

Happy

Inclusive

Nurturing

Respectful

Carstairs Junction Primary School
and Early Learning & Childcare
Our Wee School's a Good Wee School



Friday 26th January 2024

Email: gw14carstairsjoffice@glow.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.carstairsjunction-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/>

Follow us on Twitter: @CJPS18

Coronation Street, Carstairs Junction, ML11 8QY

Tel: 01555 870301

Dear Parents/Carers,

Staffing Update Mr Denham began as our 'Monday' janitor this week and is very much looking forward to being part of the team.

Ms Ford in our ELC returned from her maternity leave this week. We would like to warmly welcome her back and also thank Ms Graham for covering so ably during Ms Ford's period of leave.

Mrs Molloy (previously Miss Frew) will be with us once a fortnight as part of a small amount of additionality staffing. This session, this was previously covered by Mrs Aitken. This additionality allows up to carry our assessments, provide focused support etc. The children are delighted to see welcome her back.

Welcome to new families We have two children join Room 1 recently, welcome to you and your family.

Road closure From Monday 29th January, for up to 5 days (weather dependant), the main road from Carstairs Village into Carstairs Junction will be closed. The closure will be from the junction of East End Terrace in Carstairs Village to the junction of Woodside Street in Carstairs Junction. The diverted route will be signposted via The Westend.

LGS Transport Arrangements All parents/carers of P7 children (mainstream) are required to apply for school transport. This can be completed via South Lanarkshire Website.

Scottish Celebration It was lovely to see a packed audience of both ELC and primary families in our hall this afternoon. There was an array of talent from singers, poets and dancers. Thank you to our supportive audience!

Inclusion Festival Rooms 2,4 & 6 had a great time at the Inclusion festival this morning. Activities included Boccia, Judo and Gymnastics. Here are a few comments from our pupils:

"I had so much fun, I love it." Cailan

"I liked scoring goals in football." Emin

"I liked the soft play and gymnastics." Alisha

School Improvement Plan: Update

1. All stakeholders will continue to focus on curriculum development; contributing to the school rationale with a focus on the four contexts of learning. Further support the needs of all learners through whole staff professional development on 'Attention Autism'.

- **Progress:** Impact to date has been very positive with pupils building up their attention & communication skills. Mrs Palmer is incorporating this approach to other aspects of the day e.g. phonics & interdisciplinary learning.

2. Provide high quality learning & teaching experiences in writing through use of learning intentions and success criteria. Talking and listening opportunities to be used as a vehicle to raise attainment in writing.

- **Progress:** Mrs Simpson, our Literacy Co-ordinator led a session with teachers this month, with a focus on using a range of model texts to engage learners.

3. Further develop Play based learning pedagogy at Early level and introduce play based principles to First & Second level. Pupil progress and skills progression will be tracked and monitored through play experiences. Increased opportunities for high quality teaching & assessment in Science technology Engineering & Maths (STEM).

- **Progress:** Skills for life are tracked and monitored in ELC and in most classes using Skills framework. We look forward to sharing our class floor books with you at Parent Consultation and our class showcases.
- **Progress:** All STEM resources have now been audited and our next priority is to purchase resources in line with South Lanarkshire Planning Science & STEM planning.

4. Equity: Provide targeted support in Numeracy with identified individuals and groups.

- **Progress:** Four teachers are embarking on Maths Recovery professional learning to provide targeted support in Numeracy with identified individuals and groups and to provide a firm foundation of maths knowledge.
- **Progress:** Pupils are supported in small groups and on a 1.1 through focused maths intervention (using Maths Recovery approach)..

Parents Portal Live Items Just a reminder that the calendar on Parents Portal has the lunch menu for each day and any events that are happening within the school. Parents Portal will also be our first point of contact for any important information so please check this regularly.

Grab Rail Just a reminder that we have our 'grab rail' just inside the 'bubble' at the main foyer with uniform in very good condition. You are welcome and encouraged to come and take any uniform items.

Similarly, if you have any uniform items your child outgrown, if these are in very good condition, can you please hand in to the office. We would particularly appreciate girls leggings of all sizes.

Reminder of Adverse Weather If it is snowing in the morning and the ground is covered our janitor, will make every effort to ensure a path is available to the door nearest the main school gate.

Whilst it is rare for the school to be closed due to adverse weather, in the event of an ELC or School closure or delayed start, Parents Portal (School) and Learning Journals (ELC) will be our first and main method of communicating updates to families. As you will appreciate, in the event of adverse weather, staff may have difficulty getting into school themselves and therefore there may not be anyone in the building to answer the telephone. Please ensure push notifications are enabled to receive updates in real time.

Please also check the South Lanarkshire Council website (www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk) or the school website <http://www.carstairsjunction-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk/> for updates.



Partners Parent Council The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th February 2024 at 9.30am in school.

Daffodil Tea The Parent Council and school would like to invite the friends and family of Carstairs Junction Primary and ELC along to our Daffodil Tea on **Wednesday 22nd March from 9.45-11.00am**. You will have the opportunity to enjoy a wee cup of tea/coffee and enjoy some baking. Similar to our Bonfire Bake, we can ask your child to come along and join you for a little treat. A flyer will follow shortly.

Masonic Lodge The Masonic Lodge have been extremely supportive of the school over the past few years and again we'd like to thank them very much for donating £500 towards the cost of the Lockerbie Residential. We will be in touch with families to let them know how much this has individually reduced the cost of the trip.

Here is Miss King accepting the cheque on behalf of the school from Mr Stokes.



Tesco Token – Blue token voting is now closed for our funding request and we hope to hear the outcome very soon!

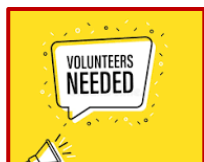
Purchase of Bikes for benefit of the children We are in the process of ordering bikes for the benefit of our senior children. This has only been possible through external funding. We aim to buy bikes for now for the more senior pupils so they have the opportunity to access Bikeability and learn cycling skills. Lots more information to follow!

Once we have these bikes it is essential we keep them in good order. We have teamed up with 'Gear Up', part of Healthy Valleys and they have offered to provide

training to any volunteer parents/carers/staff on basic bike maintenance. It is anticipated we will be able to purchase around 16 brand new bikes but as you'll appreciate these will take a bit of time to check and maintain.



Request 1: **If you would be interested at all in finding out more about being trained in basic bike maintenance to help us look after these lovely bikes, please can you call or email the school and we will try to arrange this training as soon as possible. Please also let us know of there are any days/times which suit better for you.**



Request 2: **We are also reaching out to ask for any volunteers to help support Bikeability (this is what may have been previously known to you as Cycling Proficiency 😊). Ms Martin, our P6/7 class teacher is currently trained in leading this but we welcome and need support from our school community. If we can secure 6+ volunteers from across the ELC/school to take part in the Bikeability training, it could be delivered here at Carstairs Junction. It is usually only held at Chatelherault in Hamilton. Again, please contact the school office if you can offer your support. The initial training is likely to be two half day sessions.**

Welcome All Hub - Request for donations The Welcome All Hub, just up the road from our school, has a Food bank where families can access essential foods/toiletries etc. The Hub have notified us that they are very low on goods, particularly pasta, pasta sauces, rice, all tins, cereals, coffee, sugar, smash potatoes, diluting juice and long-life milk. If anyone is able to make a donation of food items that would be very much appreciated. A collection box will be located in the school main entrance ('bubble') and at the ELC entrance from Monday. Similarly, good can be handed in directly to the Hub Many thanks for your support.



Newly added diary dates are in bold below.

Diary Dates:

29th January	P1 & P7 Dental Inspection
30th January	Room 4 & 5 John Muir (Session 4)
31st January	Room 3 (Group 2) Forest School (Session 2)
31st January	You & Your Child (Session 3) Families who requested to join
1st February	P6/7/ Cross Country After School Club (Session 1)
6th February	Room 4 & 5 John Muir (Session 5)
7th February	Room 3 (Group 2) Forest School (Session 3)
7th February	You & Your Child (Session 4) Families who requested to join
8th February	P6/7/ Cross Country After School Club (Session 2)
12th February	February Holiday
13th February	February Holiday
14th February	INSET (no pupils in school)
15th February	P6/7/ Cross Country After School Club (Session 3)
20th February	Room 4 & 5 John Muir (Session 6)
21st February	Room 3 (Group 2) Forest School (Final session)

21st February	You & Your Child (Session 5) Families who requested to join
22nd February	P6/7/ Cross Country After School Club (Session 4)
23rd February	Newsletter issued
26th February	World of Work Week (more information to follow)
27th February	Room 4 & 5 John Muir (Session 7)
28th February	You & Your Child (Session 6) Families who requested to join
28th February	Room 5 Trip to Loch Lomond
28th February	Rescheduled Room 3 (Group 1 – final session)
29th February	P6/7/ Cross Country After School Club (Session 5)
6th March	Room 4 Trip to Loch Lomond
6th March	Room 6 Forest School (Session 1)
6th March	You & Your Child (Session 7) Families who requested to join
7th March	P6/7/ Cross Country After School Club (Session 6)
8th March	Room 4&5 Showcase at 2pm (Save the date 😊)
13th March	You & Your Child (Final session) Families who requested to Join
13th March	Room 6 Forest School (Session 2) This will be held earlier in Day to accommodate Showcase later on
13th March	P6/7 Cross Country Event at Lanark Racecourse (selected Pupils)
13th March	Room 6 Showcase at 2pm (Save the date 😊)
15th March	Room 3 Showcase at 2pm (Save the date 😊)
18th March	Room 1 Showcase at 2pm (Save the date 😊)
19th March	Swimming Lessons for P5's (Lesson 1)
20th March	Parent Consultation
20th March	Room 6 Forest School (Session 3)
21st March	P7 Lanark Grammar Enterprise Challenge at Lanark Grammar
22nd March	Newsletter issued
26th March	Swimming Lessons for P5's (Lesson 2)
27th March	Room 6 Forest School (Final session)
28th March	School closes at 2.30pm for Spring Break
17th May	Room 2 Showcase at 2pm (Save the date 😊)

Thank you everyone for your continued support for our busy wee school.

Kind regards,



Jill Armour
Head Teacher