

Happy

Inclusive

Nurturing

Respectful

Carstairs Junction Primary School and Early Learning & Childcare

Our Wee School's a Good Wee School



Friday 25th August 2023

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our August Newsletter! For those families new to the school, our newsletters are shared on a monthly basis, usually on the last Friday of the month.

I'd like to thank you all for how smartly your children have been turned out since we have started back. As a parent myself I appreciate the work that goes on behind the scenes! 😊

Vision & Values

Our school **vision** is as follows:

At Carstairs Junction Primary School and ELC we provide a welcoming, safe and caring environment for our children, families and wider school community. We strive to provide rich learning experiences which promote confidence and self-belief. Every child is encouraged and supported to reach their full potential.

Our school **values** that we all strive to be are:

- Happy
- Inclusive
- Respectful
- Nurturing

School Improvement Plan

Our School Improvement Plan for 2023/24 can be viewed at a glance on our 'SIP on a Page' on our school website. We will share updates in our monthly newsletters all about our improvement plan progress.

Celebrating Wider Achievements At Get Together (assembly) on a Monday we love to celebrate your child's wider achievements out with school such as making progress at a club or a personal achievement at home. We will issue a letter next week with more information about how to share your child's achievements for those who are new to the school.

Nut Free School Please remember that Carstairs Junction Primary & ELC are 'nut free'. Please can you be mindful of this if preparing your child's packed lunch. Many thanks.

Carstairs Junction Primary School & ELC Improvement Priorities 2023/24			
Rationale	Literacy	Play/ Outdoor Learning/STEM	Equally/Raising Attainment/Health & Wellbeing
<p>1. All stakeholders will continue to focus on curriculum development, contributing to the school rationale with a focus on the four strands of learning.</p> <p>School & ELC Review curriculum (include learning and development (curriculum areas) with all stakeholders.</p> <p>Further support the needs of all learners through staff professional development on 'Attention Autism'.</p>	<p>2. Provide high quality learning & teaching experiences in writing through use of learning intention and success criteria, linking and learning opportunities to be used as a vehicle for value attainment in writing.</p> <p>School Review learning intention and success criteria across the school to impact positively on writing.</p> <p>Introduce ranges of 'nets' to motivate and engage learner in writing, identified cohort will show improved level of engagement where applicable.</p> <p>Review strategies to support vocabulary development through writing & listening.</p> <p>Extend the use of AAC and digital technology to include pupil voice and support written work.</p> <p>E.C. Further develop early writing skills through engaging writing experiences in the playground and outdoors.</p>	<p>3. Further develop Play based learning pedagogy of Early level and introduce play based pedagogy to First & Second level.</p> <p>School Further value assessment of Play pedagogy across the school and with families.</p> <p>Develop capacity and problem solving skills using outdoor space and discovery opportunities in identified classes.</p> <p>Full progress and skills progression will be tracked and monitored through play experiences.</p> <p>School & E.C. Increased opportunities for high quality teaching & assessment in STEM.</p> <p>Provide further access to outdoor learning experiences for all (riggs both in the school grounds and local community to promote wellbeing, achievement of all, as well as team building and resilience.</p>	<p>4. Equally Raising Attainment/Health & Wellbeing</p> <p>School: Work in close partnership with HGL to track, monitor and address barriers to attainment with families (2023).</p> <p>Raise attainment in Literacy through 1:1 and small group writing interventions with identified groups. Introduce further Early Literacy intervention (E.L.I.) Foundation in Literacy in Primary (F.L.P.) to support.</p> <p>Provide targeted Nurture intervention to improve wellbeing with identified cohort, implementing our clear focus on attainment informed practice.</p> <p>Provide targeted support in Numeracy with identified individuals and groups.</p> <p>School & E.C. GALS only to be understood by all stakeholders and inform planning in committees & Parent Council.</p>
<p>Maintenance Agenda</p> <p>Further enhance profile of sustainability across whole school community - including continued Eco School Improvement.</p> <p>Continue with free provision of snacks for all pupils, build on food preparation & skills development. Continue to review and reflect on food choices in consultation with pupils.</p> <p>Continue to extend opportunities for pupil voice through committees groups to allow forward school improvement and self-evaluation, leading targets to further develop pupil voice using strategies to best support the learner, educator, within, photo, video, AAC.</p> <p>Further engage parents in self-evaluation of school improvement plan priorities.</p>			

Communication As you will know we have migrated to Parents Portal for most communication. Thank you everyone for your perseverance. We understand there are a few families who are experiencing some difficulties signing up. We are in the process of trying to remedy this and hope that once these teething issues are dealt with, you'll find the portal easy to use. I have had positive feedback with regards to consents, with parents commenting that it is so much easier and quicker.

Our school app expires at the end of the month so this is the last time you will see our newsletters shared via the app. Moving forward, the newsletter will be shared via your child's Learning Journal.

As many of you will now, class teachers share 'News' updates via the app, this will now also be shared via Learning Journals.

Diary Dates Forthcoming events and important dates will be shared via Parents Portal, monthly newsletters and the school website.

Absences Please can you report your child's absence via the school office rather than through your child's class teacher. Please leave a message on the answering machine system, on the first day of absence before 9.30am. In your message you should let us know the name of your child, what is wrong and when you anticipate your child will be back.

New Lunch Menu Our new lunch menu will start on Monday 28th August. Copies of the new menu have been sent home. Further information on the new menu can be found here.

https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/2161/primary_menu_2023-2024

Non-Uniform Day This typically takes place on the last Friday of every month. Pupils and staff can dress down in their casual clothes. This will be included in the diary dates in the newsletter and on the app. The next non-uniform day will be Friday 29th September.

PE days Please find below a reminder of your child's PE days:

Room 1	Tuesday & Thursday
Room 2	Wednesday & Friday
Room 3	Tuesday & Thursday
Room 4	Wednesday & Friday
Room 5	Monday & Friday
Room 6	Monday & Friday

Gym will take place both indoors and outdoors when possible. We ask that pupils wear a white polo shirt, school sweater and black, blue or grey joggers/leggings with their trainers on their gym days. Pupils should still wear the school sweater/cardigan on PE days.

Meet the Teacher This is an opportunity for you to meet your child's class teacher and to see the classroom itself. This will be held on Wednesday 30th September. Please can you sign up via Parents Portal your preferred slot. At 'Meet the Teacher' we will share with you information about class routines, expectations and also about homework.

Parking Opposite Zig Zags area We would like to remind everyone not to park opposite the zig zag zone outside the school for the safety of all.

Parents as Partners

Parent Council

Our next Parent Council meeting will be held on **Wednesday 6th September at 9.30am.**
This will be held face to face in the school gym hall.

We are looking forward to seeing few new faces and as well as returning ones. 😊

Please do not feel that you need to attend every meeting. Meetings are generally held on a morning online, as we have found this suits people's other family/work commitments etc. We try to accommodate the majority of the Parent Council as best we can in terms of which days suit best.

In a nutshell, at the Parent Council you can expect to:

- receive updates about the school's educational progress
- be involved in organising school events and activities
- hear about how funding is spent
- know how to volunteer to be involved in the school
- work on behalf of all the parents at the school
- learn about our community links

If you would like to attend or even come along to the first one to see what it is all about, please can you send a short message to the Parent Council email address: carstairsjunctionpc@outlook.com

Our Chair, Mrs Margaret Turner or Secretary, Mrs Silvia Savova will be delighted to hear from you.

Community News

School Chaplaincy Team Our school chaplain is Reverend Harrison, Carstairs Parish Church. We also are really delighted to be working in partnership with Calum Keys, Children and Youth Worker, Clydesdale Christian Youth Trust. Reverend Harrison and Calum contribute to some of our school assemblies and may sometimes be invited by classes to contribute to the wider curriculum.

Speech & Language As part of the Speech and Language Therapy review, South Lanarkshire Council are seeking the views of parents and carers through an online survey. Below is a link to the survey The link provides a full explanation of the purpose of the questionnaire and how the information collated will be used.

<https://forms.office.com/e/JBMhGhLVRh>

Diary Dates

30 th August	Meet the Teacher (3.15-3.30/3.30-3.45)
6 th September	Parent Council meeting at 9.30am in school

19 th September	Fakeaway Cookery Session 1 (limited spaces available)
22 nd September	Holiday
25 th September	Holiday
26 th September	Fakeaway Cookery Session 2
28 th September	Small School Football tournament 12.30-2.20
29 th September	Non-uniform day
2 nd October	Challenge Poverty Week (more information to follow)
3 rd October	Fakeaway Cookery Session 3
9 th October	ELC & School Photographer (more information to follow)
10 th October	Fakeaway Cookery Session 4 (final session)
Parent Consultation date in October to be confirmed next week.	
16th October	October Holiday

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