

## 25<sup>TH</sup> STIRLING (DUNBLANE) BOYS' BRIGADE – JUNIOR SECTION PARENT INFORMATION FOR SESSION 2018-19

### WELCOME!

We are delighted your son has decided to come along to Boys' Brigade this year and the leaders look forward to a fun-packed year with all the boys every Friday night and at all the extra events.

**Please note our new, slightly later meeting time: 6.30-8.00pm, beginning and ending in the St. Andrew's Room (upstairs). Boys should be collected either in the hallway or outside the side entrance to the Cathedral Hall (in the lane) at 8.00pm.**

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 and we welcome Tony Byrne, joining us from Company Section. We hope to have occasional visits from Björn Sandin and David Nairn, who are off to uni, too, following completion of their leader training in the summer. Alex Christmas (S6) will be with us as a KGV 'cadet' leader, and other young men from company section who are working towards the Queen's Badge will be working with your son as well.

**ALL parents will be automatically added to the parent rota this year.** It'll be up to you to arrange your own swap if the assigned night isn't possible. Thanks for your help with this – you'll enjoy it, after all! If you think there's an activity you specialise in that you could offer on the night you're assigned, do give us a shout, as we can try to find a way to fit it in!

### LEADERS

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

Fraser Boyd Tel 821387 / 07767 691812 fraser@fraserboyd.com	Ian McLellan Tel 825039 redmclellan@btinternet.com	Ian Brown Tel 07837 431116 ianalisterbrown@gmail.com	Calum Couper Tel 820109 calumcouper98@gmail.com
Gary Connery Tel 822991 conneryg03s@yahoo.co.uk	Ann Johnston Tel 826860 annjohnston06@sky.com	Susan Brown Tel 823162 sooz99@yahoo.com	Tony Byrne

### FORMS/PAPERWORK

The **new format two-page** annual consent form covers our weekly activities in the church hall, travel to and participation in local competitions, church services, 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) as well as those of another relative who can be contacted if we can't get hold of you. You should, please, always keep these up to date using the my.BB section of the Online BB Manager website. This keeps us compliant with GDPR.

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 (paper or via OBM/GoCardless) if you are a taxpayer.

### SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

As a youth organisation under the auspices of the Church of Scotland, we follow their safeguarding 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 6.20pm** 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 should be brought to 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

Although we have the BB minibus, 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) with dark socks and the royal blue BB jersey and royal blue polo shirts worn underneath. Boys who have achieved badges will also wear a badge armband. (Note: only the blue Anchor Boy badge should be worn once in Junior Section.) 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 during term time. If you are unable to get to the shop, you can purchase items online at <http://shop.boys-brigade.org.uk>. We may 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 arrive already in BB uniform. They should bring a t-shirt, gym shorts and trainers in a named bag each week for games. Individual and team marks are awarded each week at inspection during the opening parade. Here's what the marks out of 10 are for:

- Cleanliness
  - Face
  - Hands
  - Clean/trimmed nails
- Uniform
  - polished shoes
  - clean/ironed uniform (as detailed above)
  - uniform labelled with name
  - all badges correctly worn
- Good behaviour
- Having gym kit.
- Being on time for 6.30pm start.

There is no weekly collection of money. 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 school 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 an activity – 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. Lost badges incur a £1.50 replacement charge and cannot be bought at the BB shop. They must be requested from one of the leaders.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL/CHURCH

As a Christian organisation, we encourage all boys in Junior Section to attend a church-based activity on Sundays in addition to BB on Fridays. It’s good for the soul and gets you out of your bed on a Sunday ☺ 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 – and your whole family – will get a warm welcome at any of the local churches and he’ll probably see familiar faces of other boys from BB there, too.

We hope to organise a number of Sunday services during the year at the Cathedral and St. Blane’s – the two churches we are lined with – that the BB will play a lead role in, so please watch the weekly e-mails for details of these.

### Sunday School details

Dunblane Cathedral (Church of Scotland) The Cross	Cathedral Kids (P1-P5 and P6-S2) 10.30-11.45am	Meet in the Cathedral Hall at 10.25am before 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 2018/19 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) competitions this year, and a list of these dates as well as other special events will be sent out as soon as they are available. Our weekend camp venue is provisionally booked for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 at Kindrogan FSC Centre. We will take 15 P5/6 boys to the BB Glasgow Science Centre Sleepover on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

As always, these do not pay for themselves, so we will have plenty of fundraising events, such as our sponsored walk, coffee mornings and bag-packing to keep the costs low. You can also raise funds every time you shop online, using [www.easypfundraising.org.uk/25thstirlingbb](http://www.easypfundraising.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.

## PROJECT MALAWI 2019

During the 2018/19 session, you will hear a lot about our planned trip for the S4-S6 boys to Malawi in July 2019. This is no ordinary trip, nor is it a jolly for them. The project is in conjunction with Classrooms For Malawi, which is a small Scottish charity that seeks to end poverty by giving kids a proper education in well-equipped schools in one of the world's financially poorest countries. The seventeen young people will be fundraising every penny of the expense of getting there as well as thousands towards the materials and local labour costs of refurbishing crumbling classrooms in two primary schools. There will be lots going on throughout the year and although no Junior Section boys are going on the trip, we very much hope you will come along – sometimes as a family or as adults alone – to the various events and support what promises to be a very special effort to change lives for our friends in a country Scotland has a very special relationship with.

If you can't come along to an event, why not hire the Dunblane BB Gnomes to come to your garden for a special occasion or – even better – hire them to surprise someone else in your family or neighbourhood!

For more information, e-mail [projectmalawi@dunblanebb.org.uk](mailto:projectmalawi@dunblanebb.org.uk) or call Colin Anderson on 01786 822955.

## 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](mailto:info@dunblanebb.org.uk) and update OBM yourself. Our website has our Google Calendar with the latest events updated. Look for those marked 'JS' for Junior Section. [www.dunblanebb.org.uk](http://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](http://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 2018