

# Carstairs Junction Primary School and Early Learning & Childcare

*Our Wee School's a Good Wee School*



Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are now past the midway point in November and full steam ahead to December. I appreciate there are quite a few Christmas related dates, these can be found at the foot of the newsletter as well as on the school website and on ParentsPortal.

**P1, 2 & 3 Bookbags** The sessions were very well attended and saw the parents and children really engaged in the activities. Thank you to Elaine our YFCL for leading this. We hope the families enjoy the book bags kindly gifted by The Scottish Book Trust.



## ParentsPortal Items

**Christmas Raffle Donations** If you have any new items or unused gifts which you don't have a need for at home, we would really appreciate it if you could donate them to our raffle. Please either send the items in with your child to school or alternatively drop off at the school office.

**Nativity Tickets** If you could please let us know how many tickets they would like by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December, we can then offer any spaces out to our reserve list.

**Panto** If you have yet to action consents on Parents Portal, please do this by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December. We kindly request that payment of £5 per child is made via Parent Pay.

## Committee Updates

**Pupil Council** Anti-Bullying Week Last week Lola, Rebeka & Sayan, members of our Pupil Council Committee focused on Anti Bullying at Get Together. The pupils did an excellent job and highlighted the fact that bullying is never okay. The Pupil Council

will now focus on putting their ideas into an anti bullying polivcy for the school, in line with South Lnaakrshire Council Treat Me Well Anti Bullying Policy.

Mrs Gold has also been setting up some Mindfulness 'Anti Bullying' activities at Breakfast club. What a relaxing and positive message for the start of the day 😊

**Reading Schools and Inclusion & Equalities Committee** These committees have been working together to look at Dyselxia friendly books for our libraries. The Reading Schools Committee are also discussing ways of making the school library more appealing. We think first of all, the change to it's location has been a great move!

**Enterprise & Charities** The Committee would like to thank everyone who contributed towards Children in Need by either guessing the number of spots in the jar or putting loose change on our Pudsey mural! We raised **£167.73** in total. Thank you everyone for your support and this money will go towards life changing work with children, funding voluntary work and community groups in the UK.

**Evidence of Learning** Over the past two weeks Miss King and I have been looking at samples of pupil work in Literacy and having a chat to the children about it. The children were able to talk enthusiastically about their learning and there was evidence of engaging activites and strategies to challenge and support our learners as required. Thank you to the teachers and pupils for all their hard work.

**School Improvement Highlights this month** At our November INSET, staff from our supported classes received input form Speech & Language Therapy in further use of digital technology to increase pupil voice and support written work.

Room 2 have recently introduced 'buttons' in their classes which the pupils can press, for example positive messages such as "star walking" or they press the button once the target task is complete and it reads out "target task completed". QR codes are being used in some of the classroom to extend their reading library and make the books more accessible to children with Literacy difficulties.

In Room 4 the children have been receiving feedback in their jotters through QR codes. They can scan the QR code to hear the teacher feedback!

As part of our Play focus, the classes have been working on high quality tasks as part of the "target" tasks. Room 6 are particularly proud of their floorbook and they enjoyed sharing their learning with Miss King. Our next step is to continue to develop observations within the classroom & outdoors.

**Grab Rail** Please remember our grab rail is in the bubble at the main entrance. It is added to on a regular basis. We currently have some new school fleeces.

We are very thankful and appreciative of our P6&7 support in helping to prepare snack for Room 1. The pupils have volunteered on a rota basis to suport with preparing the classroom and snack at break time. What responsible citizens!

**Best Work Award October** Please see below our winners for demonstrating the 4 capacities in October:

**Room 1** – Zack is an effective contributor and is working well with others and sharing resources. Well done from the Room 1 staff.

**Room 2** – Joshua has shown great imagination during construction and technology opportunities in class. His superhero challenge Lego structure has a wheel, a tall tower and a door. Behind the door, superheroes are



made. His picture on the computer is all about planets in the galaxy. Joshua has become a confident individual sharing his work.

**Room 3** - Allyssa, you have been awarded for your concentration during teaching time and in general. Mrs Simpson picked your work on spelling as an example. She could see you were really thinking about your responses.

**Room 4** – Logan, the staff in Room 4 want to say a big well done for sharing resources when working and playing with peers.

**Room 5** – Congratulations Cody! You have been an excellent team member and offering support and encouragement to peers during group activities.

**Room 6** – Teddy, we have seen great progress in your drawings. They show increased detail and are displayed with pride in class.

### **Reading Schools Award for October**

**Room 1** – Ennie has been blending sounds to read words, great progress there!

**Room 2** - Well done Lucy! You have been selecting books from the reading area and encouraging others to visit there. You have also shared your own version of stories with your friends.

**Room 3** – Torran, you are reading with increased fluency, go you!

**Room 4** – Owen, you have been chosen as you enjoy creating and sharing your own versions of a story.

**Room 5** – Lee has been really enjoying Harry Potter audio books!

**Room 6** – Alfie, you are sharing lots of information and ideas following hearing a story. Well done from the Room 6 staff.



### **Parents as Partners**

#### **Parent Council**

Our Bonfire Bake was such a success last week, with a constant flow of family and community in attendance. The Parent Council outdid themselves with the array of delicious treats as did all the classes and ELC. An impressive £363 was raised ...a superb amount for a small school and just over an hour's work (apart from clearly all the hard graft behind the scenes!)

As you will know our Panto is fast approaching. Parents have been asked to pay £5 towards the event to keep costs as low as possible. I would like to thank the Parent Council for paying **£632** to cover the remaining costs, including transport. A big thank you also to Go travel for significantly subsidising the cost of the buses.

Our next Parent Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 9.30am in school.**

If you would like to attend or even come along to the next meeting, please send a short message to the Parent Council email address: [carstairsjunctionpc@outlook.com](mailto:carstairsjunctionpc@outlook.com)

## **Community News**

**Tesco** Just a wee plea, if you or any family member are shopping in Tesco, we would love it if you could drop in a blue token to vote for our 'Four Season Outdoor Classroom'. We are hoping to enhance our specialist equipment for outdoors with the funding. Voting closes in store on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

## **Diary Dates**

29 <sup>th</sup> November	Room 3 (Group 1) Forest School Session 2
7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Parties at Cornhill House for all ELC & Primary
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Panto at Lanark Memorial Hall 12.30pm start
13 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon School Nativity Performance at 1.30pm Evening School Nativity Performance at 6.30pm
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Childsmile Flouride Varnish Christmas Lunch (please note this is a change to the original Date)
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Raffle Draw
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Non-Uniform Day. School closes at 2.30pm
8 <sup>th</sup> January	Staff & pupils return to school

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

As ever, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and you will be directed to an appropriate member of staff.

Have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards,



**Jill Armour**  
**Head Teacher**