Loch Primary School and Nursery Class

November 2026 Newsletter

Attendance and Punctuality

As always, 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. 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

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 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.

As per South Lanarkshire Council (SLC) policy, attendance letters are issued to parents/carers of any child whose attendance is below 90%. If you receive a letter, we encourage you to make contact with the school to discuss the reason for absences and any support you require.

We encourage all parents/carers to monitor your child's attendance on www.parentsportal.scot.

Health and Safety

Loch PS and Nursery Class is an **allergy aware school.** As we have children in the nursery and school with severe nut allergies, please remember that **children should not come to school with any products containing nuts**. 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 use 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 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.

THANK YOU!

We would like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone for your kind donations this month, including donating items for our Christmas Fayre, helping us raise £410.28 during our Halloween week and helping us to raise £222.29 for Children in Need.

School Improvement



- Mrs Thomson attended 'Pedagogical Leadership Training' and 'Infant Mental Health Training' to support our work in the nursery.
- Mrs Munro attended 'ICT Coordinator's Training' and 'Canva Training' to keep abreast of new digital developments within SLC.
- Miss Simpson has met with all teaching staff to discuss the progress of all children and any interventions that should be put in place to challenge and support.
- During our inservice day:
  *Our teaching staff met with colleagues from across the Cathkin Learning Community to discuss and moderate the teaching of all curricular areas to ensure continuity and progression across all schools.
  *Our Nursery staff and Mrs Roy (Primary1 Teacher) participated in the 'Learning Community Early Level Moderation Event', looking at ensuring continuity of approach when teaching and assessing Listening and Talking across all establishments.
  *Our Support Staff attended 'Inclusion' training.
- Rhona James, our Quality Improvement Manager, visited the school and nursery on 10.11.26 to discuss our progress and the good practice in place.
- Mrs Munro attended 'Pupil Support Coordinator Training', to keep abreast of all SLC policies and procedures.
- Mrs Burns attended the SLC 'Attachment Network Event' to support our attachment-informed practice within our school and nursery.
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro have been visiting all classes to see the learning and teaching of writing across all stages and have been very impressed with the engagement and motivation of the children!
- Miss Simpson attended 'Child Protection Coordinators' Training', to keep up-to-date with all new developments in this area.
- Miss Simpson and Mrs Munro have engaged in Learner Conversations with Primary 6 and 7, looking at their excellent work and hearing all about their favourite learning experiences.

Nursery Update



November has been a fun month at Loch PS Nursery Class! We have been focussing on our 'Book of the Month', "Goldilocks and the Three Bears", and our 'Rhyme of the Month', "Donald Where's Yer Troosers". We hope you have all been enjoying sharing the home-link bookbag, rhyme and activities at home with your child and we would love to receive your feedback through the provided evaluation sheets, by email or by filling in one of our speech bubbles.

While outdoors the children have been talking about the features of Autumn and how all of the trees are losing their leaves and how the weather has been getting colder. 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 including hats, scarves and gloves, for playing outdoors in the cold and wet weather.

On 30.11.26, we will be celebrating St. Andrew's Day with a wear tartan day (optional), Scottish songs and a special Scottish themed snack.

Our 'Language Land' and 'Forest Adventures' groups are now finished for this term and will start up again next year. All children involved greatly enjoyed participating in all of the fantastic activities!

Our 'Rainbow Corner Group' has been focusing on recognising and identifying emotions and feelings in themselves and others and how our emotions can affect our actions.

Our 'Peep' sessions with parents/carers have been running for the last few weeks, and we have looked at how everyday activities are learning opportunities, supporting behaviour, and Listening and Talking. Our last session will cover Numeracy activities. If there are any topics you would like us to focus on to help you to support your child's learning, please let us know and we can plan further sessions for next term.

Our Nativity and Christmas Show will take place on 15.12.26, and we have been busy rehearsing. All of the children took part in this month's 'Tiny Talking Team' to decide which songs and dances they want to perform at the show. We have all been very impressed by how talented the children are and how well they have been performing!

We are busy preparing Christmas crafts for sale to raise funds for the nursery. Each child will make a pack containing various items and we will let you all know as soon as these are available. If you wish to order additional photo baubles, please return the slip in the pack. We will also have items for sale at the Christmas fayre on 3.12.26. We are sure you will all be very impressed by the wonderful crafts our children are producing!

Unfortunately our Bookbug session on 26.11.26 had to be cancelled. We are sorry for any inconvenience this caused. We will arrange a new date as soon as possible. Look out for information on our new date on the noticeboard in the cloakroom and if you wish to come along, please add your name to the list.

Primary 1 Enrolment 2027



Primary 1 Enrolment Week took place between 16.11.26 - 20.11.26. Children who will turn 5 between 1st March 2027 - 28th February 2028 are required to register for school to start in August 2027. If you have not already done so, please enrol your child for their catchment primary school as soon as possible by completing the online form on the SLC website: (https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/primary-school-information/enrolling-child-school)
You will need to upload your child's **FULL** birth certificate and 2 recent official documents showing your permanent home address.

Homework



All classes published their new homework on Google Classrooms on Monday 23rd November 2026. For more information, our full 'Homework Policy' can be found on our school website - https://www.loch-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/index_226_4214582715.pdf

Christmas Dates – 2026



Date	Event
Wednesday 2nd December	P1-P7 Pantomime at Eastwood Theatre - buses leaving at 9:15am (permission slip to be returned on Parents Portal)
Thursday 3rd December	Christmas Fayre – School and Nursery (**Lomond** and **Katrine** children: 9:15am – 10:30am / **Tay** and **Ness** children: 10:45am – 12:00noon / nursery children with parent or carer during these times)
Friday 4th December	Primary 1 and Primary 2 Carol Singing at Whitlawburn Community Centre – children only event (permission slip to be returned on Parents Portal)
Tuesday 8th December	P6 Christmas Unwrapped Reachout Trust Workshop (9:30am at St.Anthony's PS)
Wednesday 9th December	Christmas Lunch (please ensure your child has ordered their lunch)
Friday 11th December	P1-P7 Nativity and Christmas Concert (9:30am and 1:45pm – ticket request slip to be returned to school)
Tuesday 15th December	Nursery Nativity (10:00am – ticket request slip to be returned to nursery)
Wednesday 16th December	Primary 7 Carol Singing at Tesco Burnside (10:00am - permission slip to be returned on Parents Portal) P4-5 Christmas Party (1:15pm – 2:45pm)
Thursday 17th December	P6-7 Christmas Party (1:15pm – 2:45pm)
Friday 18th December	P1-3 Christmas Party (1:15pm – 2:45pm) Nursery Christmas Party
Tuesday 22nd December	Close 2:30pm

GOOD NEWS!

The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Kasey Aitchison, Primary 7; Maisie Pimlott, Primary 7; Abi Royle, Primary 7; and Niamh Lithgow, Primary 5, for representing Loch PS as part of the Rutherglen 900 choir at the Rutherglen Bandstand Re-Opening.
- Ahmad Ayoubi, Primary 5, for being very kind and helpful to peers.
- Lukas MacAree, Jaxon Porter and Hollie Redmond (all P7) for leading an excellent 'Kids Take Over Assembly'.
- Alexis Orr, Primary 5, for being kind and caring to others.
- Cydney Codona, Primary 3, for being super helpful to a peer.

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

- Esme McDonald, Primary 6, for looking after our ICT equipment.
- Connor Seery, Primary 4, for taking care of a peer.
- Lily Flannigan, Primary 2, for being kind to friends.
- Charlie Steele, Primary 2, for being enthusiastic, mannerly and showing excitement for school life.

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:

- Alisha Kennedy, Primary 3, for achieving her Level 2 award at Gymnastics.
- Niamh Lithgow, Primary 5, for crocheting hats for the NICU ward and achieving her Level 3 award at Swimming.
- Lily Macrae, Primary 4, for achieving her Level 3 award at Gymnastics.
- Sofia Anghelide, Primary 2, for achieving her Level 1 skills award at Swimming and her new belt at her Karate grading.
- Katy McFarlane, Primary 5, for being 'Performer of the Month' at Drama.
- Caleb Taylor, Primary 4, for achieving his new belt at Karate.
- William Devlin, Primary 4, for achieving lots of trophies at his Dance competition.
- Amber Smith, Primary 2, for winning a trophy at her Dance competition.
- Maisie Clements, Primary 1, for winning a trophy at her Dance competition.
- Archie Sohail, Primary 5, for achieving his new belt at Karate.
- Kaden Sohail, Primary 2, for achieving his new belt at Karate.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!

- Primary 5 are enjoying their continued participation in the 'FUNdamentals of Music' programme.
- Primary 6 have completed their weekly swimming lessons.
- Primary 7 Football After School club is underway.
- Primary 1-3 Nativity After School Club is underway in preparation for our Christmas Concert.
- Primary 5-7 representatives are continuing to attend "Forest Schools" sessions with Mrs Burns and a Level 8 qualified Practitioner. This excellent opportunity is due to receiving funding from the Gregg's Foundation and allows our children to develop a range of skills whilst exploring the outdoors.
- We enjoyed a Bonfire themed lunch on 5.11.26.
- All classes from P1-7 took part in NSPCC Speak out. Stay Safe. lessons w/c 9.11.26 to help children understand and recognise the signs of the different types of abuse. Children were taught about the importance of speaking out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.
- Nursery Parents' Evenings took place w/c 9.11.26.
- School Parents' Evening took place on 11.11.26.
- Committee time took place in all classes w/c 16.11.26 – Social Enterprise (planning for our Christmas Fayre), Health (organising a Christmas Countdown activity book that has a variety of activities to keep our minds and bodies active on the lead up to Christmas) and Charity (planning our 'Christmas Jumper Swap').
- Primary 6 and 7 class showcases took place on 19.11.26 with parents/carers invited to come into the classes to see the great learning taking place.
- 'Rutherglen 900 End of Year Live Stream' took place on 20.11.26. All children received a badge and certificate to recognise their involvement in all of the wonderful Rutherglen 900 events.
- Our second 'Friends of Loch' (Parent Council) meeting took place on 23.11.26.
- Our Primary 7 Netball team took part in 'Fun 5z' on 24.11.26, winning all of their games again!
- Childsmile visited Primary 2 on 24.11.26 to support toothbrushing.
- Our Primary 7 residential information evening took place on 25.11.26.
- Primary 5-7 representatives participated in the SLC Athletics Competition on 27.11.26.
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has been on 'Skills Development', 'Kids Take Over Assembly', committee feedback, input from our Chaplaincy Team about 'Remembering' and celebrating our weekly achievements and awards!

Diary Dates



- The school closes for the Christmas holidays on Tuesday 22nd December at 2:30pm. The school will re-open on Wednesday 6th January 2027.
- The school will be closed for the February weekend on Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th February and the Inservice day on Wednesday 17th February. Children will return on Thursday 18th February 2027.
- In December, all Primary 6 children will receive a copy of the book "Impossible Creatures" by Katherine Rundell. In celebration of the 'National Year of Reading 2026', this is gifted by Her Majesty The Queen to all Primary 6 children across the UK as a Christmas gift in order to inspire a love of reading! We hope our Primary 6 children enjoy reading this lovely book!

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



Head Teacher: Dawn Simpson
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Facebook: Loch Primary School and Nursery

Please note that staff are not always available in the mornings or at the end of the day to meet with parents/carers due to school events or pre-arranged meetings/training. If you wish to speak with someone, please contact the school office on 0141 634 7217 to arrange an agreed time to meet.

