



September 2024 Newsletter

Staffing Update 😊

After 12 years at Loch PS, Miss Harrington left us on 20.9.24 to take up the post of Depute Head Teacher within a new school. This was an extremely sad day for everyone but we are extremely grateful for all of Miss Harrington's hard work and the dedication she has shown to all of TEAM LOCH. We will miss her but wish her the best of luck in her new promoted post!

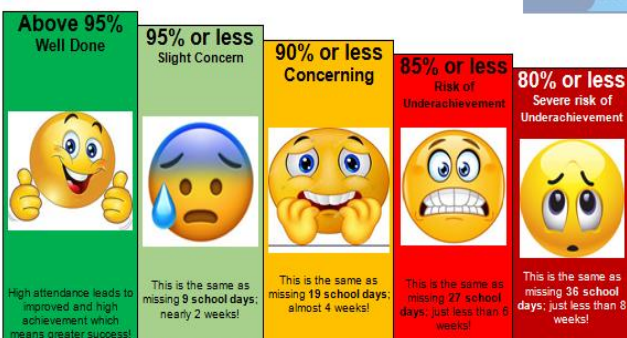
After successful interview, Mrs Munro has been appointed as the new Principal Teacher at Loch Primary School and Nursery Class. Mrs Munro has shown great commitment to our school throughout her time at Loch Primary School and we are delighted that she will now take up this leadership post within the school and continue her excellent work with all of our children and families.

Mrs Burns, Mrs Campbell and Mrs Henderson have all increased to full time hours this session. Mrs Campbell is the new Class Teacher in Primary 1.

Attendance and Time-Keeping 🕒

Attendance at school is crucial to supporting children's progress, wellbeing and attainment. All children have the 'right to an education' and it is vital for their progress for them to be in school every day. Your child's attendance rate has an impact on their attainment and achievements:

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Right to an Education (Article 28)

We understand that sometimes children cannot attend school due to ill health. 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 (SLC) 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 your 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.

Top Tips for Parents/Carers to Promote Good Attendance:

- Be on time for school, even missing 10 minutes every day adds up and can negatively impact learning.
- Always let the school know before 9.30am if your child won't be in and what the reason for the absence is.
- Keep in regular contact with the school for the duration of the absence.
- Only keep your child at home for the minimum time possible reducing the number of days of lost learning.
- Avoid booking holidays during term time.
- Have positive conversations about school with your child to encourage positive mindsets.
- Be involved in school life and your child's learning journey.

Further advice can be found in our parent information leaflet on our website -

http://www.loch-pri-sch.uk/index_177_2002852574.pdf

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/nursery with a snack/packed lunch. Thank you to everyone for your help and support with this matter.

When dropping off/picking up your child up from school or nursery, please note that no dogs are allowed within South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) school and nursery grounds. This includes within the school gates at the rear of the school and into the school car park at the front of the school. We kindly ask all parents/carers to keep your dog on a lead at the pick-up/drop off points and for any dog fouling to be picked up by the owner. We appreciate your support with this matter.

School Improvement

- Following consultation with children, parents/carers and staff to decide how some of our Pupil Equity Funding will be spent this session, it has been decided that this will be used to fund the costs of trips, school events and after school clubs. This will continue to support our 'Cost of the School Day' work and remove costs for families.
- Our new updated 'Promoting Positive Relationships Policy' is currently being implemented following consultation with all stakeholders last session. A parents' guide can be found on our website - [index_176_2371706714.pdf \(loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk\)](https://www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/index_176_2371706714.pdf)
- Miss Simpson attended the Early Learning and Childcare Head Teacher Forum and Additional Support Needs Coordinators' Meeting to keep abreast of new developments within Early Years.
- All Teaching Staff attended training at Hallside PS to develop knowledge and understanding of Numeracy strategies to support our work in raising attainment in Numeracy.
- Mrs McKee attended Emotion Coaching training to support our nurture work within the nursery environment.

- Mrs Evans and Mrs Gilchrist led our first 'Nursery Natter' session with parents/carers on 9.9.24 to work together to discuss our progress and next steps within the nursery.
- Teaching and Support Staff attended 'OPAL training' with St. Anthony's PS as we begin to work in partnership to improve our playground practice to promote better wellbeing and opportunities for our children. Further information on this programme will be issued to parents/carers.
- Mrs Barrett attended 'Musical Markers' training to allow us to implement this programme within our nursery to support identified children.
- Miss Simpson attended the Head Teacher Inclusion and Attendance Conferences to further develop our practice in these areas.
- Miss Simpson has met with all Teaching Staff to discuss the plans and progress for each class this session.
- Mrs Smith attended a Primary 7 network meeting at Cathkin High School to discuss our Listening and Talking work across the schools, sharing practice and developing new approaches.
- Mrs Munro, Mrs Burns and Mrs Roy attended the Attachment Network event to further develop our attachment-informed practice within Loch PS.
- Mrs Munro attended the ICT Coordinators' Meeting to look at new technology developments within SLC.

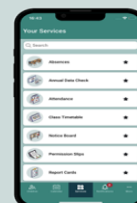
Parents Portal App

Parent Mail, will no longer be in use after September due to the end of our subscription. We will now use Parents Portal. If you have not already done so, please ensure you download the Parents Portal app. You will be able to receive information, report absences, respond to permission slips and book Parents' Evening appointments using this app.

parentsportal.scot

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Nursery Update



September has been a very busy month in our nursery. We have been delighted to welcome all of our new starts who are settling in well and enjoying their time at nursery!

This month we are delighted to see the return of our 'Rhyme of the Month' initiative to further develop our children's Literacy skills. Each month we will focus on a different rhyme within the nursery. A copy of each month's rhyme will be sent home for you to share with your child. This month our rhyme has been 'Humpty Dumpty'.

To celebrate 'Maths Week Scotland', we have been focusing on a range of Maths activities in nursery as well as sharing some ideas to try at home too. This has included our 'Maths Mission - Count to 5 with Autumn Leaves'. These activities help to develop our children's Numeracy skills and their skills for learning and life.

We would love to hear about our children's wonderful home learning. We would greatly appreciate if you could complete the feedback forms and email/provide photos which we will add to our display walls and the children's Learning Journals.

We have also been excited to see the return of our 'Forest Adventures' programme this month. Over this session, each child will participate in this programme, providing them with the opportunity to develop their learning and skills in the outdoors. This will include assessing and managing risk, working with a team, exploring and learning about nature and developing their communication and social skills.

On 9.9.24, Miss Evans and Mrs Gilchrist led our 'Monthly Natter' with parents/carers, discussing events happening within our nursery and ideas for future parental engagement activities and fundraising activities. A big 'thank you' to everyone who attended.

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

There's Lots Going On At Loch!



- Primary 5 are continuing to participate in the Youth Music Initiative programme.
- Primary 6 continue to attend their weekly swimming lessons every Tuesday.
- Primary 7 have begun their Cathkin High School transition process and enjoyed attending the CHS Mini Sports Festival.
- Primary 4-5 After School Club is currently underway with Active Schools, focussing on possession games.
- Our Primary 5-7 children attended a 'Nil By Mouth' workshop with St. Anthony's PS on 11.9.24.
- Primary 7 parents/carers were invited to attend a residential information session on 11.9.24 in preparation for our residential in February.
- P1-4 Childsmile Fluoride Varnishing took place on 12.9.24.
- School/Nursery photos took place on 16.9.24.
- Our first committee meetings took place this month with all classes being allocated a specific committee to work in to develop their leadership skills:
 - *Primary 1 and Primary 3/4 - Health Committee
 - *Primary 4 and Primary 5 - Charities Committee
 - *Primary 1/2 and Primary 2/3 - Eco Committee
 - *Primary 6 and Primary 7 - Social Enterprise Committee
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has been on 'what TEAM LOCH means to us' and 'The Six Principles of Nurture', as well as input from our Chaplaincy Team and celebrating our weekly achievements and awards!
- Our classes have all been very busy and some of this great work has been shared on X!

GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Ruairidh Barton, P5, for being very kind to others.
- Jack Crichton, P6, for showing a positive attitude towards his work.
- Leah Cochrane, P1, for showing a positive attitude to school life.

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

- Georgie Mackinnon, P3, for being a good friend inside and outside the classroom.
- Neva Dimitrijevic, P1, for always including others.
- Connor McGahey, P5, for helping his teacher.

Every week a pupil 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 pupils. 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:

- Katy McFarlane, P3, for winning 'dancer of the week' and a 'super star certificate' at her Dance and Drama clubs.
- Kian Everett, P5, for winning a 'super star certificate' at his Drama club.
- Millie Beaton, P4, for being awarded 'star of the week' at her Drama club.
- Callum McConnell, P6, for becoming a Pokémon Trainer at his after school club.

Diary Dates



- The school will be closed on Friday 27th and Monday 30th September for the September Weekend holiday.
- The school closes for the October Week on Friday 11th October and children should return on Monday 21st October.
- The school will be closed to children on Monday 11th November for an inservice day.
- The school closes for the Christmas holidays on Friday 20th December at 2:30pm. The school will re-open on Monday 6th January 2025.

For more details on events happening within the school, please see our School Events Planner on our school website.

Please check our school website regularly and if you do not already do so, please follow us on 'X', formally known as 'Twitter', ([@LochPrimary](#)) as we will post regular updates and important information here.

School Contact Details



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School website: www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

