



September 2025 Newsletter

Staffing Update

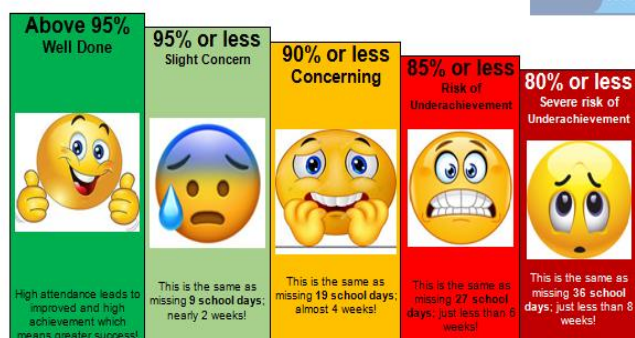
I have been asked by South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) to support at another primary school within SLC over the next few weeks in the absence of their Head Teacher. I will continue to work between both schools and will be in regular contact with Mrs Munro. This will be a seamless transition for the children and I look forward to being back at Loch PS full time 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

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Right to an Education (Article 28)

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 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.

Further advice can be found in our parent information leaflet on our website -

http://www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/index_177_2002852574.pdf

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. Thank you to everyone for your help and support with this matter.

When dropping off/picking up your child up from school or nursery, please note that no dogs are allowed within SLC school and nursery grounds. This includes within the school gates at the rear of the school and into the school car park at the front of the school. We kindly ask all parents/carers to keep your dog on a lead at the pick-up/drop off points and for any dog fouling to be picked up by the owner. We appreciate your support with this matter.

School Improvement

- Mrs Munro attended the Early Learning and Childcare Head Teacher Forum and Miss Simpson attended the Early Years' Additional Support Needs Coordinators' Meeting to keep abreast of new developments within Early Years.
- All Teaching Staff attended the first 3 sessions of our Numeracy training to develop knowledge and understanding of the Numeracy VCPA (Verbal, Concrete, Pictorial, bstract) approaches. This will support our School Improvement work.
- Mrs Thomson attended 'Core Continuous Provision' training to support our planning and learning provision within our nursery.
- Miss Simpson attended the Head Teacher Inclusion Conference to further develop our practice in this area.
- Mrs Munro attended the ICT Coordinators' Meeting to look at new technology developments within SLC.
- Miss Stewart attended the SLC Numeracy Coordinators' Meeting to keep abreast of all new developments within Numeracy.

- Mrs Barrett attended a Primary 7 network meeting at Cathkin High School to discuss our Listening and Talking work across the schools, sharing practice and developing new approaches.
- Mrs Smith and Mrs Henderson attended the 'Rutherglen 900' meeting, looking at how Loch PS will be involved in these very special celebrations.
- Mrs McKee attended 'Storytelling' training, looking at how we can enhance this practice within our nursery.

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.



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.



Saint Phnx 'Happy Place' Workshop

Primary 6 and Primary 7 had great fun participating in the 'Happy Place' workshop with one of Loch's favourite bands, Saint Phnx.

By providing a safe space for children to express their emotions through art and music, the workshop aims to promote mental health awareness and empower young individuals to find their own happy place. Through a series of interactive activities, discussions, and music, the workshop aims to provide participants with tools to help manage and understand their emotions, and promote positive mental well-being in a safe and supportive environment.

This was a fantastic opportunity and everyone greatly enjoyed taking part in this wonderful experience!



Nursery Update



This month we have been delighted to welcome all of our new starts who are settling in well and enjoying exploring our nursery! The children have been busy focusing on developing their sharing and turn taking skills in all areas of the nursery. We have also been learning about each other's families and learning about the seasons by preparing our planters for the winter. The children have been enjoying learning outside in our nursery garden in all weathers and have access to sand and water play every day. We kindly ask that children wear appropriate clothing for the colder weather to allow them to continue to enjoy the outdoors and that you provide a change of clothing and indoor shoes in case they get wet or dirty to allow for easy changing.

This month we are delighted to see the return of our 'Rhyme of the Month' and 'Book of the Month' initiatives to further develop our children's Literacy skills. Each month we will focus on a book and a rhyme within the nursery. Activities will be sent home along with the home-link learning book bags which will contain a copy of the story along with linked games. Please note that these must be returned after a week to allow all children in the nursery to have a turn at taking the bag home. This month our book has been 'Little Red Riding Hood' and our rhyme has been 'Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes'. We would love to hear about our children's wonderful home learning. We would greatly appreciate if you could complete the feedback forms and email/provide photos which we will add to our display walls and the children's Learning Journals.

We have also been excited to see the return of our 'Forest Adventures' programme this month. Over the session, each child will participate in this programme, providing them with the opportunity to develop their learning and skills in the outdoors. This will include assessing and managing risk, working with a team, exploring and learning about nature and developing their communication and social skills.

SIMOA is a Care Inspectorate initiative based to raise awareness and act responsibly to safeguard, protect and support children's wellbeing. We use 'SIMOA' the elephant plushie and various activities and stories to encourage the children to explore and focus on themes about keeping ourselves safe within the nursery and at home. Each day the children help to risk assess the nursery and our outdoor area. It is important that children can't leave an area without staff or parents/carers. Therefore, we would appreciate when exiting the nursery, that you could discourage the children from pressing the green exit buttons to ensure their safety at all times.

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 1.

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

KATRINE: Lucas Arnold and Myla Murray

NESS: Lola Macrae and Huey Wilson

LOMOND: Harper MacDonald and Sienna McDonald

TAY: Lucy Potts and Mason Wilson

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

KATRINE: Kaidan O'raw and Jaxon Porter

NESS: Daisy Cartwright and Connor McGahey

LOMOND: Olivia Dumbreck and James Junior Duffin

TAY: Callum Hely and Lukas MacAree

Chaplaincy Team Update



Our Chaplaincy Team continues this year with Aquila Singh and Ross Murray (Reachout Trust). Ross will also be joined by Laura Hutchinson, Jamie Gurling and Jenna Winters within the Reachout Team. They will provide input at assemblies throughout the year focusing on different themes through different Bible stories. 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), 'Buddying' (P5) and their new workshop 'Bible Alive' (P5).

Barnardo's Update



Fiona Bartholomew (Family Support Worker) has returned from maternity leave. We would like to say a big 'thank you' to Dorise Campbell for the invaluable support she provided to families over the last couple of years. We would also like to welcome Theresa Robertson (Family Support Worker) who is joining our team and working with some families.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!



- Primary 5 are enjoying participating in the Youth Music Initiative programme.
- Primary 6 continue to attend their weekly swimming lessons every Tuesday.
- Primary 7 have begun their Cathkin High School transition process and enjoyed attending the CHS Mini Sports Festival.
- Primary 4-5 After School Club is currently underway with Active Schools.
- P1-4 Childsmile Fluoride Varnishing took place on 11.9.25.
- We celebrated some great news about two of our former pupils who won the SLC Gritter Naming Competition with their fantastic names, 'Chilli Connelly' and 'Taylor Drift' being used on two gritters this winter!
- School photos have taken place.
- Primary 1 have had their photograph taken for the Glasgow Times. We look forward to seeing it in the paper very soon!
- Our first committee meetings took place this month with all classes being allocated a specific committee to work in to develop their leadership skills:
 - *Primary 1, Primary 1/2 and Primary 2/3 - Health Committee
 - *Primary 3/4 and Primary 4 - Charities Committee
 - *Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7 - Social Enterprise Committee
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has been on 'Friendship', committee feedback, input from our Chaplaincy Team about 'Harvest' and celebrating our weekly achievements and awards!
- Our classes have all been very busy and some of this great work has been shared on our Facebook page!

GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Primary 6 and 7 for excellent participation and representing the school very well during the 'Happy Place' workshop.
- Noah Hardie, P2, for always displaying a great attitude at school.
- Halle Leonard, P7, for being a great role model in the playground for younger peers.

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

- Aria Lowe, P1, for taking care of a peer in the playground.
- Cain Parker, P4, for looking after a peer when they were upset in the playground.
- Lucas Hannah, P2, for showing others how to evacuate safely during the fire drill.

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. This month we have heard from:

- Halle Leonard, P7, for placing 3rd in her Gymnastics competition.
- Jack McFarlane, P7, for performing a solo in his Drama competition.
- Katy McFarlane, P4, for winning 1st place at her Drama competition, 'star performer' for SODA and 'dancer of the week' for SHINE.
- William Devlin, P3, for winning a trophy for his lyrical dancing.

Diary Dates



- The 'Social Enterprise Committee' have organised a sponsored 'Glow Disco' on Friday 10th October. Children can wear bright clothes to school on this day.
- 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.

For more details on events happening within the school, please see our School Events Planner on our school website.

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



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