



August 2025 Newsletter

Welcome Back! 😊

It has been lovely to see everyone back together again after the summer holidays! We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the year ahead.

A warm welcome to all of our new children and their families who have started at Loch PS and Nursery Class this session!

Welcome to Miss Reilly and Mrs Heidinger who have joined the teaching staff this year.

The classes and staffing for session 2025 - 2026 are as follows:

Primary 1 - Mrs Roy

Primary 1/2 - Mrs Smith

Primary 2/3 - Miss Reilly and Mrs Graham

Primary 3/4 - Mrs Campbell

Primary 4 - Mrs Kennedy

Primary 5 - Mrs Henderson

Primary 6 - Miss Stewart

Primary 7 - Mrs Barrett and Mrs Heidinger

Mrs Burns, Mrs Graham and Mrs Heidinger will be working across all classes. Mrs Burns will also work within our Sunshine Room.

Our Nursery Staff for session 2025 -2026 are:

Nursery Team Leader - Mrs Thomson

Early Years Workers - Mrs Barrett, Miss Dowling, Miss Equi, Mrs Main, Mrs McKee, Miss McKenzie

Early Years Support Assistant - Mrs Everett

We also look forward to welcoming Mrs Robson to our Early Years team very soon.

Our Support Staff for session 2025 - 2026 are:

Team Leaders - Mrs Robertson and Mrs Byrne
Support Staff - Mrs Cavin, Mrs Docherty, Miss Marshall, Mrs McCaffrey, Mrs McDonald, Miss McMillan, Mrs Peters, Mrs Pettigrew and Mrs Ritchie

School hours are as follows:

- School day: 9:00am - 2:55pm
- Break: 10:35am - 10:45am
- Lunch: 12:15pm - 1:00pm

Nursery hours are as follows:

- Nursery day: 9:00am - 3:00pm
- Lunch: 11:30am - 12:00noon

Uniform:

It is great to see so many of our children looking very smart in their new uniforms. Our school uniform colours are **navy blue and gold.**

We encourage wearing school uniform as it shows a sense of pride in being part of TEAM LOCH. Parents/carers can purchase the uniform from most supermarkets/high street stores or badged items can be ordered on the website - www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com

Please note badged uniforms are not required. We also have a nursery uniform which consists of a plain yellow polo shirt This can be worn with leggings/trousers/shorts.

We kindly ask for donations of any school uniform items such as polo shirts, jumpers, shirts, cardigans, trousers, skirts and pinafores that your child may have grown out of that are in good condition for our school uniform donation box. Families who require support with uniform are encouraged to contact the school and we will do our best to help.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NAME ALL BELONGINGS AND ITEMS OF CLOTHING.

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.

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.parentsportal.scot to check your child's attendance.

School Improvement



Our School Improvement Plan priorities for this session are:

- To raise attainment in Literacy.
- To raise attainment in Numeracy.
- To continue to incorporate innovative approaches to Curriculum Development.

Our school maintenance agenda priorities include:

- To continue to embed nurturing approaches across the whole school and within targeted nurture group sessions as we work towards gaining our next Attachment Pledges.
- To continue to implement the 'Outdoor Play and Learning' (OPAL) Playtime Project, allowing children to be more engaged in activities and enhancing positive peer relationships.
- To continue to promote excellent attendance.
- To continue to review and monitor the impact of our 'Promoting Positive Relationships Policy', ensuring effective implementation and improved health and wellbeing.
- To enhance and promote increased parental engagement opportunities.

Our Nursery Improvement Priorities for this session are:

- To promote the development of Literacy across the playroom.
- To promote the development of Numeracy across the playroom.
- To ensure a nurturing approach is embedded at all times throughout the nursery playroom to promote the wellbeing of all.

Our nursery maintenance agenda priorities include:

- To enhance children's engagement and motivation for learning by using responsive planning and a range of approaches including Outdoor Learning and STEM, encouraging the children to take a lead role in their learning to build skills for learning, life and work.
- To enhance and promote increased parental engagement opportunities.
- To continue to promote recycling and sustainability within our nursery environment.

More information on our priorities along with our Standards and Quality Report can be found on our school website.

Vision and Values

At Loch Primary School and Nursery Class, it is important for all stakeholders to work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for our learners.

Our school **Vision** is: **TEAM LOCH**

Together

Everyone

Achieves

More

Learning

Opportunities

Create

Happiness



Our school **Values** that we all strive to be are:

Nurturing, **Happy**, **Welcoming**, **Achieving**,
Respectful and **Inclusive**

Our **Aims** for our learners are:

- Everyone feels happy, healthy and nurtured.
- Learners are supported and challenged to achieve success across the curriculum and reach their full potential.

School Chaplaincy Team

Our Chaplaincy Team continues this year with Aquila Singh and Ross Murray (Reachout Trust). Laura Hutchinson, Jamie Gurling and Euan Cairns continue to work in the Reachout Trust team this session. Our Chaplaincy Team will provide input at assemblies throughout the year focusing on different themes through different Bible stories. All dates and themes are detailed on the school website. The team will also carry out various workshops throughout the year including 'Boomerang' (P5), 'Christmas Unwrapped' (P6), 'Easter Code' (P7), 'It's Your Move' (P7) and 'Buddying' (P5). If you have any other questions about this programme or you do not want your child to participate, please contact the school office on 0141 634 7217.

Nursery Update



We are delighted to welcome all of our returning children and our new starts to our nursery! We have been busy settling back in and our returning children have been supporting their new friends and helping them to learn the nursery rules and routines such as snack, hand washing, tidy up time, using kind hands, and helping others.

At Loch PS Nursery Class we strive to provide a nurturing environment and over the next few weeks we will be focussing on the children's health and wellbeing through the topics of 'All About Me' and 'My Feelings'. We would greatly appreciate if everyone could send in or email a photograph of your family to Mrs Thomson at gw10thomsondeirdre@glow.sch.uk. This will allow the children to share and talk about it with their group, and we can then use these in our 'Our Families' wall display.

Due to new guidance issued by the Care Inspectorate, we are no longer able to accept cakes and sweets to celebrate children's birthdays. Staff will continue to ensure that the children's special days are celebrated within the nursery with their friends.

We will be restarting our 'Forest Adventures' in early September. Each term a group of 6 children will be given the opportunity to take part in a 5-week programme of learning in the forest area close to the school. If your child will be taking part in our first cohort, you will receive a permission slip which must be returned prior to the start date. Parents/carers of the children taking part will be invited to the final session to come along and see all of the wonderful learning taking place.

As you know, Outdoor Learning is encouraged every day, therefore we kindly ask that your child has a change of clothes available in case they get wet or muddy and that they are wearing appropriate clothing for playing outdoors in all weathers. During sunny weather we kindly ask you to apply sun cream to your child prior to arrival at nursery and to provide your child with sun cream that staff can reapply throughout the day if required. Your child's sun cream will be stored within their individual bags. Please ensure that all of your child's clothing items and belongings are clearly labelled with their name.

GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Primary 6 for being fantastic buddies to the Primary 1 children.
- Callum McConnell, P7, for being an exceptional lunchtime helper.
- Huey Wilson, P7, for showing a positive attitude in school.

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

- Oliver O'Mailley, P2, for being a wonderful role model and kind friend.
- Georgia Wright, P4, for always helping to keep the classroom tidy.
- Orla Flood and Lacey Crichton, both P5, for helping the Primary 1 children.
- Ava Stewart, P6, for showing a responsible attitude.

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.

New Facebook Group



We are delighted to share that following the closure of our Twitter (X) account, we now have a new Facebook account - Loch Primary School and Nursery. Use the QR code below or search for us on Facebook. Due to this being a private account, you will be asked questions before your request is accepted.



Photograph Permissions



We love to share lots of photographs of our children's learning in their classes/nursery along with achievements on to our website and Facebook page. Please inform the school immediately if you **DO NOT** wish your child's photograph to be uploaded.

'Nut Free' School



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.** This includes items such as Nutella sandwiches or Kinder Buenos. Please keep this in mind when you are sending your child to school/nursery with a snack/packed lunch. If your child has an item which contains nuts, we will return this to them at the end of the school/nursery day. Thank you to everyone for your help and support with this matter.

Parents Portal App



If you have not already done so, please ensure you download the Parents Portal app. You will be able to receive information, report absences, respond to permission slips and book Parents' Evening appointments using this app.



Diary Dates



- The school will be closed on Friday 26th and Monday 29th September for the September Weekend holiday.
- The school closes for the October Week on Monday 13th October - Friday 17th October.
- The school will be closed to children on Monday 10th November for an inservice day.
- The school closes for the Christmas holidays on Friday 19th December at 2:30pm. The school will re-open on Monday 5th January 2026.

Please check our school website regularly and if you do not already do so, please follow us on our new Facebook page.

School Contact Details



Head Teacher: Dawn Simpson

Telephone: 0141 634 7217

E-Mail: gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

School website: <https://www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/>

Facebook: Loch Primary School and Nursery

