Loch Primary School and Nursery Class

October 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.

Parent Council ('Friends of Loch')



Following our previous communication, we are at the critical stage that we are at risk of not having a Parent Council for our school if numbers don't increase now. Our 'Friends of Loch' meet approximately once a month in the school, representing parent/carer views and working in partnership with the staff team to achieve the best for our children. The remaining meeting dates for this session are:

- Monday 23rd November 2026 at 6:00pm
- Monday 25th January 2027 at 6:00pm
- Monday 1st March 2027 at 6:00pm
- Monday 26th April 2027 at 6:00pm
- Monday 24th May 2027 at 6:00pm

If you are unable to attend meetings but are willing to help out at school events including discos and school trips, please contact the school office (0141 634 7217) to arrange for a PVG disclosure check. Everyone who supports at school events, requires to have a PVG Disclosure Scotland check. Please note, if you already have a PVG check for your job or another establishment, this would not be accepted. You would require a separate check for Loch PS and Nursery Class. This is an easy process and is funded by South Lanarkshire Council.

Without our Parent Council and parent/carer volunteers, school trips and after school events such as school discos are unable to take place. Loch PS and Nursery Class and our 'Friends of Loch' need you and your help would be invaluable in helping us to ensure their great work can continue!

Participatory Budgeting

We have now consulted all stakeholders including pupils, parents/carers and staff on how we should spend 8% of our PEF budget. **The chosen item with the most votes was to fund school trips and events for all pupils.** This work is already underway and we will continue to keep everyone up-to-date with our progress. A big 'thank you' to everyone who voted!

School Improvement

- Mrs Munro attended 'ICT Coordinator's Training' and 'Canva Training' to keep abreast of new digital developments within SLC.
- Our teaching staff engaged in SLC AI training, looking at how AI can support our work within the school.
- Miss Simpson has met with all nursery and teaching staff to discuss the progress of all children and any interventions to be put in place to challenge and support all children.
- Mrs Munro has met with all teaching staff to discuss the supports in place for children to ensure all our children can reach their full potential.
- Miss Simpson attended Head Teacher meetings looking at Inclusion, Child Protection and Early Level.
- Our Nursery and Primary 1 staff 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.
- Mrs Munro and Mrs MacDonald met with representatives from St.Anthony's Primary School to discuss our progress and next steps for our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) work as we work towards gaining our accreditation.
- Our teaching staff worked with St.Anthony's PS teaching staff to discuss Literacy progress to ensure consistency of assessment across both schools.

Nursery Update

October has been a very busy month at Loch PS Nursery Class! We have continued with our 'Book of the Month', "Little Red Riding Hood", and our 'Rhyme of the Month', "Incy, Wincy Spider". 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.

This month we have also focused on a variety of topics, including learning all about spiders, exploring Autumn using resources such as leaves, acorns and conkers, and shop role-play activities, focusing on developing our Numeracy skills by using money to count. Remember to check out the school's Facebook feed and the display boards within the nursery to see all the great learning happening!

We are delighted to offer a block of 4 parent/carer 'Peep' sessions starting on Friday 6th November at 9.30am in Loch PS Room 2. 'Peep' supports parents/carers in encouraging their child's learning and development through exploring a weekly topic chosen by you. Come along with your child each week and join in with activities, songs and stories and learn about how the everyday things you do make a difference. A sign-up sheet will be available in the cloakroom.

This month the 'Tiny Talking Team' discussed all the things they would like to do at the Halloween Fun Day on 30.10.26, and they had great suggestions for games, songs, and things to eat. We will be having lots of fun with Halloween crafts, games and party snacks!

Our first group of 'Forest Adventures' is now drawing to a close and the children have had a great time exploring nature. Parents/carers of the children attending will be invited to come along to the last session to experience all the great activities and learning that takes place. Please look out for your invite to come along. Our next group of will start next term after Christmas.

We kindly ask those bringing packed lunches to include an ice pack within their child's lunch box and to also check that all contents are nut free due to allergies.

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 the cold and wet weather. Any donations of clothes aged 3-6 years would be greatly appreciated.

Primary 1 Enrolment 2027

Primary 1 Enrolment Week this session is 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. To enrol your child for Loch PS, please complete 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. We look forward to welcoming you to Loch PS!

Homework



During the session 2025-2026, a consultation took place with parents/carers after we became aware that the number of children returning homework had dropped significantly, with only 46% of children returning homework regularly. We understand that there are a number of factors which impact a child's ability to complete homework at home and we decided a consultation with parents/carers was required to support the review of our Homework Policy.

The consultation has shown that some parents/carers feel home learning activities support learning at home and would benefit from continued guidance to help their child at home. Due to the low response rate, the statistics from last session and some of the feedback provided, it also suggests that homework can be a difficult time for some families.

Going forward, there will be no formal written homework given out. All tasks are designed to be active and to encourage revision. Homework began on Monday 26th October 2026 and was published on Google Classroom. Homework will take the following format:

Literacy (spelling)	A list of your child's spelling words will be uploaded on to your child's 'Google Classroom' monthly along with a suggested 'Spelling Activities' grid. Your child can select a strategy to try. These words will list the previous 4 weeks' words to allow for revision and consolidation. A paper copy of the 'Spelling Grids' will also be issued at the start of the school session.
Literacy (reading)	Reading for enjoyment should be encouraged at home with the suggested time of at least 10 minutes each day. We encourage parents/carers to talk to your child about their book. Our 'Reading Strategies Leaflet' will suggest some activities to try at home.
Numeracy	Links to different websites and games will be uploaded monthly on to your child's 'Google Classroom' which will help to consolidate learning in class.
Additional	Occasionally, there may be a different task uploaded monthly on to your child's 'Google Classroom'. This may be a challenge or to support learning in class, eg a personal talk. Following a parent/carer or teacher's suggestion, additional tasks may be provided to support children's learning. This will be in consultation with parents/carers.

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

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.

GOOD NEWS!

The Head Teacher Awards this month were presented to:

- Taylor Scott, Primary 6, for being very kind and caring towards others.
- Daisy Cartwright, Olivia Dumbreck and Millie Thomson (all P7) for leading an excellent 'Kids Take Over Assembly'.
- Primary 3 for sharing their excellent Science knowledge and impressing others.
- Primary 7 Netball Team for being excellent representatives of Loch PS at 'Fun 5z'.
- Archie Moffat, P3, for being very kind and caring towards others.

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

- Mollie-Jay Cameron, Primary 3, for encouraging peers to read tricky words independently.
- Alexis MacAree, Primary 3, for being inclusive of all peers and helping them to thrive.
- Jaxon Allison, P3, for reassuring peers who were upset.

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:

- Crystal Codona, Primary 5, for participating in Boxing lessons.
- Cydney Codona, Primary 3, for participating in a Gymnastics competition.
- Evelyn Jones, Primary 1, for participating and running the 'Mini Great Scottish Run'.
- Katy McFarlane, Primary 5, for winning 2nd place in her Drama group and solo performances.
- William Devlin, Primary 4, for winning 2nd and 4th place at his Dancing competition.
- Harper Maley, Primary 1, for completing her booklet at 'Tiger Club'.
- Archie Moffat, Primary 3, for demonstrating great skills at Football.

There's Lots Going On At Loch!

- Primary 5 are enjoying their continued participation in the Youth Music Initiative programme, 'FUNdamentals of Music'.
- Our Nursery enjoyed a 'Stay and Play' session with parents/carers on 1.10.26.
- We participated in a 'Dress Down Day' on 2.10.26 and collected lots of food donations to donate to the foodbank as part of our work with Rutherglen 900. A big 'thank you' to everyone who donated!
- Primary 6 continue to attend their weekly swimming lessons every Tuesday.
- Primary 6-7 After School Club is currently underway with Active Schools.
- Primary 7 Football After School club has started.
- Our Primary 7 Netball team took part in 'Fun 5z' on 6.10.26, winning all of their games!
- Our second 'Friends of Loch' (Parent Council) meeting took place on 19.10.26.
- Primary 3 and 4 representatives attended the Rutherglen 900 Wheat Grain Project at Overtoun Park, celebrating the schools growing their own wheat and exploring how it turns into "soor cakes".
- Primary 5-7 representatives are attending a block of "Forest Schools" sessions with Mrs Burns and a Level 8 qualified Forest School 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.
- Primary 1 class showcase took place on 27.10.26 with parents/carers invited to come into the Primary 1 class to see the great learning and experiences taking place.
- Primary 4 visited the "Owl Centre" on 28.10.26 for their class trip, to learn all about owls as part of their "Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark" topic.
- Representatives from our school are participating in the Rutherglen 900 School Choir at the re-opening of the Rutherglen Bandstand on 31.10.26. To prepare for the performance, they have participated in rehearsals, working with all Rutherglen schools.
- All of our classes enjoy participating in our weekly assemblies. This month our focus has been on 'Proud Cloud Targets', 'Kids Take Over Assembly', committee feedback, input from our Chaplaincy Team about 'Hope' and celebrating our weekly achievements and awards!

Diary Dates

- Our in-school Halloween Disco will take place on Thursday 29th October. Children can come to school on this date wearing their Halloween costume if they wish. If a child does not want to dress up, they can come to school dressed-down. Please note, as this event is now during the school day, please ensure costumes are appropriate for school and that no toy weapons are sent in as these are not allowed in school.
- Our Enterprise Committee have organised a Halloween Movie Day on Friday 30th October. Children can wear pyjamas or comfy clothes to school and bring a pillow or blanket if they wish. We are kindly asking for donations of chocolate (chocolate bars, multi-packs or boxes of chocolate) to help us begin to gather donations for the Christmas Fayre.
- The school will be closed to children on Monday 9th November for an inservice day.
- Nursery Parents' Evening will take place on Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th November.
- Our School Parent's Evening will be on Wednesday 11th November. All appointments should be made via Parents Portal.
- Our Primary 6 and 7 Class Showcases will take place on Thursday 19th November. Further details will follow.
- Our next 'Friends of Loch' (Parent Council) meeting will be on Monday 23rd November at 6:00pm.
- 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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