



Loch Primary School and Nursery Class

January 2026 Newsletter



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.

What parents/carers can do to support your child's school attendance?

- Promote good habits at home to encourage good attendance.

- Work in partnership with the school to support your child's attendance.
- If you are worried about your child's attendance at school or the school have contacted you to raise awareness of attendance concerns, contact the school immediately to discuss supports available.
- Early intervention is crucial, the earlier the issue is identified and positively addressed the better the longer-term outcome for the child.

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 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 so far this session.

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.

Reviewed Nursery Curriculum Rationale

A Curriculum Rationale is a position statement that sets out the framework for meeting the needs of all learners. It ensures that everyone involved with the nursery can answer the question "what do we want for our children and how will we work together to achieve this?" We have now completed the review of our Nursery Curriculum Rationale through consultation processes with staff, children, parents/carers and other stakeholders. Our updated version can be found on our school website: https://www.loch-pri.lanark.sch.uk/index_209_3766716753.pdf

Attachment Pledge

We are delighted to be awarded our accreditation in our third South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) Attachment Pledge - 'Respond with Compassion'. This award demonstrates our continued commitment to driving forward attachment-informed, trauma sensitive practice in our school and nursery and greatly supports and recognises our nurturing school ethos!

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.

School Improvement

- Miss Simpson attended the SLC Head Teachers Meeting, Early Learning and Childcare Head Teacher's Forum and Learning Community Meeting to keep abreast of new curriculum developments and priorities within SLC and the Cathkin Learning Community.
- Miss Simpson has met with all teaching staff to discuss the progress of all children and each class' plans for the term.
- Miss Simpson met with Kirsty McNeil, our Quality Link Officer, to share the good practice and progress within Loch PS and Nursery Class.
- Mrs Munro attended the SLC ICT Coordinator's Meeting to learn about new digital developments within the Council.

'World of Work Week'

Mrs Munro organised a fantastic 'World of Work Week' which took place within the school during the week commencing 6.1.26. During this week, our Primary 1-7 children took part in a range of activities and met with a range of people to develop their understanding of different job roles as well as to enhance their skills for learning, life and work. We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to all of our visitors who were very inspiring to our children:

- Miss Reilly (Teacher)
- Firefighters from the Clydesmill Community Fire Station in Cambuslang
- Miss McKenzie (Early Years Worker)
- Andy Logue (Heart Radio Producer)
- Graham Reid (Active Schools Coordinator)
- Julie Price from the 'Teddy Bear Hospital'
- Lorna Murray (Dental Nurse)
- Whitlawburn Community Centre who kindly donated hoodies for our P7 residential!

Remember to have a look on our school Facebook page to see photographs of this fantastic week!

Nursery Update



January has been a great month in our nursery! We have enjoyed hearing about all of the things the children did over the holidays and what Santa brought them.

Over the past couple of weeks the children have been looking at the weather and have been exploring how water changes (freezing and melting) as the temperature rises and falls. We are now exploring how different forces such as the wind can make things move and have carried out lots of experiments, making aeroplanes, helicopters, and balloon rockets.

January's 'Book of the Month' has been "Rumble in the Jungle" and our 'Rhyme of the Month' is our "Children's Rights Song". We hope you are enjoying the rhyme and the book along with the associated activities for home! Please let us know what you think about the bookbag/rhyme by either filling in the feedback form and encouraging your child to draw a picture or by emailing us a photograph. We kindly ask you to return the bookbag after your allocated time to allow us to issue the bag to the next child.

The children have been focusing on risk assessing and keeping safe within the nursery and in the garden area with the help of SIMOA the elephant. This is linked to the Care Inspectorate SIMOA campaign to raise awareness and act responsibly to safeguard, protect and support children's wellbeing.



To reinforce the children's learning from nursery, we will be issuing SIMOA home-link bags.

The bag contains a SIMOA the elephant plushie and various activities and stories to allow the children to continue to explore the themes around safety that we have been focusing on within the nursery. Every Friday one child will have the opportunity to take SIMOA home. We kindly ask you to ensure you return SIMOA and the bag before the following Friday to allow staff to prepare the bag to be given to the next child. We hope you will find this resource helpful in raising awareness of safety and risk and would appreciate any feedback you can give.

This month the 'Tiny Talking Team' have been discussing 'bucket filling' and what the rewards should be when we have filled our bucket for being helpful and kind in nursery. Suggestions have included stickers, toys, and parties. We will ask the children to vote for their favourite rewards, and the results will be displayed on our 'bucket filling' wall and 'Tiny Talking Team' board.

Parental Engagement Week took place w/c 19.1.26. We were delighted so many parents/carers were able to attend our 'Stay and Play', the 'Robert Burns' themed 'Bookbug' session with Scottish stories, rhymes and songs and our 'Nursery Natter'. We appreciated all of the feedback given!

Our next 5-week block of 'Forest Adventures' will begin after the February break on Monday 24th February 2026. Information and permission slips will be issued soon for those who will be attending.

The children continue to have access to the outdoors and water play each day. To support us with this, we kindly ask you to provide a change of clothes and to ensure your child is wearing appropriate clothing to enable them to stay warm and well when out in the colder weather.

Bridgeton Burns Competition



As well as competing in the poetry category of the Bridgeton Burns Competition, we also submitted entries into the Art and Newsdesk categories. We were delighted to hear the following great news:

Primary 1 & 2 Art Category:

- 2nd Place - Alex Syme (P2)
- 3rd Place - Brooke McKnight (P2)
- Highly Commended - Alisha Kennedy (P2) and Willow Haughian (P2)

P3-5 Art Category:

- Highly Commended - Jorgie Porter (P3), Gracie-May Donaldson (P3), Blake McEwan (P4), Emilia Myslicki (P4), Lena Lewicki (P5) and Rayyan Shahid (P5)

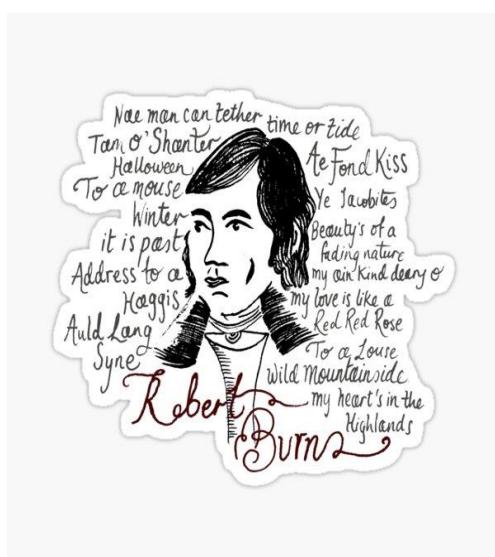
P6-7 Art Category:

- 2nd Place - Katie Love (P6)
- Highly Commended - Daisy Cartwright (P6) and Lucy Potts (P7)

Newsdesk Category:

- 1st Place - Emily Bell (P7)
- 2nd Place - Lucy Potts (P7)
- 3rd Place - Halle Leonard (P7)

A big 'congratulations' to everyone for their fantastic achievements!



Primary 7 Residential



Our Primary 7 children enjoyed a very successful residential trip to Inverclyde on 19.1.26 - 21.1.26. They had great fun participating in a range of activities including archery, rock climbing, lacrosse, pickleball, dance, gymnastics, nightline, inclusion games, den building and UV dodgeball. The children also enjoyed a disco and some delicious ice cream from Nardini's! Miss Simpson, Mrs Barrett and Ross (Reachout Trust) were so proud of the children's attitudes, behaviour and effort throughout the trip!



Primary 4-6 Benedetti Residency Session



Primary 3/4, Primary 4, Primary 5 and Primary 6 participated in an excellent Benedetti Foundation Residency Session on 20.1.26. Loch PS was chosen as 1 of 6 schools in SLC to host this fantastic opportunity! The children were able to engage in high-energy music activities, develop their understanding of core musical skills and develop teamwork, listening skills and creativity.



GOOD NEWS!

The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Lacey Crichton, P5, for being a positive role model to others.
- Primary 6 for their enthusiasm and participation during Sidekicks training.
- Primary 7 for their great participation and behaviour at their residential.
- James Junior Duffin, P6; Brody Greig, P6; Amanda Gilchrist, P7, and Hollie Redmond, P6, for their fantastic performance at the Rutherglen 900 Launch event.

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

- Niamh Lithgow, P4, for being kind and caring to an injured peer.
- Aiyra Ashraf, P4, for always keeping the classroom tidy.
- Carson Waddell, P2, for taking care of an injured peer.
- Katy McFarlane, P4, for being very kind and helpful to a peer.

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:

- Katy McFarlane, P4, for being 'Dancer of the Week' at her Dance class.
- Callum McConnell, P7, for being 'Star of the Week' at Drama.
- Jack McFarlane, P7, for being 'Star of the Week' at Drama.
- Reuben Pimlott, P2, for being 'Player of the Week' at Football.
- Neva Dimitrijevic, P2, for taking part in her Dance classes.
- Amber Smith, P1, for performing in her Dance show.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!

- Primary 1 enrolment week took place w/c 5.1.26. If you have a child who is due to start Primary 1 in August, please ensure you enrol your child as soon as possible if you have not already done so.
- Primary 6 have been enjoying weekly Rugby PE Sessions with our Rugby coaches.
- Primary 6 worked with the Active Schools team to train to become 'Side Kicks' trainers and are now successfully leading some fantastic lunchtime sports clubs with P2/3 and P3/4!
- Primary 5 have completed their 'Bible Alive' weekly workshops with the Reachout Trust Team.
- Our Primary 1/2 Class Showcase with parents/carers took place on 13.1.26.
- Committee time took place w/c 19.1.26 with all of the children working together in their committees to drive forward improvements.
- Catch Up Flu Vaccinations took place on 9.1.26 for the nursery and 19.1.26 for the school.
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro met with all Primary 1 children to participate in Learner Conversations, looking at their work and hearing all about the great learning taking place in these classes!
- Primary 1 height and weight checks took place on 19.1.26.
- Representatives from Primary 5, 6 and 7 attended the SLC Athletics Competition on 23.1.26 and placed 8th when competing against other Cambuslang and Rutherglen schools.
- Fluoride Varnishing for Nursery - Primary 4 took place on 27.1.26.
- Primary 5 enjoyed the Class Showcase and performing their learning from their participation in the 'Youth Music Initiative Fundamentals' programme to their families on 27.1.26.
- The Rutherglen 900 Launch event was on 29.1.26 with 4 of our pupils (James Junior Duffin, Brody Greig, Amanda Gilchrist and Hollie Redmond) selected to perform in the schools' choir. They were fantastic!
- All of our classes have continued to enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has included input from our Chaplaincy Team about 'New Beginnings', our 'Robert Burns Assembly', our aims for 2026 and celebrating our weekly achievements.

Diary Dates



- 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.
- The school will close at 2:30pm on Thursday 2nd April 2026 for the Spring break. The school will reopen on Monday 20th April 2026.
- The school will be closed on Monday 4th May 2026 for the May day holiday.
- The school will be closed to all children on Thursday 7th May 2026 for an Inservice day.
- The school will close for the May weekend on Friday 22nd and Monday 25th May 2026.
- The school will close for the summer holidays on Thursday 25th June 2026 at 1:00pm.

School Contact Details



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School website: www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

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 or search for us on Facebook. Due to this being a private account, you will be asked questions before your request is accepted.

