



November 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



- Miss Simpson has met with all teaching and nursery staff to discuss the progress of all children this term and to identify next steps.
- Mrs Thomson has continued to attend the programme of ASD Training for Early Years to support our practice within the nursery.
- Mrs Munro attended the ICT Coordinator training to keep abreast of all new digital updates within South Lanarkshire Council (SLC).
- Miss Simpson attended the Cathkin Learning Community Meeting to keep updated on all new SLC initiatives.
- All teaching staff completed the final session of our Numeracy training to develop our knowledge and understanding of the Numeracy VCPA (Verbal, Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract) approach. This month, Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro have enjoyed visits to all classes to see this approach in action and all the great learning taking place!
- Mrs Munro, Mrs Burns, Mrs Roy and Mrs Main attended the SLC Attachment Network to support our work in preparing for our next Attachment Pledge accreditation.
- During the inservice day our teaching staff engaged in activities to review our Curriculum Rationale and to develop our Maths Policy. Our nursery staff participated in the SLC STEM Practitioner Event and the review of our nursery Curriculum Rationale.
- Mrs Munro attended 'Child Protection Coordinator's Awareness Training', to keep updated on all information to support this role.
- Miss Equi attended Forest Kindergarten training to support the delivery of our 'Forest Adventures' work within our nursery.
- Miss Simpson attended the ELC Head Teacher's Forum to keep up-to-date on all new Early Years' initiatives.
- Mrs McKee attended Bookbug training to support the delivery of our Bookbug sessions within our nursery.

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

Please ensure you download the Parents Portal app. You will be able to receive information, respond to permission slips and book Parents' Evening appointments using this app. We also kindly ask you to keep an eye out for any notifications and to complete permission slips as soon as possible to allow your child to attend trips/events. Without permission from parents/carers, unfortunately children cannot attend out-of-school events.

parentsportal.scot

Get the App!









Uniform



At Loch PS we are very proud of our school community and we encourage all children to wear our school uniform. If you require support with this, please contact the school office. We kindly ask you to encourage your child to wear their uniform to school every day to represent being part of TEAM LOCH. We also kindly ask you to ensure all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name. We have many items in our lost property collection so if your child is missing anything, please encourage them to check this area.

Christmas Dates - 2025



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Tuesday 2 nd December	Christmas Fayre - School and Nursery (Lomond and Katrine children: 9:15am - 10:30am / Tay and Ness children: 10:45am - 12:00noon / nursery children with parent or carer during these times)
Wednesday 3 rd December	P1-P7 Pantomime at Eastwood Theatre - buses leaving at 9:15am (permission slip to be returned on Parents Portal)
Friday 5 th December	P1 and P1/2 Carol Singing at Whitlawburn Community Centre (1:00pm - further information will be issued) Bridgeton Burns Competition (after school at St Mungo's Academy)
Tuesday 9 th December	P6 Christmas Unwrapped Reachout Trust Workshop (9:30am at St. Anthony's PS) Christmas Lunch
Thursday 11 th December	Save the Children - Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 12 th December	P1-P7 Nativity and Christmas Concert (9:30am and 1:30pm - please complete ticket request form on Parents' Portal)
Monday 15 th December	Nursery Nativity (10:00am - please complete ticket request form)
Tuesday 16 th December	P4-5 Christmas Party (1:15pm - 2:45pm) (including P4 children from P3/4)
Wednesday 17 th December	P6-7 Christmas Party (1:15pm - 2:45pm)
Thursday 18 th December	P1-3 Christmas Party (1:15pm - 2:45pm) (including P3 children from P3/4) Nursery Christmas Party
Friday 19 th December	Close 2:30pm

Nursery Update



November has been a great month at Loch PS Nursery Class! We have been focussing on our 'Book of the Month', "Jack and the Beanstalk", and our 'Rhyme of the Month', "Three Crows". We have enjoyed exploring the story and the rhyme through using puppets and role play activities, taking on the role of the characters. We have been developing our independence skills through the introduction of self-selection in our art area and learning about the importance of tidying up afterwards. We have also been exploring environmental print and will be going on lots of walks around the school and local area to discover what signs and logos we can find.

Our Nurture and Language Land groups are now up and running and both meet twice weekly. Our Nurture group has been focusing on recognising and identifying emotions and feelings in themselves and others and how our emotions can affect our actions. Our Language Land group has been focussing on developing the children's turn taking, language skills and confidence through discussions, stories and songs.

Miss Equi is our children's Rights Respecting Schools' Lead within our nursery and has been introducing the concept of 'Children's Rights' to the children. As part of raising the awareness of 'Children's Rights' we have issued a questionnaire and would like to gather as many views as possible. We kindly ask that if you have not already completed a questionnaire to please do so.

While outdoors the children have been talking about the features of Autumn and how the trees are losing their leaves and the weather has been getting colder. Outdoor play is available every day to the children, and we kindly ask that children wear appropriate clothing for the colder weather including hats, scarves and gloves to allow them to continue to enjoy the outdoors. We also ask that you provide a change of clothing and shoes if possible in case they get wet or dirty to allow for easy changing.

As St Andrew's Day falls on a Sunday this year, we will be celebrating on Friday 28th November with a 'wear tartan day' (optional) and a special Scottish themed snack.

Our next Bookbug session will be on Thursday 4th December at 10:30am. If you wish to come along, please add your name to the list in the cloakroom.

We are busy preparing Christmas crafts for sale to raise funds for the nursery. Each child will make a pack containing various items and we will let you know when these are available. I am sure you will all be very impressed by the wonderful crafts our children are making!

The 'Tiny Talking Team' have been discussing what songs they would like to sing at our Nativity, and we are now busy with our rehearsals. Our Nativity will take place on Monday 15th December at 10:00am. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

There's Lots Going On At Loch!



- Primary 5 are continuing to participate in the Youth Music Initiative programme.
- Primary 6-7 After School Football Club is currently underway with Active Schools.
- Primary 5 have been enjoying PE sessions led by Cathkin High School students.
- Primary 5 have been participating in 'Bible Alive' weekly workshops with the Reachout Trust Team.
- Our Primary 4 Class Showcase with parents/carers took place on 4.11.25.
- Primary 6 and Primary 7 participated in Learner Conversations with Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro, sharing their favourite learning experiences from this year.
- We enjoyed a 'Bonfire' themed lunch menu on 5.11.25.
- A big 'thank you' to everyone who donated tombola prizes during our 'dress down day' on 7.11.25.
- Nursery Parents' Evening took place w/c 10.11.25.
- School Parents' Evening took place on 13.11.25.
- Flu vaccinations took place on 14.11.25.
- Our Primary 6 and 7 Class Showcases with parents/carers took place on 20.11.25.
- Representatives from Primary 5, 6 and 7 attended the SLC Athletics Competition on 21.11.25 and performed very well when competing against other Cambuslang and Rutherglen schools.
- All classes took part in committee time w/c 24.11.25, completing tasks for their allocated committee: Health, Social Enterprise and Charity.
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has been on preparing for our Burns Celebrations, input from the Reachout Trust team on 'Remembering', and celebrating our weekly achievements and awards!

GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- The P5-7 Athletics Team for representing Loch PS at the SLC Competition.
- Jackson Redmond, P2, for being very kind and welcoming to a new friend.
- Alfie Hart, P3, for always displaying lovely manners and a positive attitude.
- Archie Moffat, P2, for being very kind to others.

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

- Alfie Hart, P3, for always being kind and considerate of others.
- Ruby Tyler, P1, for always being kind to her friends.
- Halle Wright, P1, for being kind and taking care of her friends.
- Amanda Gilchrist, P7, for showing enthusiasm for school life and making Christmas decorations for the Fayre at home.
- Lacey Crichton, P5, for giving great ideas for the Christmas Fayre crafts.
- Brandon Weaver, P5, for being a great helper to others.

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 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:

- Niamh Lithgow, P4, for winning 'Performer of the Month' for SODA.
- Georgie MacKinnon, P4, for winning 'Performer of the Month' for SODA.
- Callum McConnell, P6, for winning 'Performer of the Month' for SODA.

- Callum McConnell, P7; Jack McFarlane, P7; Katy McFarlane, P4; and Maisie Pimlott, P6, for all performing at Disneyland Paris with SODA.
- Aaron McEwan, P6, for being 'Star of the Week' at SODA.
- William Devlin, P3, for winning trophies for his Lyrical dancing competition.

Diary Dates



- The school closes for the Christmas holidays on Friday 19th December at 2:30pm. The school will re-open on Monday 5th January 2026.
- All Christmas dates and information for events can be found on Parents Portal or on our school website.
- The school will be closed for the February weekend on Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th February and the Inservice day on Wednesday 18th February. Children will return on Thursday 19th February 2026.

Facebook Group



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



School Contact Details



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