



Loch Primary School and Nursery Class



March 2025 Newsletter

HAPPY RETIREMENT!



After 23 years at Loch PS our wonderful Miss Chisholm retires on 4.4.25. Miss Chisholm has supported many children during her time at Loch PS including some of our parents/carers who are former pupils. She has had a huge impact on many lives. Miss Chisholm is a very popular member of our team who will be missed greatly by everyone! We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Miss Chisholm for all of her hard work, support and the dedication she has shown towards our school over the years. We wish her a very happy, healthy retirement and hope she enjoys making new memories without the need for any alarm clocks!! Thank you Miss Chisholm for everything, from all at TEAM LOCH!

Staffing



This month we have said goodbye to our two wonderful Early Years Workers, Miss Evans and Mrs Gilchrist who have moved on to new posts within new nurseries. They will be greatly missed by all at our school and nursery, and we would like to thank them very much for all of their hard work and wish them the very best of luck in their new posts!

Tesco Blue Tokens



Our campaign with Tesco's Stronger Start Campaign is closing on 31st March so please help us with a final push!

Please support us 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. You can vote for Loch at Tesco Extra Rutherglen, Tesco Burnside, Tesco Superstore East Kilbride and Tesco Express in East Kilbride.

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.

We encourage all parents/carers to monitor your child's attendance. Please log on to Parents Portal using the link www.parentsportalscot.com 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



- Mrs Burns attended the follow up 'Let's Introduce Anxiety Management' training session with the NHS to support our nurture work within the school. This intervention will begin to be implemented soon within Loch PS.
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro have met with all teaching and nursery staff to discuss the progress, attainment, achievement and any additional supports required for all children.
- Miss Simpson attended a 'Child Protection Development Session' to keep up-to-date with new policies and procedures.
- This month we have been busy with our OPAL development work to enhance playtimes and lunchtimes. This has included the development of an OPAL policy and the introduction of some play resources at playtime which the children have had lots of fun with!
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro have enjoyed visits to all classes to observe writing lessons. It has been lovely to see the fantastic learning and excitement our children are showing towards their writing, especially when creating suspense stories!
- Miss Equi attended the third 'Froebel in Practice' training session, looking at how play and nature can enhance children's development.
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro met with all Primary 2/3 and Primary 5 children to participate in Learner Conversations, looking at their work and hearing all about the great learning taking place in these classes!
- All teaching staff met with teachers from our peer schools (Neilsland PS and Carnwath PS) to participate in collegiate discussion to share good practice in Numeracy.
- Mrs Smith completed the Maths Recovery training sessions, supporting the development of our Numeracy work across the school.
- Miss Simpson attended the Cathkin Learning Community Meeting to keep abreast of SLC priorities and school improvement planning.
- Mrs Munro attended Sustainability training as we continue to focus on the importance of this within our daily practice at Loch!
- Mrs Munro and Miss Simpson attended a 'Save the Children' Parental Engagement showcase to share good practice within Loch PS.

Nursery Update



March has been another great month within our nursery! This month's 'Rhyme of the Month' has been "Pop a Little Pancake". We hope you enjoyed the linked activities as well as Mrs McKee's 'Monthly Maths Mission' and had lots of fun learning with your child at home. To ensure that these are meeting your needs, we would appreciate your feedback and any photographs of your child's participation. Please email photographs to gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk or fill in the feedback forms or a speech bubble from the noticeboard in the cloakroom.

The children have been enjoying the recent sunshine, and we have been noticing all of the plants beginning to grow in the garden. The children have been weeding the planters with Miss Equi and we will be focusing on planting and growing over the coming weeks. We would greatly appreciate donations of any extra seeds, plants, plant pots, soil etc that you may have that the children could use in the garden. As the children are outdoors each day, we kindly ask you to ensure that they wear appropriate clothing for the weather and have a change of clothing available if possible in the event they get dirty or wet. If it is sunny, we kindly ask you to apply sun cream to your child prior to arrival and to provide your child with sun cream that staff can reapply throughout the day.

The children have also been learning about identifying their senses and related body parts with Mrs McKee. They have investigated tasting and smelling a variety of foods and using junk to make their own musical instruments and technology to investigate sounds. We can confirm that cup and string telephones do actually work!

Each month the 'Tiny Talking Team' meet to discuss what is happening within our nursery and to gather their feedback and ideas of what they would like to develop or do. Last month the children were talking about their favourite things in nursery and used cameras to take lots of photographs of all of the things they like. We were amazed at all of the great photographs our budding photographers took of their friends, the staff, and their favourite areas within the nursery! This month the children will be organising our Easter celebrations! Keep an eye on our noticeboard to find out what they decide. Our Easter Party will be held on Wednesday 2nd April.

Our fourth group of Forest Adventures is well underway and the children were all very excited to spot a fox as well as all of the usual minibeasts. The parents/carers of the children currently taking part will be invited to come along to the final group session and join in with all of the great learning taking place. This will take place on Thursday 3rd April. Look out for your invite, and please let us know if you can attend.

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.

Nursery will close for the Spring Break on Friday 4th April at 2.30 pm and reopen on Tuesday 22nd April. We hope you will all have an enjoyable and relaxing break.

BRIDGETON BURNS **PRIZEGIVING ASSEMBLY**



On Friday 21st March 2025, we celebrated all of the children's achievements at the Bridgeton Burns Competition by hosting a fantastic prizegiving assembly where parents/carers of our winners were invited to attend. At the assembly we enjoyed performances from our Primary 1-4 Choral Verse Group, our Primary 5-7 Choral Verse Group and Mya Ballard, P4, who placed 2nd in the P4-5 Solo Verse category. The children were outstanding and impressed everyone in the audience with their performances!

We also surprised some of our children who placed in the Art and Newsdesk categories.

Congratulations to:

- Harper Taylor, P2, for placing 3rd in the P1/2 Art Category.
- Sam Nguyen, P3, for placing 3rd in the P3-5 Art Category.
- Aaron Lafferty, P7, for placing 3rd in the Newsdesk Category.
- Lola Macrae, P6, for placing 1st in the Newsdesk Category.

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Kevin Smith who very kindly came along to perform and lead the singing of 'Caledonia' and 'Auld Lang Syne'. This added a very special touch to our celebration and was greatly enjoyed by everyone in attendance!

We would also like to thank Joan McEachen and Kenny Wilson from the Bridgeton Burns Competition who very kindly came along to the assembly to present our winners with their certificates and prizes.

The Burns Competition is a highlight of the year for Loch PS and we were delighted to host this wonderful celebration!



GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Mollie-Jay Cameron, P1, and Harper Cameron, P3, for very generously donating their cut hair to the 'Little Princess Trust'.
- Cain Parker, P3, for beautiful presentation and handwriting.
- Oliver O'Mailley, P1, for showing confidence and a positive attitude.
- Inaaya Ashraf, Zoey Daly, Ciaran Lithgow, Alicia Rafferty and Nina Stewart, all P7, for being excellent helpers at the Parents' Evening.

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

- Leah Cochrane, P1, for being a great help to her friends in the lunch hall.
- Aiyra Ashraf, P3, for being a great role model at all times.
- Ciaran Lithgow, P7, for being a helper at lunchtime.
- Carris Hinshelwood, P7, for being an outstanding help.
- Katie Love and Hollie Redmond, both P5, for offering to be litter pickers during their lunchtime.

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:

- Archie Sohail, P3, for great football skills.
- Maisie Pimlott, P5, for being 'Performer of the Month' at her Drama Club.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!



- Primary 3/4 have completed their Recorder After School Club with Ms Swandell and put on a fabulous performance at our whole school assembly, demonstrating their great learning and new skills.
- Primary 4-7 pupils have now completed their after-school club Multi-Sports sessions with the Active Schools team.
- Some children continue to attend a weekly homework club with Miss Millar.
- P5-7 Dance Club remains underway after school with Active Schools in preparation for the SLC Dance Festival on 2.4.25.
- Some children are currently enjoying participating in a Nurture after school club with Mrs Burns.
- Pre-school vision testing took place on 3.3.25.
- Primary 1, Primary 1/2 and Primary 2/3 enjoyed a visit from the Teddy Bear Hospital on 4.3.25 where they learned all about what happens in a hospital.
- World Book Day was celebrated at Loch PS and Nursery Class on 6.3.25 with a 'Bedtime Stories' theme, a pyjama day and a range of fun activities.
- Our Nursery children also enjoyed a Bookbug session with parents/carers on 6.3.25.
- Primary 7 participated in an Easter Code workshop with the Reachout Team and pupils at St. Anthony's PS.
- Primary 5 enjoyed welcoming their parents/carers to their class showcase on 13.3.25 where they were able to showcase their learning and participate in some fun activities.
- Cathkin High School staff visited Primary 7 on 13.3.25 to answer questions from the pupils about secondary school.
- Nursery Parents' Evening appointments took place w/c 17.3.25.
- School Parents' Evening took place on 19.3.25.
- 4 pupils from Primary 6 attended the SLC Euroquiz with Miss Simpson and represented the school very well.
- Our 'Friends of Loch' meeting took place on 24.3.25.
- Primary 4 enjoyed a class trip to Burns Cottage on 25.3.25.

- Primary 2/3 had a fabulous class showcase on 26.3.25 where the children enjoyed sharing their learning and taking part in a range of activities with their parents/carers.
- Primary 4 and Primary 7 welcomed their parents/carers to their class showcase on 27.3.25 where they enjoyed sharing their learning and engaging in activities with their parents/carers.
- Mrs Henderson and 3 children from Primary 5 enjoyed participating in the SLC Climate Change and Sustainability Conference in Hamilton on 27.3.25.
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has included input from our Chaplaincy Team and celebrating our weekly achievements.
- Our Award Winners continue to enjoy their Hot Chocolate Fridays with the HT.

Diary Dates



- Our next 'Friends of Loch' meeting will take place on Monday 19th May 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. **THIS WILL BE A NON-UNIFORM DAY.** 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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