

February 2025 Newsletter

Staffing



Following successful interviews for full time positions, Miss Evans and Mrs Gilchrist will be moving nurseries next month. We would like to thank them both for the hard work and dedication they have shown towards our school and nursery throughout their time at Loch PS Nursery Class and we will miss them greatly! We wish them the best of luck and hope they will come back to visit us soon!

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.

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

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.

During Breakfast Club drop-off, we kindly ask parents/carers to make use of the top car park as you enter the school grounds and to refrain from coming down to the staff car park or beyond the zebra crossing that leads to our Breakfast Club entrance. This is to ensure the health and safety of our children as this must be a safe route for them to walk and cross to enter the school building. We also kindly ask parents/carers to be mindful of their speed when driving within the school grounds/nearby areas and to be mindful of children crossing. We continue to promote road safety in school, and we greatly appreciate your support in ensuring the safety of all of our children.

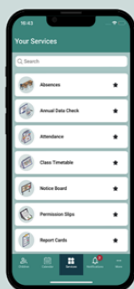
Parents Portal App

Please ensure you download the Parents Portal app. You will be able to receive information, check your child's attendance, respond to permission slips and book Parents' Evening appointments using this app. If you are having trouble downloading this app, please contact the school office for support.

parentsportal.scot

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School Improvement

- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro have met with all teaching staff to discuss the progress, attainment and achievement of all children. It has been great to hear about and see all the great learning taking place across all of our classes.
- In order to continue to support our work to raise attendance, Miss Simpson has been participating in a range of Education Scotland attendance training sessions. This has included sharing good practice and the work being carried out within Cathkin Learning Community.
- Miss Equi attended the second 'Froebel in Practice' training session, looking at how play and nature can enhance children's development.
- Our nursery staff attended 'Core Continuous Provision and Provocations' and 'Learning for Sustainability' training, to enhance our work and practice within the nursery.
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro met with all Primary 3/4 and 4 children to participate in Learner Conversations, looking at their work and hearing all about the great learning taking place in these classes!
- During the inservice day, teaching staff worked collegiately to review our Play-Based Learning provision and Numeracy planners and participated in a moderation event at Hallside PS to share good practice with all teaching staff from the Cathkin Learning Community schools. Our nursery staff focussed on the review of our Curriculum Rationale and participated in Cooksafe training.
- Mrs Graham attended the second 'Maths Recovery' training session, supporting the development of our Numeracy work across the school.
- Mrs Smith attended a 'Rutherglen 900' meeting to discuss how we can be involved in this exciting event.

- Mrs Munro and Mrs Roy 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.
- Miss Simpson attended the Education Scotland Leadership Event, sharing practice with colleagues from across Scotland.
- Mrs Munro attended the SLC Early Learning and Childcare Conference to keep abreast of new developments within Early Years.
- Mrs Munro, Mrs Campbell and Mrs McDonald continue their OPAL work with St. Anthony's PS staff as we look to develop our outdoor provision at playtimes and lunchtimes.
- Mrs McKee attended 'Supporting Early Mathematical Development' training to enhance our Numeracy work and provision within the nursery environment.
- Teaching Staff worked with Lucy Harris (SLC Play Development Officer) to enhance our approach to Play-Based Learning at Loch PS. Lucy visited different classrooms and offered support and suggestions to further develop our practice.
- Mrs Munro, Mrs Roy and Mrs Main attended the SLC Attachment Network as we work towards achieving our 3rd Attachment Pledge.

Thank you



We would like to say a big 'thank you' to our 'Friends of Loch' (formerly known as Parent Council) for the very kind gift of graduation hoodies for our P7 pupils and staff. These are a huge success and very much appreciated.

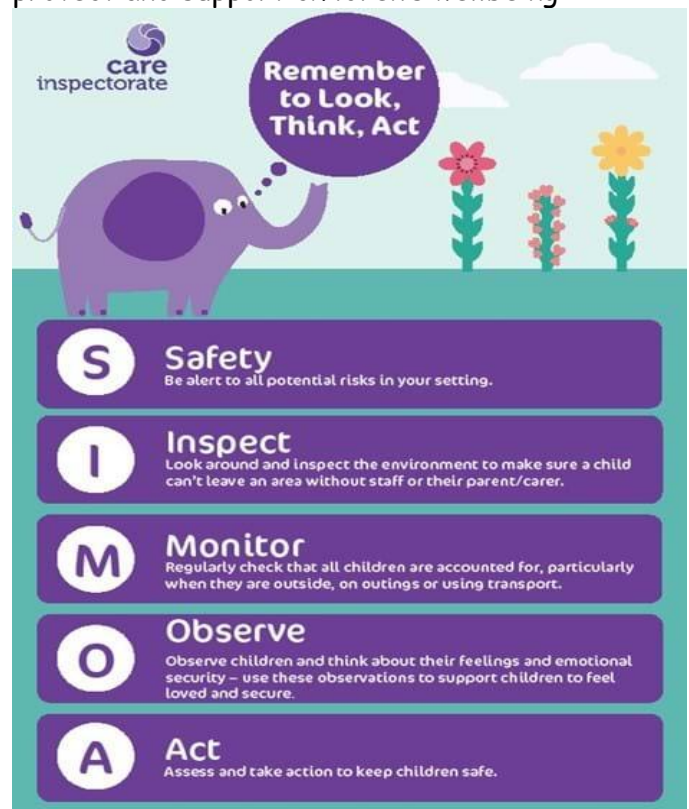


Nursery Update



February has been a fun month within our nursery! We have continued to focus on our 'Book of the Month', "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and our 'Rhyme of the Month', "Five Little Ducks". Please let us know what you think about the rhyme and bookbag by either filling in the feedback form and encouraging your child to draw a picture or by emailing us a photograph. We kindly ask you to return the bookbag after your allocated time so that the bag can be issued to the next child.

We are introducing a new initiative based on the Care Inspectorate's SIMOA (Safety, Inspect, Monitor, Observe, Act) campaign to raise awareness and act responsibly to safeguard, protect and support children's wellbeing:



We are currently creating a new home-link bag containing 'SIMOA the elephant' soft toy and various activities and stories to allow the children to continue to explore the themes around safety that we have been focusing on within the nursery at home. Every Friday one child will have the opportunity to take 'SIMOA' home. Please return her before the following Friday to allow staff to prepare the bag to be reissued. We hope you will find this resource helpful in raising awareness of safety and risk with your child and we would appreciate any feedback you can provide.

This month the 'Tiny Talking Team' have been discussing children's rights and how they have the right to be safe. The right to safety is covered by a number of UNCRC articles and we have been focusing on Article 31 - "I have a right to rest, relax and play". We have discussed the importance of adults making sure children have the chance to play and relax in a safe, supportive and stimulating environment and we have been encouraging the children to risk assess our nursery to think about ways to keep safe.

We are looking forward to celebrating 'World Book Day' on Thursday 6th March. Our theme this year is 'bedtime stories' and the children are welcome to come to nursery dressed in their pyjamas and bring their favourite bedtime story to share with their friends.

Our current 5-week block of 'Forest Adventures' is now complete and we greatly enjoyed welcoming parents/carers to our final session to experience all of the great learning the children took part in each week. A big 'thank you' to everyone who attended. Our next group of children will start 'Forest Adventures' on Friday 7th March and information and permission slips will be issued soon for those who will be attending.

The children continue to have access to the outdoors and water play 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 and a pair of indoor shoes if possible, available in their bag on their peg, should a change be required.

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.

GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Dean Crichton, P6, for being very polite and well-mannered.
- Emily Bell, P6, for ensuring the safety of younger children.
- Primary 7 for being wonderful representatives of Loch PS at their Residential.

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

- Larissa Keery, P2, for being a kind and helpful friend.
- Brooke MacNeil, P5, for always showing a kind, compassionate attitude across the school.
- Scott McEwan, P7, for kindly taking care of others at the residential.

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:

- Niamh Lithgow, P3; Katy McFarlane, P3; and Jack McFarlane, P6, for receiving their 2 year SODA awards.
- Archie Sohail, P3, for gaining a medal at his Football Club for scoring goals and showing great football skills.
- Katy McFarlane, P3, for winning 1st place in both Group and Duo Drama Performances.
- Jack McFarlane, P6, for winning 1st place in his Group Drama Performance and for being 'Performer of the Month'.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!



- Primary 4 continue to enjoy their weekly PE Dance sessions with S6 Cathkin High School pupils.
- Primary 3/4 are enjoying participating in a Recorder After School Club with Ms Swandell.
- Some children are engaging well during the weekly homework club with Miss Millar.
- 'Healthy n Happy' have completed a Multiply Maths Club with children and their parents/carers.
- P5-7 Dance Club continues to take place after school with Active Schools in preparation for the SLC Dance Festival.
- Primary 4-7 pupils are enjoying their after-school club Multi-Sports sessions with the Active Schools team.
- Some children are enjoying participating in a Nurture after school club with Mrs Burns.
- Our Primary 7 children enjoyed a very successful residential trip to Inverclyde on 10.2.25 - 12.2.25. A big 'thank you' to Mrs Munro, Mrs Smith and Laura from the Reachout team for attending and making this event possible!
- Internet Safety Day took place on 11.2.25 with all classes participating in a range of activities to raise awareness of the importance of staying safe online.
- Primary 7 participated in the schools' Rugby Festival at the Cambuslang Rugby Club on 14.2.25.
- Nursery toothbrushing took place on 20.2.25.
- Our 'Friends of Loch' meeting took place on 25.2.25.
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has included input from our Committees and celebrating our weekly achievements.
- Our Award Winners continue to enjoy their Hot Chocolate Fridays with the HT.

Diary Dates



- The following classes will have showcase events on the following dates:
 - *Primary 5 - Thursday 13th March at 1:45pm
 - *Primary 2/3 - Wednesday 26th March at 9:15am
 - *Primary 7 - Thursday 27th March at 1:15pm
 - *Primary 4 - Thursday 27th March at 1:45pm
 - *Primary 1 - Friday 4th April at 1:15pm.
- PLEASE NOTE SOME OF THESE DATES HAVE CHANGED FROM THE ORIGINAL YEAR PLAN. Further information will follow.
- We will celebrate 'World Book Day' on Thursday 6th March. This year our theme is "Bedtime Stories". Children are asked to come to school in their pyjamas and, if possible, bring their favourite book with them. They will have an opportunity to read in class while enjoying a "bedtime" drink and snack.
- Parents' Evening for the school will take place on Wednesday 19th March. Nursery Parents' Evening will take place w/c Monday 17th March. More information will follow.
- Our next 'Friends of Loch' meeting will take place on Monday 24th March 2025 at 6pm in the school. All parents/carers are welcome to attend and we would greatly appreciate your attendance and support at these meetings.
- 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



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