



## April 2025 Newsletter

### Attendance and Punctuality



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.

Being at school on time each day is also crucial to your child's progress and learning. Did you know that being 15 minutes late every day, will result in your child missing approximately 50 hours of teaching per year?

We understand that everyone can on occasion run late. However, regular lateness can have a serious impact on children's learning and wellbeing, and we greatly encourage everyone to try their best to be at school on time for the bell ringing at 9:00am to ensure your child can make the most of their education.

We encourage all parents/carers to monitor your child's attendance. Please log on to Parents Portal using the link [www.parentsportalscot](http://www.parentsportalscot) to check your child's attendance so far this session.

### School Improvement



- Miss Simpson attended the Early Years HT Meeting to keep up-to-date with new developments in Early Years. This included looking at the importance of attendance in nursery to ensure positive foundations for learning.
- Mrs Munro attended the 'ICT Coordinators Meeting' to keep abreast of the latest digital developments within SLC.
- This month we have continued with our OPAL development work to enhance playtimes and lunchtimes alongside St. Anthony's PS. This has included changing our lunch time hours to 12:15pm - 1:00pm to allow both schools to experience the fun activities together.
- Miss Simpson attended the 'SLC HT Meeting', looking at key priorities for SLC and our school for the final term.
- Our Nursery Staff participated in the 'Learning for Sustainability Network Event' to keep up-to-date on how we can promote sustainability within our nursery environment.

## Nursery Update



April has been a quick month within our nursery! This month's 'Rhyme of the Month' is the 'Rainbow Song' and our 'Book of the Month' is 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We are continuing to issue our 'SIMOA' home-school link bag to encourage our children to risk assess and think about their own safety. Please let us know what you think about the various home-link resources by either filling in the feedback forms provided and encouraging your child to draw a picture or by emailing a photograph to [gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk). We kindly ask that you return the bags after your allocated time so that the bags can be issued to the next child in the group.

This month the 'Tiny Talking Team' have discussed what songs they would like to perform at our Graduation show and all of the children will be included by voting for their favourites. Rehearsals will be starting soon!

This term, our children who will be moving on to primary school in August will be focusing on getting ready for their transition to school. For children who will be attending Loch PS in August, this will include some joint events with children from Springlaw Nursery who will also be attending Loch PS. These events will include:

- A playtime visit to see and explore the playground on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.
- A joint assembly with Miss Simpson (HT) in our assembly hall on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

These joint events will provide the children with opportunities to build friendships and support their transition to school.

Within the nursery, we will also be using the story, 'The Colour Monster Goes to School', to help all of our pre-schoolers to explore their feelings about starting school. Each pre-schooler will have the opportunity to take a bookbag home for a week and we encourage you to explore this story and the resources to

support and prepare your child for their transition.

Parental Engagement Week begins w/c 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and Mrs McKee will be holding one of her fun BookBug sessions on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025. If you wish to come along, a sign-up sheet will be available in the cloakroom and we encourage you to join in this excellent event!

Our Forest Adventures sessions are finished for this year. If your child has not yet attended a session, these will resume in September. In the meantime, we will be organising a couple of 'Forest Adventures - A Walk in the Woods' sessions for you to come along to with your child. These will be themed on our 'Book of the Month', 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. A poster will be put up in the cloakroom soon. Please sign up if you wish to attend.

With the weather changing and with hopefully more sun, we kindly ask you to apply sun cream to your child prior to arrival to nursery and to provide your child with sun cream that staff can reapply throughout the day. Each child should have their own sun cream, and these will be stored in their individual peg bags or the suncream basket in the cloakroom. As the children are outdoors each day, it is important to ensure they remain safe in the sun!

We also kindly ask that you provide a change of clothes for your child if possible, in case of emergency, and that any borrowed items are returned to the nursery as soon as possible. Donations of clothes that your child has outgrown would be greatly appreciated for our preloved rail which is available in the cloakroom to encourage recycling and sustainability.

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.

## 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**

**Get the App!**

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## GOOD NEWS!

The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Aaron Lafferty, Ciaran Lithgow, Scott McEwan and Amelia Murphy-Crawford, all P7, for presenting our very first 'Kids Takeover Assembly'. This was a great assembly led by the children and Miss Simpson greatly enjoyed being an audience member!
- Cydney Codona, P1, for very impressive writing.

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

- John Beaton, P7, for taking care of a Primary 1 child.
- Kyle Beaully, P7, for being a fantastic helper in the lunch hall.

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:

- Callum McConnell, P6, for placing 1<sup>st</sup> in his Drama competition.
- Jack McFarlane, P6, for placing 1<sup>st</sup> in his Drama competition.
- Zoey Daly, P6, for placing 1<sup>st</sup> in her Drama competition.
- Katy McFarlane, P3, for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in her Drama competition.
- Lily Macrae, P2, for taking part in Boxing training.
- Lola Macrae, P6, for taking part in Boxing training.



## There's Lots Going On At Loch!

- Before the Spring Break, we had a very special visit from the Easter Bunny. A big 'thank you' to our 'Friends of Loch' for the Easter Eggs for all of our school and nursery children!
- Our Primary 5-7 Dance Club performed with confidence at the SLC Dance Festival on 2.4.25. We are so proud of the hard work and dedication that each child showed on the stage!
- We enjoyed a wonderful whole school assembly to celebrate Miss Chisholm's retirement on 3.4.25. Miss Chisholm had a big surprise and truly appreciated celebrating with everyone.
- Primary 1 enjoyed welcoming their parents/carers to their class showcase on 4.4.25 where they were able to showcase their learning and participate in some fun activities.
- Miss Simpson attended the S6 Graduation at Cathkin High School on 23.4.25 to see some of our former pupils graduate. This was an extremely proud moment to witness the successes of our formal pupils!
- Primary 1 pupils have started their after-school club Multi-Sports sessions with the Active Schools team.
- Mrs Smith attended the 'Rutherglen 900' meeting to see how Loch PS can be involved in these fantastic celebrations.
- Primary 5 participated in their 'Buddying' workshop and Primary 7 participated in an 'Its Your Move' workshop with the Reachout Team and pupils at St. Anthony's PS on 29.4.25.
- 4 pupils from Primary 4 attended the SLC Tennis Tournament with Mrs Munro on 29.4.25 and represented the school very well.
- Primary 2/3 enjoyed participating in the Tennis Festival on 30.4.25.
- Primary 1 and 6 enjoyed a class trip to Dynamic Earth on 30.4.25.
- All children enjoyed a 'Stop Food Waste Theme Day Menu' for their lunch on 30.4.25.
- 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

- The school will be closed to all children on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.
- The school will be closed on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 for the May day holiday.
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May will be a 'DRESS DOWN DAY'. We are kindly asking that if possible, when your child comes dressed down, they bring a donation for our TOMBOLA that will be at our 'Fun in the Sun' event. These items could include sweets, toys, gifts, toiletries and any other unopened items suitable for our stall. We greatly appreciate your support in helping us prepare for this fun event!
- Our next 'Friends of Loch' meeting will take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 for the May weekend on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2025.
- Our 'Fun in the Sun' event will take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Further details will be issued soon.
- The school will close for the summer holidays on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 1:00pm.

## School Contact Details

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