



October 2024 Newsletter

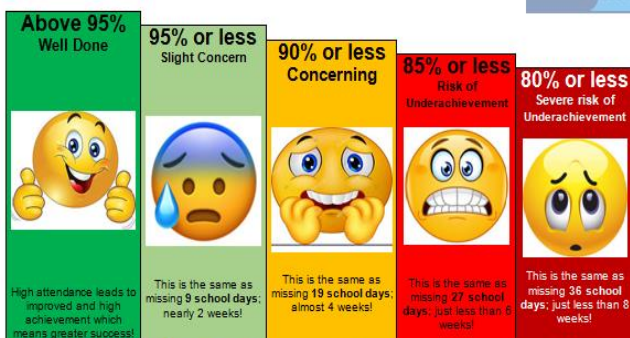
Staffing Update 😊

We are delighted to welcome Miss Simeon as Acting Team Leader to our nursery team. We are sure she will enjoy being part of TEAM LOCH!

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 encourage all parents/carers to monitor your child's attendance. Please log on to Parents Portal using the link www.parentsportal.scot to check your child's attendance so far this term. Should your child's attendance drop below 90%, we will issue you with an attendance letter. We encourage you to contact the school to discuss this to allow us to work together to support greater attendance. 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.

Further advice on how parents/carers can support better attendance can be found in our parent information leaflet on our website - http://www.loch-pri-s-lanark.sch.uk/index_177_2002852574.pdf

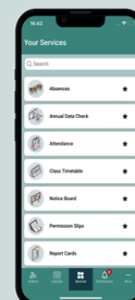
Parents Portal App 📱



Parent Mail is now no longer in use due to the end of our subscription. We 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, check your child's attendance, respond to permission slips and book Parents' Evening appointments using this app.

parentsportal.scot

Get the App!



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 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. We appreciate your support with this matter.

As you will be aware, headlice can cause problems both at home and in school. Please try to check your child's hair regularly and if you see any headlice, it is recommended that you treat both them and the whole family.

School Improvement

- Our new updated 'Cost of the School Policies' are now updated and can be found on our school website. These policies will continue to support our work in reducing costs for families.
*School - [index 177 332559371.pdf](#)
*Nursery - [index 177 177286152.pdf](#)
- Miss Simpson attended a Play Based Learning (PBL) showcase to gain ideas to further develop our PBL provision within Loch PS. Mrs Munro, Mrs Smith, Mrs Roy and Ms Swandell also attended a Play Development Group to support our work in this area.
- PBL is encouraged at Loch Primary School to support the learning and development of our children. This is a key focus of our School Improvement Plan. A guide for parents/carers

on PBL at Loch PS can be found on our school website - [index 179 575687220.pdf](#)

- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro attended training to further enhance our tracking and monitoring of children's attainment within Loch PS.
- Our OPAL working party (Mrs Munro, Mrs Campbell and Mrs MacDonald) along with parent representatives met with our trainer to begin our work to improve our playground practice to promote better wellbeing and opportunities for our children.
- As Child Protection (CP) Coordinator, Miss Simpson participated in CP training to keep abreast of new policies and procedures
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro have been carrying out class visits and meeting with class teachers to discuss the progress of all children.
- Miss Simpson attended Care Inspectorate training to support the development of our playroom practice.

Parental Engagement at Loch PS

At Loch PS we greatly encourage parents/carers to be involved in school life. Throughout the year you will be kept up-to-date on your child's learning and progress through:

- Two Parents' Evening appointments (November and March).
- An invite to attend your child's 'Class Showcase' event (see Events Planner).
- A full report card issued in May/June.
- Weekly homework tasks.

We also encourage parents/carers to attend and support school events such as concerts, cafes and 'fun days' throughout the year!

We also greatly appreciate the support of parent helpers at the school to help with class outings and school events. If you are willing to help with this, please contact the School Office.

For more details on events happening within the school, please see our School Events Planner on our school website: [index 178 3147734658.pdf](#)

Nursery Update



October has been another fun month in our nursery. Through our topic 'People Who Help Us', we have been exploring the job roles of different people as well as what to do in an emergency. We have also enjoyed exploring the outdoors, participating in local walks, looking at the changes in weather and collecting materials such as leaves to support some of our creative activities.

This month our 'Rhyme of the Month' has been 'The Wheels on the Bus'. The children have been learning this rhyme to support the development of their Literacy skills. Our 'Books of the Month' will also be issued soon to all children. These will be issued on a Monday and we kindly request that these are returned by a Friday to allow for all children to have a turn.

We also enjoyed a very successful Parental Engagement Week this month which offered parents/carers opportunities to attend a range of activities including a Bookbug session, Forest Schools session, Yoga workshop and a 'stay and play' session. A big 'thank you' to everyone who attended.

Some of our children have also enjoyed participating in the 'Forest Adventures' programme this month. This has provided the children with the opportunity to develop their learning and skills in the outdoors, including assessing and managing risk, working with a team, exploring and learning about nature and developing their communication and social skills.

As the children are outdoors each day, we kindly ask you to ensure that they wear appropriate clothing for the weather. 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.

We are looking forward to our Halloween Party on Thursday 31st October. Children are allowed to come to nursery in their Halloween costumes if they wish.

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 4-5 completed their Possession Games After School Club with Active Schools.
- Primary 6-7 Gaelic Football After School Club with Active Schools is now underway.
- Primary 7 are enjoying weekly PE sessions led by Cathkin High School pupils.
- Our first John Wright's Competition session took place on 4.10.24.
- P1-7 flu immunisations took place on 7.10.24.
- Primary 1/2 enjoyed their very first Class Showcase on 9.10.24 where the children were able to share all of their great learning with their parents/carers.
- Our Social Enterprise Committee organised a 'Dress Down Day' on 11.10.24 where lots of toys were donated. A big 'thank you' to everyone who donated!
- Primary 7 completed their Enterprise project, selling 'Boo Bags' to all children. A big 'thank you' to everyone who purchased a bag. A fantastic £446 was raised!
- Our 'Friends of Loch' meeting took place on 21.10.24.
- Primary 5 enjoyed participating in the 'Boomerang Workshop' with the Outreach team at St. Anthony's PS, focussing on building resilience.
- Primary 1 and Primary 1/2 enjoyed a visit from the Fire Brigade as part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic.
- Primary 2/3 and Primary 3/4 enjoyed visits from the Police and a Doctor as part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic.
- Primary 1 enjoyed a visit to Springhall Library on 29.10.24.
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has been on improving our playground 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:

- Scott McEwan, P7, for showing great confidence when sharing his learning.
- William Devlin, P2, for always showing a positive attitude at school.
- Primary 7 for showing excellent entrepreneurial attitudes!
- Alex Syme, P1, for showing a positive attitude to his learning.

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

- Katy McFarlane, P3, for being kind and welcoming to our new pupil.
- Lewis Roberts, P7, for being kind and helpful with a P1 peer.
- Devyn Dunlop, P3, for showing excellent resilience and putting others' needs and wants before her own.

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:

- William Devlin, P2, for receiving two trophies at his Dance competition.
- Charley Ryan, P4, for getting a medal for her football competition.
- Callum McConnell, P6, for being 'Star of the Week' at Drama.
- Jack Lowe, P7, for winning Bronze and Gold medals in a Kickboxing Competition in Frankfurt.
- Jack McFarlane, P6, for achieving 1st place in his group Drama competition.
- Katy McFarlane, P3, for winning 3rd place for trio and 2nd place in groups for Drama.

Diary Dates



- The school will be closed to children on Monday 11th November for an inservice day.
- Our next 'Friends of Loch' (Parent Council) Meeting will be on Monday 25th November at 6pm.
- The school closes for the Christmas holidays on Friday 20th December at 2:30pm. The school will re-open on Monday 6th January 2025.

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

School Contact Details



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