

25TH STIRLING (DUNBLANE) BOYS' BRIGADE – JUNIOR SECTION PARENT INFORMATION FOR SESSION 2017-18

WELCOME!

We are delighted your son has decided to come along to Boys' Brigade this year and the leaders look forward to working with him on every Friday during school term time 6.15-7.45pm at the Cathedral Hall. We expect to have a high number boys enrolled in Junior Section, with a waiting list for P6, which is testament to the programme the leaders have been providing. Our staff is stable this year, with the continuing presence of our experienced leaders, Ian McLellan, Ian Brown, Ann Johnston, Susan Brown and Calum Couper. Björn Sandin and David Nairn join the team this year, too, following completion of their KGV1 training week in the summer, and other young men from company section who are working towards the Queen's Badge will be working with your son as well. However, we will again have a parent rota to help us most successfully manage the number of boys and we know you'll have a good time when it's your turn to help out!

LEADERS

Please contact Fraser, as officer-in-charge, in the first instance. You may also contact our captain, Paul Christmas, on 823192.

Fraser Boyd 32 Buchan Drive Tel 821387 / 07767 691812 fraser@fraserboyd.com	Ian McLellan "Willowbank", Anchorscross, Tel 825039 redmclellan@btinternet.com	Ian Brown 'Aberuchal', Kilbryde Cresc. Tel 07837 431116 ianalisterbrown@gmail.com	Calum Couper 5 Wedderburn Road Tel 820109 calumcouper98@gmail.com
Gary Connery 48 Montgomery Crescent Tel 822991 Conneryg03s@yahoo.co.uk	Ann Johnston 5 Dougal Court Tel 826860 ann@johnstonproperties.co.uk	Susan Brown 109 Ochiltree Tel 823162 sooz99@yahoo.com	

FORMS/PAPERWORK

The annual consent covers our standard weekly activities in the church hall, travel to and participation in local competitions, church services, visiting speakers, etc. Please complete the consent form as fully as possible, making sure to include details of any additional support needs which your son may have, as well as any allergies. These will help us considerably to give your son the best possible experience at the BB. If there is an issue you think will affect his participation and which needs more discussion, please do talk to Fraser in confidence. Overnight events or hazardous activities will require an event-specific form.

It is crucial that we have full and up-to-date contact details so that we can get in touch in case of any emergency, so please include landline numbers and mobiles of both parents (where appropriate) or another relative. You should, please, always keep these up to date using the my.BB section of the Online BB Manager website.

Information about uniform costs and subscription rates for boys is included on a separate sheet relevant to all sections. Please help us to maximise your donations by filling in a Gift Aid form if you pay income/capital gains tax.

CHILD PROTECTION INFORMATION

As a youth organisation under the auspices of the Church of Scotland, we follow their child protection rules. These state that all children of primary school age must be collected by a parent/carer from inside the hall and not allowed to go off home on their own or with someone else, unless a written note or phone call has been received from a parent/carer granting permission to do so. For this reason, if a boy is not picked up inside the hall, we will keep him in the hall until a parent arrives. Also, please **do not drop your son off before 6.00pm** and always physically check, yourself, that a BB leader is present in the hall before leaving him. Neither the hall-keeper nor the person running any previous activity in the hall is responsible for BB boys. We have recently been encouraging boys to walk to/from BB in pairs/groups between April and October when the evenings are lighter. Please just let us know with a quick text if your son is walking so we know whether to expect his arrival at the hall that night or not.

No mobile phones or iPods at Junior Section, please. We accept no responsibility for any loss, damage or theft of such devices at our meetings. All BB leaders have undergone leadership and safeguarding training as well as completing PVG checks. We trust you will be willing to help us with your side of the child protection procedures using the guidelines above. Thanks.

TRANSPORTATION

We do own our own BB minibus, but we will still occasionally need your help with transport to events throughout the year. Boys under 135cm tall must be seated using booster seats appropriate for their size/weight when travelling in cars, so please make sure your son brings his with him if he's due to travel by car.

UNIFORM

The Junior Section uniform consists of black/grey formal school trousers (or school shorts), smart black shoes (not trainers) and the royal blue BB jersey and royal blue polo shirts worn underneath. Boys who have achieved badges will also wear a badge armband. The jerseys and polo shirts can be tried on and purchased from the BB Shop in Friars Street, Stirling, open on Saturdays from 10am-12 noon and on Wednesdays from 7.00-8.00pm. If you are unable to get to the shop, you can purchase items online at <http://shop.boys-brigade.org.uk>. We may also have second-hand items that we can give you; if you wish to make a small donation for these, you may.

We also have a supply of dark navy-blue customised Dunblane BB polo shirts (£10 each) that can be purchased. Please note, however, that these are only for informal events (or P.E. use) and are NOT to be worn when uniform is required. The royal blue polo shirt must be worn for those purposes.

WHAT SHOULD MY SON BRING EACH WEEK?

Boys should bring a t-shirt, gym shorts and trainers each week for games. Individual and team marks are awarded each week for cleanliness (face, hands, clean/trimmed nails), uniform (polished shoes, clean/ironed clothes, dark socks, all badges correctly worn), good behaviour, and for having gym kit. There is no weekly collection – the main donation at the start of the year helps cover our expenses. We will provide the boys with juice and a snack during most evenings so please do inform us on the consent form of any food allergies.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE indelibly mark ALL your son's uniform, gym kit, jackets and shoes with his name! As well as making our lives easier when items get lost, I'm sure your son's teacher will also appreciate it! You'd be amazed how many don't do this – and how much time we (including you) waste sorting out the resultant problems!

WEEKLY PROGRAMME

Our weekly programme is designed to incorporate a variety of activities, almost all of which count towards achieving the BB badges over the course of the 3 years. We also have games every week to help boys improve physical skills as well as having lots of fun at the same time! We are, of course, a Christian organisation, and each week a leader will do a short talk – perhaps an object lesson, song, game, bible story or something relating the week's news to Christianity, and we encourage boys to explore what it means to grow up thinking about having simple Christian values in their lives through music, crafts, drama and more.

Please note that badges are not handed out automatically: they must be earned through positive participation and earning enough credits by having regular attendance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHURCH

As a Christian organisation, we encourage all boys in Junior Section to attend Sunday School or another church-based activity on Sundays in addition to BB on Fridays. In recent years, there has been an encouraging rise in the number of boys doing so. When boys move to Company Section in P7, attendance at BB bible class (or own church) is a *requirement*, so it's good to get in those ways whilst still in Juniors. Your son will get a warm welcome at any of the local churches' Sunday Schools (details below) and he'll probably see familiar faces of other boys from BB there, too. And, of course, you, as adults, will also get a warm welcome in the congregations of those churches – they'll be glad to welcome you!

Boys can then use their membership card to record their Sunday School or church attendance.

Sunday School details

Dunblane Cathedral (Church of Scotland)	Sunday School (P1-P5 and P6-S2)	Meet in the Cathedral Hall at 10.25am before
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The Cross	10.30-11.45am	going in to church
St. Blane's Church (Church of Scotland) High Street	Sunday School 10.00-11.00am	Meet in St. Blane's Hall at 9.55am. Children attend the last part of the service.
Holy Family (Roman Catholic) Claredon Place	Children's Liturgy 11.00am-12noon	Attend Church service first
St. Mary's (Episcopal) At Fourways Roundabout	Young Church 10.30am	Meet in St. Mary's Hall, finish in church
Dunblane Christian Fellowship Stirling Road (next to Victoria Hall)	Sunday School 10.30am	Meet in the main church building
Free Church of Scotland Beech Road	Sunday School 11.30am	Meet in the main church building

BB BAND

Boys from Primary Five upwards can join the BB Band, which includes both Juniors and (primarily) Company Section boys (P7-S6). Boys do not need to have their own instrument or be able to read music as training is provided. Tuition and participation is, for the most part, free of charge, although there may be small incidental expenses such as music stands, new reeds, sticks etc. We are taking in new members who would like to learn an instrument at the start of the 2017/18 session, so please get in touch with Fraser soon to arrange some try-out sessions to find the instrument best suited to your son.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We will be taking part in all the battalion (local area) competitions this year, and a list of these dates as well as other special events will be sent out as soon as the dates are available. Our weekend camp venue and date is still to be decided but we will have this information to you in good time. We will take P6 boys to the BB Glasgow Science Centre Sleepover on Friday 3rd November.

As always, these do not pay for themselves, so we will have plenty of fundraising events, such as our sponsored walk, coffee mornings, bag-packing and the Burns Supper to keep the costs low. You can also raise funds every time you shop online, using www.easyfundraising.org.uk/25thstirlingbb as your starting point. In order that parents don't end up paying through other methods, we rely on you to spread the word about these fundraisers to friends and families to increase the level of support.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Almost all of the information we distribute to parents is done by e-mail, so please ensure your e-mail address is accurate on the consent form and, if it changes, please send an update to info@dunblanebb.org.uk and update OBM yourself. We have a website from where you can always see our Google Calendar with the latest events updated. Look for those marked 'JS' for Junior Section. www.dunblanebb.org.uk

We will do our best to keep you posted with the latest information about our activities. **We would appreciate if you would also keep us informed if there is a reason your son is not able to come to BB.** It's simply polite and helps to avoid the situation of our wondering whether a boy has become lost or distracted on the way to BB when he doesn't turn up on a Friday or at an event or competition. The leaders enjoy giving of their time and talents to the BB and it inspires us further when boys show a similar level of commitment. If your son signs up for a competition or special activity, we encourage you to instil a sense of commitment in him, should another clashing event come up in the interim.

You can also follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/dunblanebb, on Twitter and on Instagram, both using [@dunblanebb](https://twitter.com/dunblanebb) as the username for regular updates.

THANK YOU!

We are very grateful for your support as parents and look forward to you being involved as well as your son! We will endeavour to provide a great experience for your son in the BB and we will be more than willing to listen to – and act upon – your feedback, during the session. Please do contact any of us if you have any questions or concerns.

Fraser Boyd, Officer in Charge

August 2017