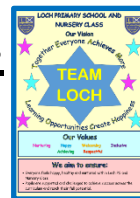




Loch Primary School and Nursery Class



August 2026 Newsletter

Welcome Back!



It has been lovely to see everyone back together again after the summer holidays! We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the year ahead.

A warm welcome to all of our new children and their families who have started at Loch PS and Nursery Class this session!

We also welcome Miss Hillon who has joined our teaching staff this year.

The classes and staffing for session 2026 - 2027 are as follows:

Primary 1 - Mrs Roy

Primary 2 - Mrs Smith

Primary 3 - Miss Reilly

Primary 4 - Miss Hudson and Mrs Henderson

Primary 5 - Miss Hillon and Mrs Kennedy

Primary 6 - Miss Stewart

Primary 7 - Mrs Barrett

Mrs Kennedy and Mrs Hall will be working across all classes. Mrs Burns will continue to work within our Sunshine Room.

Our Nursery Staff for session 2026 -2027 are:

Nursery Team Leader - Mrs Thomson

Early Years Workers - Mrs Barrett, Miss Dowling, Miss Equi, Mrs Main, Mrs McKee, Miss McKenzie, Mrs Robson

Early Years Support Assistant - Mrs Everett

Our Support Staff for this session are:

Team Leaders - Mrs Robertson and Mrs Byrne
Support Staff - Mrs Cavin, Miss Cheyne, Mrs Docherty, Miss Marshall, Mrs McCaffrey, Mrs McDonald, Miss McMillan, Mrs Peters, Mrs Pettigrew and Mrs Ritchie

School hours are as follows:

- School day: 9:00am - 2:55pm
- Break: 10:35am - 10:45am
- Lunch: 12:15pm - 1:00pm

Nursery hours are as follows:

- Nursery day: 9:00am - 3:00pm
- Lunch: 11:30am - 12:00noon

Uniform:

It is great to see so many of our children looking very smart in their new uniforms. Our school uniform colours are **navy blue and gold.**

We encourage wearing school uniform for safety and it shows a sense of pride in being part of TEAM LOCH. Parents/carers can purchase the uniform from most supermarkets/high street stores or badged items can be ordered on the website -

www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com

Please note badged uniforms are not required. We also have a nursery uniform which consists of a plain yellow polo shirt This can be worn with leggings/trousers/shorts.

We kindly ask for donations of any school uniform items such as polo shirts, jumpers, shirts, cardigans, trousers, skirts and pinafores that your child may have grown out of that are in good condition for our school uniform donation box. Families who require support with uniform are encouraged to contact the school and we will do our best to help.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO NAME ALL BELONGINGS AND ITEMS OF CLOTHING.

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.

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.

School Improvement



Our School and Nursery Improvement Plan priorities for this session are:

- To support the wellbeing, equality and inclusion of all children.
- To raise attainment in Literacy.
- To ensure outstanding learning, teaching and assessment with a key focus on the development of children's skills.

Our maintenance agenda priorities include:

- To continue to raise attainment in Numeracy, embedding the VCPA (Verbal, Concrete, Pictorial, Abstract) approach across all stages in the school and offering Numeracy opportunities across all areas of the nursery playroom and outdoors.
- To continue to promote excellent attendance, closely monitoring concerns and working collaboratively with other agencies to support identified families.
- To continue to enhance and promote increased parental engagement opportunities.
- To continue to implement the OPAL Playtime Project, allowing children to be more engaged in activities and enhancing positive peer relationships (year 2).

Our Pupil Equity Fund Improvement Priorities for this session are:

- To continue to provide nurture group support to identified children in our 'Sunshine Room'.
- To help reduce the cost of the school day for families by funding educational outings.
- To continue to provide support to families through our Barnardo's Family Support Worker.
- To continue to provide targeted Literacy and Numeracy support to identified children to address gaps in learning.

More information on our priorities along with our Standards and Quality Report can be found on our school website.

Vision and Values

At Loch Primary School and Nursery Class, it is important for all stakeholders to work together to ensure the best possible outcomes for our learners.

Our school **Vision** is: **TEAM LOCH**

Together

Everyone

Achieves

More

Learning

Opportunities

Create

Happiness



Our school **Values** that we all strive to be are:

Nurturing, **Happy**, **Welcoming**, **Achieving**,
Respectful and **Inclusive**

Our **Aims** for our learners are:

- Everyone feels happy, healthy and nurtured.
- Learners are supported and challenged to achieve success across the curriculum and reach their full potential.

School Chaplaincy Team

Our Chaplaincy Team continues this year with Ross Murray, Laura Hutchinson and Jamie Gurling from the Reachout Trust team. Our Chaplaincy Team will provide input at assemblies throughout the year focusing on different themes through different Bible stories. All dates and themes are detailed on the school website. The team will also carry out various workshops throughout the year including 'Bible Alive' (P5), 'Boomerang' (P5), 'Christmas Unwrapped' (P6), 'Easter Code' (P7), 'It's Your Move' (P7) and 'Buddying' (P5). If you have any questions about these programmes or you do not want your child to participate, please contact the school office on 0141 634 7217.

Nursery Update



We are delighted to welcome all our returning children and new starts to our nursery! We have been busy settling back in and our returning children have been supporting their new friends, helping them to learn the nursery rules and routines such as snack, hand washing, tidy up time, using kind hands, and helping others.

At Loch PS Nursery Class we strive to provide a nurturing environment and over the next few weeks we will be focussing on the children's health and wellbeing through the topics of 'All About Me' and 'My Feelings'. We would greatly appreciate if everyone could send in/email a photograph of your family to Mrs Thomson at gw10thomsondeirdre@glow.sch.uk. This will allow the children to talk about it with their group, and we can then use these in our 'Our Families' wall display.

Our 'Book of the Month' for September will be 'Little Red Riding Hood'. Each team has a home-link learning bag containing a story along with activities to try at home. We hope you will enjoy using this with your child and would appreciate any feedback. We kindly request the bag back after a week to allow all children in the nursery to have a turn at taking the bag home.

Our 'Rhyme of the Month' for September is 'Our Rights'. This rhyme helps the children to explore 'children's rights'. Miss Equi will be conducting a short survey to find out about everyone's current knowledge and to help raise awareness about children's rights. We would greatly appreciate you taking the time to complete this survey.

Our Bookbug sessions, Forest Adventures, Rainbow Corner nurture group, Language Land sessions and our SIMOA home-link bag will all begin soon. Please keep an eye on the noticeboard in the cloakroom for start dates and more information.

Our **SIMOA** work is based on The Care Inspectorate's campaign to raise awareness and act responsibly to safeguard, protect and support children's wellbeing. A key aspect is making sure that children can't leave an area without staff or parents/carers. We would appreciate if you could support us with this work by discouraging your child from pressing the green exit buttons to ensure their safety at all times.

As you know, Outdoor Learning is encouraged every day, therefore we kindly ask that your child has a change of clothes available in case they get wet or muddy and that they are wearing appropriate clothing for playing outdoors in all weathers. During sunny 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 if required. Please ensure that all of your child's clothing items and belongings are clearly labelled with their name.

GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Ava Stewart, Primary 7, for being an excellent helper at lunch in the school dinner hall.
- Primary 6 for being excellent buddies to the Primary 1 children.

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

- Amber Smith and Charlie Steele, both P2, for taking great care of the new Primary 1 children.
- William Devlin, P3, for being a kind friend to a peer who was hurt.
- Kasey Aitchison, P7, for being kind and welcoming to everyone.

Every week a pupil 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.

Facebook Group



We enjoy sharing what is happening in Loch PS and Nursery Class on our school Facebook page - 'Loch Primary School and Nursery'. Use the QR code below or search for us on Facebook to request to join. Due to this being a private account, you will be asked questions before your request is accepted.



Photograph Permissions



We love to share lots of photographs of our children's learning in their classes/nursery along with achievements on to our website and Facebook page. Please complete the photograph permission form for your child and inform the school immediately if you **DO NOT** wish your child's photograph to be uploaded.

'Nut Free' School



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.** This includes items such as Nutella sandwiches or Kinder Buenos. Please keep this in mind when you are sending your child to school/nursery with a snack/packed lunch. If your child has an item which contains nuts, we will return this to them at the end of the school/nursery day. Thank you to everyone for your help and support with this matter.

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, report absences, respond to permission slips and book Parents' Evening appointments using this app. Primary 1 parent guidance will be issued soon.



There's Lots Going On At Loch!



- Our Primary 6 children have started their weekly swimming lessons.
- Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7 children have started their 4-week block of 'Kids Kitchen Cookery Classes'.
- Childsmile staff visited our nursery on 19.8.26.
- Miss Simpson attended the Cathkin High School S6 Awards Ceremony, watching our former pupils achieve recognition for all of their hard work!
- Primary 1 had their photograph taken for the Glasgow Times newspaper on 28.8.26.

Diary Dates



- Our first 'Friends of Loch' (Parent Council) meeting will be on Monday 7th September. 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. Loch PS and Nursery Class and our 'Friends of Loch' need you and your help would be invaluable in helping us to ensure the great work of our Parent Council can continue.
- The school will be closed on Friday 25th and Monday 28th September for the September Weekend holiday.
- The school closes for the October Week on Monday 12th October - Friday 16th October.
- The school will be closed to children on Monday 9th November for an inservice day.
- The school closes for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 22nd December at 2:30pm. The school will re-open on Wednesday 6th January 2027.

School Contact Details



Head Teacher: Dawn Simpson

Telephone: 0141 634 7217

E-Mail: gw14lochpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

School website: <https://www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/>

Facebook: Loch Primary School and Nursery

