

Happy

Inclusive

Nurturing

Respectful

# Carstairs Junction Primary School and Early Learning & Childcare

*Our Wee School's a Good Wee School*



J Armour

## **Head Teacher's Report – 29/1/26**

### **Thanks to Parent Council**

Huge thanks to the Parent Council for all their efforts over the festive period. Our Christmas Raffle was a massive success, yet again. Thank you to everyone who contributed whether this be through requesting and gathering prizes, selling tickets or helping with the smooth running on the morning.

### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Abby Henderson has now commenced in post as Early Years Practitioner on a Monday and Wednesday. The post for Early Years Support Worker will be advertised as a priority.

Mrs Lindsay Begg took up post covering the deficit we had in support staffing. She is working in classes as well as providing targeted support. Welcome to the Team!

Mrs Griffiths, our Acting DHT has been doing a sterling job whilst Mrs Paterson is on maternity leave. She however had to make the difficult decision whether to apply when the post of permanent Principal teacher became available at her substantive school. Mrs Griffiths applied and was successful at interview. Mrs Griffiths has fitted in quickly to our team and it is just unfortunate timing that she will need to leave us before the end of the maternity cover. The prospect of a permanent leadership position was a major contributing factor to her deciding to apply, only the timing wasn't what anyone anticipated. As a result, we have interviewed for the post of Acting DHT here at Carstairs Junction and we can announce that Mrs Adams was successful. We will plan for a handover between Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Adams. Once we know when the change in Acting DHT will take place, we will let you know.

### **School Improvement Plan Update:**

**Celebrating Diversity** In our last update, we mentioned we were auditing our school books to ensure they are diverse across stages. As a result, we have now purchased a range of books from ELC to P7 and we look forward to using these in classes. As a starting point, we are focusing on Diversity as part of a book study this month. We warmly welcome parents along to our Celebrating Diversity afternoon, where they can view their child's work on Diversity. This will be held on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 1.45pm. A flyer will be sent out in due course.

**Attachment Informed Trauma Sensitive Accreditation** Our Pupil Council & Mrs Griffiths are delighted to share that after submitting our attachment accreditation evidence for Pledge 1 'Act to Make a Difference', we have received notification that we

have achieved this pledge. The panel were very impressed with the range of work taking place, and our commitment to driving forward Attachment-Informed, Trauma Sensitive practice here at Carstairs Junction. We have received our certificate and first jigsaw piece for 'Act to make a difference' to acknowledge our accreditation (this is displayed in the 'bubble' inside our main entrance). Thank you everyone for your contributions towards this achievement. It is well deserved recognition of the ongoing work and dedication in ensuring our wee school is a safe, happy and inclusive space for everyone.

**Moderation** with other schools in our Learning Community has reached its mid-way point, with teachers and our ELC team engaging with colleagues across Lanark Learning Community in quality dialogue. The purpose of these sessions are to develop consistent judgements and validity for staff too.

### **Extra-Curricular**

Our P6/7 Cross-country running will commence next week run by Mrs Griffiths and Mrs Armour. We plan to use Tesco Stronger Starts Funding to fund out art club which is currently underway (we are still waiting to hear how much we will be funded but are guaranteed £500). Our senior pupils are enjoying the 'Artybits' lunch club. The club will then be offered to our infants from week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> February. The focus is on developing pupil confidence in art, looking at using different media. Through the clubs, the children will also create murals for our outdoor space as well as revamp our Lockdown garden. Our Dance club is also in full swing. An overview of clubs this term will be shared in our Newsletter.

### **Generous Donation**

The Soul of the Junction took part in a giveaway and were selected as a winner in a School Walls free display giveaway. Many thanks to the treasurer for actioning doing this. We have been gifted with a large curriculum-aligned "Kindness" learning board for the school. This is situated in our Outdoor Classroom area and will help support any reflective conversations. It also looks bright and cheery in the area!

J Armour  
29.1.26