



February 2026 Newsletter

Staffing

Mrs Heidinger has now begun her maternity leave. We are delighted to welcome back Miss Gilliland who will be working in Primary 7 (Thursday afternoon and Friday) and across the different classes.

Attendance and Time-Keeping

Attendance at school remains a key priority 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 parents/carers can do to support your child's school attendance?

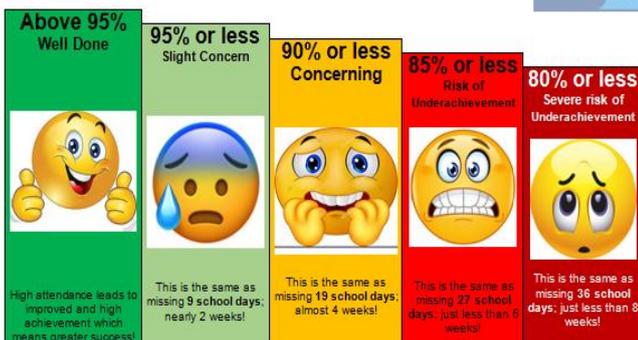
- Promote good habits at home to encourage good attendance.
- Work in partnership with the school to support your child's attendance.
- Be on time for school, even missing 10 minutes every day adds up and can negatively impact learning.
- Always let the school know before 9.30am if your child won't be in and what the reason for the absence is.
- 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.

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.

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



 Right to an Education (Article 28)

Electric Scooters



Under current Scottish law, privately owned e-scooters cannot be used on public roads, pavements, cycle paths or in any other public place. In line with the law and in order to ensure pupil and community safety, **South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) does not consent to e-scooters being brought onto or used within school grounds.** This applies to all areas of the campus, including playgrounds, paths, car parks and entrances.

School Entrance/Exit



As you know, our school entrance and exit area can get very congested due to the volume of children entering and leaving both Loch PS and St. Anthony's PS. Please note, parents/carers should not enter the school grounds and should wait beyond the large/main playground gate and only children should proceed beyond this point to the smaller gate to enter the school grounds. If parents/carers require to speak with a member of staff and they are not at the outer gate, we kindly ask parents/carers not to wait in this area and to phone the school office to share the required message. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Parent Council ('Friends of Loch')



Our numbers are extremely low which means we are at risk of not having a Parent Council for our school if numbers don't increase very soon. Our 'Friends of Loch' meet approximately once a month, representing parent views and working in partnership with myself and the staff team to achieve the best for our children. Currently, our fabulous Parent Council support with the following:

- Organise and hold after school events, including discos.
- Organise fundraising events to support the work of the school and nursery.

- Attend class outings and whole school events to allow these to go ahead (without appropriate adult supervision, this would not be possible).
- Fund resources and equipment for the school and nursery to benefit all children.
- Raise funds to allow each child to receive an Easter Egg and Christmas selection box.
- Raise funds to provide our new Primary 1 children with a tie and our Primary 7 children with their leavers' hoodies.

Without the Parent Council, none of these things would be possible. It is for this reason, we would greatly appreciate your support. If you are able to attend meetings, the remaining meeting dates for this session are:

- Monday 27th April at 6:00pm
- Monday 18th May at 6:00pm

If you are unable to attend meetings, but would be interested in helping in another way, please email our Parent Council (pc.lochprimaryschool@gmail.com).

Everyone who supports at school events such as trips, discos and fayres, requires to have a PVG Disclosure Scotland check. Please note, if you already have a PVG check for your job or another establishment, this would not be accepted. You would require a separate check for Loch PS and Nursery Class. If you would be interested in helping, please contact the school office (0141 634 7217) who will provide you with details of the PVG application process. Please note, this is an easy process and is funded by South Lanarkshire Council.

Loch PS and Nursery Class and our 'Friends of Loch' need you and your help would be invaluable in helping us to ensure this great work can continue!

School Improvement

- Miss Simpson has met with all teaching staff to discuss the progress of all children across all curricular areas and to identify next steps.
- Miss Simpson met with the Pupil Council to discuss our progress with our School Improvement Plan aim to 'raise attainment in Numeracy'. The Pupil Council commented on what they enjoy and what helps them learn in Maths which included games, challenges, the use of ICT, oral counting and the use of concrete resources.
- Miss Simpson has been working with the Cathkin Learning Community to look at planning across the different schools and to begin to develop a Mobile Device Policy which will involve consultation with all stakeholders soon.
- Miss Simpson attended the SLC Head Teacher's meetings to look at the Curriculum Improvement Cycle and what this will entail for all schools.
- Mrs Thomson attended Team Leader training and the Early Years ASN Coordinators' Meeting to keep abreast of new developments and available resources within Early Years to support our children.
- Miss Simpson enjoyed a visit to our nursery to see the good practice in place and the great learning and participation during 'Group Belonging Time'.
- During the inservice day, all teaching staff visited Carnwath PS to discuss and develop our practice when teaching reading. Our Nursery Staff participated in a review of our 'Promoting Positive Relationships Policy'/Nurture work and self-evaluation activities.
- 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.
- Mrs Munro attended the SLC ICT Coordinator's Meeting to learn about new digital developments within the Council.

- Primary 1, 4 and 7 staff met with Kirsty McNeil, our Quality Link Officer, to share the good practice and progress of our children.
- Miss Simpson has met with all nursery staff to discuss additional support needs and paperwork/interventions to be put in place to support and challenge all children in our nursery.
- Following the provision of funding for sensory resources, we are currently in the process of developing a sensory space which will be available to our learners to support as required.

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.

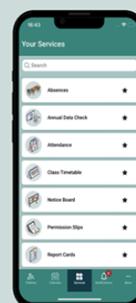
Parents Portal App



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

parentsportal.scot

Get the App!



Nursery Update



February has been a busy month in our nursery with lots of fun experiences and learning taking place!

February's 'Rhyme of the Month' has been all about 'Bucket Filling'. We use 'Bucket Filling' within the nursery to teach children about their feelings and emotions and to encourage them to help and be kind to each other. If your child is given a 'Bucket Filling' sticker, please ask them what they have done to receive it, as this will reinforce their positive behaviour and work! If you would like to use 'Bucket Filling' strategies at home and would like more information about this approach, please ask a member of our team and we will be happy to help.

Our next 'Book of the Month' will be "We're Going on a Bear Hunt" and this will be issued soon! Please let us know what you think about the bookbag/rhyme by either filling in the feedback form 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.

This month the 'Tiny Talking Team' have been discussing 'children's rights' and how all children have the right to be safe. This right is covered by various 'UN Convention on Rights of a Child (UNCRC)' articles and we have been focusing on article 31 - "I have a right to rest, relax and play". We discussed how adults should make sure children have the chance to play and relax in a safe, supportive and stimulating environment. We have been using our 'SIMOA' ('Safe, Inspect, Monitor, Observe, Act') Care Inspectorate initiative to encourage the children to risk assess our nursery and think about ways to keep themselves safe, especially with regards to road safety. Please look at our SIMOA display at our entrance to see all of the great learning taking place around this topic.

Our 'Forest Adventures' programme has restarted and will run for 5 weeks. The children are already having lots of fun in these sessions! If your child is currently attending, we look forward to welcoming you along to the session on 23.3.26 to join in and experience all of the great learning the children are taking part in each week.

We are looking forward to celebrating 'World Book Day' on Thursday 5th March. Our theme is 'Our Favourite Bedtime Stories' and the children are welcome to come to nursery dressed in their pyjamas and bring their favourite story to share with their friends.

Our next 'Parental Engagement Week' begins on Monday 9th March. This week will focus on storytelling. To support us with this theme, we would be delighted to welcome parents, carers or grandparents into the nursery to read their favourite story to the children. If you are interested in doing this, please let us know and we can arrange a time that suits you. During this week we will host a 'Stay and Play' session on 10.3.26, a 'Bookbug' session on 12.3.26 and a 'Nursery Natter' session on 13.3.26. Please refer to the 'Parental Engagement Letter' for further details.

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 indoor shoes (if possible).

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Andrew McCulloch for his kind donation which allowed waterproof shoes and clothing to be purchased for our nursery! This is greatly appreciated!

Please note that the nursery day finishes at 3:00pm and all children must be collected by this time. If you are running late, please contact the school office on 0141 634 7217 to advise of this.

GOOD NEWS! 😊

The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Kaiden Toye, P7, for being very brave and a positive role model to others.
- William Devlin, P3, for always being a positive role model to others.
- Cydney Codona, P2, for being very kind and helpful to a peer.
- Katie Love, P6, for being very kind and generous, donating resources for our school garden.

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

- Kaiden Toye, P7, for being kind and considerate by holding the doors for others.
- Zaran Khaidr, P5, for always keeping the playground tidy.
- Harry Tyrrell, P5, for keeping our school library tidy.
- Lucas Arnold, P7, for displaying lovely manners.

We were delighted to receive good news about our entries into the SLC Road Safety Calendar Competition. Halle Wright, P1; Larissa Keery, P3; and Georgie MacKinnon, P4, all received 'Highly Commended' certificates for their fabulous work!

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:

- Kaden Sohail, P1, for winning a trophy at football for great passing and scoring.
- Archie Sohail, P4, for winning a trophy at football for great passing and scoring.

- Georgie MacKinnon, P4, for being 'Performer of the Week' at Drama.
- William Devlin, P3, for winning 5th and 6th place at his lyrical dancing competition.

There's Lots Going On At Loch! 😊

- Primary 6 have continued to participate in their weekly Rugby PE Sessions with our Rugby coaches.
- Primary 6 are continuing to successfully lead some fantastic lunchtime 'Side Kicks' sports clubs with P2/3 and P3/4!
- Classes engaged in activities to raise awareness of 'Internet Safety Day' on 10.2.26.
- Pupils from Primary 6 and 7 participated in a Football Festival on 11.2.26 playing teams from St. Anthony's PS and Cathkin PS.
- Pre-school vision screening took place on 19.2.26.
- Primary 4 and Primary 5 are enjoying weekly Dance sessions led by Cathkin High School Dance Leaders.
- Primary 2 and 3 have begun their 'Multi-Sports' after school club with the Active Schools team.
- Our Parent Council ('Friends of Loch') met on 23.3.26.
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro met with all Primary 3/4 children to participate in Learner Conversations, looking at their work and hearing all about the great learning taking place in these classes!
- All of our classes have continued to enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has included input from our committees, talking about 'Resilience' and celebrating our weekly achievements.

Remember to look at our Facebook account to see all of the great learning and activities taking place at Loch!

Diary Dates



- The 'Bridgeton Burns Club' Prize Giving will take place at the Kings Park Church on Friday (27.2.26) with award winners and their parents/carers invited to attend.
- We are in the process of booking our residential for next year. Primary 6 parents/carers are invited to attend an information session at St. Anthony's PS on 2.3.26 at 3:15pm.
- We will be celebrating 'World Book Day' on Thursday 5th March. The 'World Book Day' theme for 2026 is reading for enjoyment or relaxation and encouraging others to read. Children will complete a range of reading activities and can wear their pyjamas to school on 5.3.26 if they wish.
- The 'Charity Committee' have organised a sponsored 'red themed' dance-a-thon on Friday 20th March to raise money for Comic Relief. Sponsor forms have been sent home and children are encouraged to wear red (if possible) on this day.
- Nursery Parents' Evening will take place w/c 23.3.26 and the school Parents' Evening will take place on 26.3.26. Letters will be issued and the appointment booking system will be open soon.
- 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



Head Teacher: Miss Dawn Simpson

Telephone: 0141 634 7217

E-Mail: gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

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

Facebook Group



Our Facebook account is '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.

