



September 2026 Newsletter

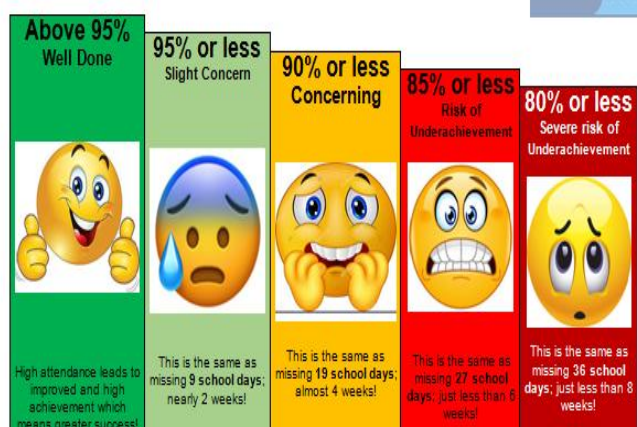
Attendance and Punctuality



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

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Right to an Education (Article 28)

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.

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.

Further advice can be found in our parent information leaflet on our website -

http://www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/index_177_2002852574.pdf

School Improvement



- Mrs Thomson attended Team Leader 'Pedagogical Leadership' training delivered by Education Scotland to further support our practice in the nursery.
- Miss Simpson attended Head Teacher meetings looking at Early Level, Raising Attainment and the Curriculum Improvement Cycle.
- Miss Stewart attended the South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) Numeracy Coordinators' Meeting to keep abreast of all new developments within Numeracy.
- Mrs Munro attended the SLC Pupil Support Coordinator's Meeting to keep abreast of paperwork and interventions to support children with additional support needs.
- As part of the SLC Thematic Review work, representatives visited our Nursery and Primary 1 class to look at our Literacy work. This was a very positive visit with lovely feedback received about the excellent work in place!

Nursery Update



September has been a very busy month in our nursery. We have been focusing on learning about each other, our families and the community we live in. We have been using Google Maps to look at the streets we live in, going for local walks and drawing our own maps. Outdoors in our garden, we have been preparing our planters for next Spring, planting lots of Spring bulbs. We have also planted cress seeds to take home and look after, and we would be delighted to see photographs of these as they grow!

Our Nurture (Rainbow Room) and Language Land groups will be starting soon. Our Nurture Group will focus on recognising and identifying emotions and feelings in themselves and others and how our emotions can affect our actions. Language Land sessions will be focussing on developing the children's turn taking, language skills and confidence through discussions, stories and songs.

Forest Adventures has now restarted this week, and our first group has visited the forest area near to the nursery focusing on how the leaves on the trees are beginning to change in Autumn.

Each group attend Forest Adventures for 6 weeks and we look forward to inviting the parents/carers of each group to join their child for their final session. If your child is part of our current group, please look out for your invite to join a session with them soon!

Our 'Book of the Month' for September is 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We have been focusing on this within the nursery, retelling the story using a variety of puppets and props and making our own illustrations. Each team has begun to issue the home-link learning bag with this story to share at home. These home-link learning bags contain a story along with linked games. It also contains a feedback sheet for you and your child to leave comments. 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.

The next 'Rhyme of the Month' will be 'Incy Wincy Spider', and a copy of the rhyme with activities to try at home will be issued soon. We would love to see your wonderful home learning so we kindly ask you to please fill in the feedback forms or email your photos and we can add them to our display walls within the nursery and your child's Learning Journal.

At Loch PS Nursery Class, all of the children love when their parents/carers can join them in various activities, and we were delighted that so many of you could join us for our recent Bookbug session. The week beginning 28.9.26 is 'Parental Engagement Week' and we have organised a 'Nursery Natter' group on 30.9.26 at 9.15 am. The 'Nursery Natter' group is an opportunity for parents/carers to come along and have a chat about our nursery and our next steps. We have also arranged a 'Stay and Play' on 1.10.26 and would be delighted if you can join your child in the nursery to experience some of the great learning opportunities that they participate in!

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.

School Captains



Primary 6-7 pupils along with staff took part in an election to vote for our first set of School Captains and Vice Captains for term 1.

Congratulations to the following Primary 7 pupils who have been elected as School House Captains:

KATRINE: Jaxon Porter and Mounia Salhi

NESS: Daisy Cartwright and Maisie Pimlott

LOMOND: Olivia Dumbreck and Brooke

MacNeil

TAY: Lucas MacAree and Millie Thomson

Congratulations to the following Primary 6 pupils who have been elected as Vice House Captains:

KATRINE: Victoria Erhan and Lucas White

NESS: Lacey Crichton and Millie McGhee

LOMOND: Aida Syme and Lexi Welsh-McNay

TAY: Orla Flood and Jorgie Jamieson

Chaplaincy Team Update



Our Chaplaincy Team continues this year with Ross Murray, Laura Hutchinson and Jamie Gurling from the Reachout Trust team. They will provide input at assemblies throughout the year focusing on different themes through different Bible stories. The team will also carry out various workshops throughout the year including 'Boomerang' (P5), 'Christmas Unwrapped' (P6), 'Easter Code' (P7), 'It's Your Move' (P7), 'Buddying' (P5) and their new workshop 'Bible Alive' (P5). Our assembly calendar for 2026-2027 can be found on our school website -

https://www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/index_219_3014157364.pdf

Photograph Permissions



We have started to upload photos to our Facebook page. If you do not see your child's photograph, this will either be due to you informing us of that decision or that we have not received permission. If you wish to consent, please complete the permission form provided.

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**. 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.

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.

GOOD NEWS!



The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Katie Love, Primary 7, for showing creativity and helping others during 'Arts and Crafts Club'.
- Mrs Roy and Primary 1 for being excellent representatives of Loch PS during our Literacy visit from SLC.
- Katy McFarlane, Primary 5, for being a great role model to others, always showing lovely manners and behaviour.

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

- Kaden Sohail, Primary 2, for helping to tidy up all the sand toys at lunchtime.
- Amelia McQueen, Primary 2, for zipping up her friends' jackets.
- Brandon Weaver, Primary 6, for being an exceptional role model in the Sunshine Room.
- Hannah Stewart, Primary 5, for always holding doors and showing kind manners.

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. This month we have heard from:

- William Devlin, Primary 4, for his excellent participation in 3 different Dance Competitions!
- Maisie Clements, Primary 1, for winning 1st place for Lyrical solo and duet, 1st place for Hip Hop solo and 'Lyrical Dancer of the Day'.
- Leah Cochrane, Primary 3, for winning 1st place in her Gymnastics competition.
- Bethany Higgins, Primary 3, for winning 1st place in Lyrical solo and Lyrical duet categories.
- Aria Lowe, Primary 2, for achieving her red belt grading at Kickboxing.
- Amber Smith, Primary 2, for being 'most flexible' at Gymnastics.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!



- Primary 5 are enjoying participating in the Youth Music Initiative programme as well as the 'Reachout Trust Bible Alive' weekly sessions.
- Primary 6 continue to attend their weekly swimming lessons every Tuesday.
- Primary 7 have begun their Cathkin High School transition process and enjoyed attending the CHS Mini Sports Festival.
- Primary 4-5 After School Club is currently underway with Active Schools.
- Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7 children completed their 4-week block of 'Kids Kitchen Cookery Classes'. A big 'thank you' to Chef Robert for these excellent sessions and also 'thank you' to all of the parents/carers who attended the final showcase.
- Our first 'Friends of Loch' (Parent Council) meeting took place on 7.9.26.
- Fluoride varnishing took place on 15.9.26.
- Primary 5 participated in the 'Boomerang Workshop' led by the Reachout Trust Team in partnership with St. Anthony's PS.
- Nursery flu vaccinations took place on 7.9.26 and school flu vaccinations took place on 18.9.26.
- Primary 2 and Primary 4 enjoyed class visits to Springhall Library this month!
- Mrs Smith attended the Rutherglen 900 meeting to learn more about the events happening soon.
- Primary 7 participated in a 'Nil by Mouth' workshop in partnership with St. Anthony's PS on 22.9.26.
- Our first Pupil Council Meeting took place on 24.9.26. The children discussed options to spend some of our Pupil Equity Fund money. Our consultation process with all children, staff and parents/carers will take place soon.
- School photographs have taken place.
- Primary 1 have had their photograph taken for the Glasgow Times. We look forward to seeing it in the paper very soon!
- Our first committee meetings took place this month with all classes being allocated a specific committee to work in to develop their leadership skills:
 - *Primary 1 and Primary 2 - Health Committee
 - *Primary 3 and Primary 4 - Charities Committee
 - *Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7 - Social Enterprise Committee
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has been on 'Proud Cloud Targets', committee feedback, input from our Chaplaincy Team about 'Harvest' and celebrating our weekly achievements and awards!

Diary Dates



- Friday 2nd October will be a 'Dress Down Day' and we kindly ask for donations for the local foodbank to support the Rutherglen 900 initiative!
- Our next 'Friends of Loch' (Parent Council) meeting will be on Monday 19th October. 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 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.

PLEASE CHECK OUR SCHOOL WEBSITE FOR OUR SCHOOL CALENDAR WHICH PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF EVENTS HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THE YEAR -

https://www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/index_224_3316325855.pdf

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.



School Contact Details



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