



27 April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Baldragon Bee Academy**

At Baldragon Academy, we have been diversifying the curriculum and our young peoples' learning experiences by developing three academies of learning. So far, we have launched our Barista Academy and Bike Academy, and I am delighted to share that our Bee Academy is launching this term.

Our Bee Academy is a wider outdoor learning development for our school. Working with a range of partners, we are introducing SCQF qualifications in rural skills, horticulture and a SQA Level 5 award in Beekeeping. The development of skills within this area of learning also supports wider achievement awards such as the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Dynamic Youth Award, John Muir Award, and numerous Enterprise awards.

By introducing the Baldragon Bee Academy, we are opening greater opportunities for cross-curricular learning as well as opportunities for family learning, community engagement and intergenerational learning. We can also provide richer experiences in the development of skills for learning, life and work through citizenship, health and wellbeing, environmental awareness, sustainability, and biodiversity. In turn, this helps our school achieve wider recognition through the ECO-Schools Green Flag Award as well as giving us a head start as the Eden Project comes to Dundee.

Our apiary is located within our school grounds and well away from the playground and recreational/sports areas. The beehives are secured within a custom bee shed which is surrounded by perimeter fencing. Over time, shrubs, hedgerow, and fruit trees will further isolate the apiary.

In partnership, we have also launched the Baldragon Bee Association, which is affiliated with the Scottish Beekeepers Association. We have also recruited Fred Mollison, our very own beekeeper and bee mentor. The apiary is robustly risk assessed and all beekeeping learners and participants will follow very strict health and safety protocols – which include gaining parental consent before taking part in any beekeeping activities.

**Considering our general school community, because we will have an active apiary within our school estate, it is vitally important to ensure that your child's school medical records are up to date - this should also include notifying us of any allergies or related medical protocol. We do request annual updates for your child's medical record via the Dundee City Council annual data check; however, you can inform our school office of any changes at any time, in particular if there has been changes since the data check or if you wish to double check that the information we hold remains accurate.**

**Please ensure you have informed, updated, or checked your child's medical records with our school office asap and no later than Friday 6 May 2022.**

Thank you.

**Mr H McAninch**  
Headteacher