson is the Acting Head Teacher.

**Braes HS** – Iain Livingstone has been appointed new Head Teacher.

**Carronshore PS** – Laura Jarvie has been appointed new Head Teacher.

**Comely Park PS** – Laura McLintock is Acting Head Teacher.

**Easter Carmuir's PS** – Shelagh Todd is Acting Head Teacher.

**Inchlair Nursery** – Arlene Joyce is the Manager. Arlene also manages Larbert Day Nursery.

**Queen Street Nursery** - Alexis Atkinson is the Manager. Alexis also manages Woodburn Nursery.

**St Bernadette's PS** – Marianne Savage is the Acting Head Teacher.

**St Margaret's PS** – Stacey Collier-West is the Acting Head Teacher.

**Victoria PS** – Julie McKenna has been appointed the Head Teacher.

**Wallacestone PS** – Ann Bateman is Interim Head Teacher.

**Maria Brown** – Head Teacher of Camelon Nursery has left.

**Sandra Brown and Avril Robertson** – will join the Curriculum Support Team in Camelon.

You can also access an up to date list of schools on the communications page on Glow using the following link - <http://tinyurl.com/nj8dxhq>

Please remember that any blanket emails to Head Teachers should be sent out via [CS.comms@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:CS.comms@falkirk.gov.uk).

## St Margaret's Primary School News

### Brake

The school from Nursery to P7 were involved in the Big Walk to Parkhill Park in June. This walk was to promote road safety and the benefits of being healthy walking to and from school. As a whole school, we raised a total of £171.77 which will be donated to Brake. Thank you to everyone for their support and to the many Parent Helpers who came along in their free time and escorted the pupils on their walk.



### Summer Concert



The summer concert in June was a "Yee-Ha" success! The children shone through with their speaking parts and singing talents. All the staff are very proud of everyone's efforts. The costumes were outstanding too!

Thank you to Miss Livingston and Mrs Stannage for organising the stage setting and Mrs Henderson for doing the music. A further thank you to Mrs Brockie who organised the order of the show and supported the children with the singing and their speaking parts.

Parental feedback was very positive and praised the talents of the children. The new Sound System also made the concert a success as we heard the children speak clearly. We're already looking forward to seeing more talents on show at the Summer Concert in 2016!

### Belleplate Choir playing at Newton Primary School, Dunblane

The Belleplate Choir (a mix of pupils from P5-7) played at Newton Primary on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015. Our Music specialist, Mrs Brockie, emailed Mrs Bateman to compliment her on how well the children performed:

"Just to let you know how pleased I was yesterday with The Belleplate Group. They played really well and it was lovely to hear the massed ringing with well over 100 other children from all over Scotland and via video link from the Outer Hebrides! They represented the school well...I was very proud of them, and thank you for the opportunity to go."



### Polmont Old Parish Church

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2015, the Polmont Old Parish Church Choir entertained the members of the Wednesday Club run by Age Concern at the church hall in Polmont. One of our pupils, Katie Orrick went along and played her violin to the audience. Needless to say they were in awe of Katie's talents. Katie, well done! We are very proud of you.

### Upstanding citizens in the community

Kai Craig's Mum called one morning (24<sup>th</sup> April 2015) to promote a big "Well Done!" to Kai Craig and Reece Mill. There was a fire on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015 at night, in the woods at the back of the school. The boys ran home and alerted their parents who called the fire brigade. If they had not done this there was a danger that the fire would have spread to the rest of the woods and possibly the school.

Boys, we are very grateful to you for your promptness and sense of duty to the local community.

### Bronze Musicianship Awards

Kayleigh Innes has been awarded a Bronze musicianship Award at the NYCoS Falkirk Area Choir! Kayleigh this is super news and we are very proud of you!



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- Help you understand the impact of learning disability on family life
- Support you to make a plan for a positive future
- Connect you with people who understand and may be able to offer support
- Offer free independent and impartial advice and support



For more information please contact us:

**FIFE -** Fife Services, Alexander House, 5 Alexander Street, Dysart, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 2XX  
Tel: 01592 659295 [lindahand@enable.org.uk](mailto:lindahand@enable.org.uk)

**FORTH VALLEY -** Forth Valley Services, Unit 26-31, Block 2, Whitehouse Road, Springkerse Industrial Estate, Stirling, FK7 7SP  
Tel: 01786 476750 [forthvalley@enable.org.uk](mailto:forthvalley@enable.org.uk)

[www.enable.org.uk](http://www.enable.org.uk)

We hope you had a restful holiday, we are looking forward to supporting literacy throughout this school session.

**We are based at Camelon Education Centre**, open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. You can phone or email us with your requests and teachers are welcome to visit us, or you can browse our online catalogue (available via the Intranet at <http://oliver.falkirk.gov.uk>).

**Have you registered?** If you have changed school, changed your name or are new to Falkirk Council, please contact us on 01324 501980 or email [irs@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:irs@falkirk.gov.uk) to register and help us keep our records up-to-date.

**In addition** to providing a broad range of resources to enhance the curriculum, we provide help and advice on all book and library matters including library refurbishments, we offer outreach sessions including reader development such as Learning to Love Books, storytelling and storytelling training. Please contact LRS to discuss your requirements.

### Did you know?

- ★ Last academic session we issued 103,907 books and resources to schools and nurseries
- ★ Over the summer holidays, we added 7041 new books and resources
- ★ The most popular primary level topic last session was Scotland
- ★ The most popular nursery topic last session was Fairy Tales

### A sample of feedback LRS received during 2014/15 session:

- “Could not have done my work over the year without the library services, great and appropriate resources and expertise on the end of the phone.” Probationer teacher
- “...my thanks to Library Services for their resources display – it was really helpful, and included things that I’ve been trying to track down for months!” Education Scotland
- “Thank you so much on behalf of the family for the books on cancer to help them talk to their young son about a close family member’s illness.” Nursery School
- “A quick thanks for the storytelling session on Friday. The children were buzzing with ideas afterwards...” Primary School
- “I was very grateful to have been given the opportunity. Awesome book! Thank you so much.” Visually impaired boy, Secondary School. *LRS arranged for a custom made book tailored to the needs of the pupil, he was able to enjoy the same book as his classmates.*

### Dates

Have you been to the Edinburgh International Book Festival? It is on until 31st August.  
(<https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/>)

2<sup>nd</sup> September – the shortlist for the Scottish Children’s Book Award will be announced, sign up now on the Scottish Book Trust <http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/node/123407>

8<sup>th</sup> September - International Literacy Day <http://internationalliteracyday.org/>

### How to contact LRS:

Learning Resource Service  
Camelon Education Centre  
Tel: 01324 501980

Email: [irs@falkirk.gov.uk](mailto:irs@falkirk.gov.uk)

Twitter @Falkirk\_LRS



## Calendar of Events

### Aug / Sept / Oct 2015

NGT - Sealock House	02 Sep
Term Time Public Holiday	07 Sep
Education Executive - 9.30am	08 Sep
International Literacy Day	08 Sep
Children's Services Meeting - 9.00am - Denny HS	09 Sep
Roald Dahl Day ( <a href="http://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/roald-dahl-day/">http://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/roald-dahl-day/</a> )	13 Sep
Yom Kippur (Jewish)	22 Sep
Bo'ness Cluster HT Meeting - 1.30pm - Kinneil PS	22 Sep
Eid Ul Adha - Festival marks the end of pilgrimage - (Muslim)	23 Sep
Learning to Achieve Awards - 7pm - Graeme HS	24 Sep
European Day of Languages	26 Sep
World Heart Day	29 Sep
National Poetry Day	1 Oct
Breast Cancer Awareness Month - 1st-31st October	1-31 Oct
International Day of Non-Violence	2 Oct
World Space Week	4-10 Oct
World Sight Day	8 Oct
Secondary HTs Business Meeting - Sealock House	8 Oct
Autumn Term Ends	9 Oct
Early Years and Primary Business Meeting - Sealock House	9 Oct
October Week School Holiday	12-19 Oct
Al Hijra - New Year (Muslim)	14 Oct
Winter Term Begins (Staff only - Development Day)	19 Oct
Winter Term Begins (Pupils)	20 Oct
Halloween	31 Oct



Forth Valley Advocacy

### WELFARE ADVOCACY SUPPORT PROJECT



**Helping you  
prepare and  
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benefits  
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**Free, Independent  
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**We help you with the benefits  
assessment process ensuring  
your views are heard and you get  
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**Making sure you are  
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**Educating you on the  
assessment process.**



**Helping you say how  
your health affects you.**



**Supporting you at  
assessments.**



**Being on your side.**

**For more information contact Ian  
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Email. **ian@forthvalleyadvocacy.com**

Text. **07812 666413**

Project funded until April 2016 by

