



April 2024 Newsletter

Attendance and Time-Keeping

Attendance at school is crucial to supporting children's progress, wellbeing and attainment. Should your child be unwell it is important that you contact the School Office on 0141 634 7217 or via the school app and leave a message stating the cause of absence and possible date of return. In accordance with South Lanarkshire Council Policy we must contact parents/carers if we have not been informed of a reason for a child being absent from nursery or school.

It is equally important that each child arrives at school in time for the bell to ring. We understand that everyone can, on occasion, sleep in and run late for school for many reasons, however regular lateness can be very disruptive to your child's education.

We will continue to monitor and keep you up-to-date on your child's attendance throughout the session so that all children can have every opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Health and Safety

As we have children in the nursery and school with severe allergies, please remember that **Loch Primary School and Nursery Class is a 'NUT FREE' school**. Please keep this in mind when you are sending your child to school with a snack/packed lunch. Should your child bring a snack with nuts in it, the Class Teacher/nursery staff will keep it until the end of the day and return it for your child to eat at home. Thank you to everyone for your help and support with this matter.

School Improvement/PEF Update

- Miss Simpson and Miss Harrington met with Susan Tullett (SLC Nurture Lead Officer) to discuss the review of our 'Promoting Positive Relationships Policy' to ensure this aligns with our nurturing and attachment-informed ethos within the school.
- Miss Simpson and Miss Harrington have visited all classes this month to see 'Play Based Learning' and 'Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)' learning taking place. The children's enjoyment and engagement in these activities was evident in all classes!
- Some of our Class Teachers and nursery staff engaged in 'Boxall Profile' training to support our nurture work within the school and nursery.
- Mrs McKee attended the fifth session of 'Pondering Pedagogy' training to further develop our practice within the nursery.
- Miss Simpson has been working with Head Teachers from the Learning Community to develop a policy to support our work in improving attendance across all of the schools.
- Mrs Thomson attended 'Team Leader' and 'Scots Language Training' to learn about how this can be further implemented within the nursery environment.
- Miss Harrington attended 'Sphero Indi' training to develop strategies to bring computer programming in to an Early and First Level context.
- The teaching staff have continued participating in the 'Limitless Learn' training programme, looking at the development of Growth Mindsets and supporting/challenging children's learning within the classroom. The latest session focussed on assessment and the importance of successful transitions for children.

Nursery Update



April has been a fun month with lots of activities happening within our nursery! The children have been showing a particular interest in minibests and plants this month. We will be continuing to build on the children's learning and interests in this area. We are therefore looking for loose parts such as gardening tools, soil, plants, pieces of wood, decking, plumbing pipes and connectors that the children can use in their outdoor play to develop our water wall, bug hotel and planters. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. We would also appreciate donations of old kitchen utensils, pots, pans and dishes for our mud kitchen.

Miss McKenzie is continuing to focus on recycling and sustainability with the children. Check out the display in the cloakroom to see all of the hard work the children are doing to help look after our environment and planet! Donations of clothes that your children have grown out of will be gratefully received for our pre-loved rail. Please also help yourself to anything you require.

Miss Evans is focusing on Health and Wellbeing and has introduced weekly yoga sessions with the children which they are greatly enjoying!

Forest School sessions with Mrs Newall are now taking place weekly. If your child is attending, please ensure that sun cream has been applied prior to coming to nursery and that they are wearing appropriate clothing for the weather with long sleeves and long trousers to protect them outdoors.

Our pre-schoolers are now focussing on getting ready for their transition to school. Children who will be attending Loch PS in August 2024 will be visiting the Primary 1 class weekly and carrying out activities with the current Primary 1 children to learn about school and to get to know their new environment. The children will also be developing their independence skills and we would appreciate if you could help with this by ensuring your child wears a jacket and shoes that they can change into themselves if possible.

This month the 'Tiny Talking Team' will be discussing what songs they would like to perform at their Graduation and all of the children will vote for their favourite. Rehearsals will be starting soon and we will send home the words to some of the songs to help practise at home.

The first meeting of the 'Monthly Talk Shop' for parents/carers to discuss views on the nursery and how we can work together to drive forward improvement will take place on Wednesday 8th May 2024 at 2.15pm. Tea and coffee will be provided. We look forward to seeing you all there!

As the children are outdoors each day, we kindly ask you to ensure that they wear appropriate clothing for the weather and if it is sunny to apply sun cream prior to arrival. If you have not already done so, please provide your child with sun cream that staff can reapply throughout the day. This will be stored in your child's individual bag. We also kindly ask that your child has a change of clothes available in their bag on their peg and for any clothes that have been borrowed from the nursery to be returned.

As the children's health and safety is paramount, we kindly ask for parents/carers cooperation with the following guidance:

- Due to serious allergies, the nursery is a **nut free environment** and therefore the children should not bring any food containing nuts into the nursery.
- No hot liquids are allowed in the playroom.
- The use of mobile phones is not allowed within the playroom due to health and safety reasons.
- When leaving the playroom, please do not allow your child to touch the green exit button within the playroom/outside door as this may lead to them trying to press it at other times.

Thank you for your continued support with these matters.

Please note that the nursery day finishes at 3:00pm and all children must be collected by this time. If you are running late, please contact the school office on 0141 634 7217 to advise of this.

Promoting Positive Relationships Policy

This year we have been working with all stakeholders to review our 'Promoting Positive Relationships Policy' to align with our nurturing school's Vision, Values and Aims. The introduction of the changes to our policy will be gradual with the below changes taking place this term:

- We have now introduced our '3 Golden Rules' for everyone - 'Show Kindness', 'Be Respectful' and 'Try Your Best'.
- We have removed our 'Traffic Light System' and have now introduced 'Proud Clouds' within each class. At the start of the day/week, the Class Teacher will share the class target that all children should aim to achieve. The aim is for all children to have their photo/name added to the 'Proud Cloud' each day when they are recognised for achieving this target/ showing this skill. All children are encouraged to work together as a 'team' to support each other to have their names placed on the cloud. When a child's name is placed on the 'Proud Cloud', it cannot be removed.
- As a result of removing our 'Traffic Light System', green and red slips are now stopped. Other 'Promoting Positive Relationships Strategies' will be used instead including the use of stickers, class rewards, positive praise, notes home, 'Star of the Week' and certificates. If you see your child with a sticker, we encourage you to ask them about it when they come home so that they can share their achievement with you. If a member of staff needs to discuss anything with you for any reason, they will speak with you at the school gate or via telephone call.

We appreciate that these changes may take time to fully implement, however we are confident that they will ensure our children feel nurtured and supported within the school environment.

GOOD NEWS!

The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Lewis, P6, for settling in well to his new school.
- Ciaran Lithgow, P6, for being a very supportive and encouraging friend to others.

Our children continue to make nominations for our Citizenship Awards each week. This month the winners were:

- Lacey Crichton, P3, for celebrating her peers making it on to the Proud Cloud.
- Lewis Potts, P2, for always setting a great example to others and working hard to get on the Proud Cloud.

Every week a child in each class receives a Star Award for being a Successful Learner, Confident Individual, Effective Contributor or Responsible Citizen. We also enjoy celebrating the successes and achievements of our children. Please encourage your child to share their achievements outwith school with us during our school assemblies on a Friday. This month we have heard from:

- Andrew Forbes, P2, who became a 'sea life expert' at the Sea Life Centre.
- Coby Neil, P2, who became a 'zoo keeper' for the day at Five Sisters Zoo.
- Halle Leonard, P5, who performed in the show 'Animated' at the Village Theatre in East Kilbride.
- Carris Hinshelwood, P6, who was awarded 'star of the week' at her dance class.
- Millie Beaton, P3, for winning 1st place in the group category with her Musical Theatre club.
- Katy McFarlane, P2, for winning 1st place in the group category and trio category with her Musical Theatre club.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!

- Before the Spring Break, we had a very special visit from the Easter Bunny. A big 'thank you' to our 'Friends of Loch' for the Easter Eggs for all of our school and nursery children!
- Primary 6 have been enjoying weekly 'Gaelic Football' sessions delivered by a coach as part of their PE programme.
- Primary 1 and Primary 6 children are enjoying participating in their weekly 'multi-sports' after school club with the Active Schools coach.
- Miss Simpson attended the S6 Graduation at Cathkin High School to see some of our former pupils graduate.
- Primary 4 are enjoying weekly 'Tennis' sessions with the Active Schools coach as part of their PE programme.
- Primary 2 children are enjoying the opportunity to take part in the after school 'Tennis' club with our Active Schools coach.
- 'Books of the Term' were issued to all Primary 1-7 children this month, funded using our 'Pupil Equity Fund'. We kindly ask all parents/carers to encourage your child to participate in this project and to read their book for enjoyment at home. Class Teachers may also provide homework tasks linked to the book.
- Weekly transition visits are taking place with our pre-school nursery children and our Primary 1 class to enhance the transition process.
- Nursery Parents' Evening appointments took place w/c 22.4.24.
- Primary 4 are currently participating in weekly Youth Music Initiative sessions.
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has included consultation on our school 'Values' and celebrating our weekly achievements.

School Lunches

From Monday 15th April 2024, the school meal price for Primary 6 and 7 pupils increased to £2.17. Please note the price of milk also changed to 30p at this date. Parents/carers are kindly asked to check their ParentPay account to ensure any outstanding costs are paid.

As Primary 5 pupils move into Primary 6 they will no longer automatically qualify for free school meals. Parents/carers of current Primary 5 children can still apply for free school meals through the council website if they qualify but this will not be done automatically, see link to apply:

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200259/education_benefits/159/clothing_grants_and_free_school_meals/2

Diary Dates

- The school will be closed to all children on Thursday 2nd May 2024.
- The school will be closed on Monday 6th May 2024.
- The school will close for the May weekend on Friday 24th and Monday 27th May 2024.
- The school will close for the summer holidays on Wednesday 26th June 2024 at 1:00pm.

School Contact Details

Head Teacher: Dawn Simpson
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School website: www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Please check our school website regularly and if you do not already do so, please follow us on Twitter ([@LochPrimary](https://twitter.com/LochPrimary)) as we will post regular updates and important information here. Our classes have all been very busy and some of this great work has been shared on Twitter!