



October 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

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 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

School Improvement



- Mairead Maxwell (ELC Locality Manager) visited our nursery to discuss our priorities for the session.
- Mrs Thomson attended ASD Training for Early Years and Care Inspectorate Training to support our practice within the nursery.
- Mrs Barrett and Miss MacKenzie attended 'Adobe Express at Early Level' training to develop their knowledge and skills in using this resource.
- Mrs Munro has met with all teaching staff to discuss additional support needs and paperwork/interventions to be put in place to support and challenge our learners.
- Miss Simpson has met with all teaching staff to discuss curricular planning for this session to ensure progression and the needs of all children are met across the curriculum.
- Miss Equi attended a UNCRC Showcase to support our work on Children's Rights within our nursery.
- Miss Simpson attended the 'Primary Head Teacher's Network' and 'Head Teacher's Business Meeting', to keep updated on all new South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) strategies and initiatives.
- Our nursery staff attended 'Early Years Autism Awareness' training.
- All teaching staff attended the next session of our Numeracy training to develop our knowledge and understanding of the Numeracy VCPA (Verbal, Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract) approaches.
- Miss Simpson attended the 'Child Protection Coordinator's Briefing', to keep abreast of all new information to support this role.

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.

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

Following the closure of our Twitter (X) account, we 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.



Participatory Budgeting

We have now consulted all stakeholders including pupils, parents/carers and staff on how we should spend 8% of our PEF budget. **The chosen item with the most votes was to fund school trips and events for all pupils.** This work is already underway and we will continue to keep everyone up-to-date with our progress. A big 'thank you' to everyone who voted!

SLC Health and Wellbeing Survey for P5-P7 Children

South Lanarkshire Council is planning to undertake a Health and Wellbeing (HWB) survey for children in November and December 2025. SLC are conducting this survey to get to know more about the HWB of children in SLC. The aim of the survey is to allow SLC to:

- Collect information about the HWB of children across SLC.
- Ensure children's voices and experiences are taken into account when planning future changes.
- Give Head Teachers information to improve the HWB support they give to children.
- Make sure our services are meeting the needs of children and young people.

SLC are asking children and young people from P5 to S6 to take part in the survey. This will help us to make sure their voices are heard. To allow your child to participate, parents/carers of P5, P6 and P7 pupils should sign the consent form via Parents Portal or the paper copy provided. The surveys will commence in classes w/c Monday 4th November 2025. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Nursery Update



We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new full-time member of staff Mrs Robson (formerly Miss Simeon). Mrs Robson spent some time with us last year and is delighted to be returning to Loch permanently and joining the Bumblebees group.

October has been a fun and busy month! Before the October break we celebrated 'Parental Engagement Week' and we were delighted that so many parents/carers were able to come to our 'Stay and Play' and 'Bookbug' sessions. We hope you enjoyed these sessions and found the demonstration about how 'Language land' helps children's Literacy development and talking and listening skills interesting and informative. Please let us know if there are any other topics you would like us to focus on during future 'Stay and Plays'.

This month we have focused on a variety of topics including the seasons, Diwali, and nurture using the 'Colour Monster' stories to continue to support the children with turn taking and sharing. We have continued with our focus 'Book of the Month', "Little Red Riding Hood", and our 'Rhyme of the Month', "Rolling Like a Pumpkin". We hope you have all been enjoying sharing the story bookbag, rhyme and activities at home with your child and we would love to receive your feedback, photos and comments through the evaluation forms, by email or by filling in one of our comment speech bubbles available on our notice board in the cloakroom. Remember to check out the school's Facebook feed and the display boards within the nursery to see all of the great learning happening within the nursery.

We are now busy preparing for our Halloween Fun Day on Friday 31st October. This month the 'Tiny Talking Team' discussed all of the things they would like to do at the Halloween Fun Day, and they had great suggestions for games, songs, and things to eat. All of their ideas will be included in our fun day, so children are encouraged to come along in fancy dress if they wish. We will be having lots of fun with Halloween crafts and games and a special Halloween party snack.

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. We would greatly appreciate any donations of clothes aged 3-6 years for the nursery supply of spare clothes. We also kindly ask those bringing packed lunches to include a cold/ice pack within their lunch box to ensure these remain cool and fresh until lunchtime.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!



- Primary 5 are continuing to enjoy the Youth Music Initiative programme.
- Primary 6 continue to attend their weekly swimming lessons every Tuesday.
- Primary 6-7 After School Club is currently underway with Active Schools.
- Our Primary 7 children and parents/carers attended an information session on 1.10.25 about our upcoming residential trip to Inverclyde.
- Our Primary 1 Class Showcase with parents/carers took place on 3.10.25.
- Primary 7 participated in a transition assembly with staff from Cathkin High School on 3.10.25.
- Primary 3/4 enjoyed their class trip to Vikingar on 7.10.25.
- Primary 5 have been enjoying PE sessions led by Cathkin High School students.
- Primary 5 participated in a 'Boomerang' workshop about resilience with the Reachout Trust Team at St. Anthony's PS on 8.10.25.
- Nursery Childsmile visit took place on 10.10.25.
- Primary 5 have been participating in 'Bible Alive' weekly workshops with the Reachout Trust Team.
- Representatives from Primary 5, 6 and 7 attended the SLC Athletics Competition on 24.10.25 and performed very well when competing against other Cambuslang and Rutherglen schools.
- Our 'Friends of Loch' organised a very successful Halloween Disco on 27.10.25. A big 'thank you' to everyone who supported at this event and helped to make it a great success!
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has been on 'Teamwork', 'Happiness', 'Attachment', and celebrating our weekly achievements and awards!

GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Alex Knop, P3, for always displaying wonderful manners.
- Primary 5, for excellent participation and representing the school at the Boomerang Reachout Trust workshop.
- Gary Allison, P4, for showing an impressive attitude.

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

- Olivia Dumbreck, P6, for always showing a responsible attitude.
- Gracie-May Donaldson, P3, for making up playground games and including everyone.
- Lexi Welsh-McNay, P5, for looking after her friend who was injured.

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:

- Alfie Hart, P3, for winning medals at Tae Kwon Do.
- Katy McFarlane, P4, for winning 2nd place for her Drama group performance.
- Jack McFarlane, P7, for winning 1st place for his Drama group performance.

We would like to say a big 'thank you' to everyone for their generous donations for our school 'Glow Disco' on Friday 10th October. A fantastic £2154.68 was raised for our school funds and to support the running of our Christmas Fayre!



Diary Dates



- Our Primary 4 Class (Mrs Kennedy's class) Showcase will take place on Tuesday 4th November at 1:30pm.
- The 'Social Enterprise Committee' have organised a non-uniform day on Friday 7th November to help us gather donations for our Christmas Fayre. Donations, however big or small, would be greatly appreciated.
- The school will be closed to children on Monday 10th November for an inservice day.
- Our nursery Parents' Evenings will take place w/c Monday 11th November.
- Our school Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 13th November.
- 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



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