



January 2025 Newsletter

Attendance and Time-Keeping

Attendance at school remains a key priority here at Loch Primary School and across the Cathkin Learning Community. Attendance is crucial to supporting children's progress, wellbeing and attainment. Your child's attendance rate has a significant impact on their attainment and achievements. Did you know, within a full school year the following percentages show you the number of days lost learning:

95% - 99%	Up to 10 days absence (2 weeks)
90% - 94%	Up to 20 days absence (4 weeks)
85% - 89%	Up to 30 days absence (6 weeks)
80% - 84%	Up to 38 days absence (7½ weeks)
Less than 80%	More than 39 days absence

Why is good school attendance so important?

- All children have a right to an education and the legal responsibility to provide children with an education lies with their parents/carers.
- When children are absent from school, whatever the cause, this disrupts their learning and can have a significant impact on their future life opportunities.
- In particular, poor attendance can affect attainment levels, relationships with peers, wellbeing and emotional resilience.

What parents/carers can do to support your child's school attendance?

- Promote good habits at home to encourage good attendance.

- Work in partnership with the school to support your child's attendance.
- If you are worried about your child's attendance at school or the school have contacted you to raise awareness of attendance concerns, contact the school immediately to discuss supports available.
- Early intervention is crucial, the earlier the issue is identified and positively addressed the better the longer-term outcome for the child.

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.

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 session.

Health and Safety - Safe Parking !

As you know, the safety of our children when entering and leaving our school and nursery is paramount. We understand that Lochaber Drive can be a very congested area which can add stress to families in the mornings and after school. However, it is important that we all work together to ensure the safety of all and we kindly ask all parents/carers to ensure safe driving and parking when in this area. We follow the SLC Park Safe Campaign to support with this. We also kindly ask that you speak with your child about being safe when crossing roads. This is something we continue to promote and teach within the school. To support with this, we encourage everyone to follow the advice in the following SLC posters:



We thank you in advance for your support with this.

Thank You!

Thank You!

We would like to say a massive 'thank you' to the 'Cambuslang and Rutherglen Rock N Pop Chorus' group for their very kind donation towards our school funds. This is greatly appreciated and will help to support all of the children within the school!

We would also like to say a big 'thank you' to Jessica Bayne, P7, and her family for their gift of a new school bear. Our children voted and we have named him "Lochlan". We think he is absolutely wonderful in our school uniform!



School Improvement



- Our Pupil Council met this month to review our playground practice and discuss ways to improve this to enhance the health and wellbeing of all.
- Miss Equi attended 'Froebel in Practice' training, looking at how play and nature can enhance children's development.
- Mrs Munro attended the ICT Coordinators Meeting to keep up-to-date with all of the latest technological developments within South Lanarkshire Council (SLC).
- Mrs Smith and Mrs Graham attended Maths Recovery training, supporting the development of our Numeracy work across the school.
- Miss Simpson attended the Head Teachers Meeting to keep abreast of new curriculum developments and priorities within SLC.
- Miss Simpson has met with all teaching staff to discuss the progress of all children and each class' plans for the term.
- Mrs Burns attended 'Let's Introduce Anxiety Management' training with the NHS to support our nurture work within the school.
- Miss Simpson met with Murray Stewart, our Quality Link Officer to share the good practice within Loch PS and Nursery Class.
- Miss Simpson attended 'Early Years Additional Support Needs Coordinator' training, looking at supports available within SLC.
- Mrs Munro, Mrs Roy, Mrs Smith and Mrs Graham attended the Play Pedagogy Network Event to share practice with colleagues from across the Learning Community as we continue to drive forward the development of Play Based Learning.

Nursery Update



January has been a busy month within our nursery! All of the children have settled back in well and we have been focusing on developing Literacy and Numeracy skills through our 'Book of the Month', "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and our 'Rhyme of the Month', "Tiny Turtle". Through this, the children have been exploring the sequence of the story and the concepts of 'beginning, middle and end' whilst engaging in discussions and story mapping activities. The children have also enjoyed acting out parts of the story using props and masks. In Numeracy, the children have been developing their understanding of mathematical language to describe the size of items. They have enjoyed experiences to support and develop their counting on and back skills.

We have also been learning about different cultural festivals through celebrating 'Robert Burns Day' with lots of Scottish songs and Scots language stories as well as celebrating Chinese New Year. As part of our Burns celebrations in the nursery, the children enjoyed a fantastic Bookbug Session, with lots of Scottish rhymes, songs, a story and dancing! Thanks to all the families for coming along, it was a wonderful session, supporting the children's language and social development and promoting positive wellbeing for all!

To promote their wellbeing, the children have been enjoying energetic play experiences through participating in activities outdoors and in gym to develop their balance and coordination skills.

The children continue to have access to the outdoors each day. To support us with this, we kindly ask you to ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing to enable them to stay warm and well when out in the colder weather. We also kindly ask that your child has a change of clothes available in their bag on their peg.

We would like to say a special 'thank you' to Miss Simeon for her help and support during Mrs Thomson's absence. Miss Simeon has now returned to her substantive post and we will all greatly miss her. Mrs Thomson is delighted to be back at work and is very impressed by how much progress the children have made whilst she has been off.

Queen's Park FC Event



On Saturday 25th January 2025, some of our children and staff were given the opportunity to attend the Queen's Park vs Greenock Morton football game at Hampden. This was very kindly donated by Queen's Park who also organised for the transport and provided all of the children with t-shirts and scarves. The children also enjoyed a visit from First Team player Jack Turner at school on the Wednesday beforehand who very kindly answered lots of questions and signed photographs and scarves for the children. A big 'thank you' to Queen's Park for this fantastic opportunity!



School Captains



Primary 6-7 pupils along with staff took part in an election to vote for our second set of School Captains and Vice Captains for term 2.

Congratulations to the following P7 pupils who have been elected as School Captains:

KATRINE: Liah McLeish and Nina Stewart

NESS: Ciaran Lithgow and Alicia Rafferty

LOMOND: Fouzi Abu Esbaa and Inaaya Ashraf

TAY: Jessica Bayne and Emmanuel Okeke

Congratulations to the following P6 pupils who have been elected as Vice Captains:

KATRINE: Lucas Arnold and Callum McConnell

NESS: Niamh Fitzpatrick and Jack McFarlane

LOMOND: Peter Dunsmuir and Sienna McDonald

TAY: Jack Crichton and Lucy Potts

GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Alfie McKean, P6, for being kind and caring towards younger peers.
- Primary 5 for a wonderful performance during their Youth Music Initiative Fundamentals performance.

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

- Lucy Potts, P6, for taking care of the environment by putting rubbish in the bin.
- Blake McMillan, P6, for being a great help to younger peers.

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:

- Maisie Pimlott, P5, for performing in her drama Panto.
- Daisy Cartwright, P5, for taking part in her dance classes.

Tesco Blue Tokens



We are working with Tesco's Stronger Start Campaign to raise money for our OPAL journey. Please support Loch Primary School in our endeavours to receive up to £1500 towards expanding our Outdoor Play provisions, by using the Blue Tokens (found at the checkouts) to vote for Loch Primary School. Voting is open now and runs until 31st March. You can vote for Loch at Tesco Extra Rutherglen, Tesco Burnside, Tesco Superstore East Kilbride and Tesco Express in East Kilbride.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!



- Primary 1 enrolment week took place w/c 6.1.25. If you have a child who is due to start Primary 1 in August, please ensure you enrol your child as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Primary 5 enjoyed performing their learning from their participation in the 'Youth Music Initiative Fundamentals' programme to their families on 14.1.25.
- Primary 4 are enjoying their weekly PE Dance sessions with S6 Cathkin High School pupils.
- Committee time took place w/c 13.1.25 with all of the children working together in their committees to drive forward improvements.
- Catch Up Flu Vaccinations took place on 17.1.25.
- Nursery Flu Vaccinations took place on 21.1.25.
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro met with all Primary 1 and Primary 1/2 children to participate in Learner Conversations, looking at their work and hearing all about the great learning taking place in these classes!
- Supporting Families 'Brew and a Blether' took place on 23.1.24 with parents/carers invited to attend.
- Primary 3/4 are enjoying participating in a Recorder After School Club with Ms Swandell.
- Parents/carers were invited to attend our nursery Stay and Play Sessions on 27.1.25 and 30.1.25. The children loved showing their families what they do at nursery!
- Some children have started attending a weekly homework club with Miss Millar.
- 'Healthy n Happy' have started a Multiply Maths Club with children and their parents/carers.
- Childsmile visits took place on 30.1.25.
- P5-7 Dance Club has started after school with Active Schools.
- Primary 4-7 pupils are enjoying their after-school club Multi-Sports sessions with the Active Schools team.
- Primary 7 have been enjoying weekly Rugby PE Sessions with our Active Schools coaches.
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has included input from our Chaplaincy Team about the 'New Year', our aims for 2025 and celebrating our weekly achievements.

Diary Dates



- School will be closed on Monday 17th, Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th February 2025 for the February break.
- The school will close at 2:30pm on Friday 4th April 2025 for the Spring break. The school will reopen on Tuesday 22nd April 2025.
- The school will be closed to all children on Thursday 1st May 2025.
- The school will be closed on Monday 5th May 2025 for the May day holiday.
- The school will close for the May weekend on Friday 23rd and Monday 26th May 2025.
- The school will close for the summer holidays on Wednesday 25th June 2024 at 1:00pm.

School Contact Details



Head Teacher: Dawn Simpson

Telephone: 0141 634 7217

E-Mail: gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk / gw14lochpsht@glow.sch.uk

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 'X', formally known as 'Twitter', (**@LochPrimary**) as we will post regular updates and important information here.

