

## May 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 on [www.parentsportal.scot](http://www.parentsportal.scot).

### 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.

When dropping off/picking up your child from school or nursery, please note that no dogs are allowed within South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) school and nursery grounds. This includes within the school gates at the rear of the school and into the school car park at the front of the school. We kindly ask all parents/carers to keep your dog on a lead at the pick-up/drop off points. We appreciate your support with this matter.

## School Improvement



- Mairead Maxwell (Early Years Quality Improvement Manager) and Kirsty McNeil (Quality Link Officer) visited the school to discuss our progress this session and our next steps for next session.
- Mrs Munro attended the 'ICT Coordinators Meeting' to keep abreast of the latest digital developments within SLC.
- During the inservice day on 7.5.26, all staff participated in self-evaluation activities, reviewing our work this year and discussing our priorities for next session, including continuing to embed good practice to raise attainment in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Mrs Thomson attended Early Years Team Leader training with Alice Sharp to support our practice within the nursery.
- Miss Simpson attended the 'SLC Head Teacher's Meeting', looking at key priorities for SLC and our school for next session.
- Miss Simpson has met with all teaching staff to discuss each class' plan for this final term and the progress made by all children this session.
- Mrs Barrett attended 'Talk for Writing' training to support the development of this writing approach within our school.
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro participated in Learner Conversations with Primary 4, looking at their jotters and discussing the great learning taking place.
- Miss Simpson attended the SLC Early Level Conference to keep abreast of the priorities for Early Level to support our work in nursery and Primary 1.
- Miss Simpson met with all nursery staff to discuss the progress made by all children this session.
- Mrs Munro met with all teaching staff to ensure appropriate intervention and challenge is in place to support all learners.
- Mrs Munro attended 'Lifelines' training to aid our work in supporting children's mental health.

## Nursery Update



May has been a fun month in our nursery where great learning and engagement has taken place! The children have been taking part in lots of activities to help our pre-schoolers prepare for their transition to school. To support this, we have been enjoying stories, songs, school role-play activities and practising our fine motor skills. We have also started issuing "The Colour Monster Goes to School" home-link bookbag to our pre-schoolers. We hope you will find this resource useful in encouraging your child to share their feelings about starting school and to help support them through this next big step in their learning journey. For those not going to school we are issuing our 'Book of the Month', "The Gingerbread Man". Please let us know what you think about the various home-link resources by either filling in the feedback form or by emailing a photograph to [gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk). We kindly ask you to return the bags after your allocated time to allow us to issue the bag to the next child in their group.

The children have all been enjoying the better weather and we have been making the most of our outdoor learning area, planting seeds in pots and in the garden. We will be learning how to take care of them over the next few weeks and hopefully our seedlings will grow into beautiful strong plants!

We had a great time celebrating 'Bookbug Week' during the w/c 18.5.26. We participated in lots of great activities organised by Mrs McKee, our Bookbug Coordinator. We enjoyed a story/rhyme themed treasure hunt, Bookbug sessions at the local library and within the nursery and Bookbug bingo at Forest Adventures. We also enjoyed when Miss Simpson, Mrs Roy and Miss Reilly from the school came along to read their favourite stories to the children! We hope you all enjoy the 'Bookbug' bags the children received to take home! A big 'thank you' goes to Mrs McKee for planning this fantastic week!

We are now busy rehearsing for the Summer Concert on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June and our Graduation which will take place on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June. All of the children voted for their favourite songs from throughout the year to include in our performances and they are very excited to perform in front of an audience!

We would like to say a big 'congratulations' to all of the children for managing to fill our playroom 'Big Bucket' by being great 'bucket fillers', showing kind and helpful behaviours. To celebrate, the children were invited to choose a reward and decided that they wanted to have a celebration party which we held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May!

With the fabulous weather, 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 sunscreen 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.

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

## End of Term Dates



<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P5 Trip - Five Sisters Zoo</li> </ul>
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P3/4 and P4 Parents Evening</li> </ul>
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rutherglen 900 Themed Lunch Menu (nursery and school)</li> </ul>
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sprint Into Summer - Parent Council sponsored event (nursery and school) - further information will be provided</li> </ul>
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P7 Cathkin High School Visit 1 (8:55am - 3:45pm)</li> </ul>
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New P1 Transition Visit 2 at Loch PS (9:30am - 10:30am)</li> <li>P7 Cathkin High School Visit 2 (8:55am - 2:55pm)</li> </ul>
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Cup Day Themed Lunch Menu (nursery and school)</li> </ul>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summer Show (9:30am and 1:30pm) - please ensure you return ticket request tear-off slip (nursery and school)</li> <li>Charity Committee organised event - Foodbank donations</li> <li>Primary 3/4 'World Cup' shop will be available at the summer show</li> </ul>
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceptional Closure - nursery and school closed</li> </ul>
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New P1 Transition Parent/Child Lunch (11:30am)</li> </ul>
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nursery Graduation (10:00am)</li> </ul>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Children can wear Scottish colours to celebrate Scotland's World Cup game if they wish (nursery and school)</li> </ul>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P1-6 'Moving on' morning - meet your new teachers</li> <li>P7 Graduation (1:30pm)</li> </ul>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>P7 End of Term Trip</li> </ul>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'World Cup Disco' (during the school day) - children can come dressed in Scottish colours if they wish (nursery and school)</li> </ul>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close at 1:00pm (nursery and school)</li> </ul>

## Parents Portal App

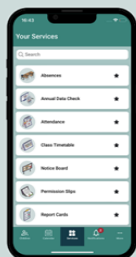


Please ensure you download the 'Parents Portal' app. You will be able to receive information, check your child's attendance, respond to permission slips and book Parents' Evening appointments using this app. If you are having trouble downloading this app, please contact the school office for support.

parentsportal.scot

Get the App!

Download on the  
App Store



GET IT ON  
Google Play



## Uniform Donations



With the end of term approaching and your child perhaps growing out of their current uniforms, we would greatly appreciate any donations of school uniform items such as polo shirts, jumpers, shirts, cardigans, trousers, leggings, skirts and pinafores that are in good condition for our school uniform supplies. Our supply of spare clothing continues to remain 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. Many thanks for your support with this.

## GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Olivia Dumbreck, P6, for being a very kind friend to others.
- Primary 6 and 7 Football Team, for great representation and teamwork at the Football Tournament.
- Primary 5-7 Dance Team, for their wonderful performance the SLC Dance Festival at the Rutherglen Town Hall.

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

- Crystal Codona, P4, for showing lovely manners when delivering a message.
- Harper MacDonald, P7, for being a great helper at Sports Day.
- Abi Royle, P6, for taking care of a peer who was hurt.

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:

- William Devlin, P4, for placing 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at his Dance competition for Lyrical and Jazz dancing and for being 'Dancer of the Year'.
- Bethany Higgins, P2, for dancing on the stage on holiday and for achieving an award at Dancing.
- Amber Smith, P1, for displaying a good attitude at Dancing.
- Mia Taylor, P2, for being 'Tumbler of the Year' at Dancing.
- Lily Macrae, P3, for being a hard worker at Dancing.
- Katy McFarlane, P4, for achieving her Level 1 Swim Award.
- Taylor Scott, P5, for being 'most improved' at Dancing.

## There's Lots Going On At Loch! 😊

- Our ICT refresh took place on 1.5.26.
- Our school 'Sports Day' took place on 6.5.26.
- Representatives from Primary 5-7 completed their weekly Dance after school club and performed with enthusiasm at the SLC Dance Festival on 11.5.26.
- Primary 1 children are enjoying their after-school club Multi-Sports sessions with the Active Schools team.
- Primary 5 have completed their participation in 'Bible Alive' weekly workshops with the Reachout Trust Team.
- Our Primary 7 pupils participated in the Cathkin High School P7 Podcast week, with all catchment schools creating and sharing their own podcast about their time at primary school. Our Primary 7 class were fantastic and received very good feedback!
- Primary 4 took part in the Rutherglen 900 flag making workshop on 11.5.26.
- Our 'Friends of Loch' (Parent Council) meeting took place on 18.5.26.
- Our new Primary 1 transition day 1 visit took place on 19.5.26.
- Primary 1 and Primary 1/2 enjoyed their class trip to the 'Riverside Museum' and 'Tall Ship' on 20.5.26.
- Primary 7 took part in the 'Its Your Move' workshop with the Reachout Trust Team at St. Anthony's PS.
- Primary 5 participated in the 'Buddying' workshop with the Reachout Trust Team at St. Anthony's PS in preparation for them becoming Primary 1 buddies next session.
- Primary 3/4 attended the 'Rutherglen Tennis Festival' on 21.5.26.
- Primary 5 had great fun on their class trip to the 'Five Sisters Zoo' on 27.5.26.
- Primary 3/4 and Primary 4 Parents' Evenings took place on 28.5.26.
- Our award winners continue to enjoy their Hot Chocolate Fridays with Miss Simpson.

## Diary Dates 📅

- Please see 'End of Term' dates on previous page and separate letter issued to all parents/carers.
- The Scottish Government has formally approved South Lanarkshire Council's request for an exceptional school closure on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 1:00pm.

## School Contact Details 📞

Head Teacher: Dawn Simpson

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E-Mail: [gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk)

School website: [www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)

Facebook: 'Loch Primary School and Nursery'

