



April 2026 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

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.

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 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.

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.

School Improvement



- Mrs Munro attended the 'ICT Coordinators Meeting' to keep abreast of the latest digital developments within SLC.
- Mrs Munro attended the 'Middle Leaders Additional Support Needs Coordinator' training to support our work within Loch PS.
- Mrs Thomson attended 'Early Years Team Leader' training to support our practice within the nursery.
- Miss Simpson attended the 'SLC HT Meeting', looking at key priorities for SLC and our school for the final term.
- Mrs Burns, Mrs Roy and Mrs Main attended the 'SLC Attachment Network' to support our work in preparing for our next Attachment Pledge accreditation.
- Mrs McKee attended 'Bookbug' training to support the delivery of our Bookbug sessions within our nursery.

Nursery Update



We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable Easter holiday. We have been enjoying hearing about all of the adventures the children had during their holiday!

This month's 'Rhyme of the Month' is "Old MacDonald Had a Farm" and our 'Book of the Month' is "The Gingerbread Man". Please let us know what you think about the various home-link resources by either filling in the feedback forms provided or by emailing a photograph to gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk. We kindly ask that you return the bags after your allocated time so that the bags can be issued to the next child.

Our final 'Forest Adventures' group has started on Tuesday mornings. Please ensure your child is wearing long trousers on these days as this will protect their legs at the forest site. If your child is taking part this term, look out for your invite to join the final session and see all of the fantastic learning that takes place during these sessions.

This term, our children who will be moving on to primary school in August will be focusing on getting ready for their transition to school. The story "The Colour Monster Goes to School" will be used within the nursery to help all of our pre-schoolers to explore their feelings about starting school. Each pre-schooler will also take a "Colour Monster" bookbag home for a week to help support and prepare them for their transition to school.

This month the 'Tiny Talking Team' have discussed what songs they would like to perform at our Graduation show and all of the children will be included by voting for their favourites. Rehearsals will be starting soon, and we will send home the words to some of the songs to help them practice at home.

We will be celebrating 'Bookbug Week' during the w/c 18.5.26. Please keep an eye on the noticeboard for further details of all of the exciting 'Bookbug's Big Quest' themed activities planned, and sign-up if you wish to come along.

With hopefully more sun coming, we kindly ask you to apply sun cream to your child prior to arrival at nursery and to provide your child with sun cream that staff can reapply throughout the day. Each child should have their own sun cream which will be stored in their individual peg bags or the suncream basket in the cloakroom. As the children are outdoors each day, it is important to ensure they remain safe in the sun. We also kindly ask that you provide a change of clothes for your child if possible, in case of emergency, and that any borrowed items are returned to the nursery as soon as possible. Thank you for your support with this.

Health Week



During the w/c 30.3.26 all children from Primary 1 to Primary 7 participated in our annual 'Health Week'. The children participated in a range of activities including:

- Wellbeing activities such as creating a 'Gratitude Jar'
- Walk/Cycle/Scoot to school
- Class visits from Fiona Bartholomew, our Barnardo's Family Support Worker
- Whole school daily mile where each class selected their favourite music to motivate them!
- Activities focussed on the importance of sleep and strategies/routines to support
- PE activities
- Mindfulness activities
- Outdoor learning and gardening activities

Special Guests



We were delighted to welcome the Easter Bunny and 'Dougie the Pigeon' (the Rutherglen 900 Mascot) to our school this month. The Easter Bunny delivered Easter Eggs for all of the children from Nursery - Primary 7, very kindly donated by our Parent Council ('Friends of Loch'). A big 'thank you' to them!

'Dougie the Pigeon' has also been causing mischief, exploring the school, helping the Easter Bunny and promoting the Rutherglen 900 celebrations!



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.

During Breakfast Club drop-off, we kindly ask parents/carers to make use of the top car park as you enter the school grounds and to refrain from coming down to the staff car park or beyond the zebra crossing that leads to our Breakfast Club entrance. This is to ensure the health and safety of our children as this must be a safe route for them to walk and cross to enter the school building. We also kindly ask parents/carers to be mindful of their speed when driving within the school grounds/nearby areas and to be mindful of children crossing. We continue to promote road safety in school, and we greatly appreciate your support in ensuring the safety of all of our children.

Parents Portal App



Please ensure you download the 'Parents Portal' app. You will be able to receive information, check your child's attendance, respond to permission slips and book Parents' Evening appointments using this app. If you are having trouble downloading this app, please contact the school office for support.

parentsportal.scot

Get the App!

Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play



Uniform Donations



Our supply of spare clothing is running very low. If your child comes home with a change of clothes due to an accident or getting wet/muddy, we kindly ask you to wash and return the clothes to school as soon as possible to allow us to continue to be able to provide this support. We also kindly ask for donations of any school uniform items such as polo shirts, jumpers, shirts, cardigans, trousers, leggings, skirts and pinafores that your child may have grown out of that are in good condition for our school uniform supplies. Many thanks for your support with this.

GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Award this month was presented to:

- Leo Lavelle, P7, for being very kind and helpful to others.

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

- Gracie-May Donaldson, P3, for being very kind and thoughtful towards 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 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 'Performer of the Week' at Drama and placing 1st and 3rd in her Drama Competition.
- Jack McFarlane, P7, for placing 1st in both solo and group categories in his Drama competition.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!

- Representatives from Primary 5-7 are enjoying their weekly dance after school club in preparation for the 'SLC Dance Festival' at the Rutherglen Town Hall on 11.5.26.
- Pupils from the Eco Committee, Primary 1/2, Primary 3/4 and Primary 4 participated in the Rutherglen 900 Litter Pick, helping to keep our community tidy!
- Miss Simpson attended the S6 Graduation at Cathkin High School on 2.4.26 to see some of our former pupils graduate. This was an extremely proud moment to witness the successes of our former pupils, especially as it was Miss Simpson's former Primary 1 class!
- Primary 1 pupils have started their after-school club Multi-Sports sessions with the Active Schools team.
- Primary 2/3 enjoyed a class trip to the Science Centre on 22.4.26.
- Primary 5 have restarted their participation in 'Bible Alive' weekly workshops with the Reachout Trust Team.
- Our Parent Council ('Friends of Loch') meeting took place on 27.4.26.
- Primary 2/3 enjoyed welcoming their parents/carers to their class showcase on 29.4.26 where they were able to showcase their learning and participate in some fun activities.
- All children enjoyed a 'Stop Food Waste Theme Day Menu' for their lunch on 29.4.26.
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has been on our aims for the term, 'The Masked Pigeon' and celebrating our weekly achievements.
- Our award winners continue to enjoy their Hot Chocolate Fridays with Miss Simpson.

Diary Dates

- 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 Scottish Government has formally approved South Lanarkshire Council's request for an exceptional school closure on Monday 15th June 2026, in recognition of the Scotland men's national football team's success in the World Cup and the additional public holiday previously agreed by the Council. This means that all SLC schools including Loch Primary School and Nursery Class will be closed on this day.
- The school will close for the summer holidays on Thursday 25th June 2026 at 1:00pm.

School Contact Details

Head Teacher: Dawn Simpson

Telephone: 0141 634 7217

E-Mail: gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

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

Facebook: 'Loch Primary School and Nursery'

