

Happy

Inclusive

Nurturing

Respectful

# Carstairs Junction Primary School and Early Learning & Childcare

*Our Wee School's a Good Wee School*



Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our August Newsletter. For anyone new to the school, we welcome you to Carstairs Junction Primary School community. Each month we share a school newsletter and ELC (Nursery) newsletter for our Nursery families.

**7<sup>th</sup> Eco Flag!** We are delighted to announce we received news of our 7th Green Flag award on the first week back! The feedback recognised that sustainability is embedded in our improvement planning and we have identified next steps to build on this work. The Eco focus last session included raising awareness and reducing the amount for food waste, through SLC's Waste Warrior campaign, improving the outdoor environment through the introduction of bigger and better planters, as well as plans in place to develop a sensory garden. We also provided family bike maintenance opportunities and trained up some pupils to help lead this moving forward. The Eco committee have continued to look after the local community orchard and have consulted with pupils, staff and parents about how to encourage greater use of this space. Pupils in both mainstream and ASN classes further developed their understanding of nature within the school grounds, wider community and natural parks through their John Muir Accreditation. The school team are extremely grateful to the partnership working with Health Valleys who made this achievable.

### School Improvement Plan

Our School Improvement Plan for 2024/25 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 Friday 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 issued a letter last week with more information about how to share your child's achievements for those who are

**CARSTAIRS JUNCTION PRIMARY & ELC SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES ON A PAGE 2024-2025**

EQUITY	LEARNER WELLBEING	RAISE ATTAINMENT	SKILL DEVELOPMENT
<p><b>Rationale:</b> Targeted support to continue to provide timely intervention to learners to reduce barriers to learning.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> PEF support for identified learners on targeted interventions for Literacy, Nurture &amp; Attendance.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> For learners involved, there will be increased reading attainment, wellbeing levels will improve and attendance levels will increase by 5%-10%.</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Further engage in policy and legislation affecting the rights of the child to support learner wellbeing and help them to become global citizens.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> As a Learning Community, use GLE Framework to review current approaches to learning and teaching. Further develop our promoting positive behaviour approaches and empower learners to shape and influence actions in our community.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Increased staff confidence in making assessments, increased levels of wellbeing for learners and learners can identify their own strengths and development needs. Evidence of learning for positive</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Continue to develop features of highly effective practice in Literacy &amp; Numeracy through consistency of approach and targeted intervention.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Teachers will engage with professional learning through improving our Schools and Maths Recovery. Numeracy interventions will take place with a cohort of identified learners.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Increased staff confidence in using data to raise attainment. Consistent approach to teaching Literacy and Numeracy</p>	<p><b>Rationale:</b> Develop a progressive approach to developing learners skills for learning, life and work.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b> Skills will be discussed in daily learning and we will track learners skill development.</p> <p><b>Outcomes:</b> Where appropriate, learners will discuss their skill development and identify next steps.</p>

new to the school. We have received a few already and the pupils have enjoyed these being shared at Get Together.

**House Captains & Vice-Captains** On Tuesday our Captain and Vice-Captain candidates shared their speeches, outlining why they felt they would be a suitable candidate for the role of captain or vice-captain. We loved the originality of the speeches, and they were all very much heart felt. We appreciated that the pupils put themselves forward but there could only be one Captain and Vice-Captain per House. All candidates were awarded with a new House token for their efforts. Those who unfortunately didn't become Captain or Vice-Captain were given first choice as to which committee they would like to be part of. We are also providing further Buddy/leadership responsibilities for our seniors so they are going to be busy leaders regardless!

Meet our new Captains & Vice Captains:

Clyde – Rebeka & Ella

Monteith – Paige & Emin

Strawfrank – Murray & Thomas

**Cost of the School Day** in line with the 'Cost of the School Day' we use a proportion of Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) to support Cost of the School day initiatives. In recent years, this has meant we can subsidise the cost of trips, bought sports tracksuits etc. We sourced external funding where we can, to reduce the cost of other planned activities. We try to give you as much notice if we can of forthcoming events, such as fundraisers etc. We will keep our Cost of the School Day Policy as a strong focus this session and will review our policy in consultation with pupils, parents and staff to see if it is felt further adaptations need to be made.

We will not be holding monthly 'dress down days', rather, these will be less frequent and where planned by committees. This lessens any potential pressure on families. Our Enterprise and Charities will be sure to let you know as/when any special days are planned.

**Clubs** Our P6/7 Rounders lunch time club is going well. Thank you to Alan, our Active Schools leader and Elaine, our Youth Family Community Lead Officer (YFCL) for leading. Our P3/4/5 Tennis After School Club is also going well. Here are a few photos from our lunch club.

**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.

**Diary Dates** Forthcoming events and important dates will be shared via Parents Portal, monthly newsletters and the school website. Our diary dates for this term so far as listed at the end of the newsletter. Dates added in each month are noted in bold.

**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 started on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August. Copies of the new menu have been sent home. Further information on the new menu can be found here.

ELC:

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200184/early\\_learning\\_and\\_childcare/2225/nursery\\_lunch\\_menu\\_2024-2025](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200184/early_learning_and_childcare/2225/nursery_lunch_menu_2024-2025)

School:

[https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary\\_school\\_information/2224/primary\\_menu\\_2024-2025](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/2224/primary_menu_2024-2025)

## **Parents as Partners**

### **Parent Council**

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](mailto:carstairsjunctionpc@outlook.com)

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

The next Parent Council meeting is on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am.

## **Community News**

**School Chaplaincy Team** Our school chaplain is Reverend Harrison, Carstairs Parish Church. Reverend Harrison contributes to some of our school assemblies and may sometimes be invited by classes to contribute to the wider curriculum.

### **Diary Dates:**

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	Planet Protectors Workshop (selected families)
<b>4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Bike checks for Bikeability taking place
<b>4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	P 3/4/5 Tennis After School Club (Final Session)
<b>9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Bikeability for P5/6 pupils (Session 1)
<b>9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Lockerbie Information Evening
<b>10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Planet Protectors Workshop (selected families)

<b>13<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Bikeability for P5/6 pupils (Session 2)
<b>16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Bikeability for P5/6 pupils (Session 3)
<b>17<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Planet Protectors Workshop (selected families)
<b>18<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Bikeability for P5/6 pupils (Session 4)
<b>20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Bikeability for P5/6 pupils (Session 5)
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	Bikeability for P5/6 pupils (Session 6)
<b>25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Bikeability for P5/6 pupils (Final session)
<b>26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Newsletter issued
<b>27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	September Weekend (School Closed)
<b>30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	September Weekend (School Closed)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Planet Protectors Workshop (selected families)
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	Parent Consultations
<b>8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Planet Protectors Workshop
<b>11<sup>th</sup> October</b>	School Photographs
<b>14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	October Break (School Closed)
<b>15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	October Break (School Closed)
<b>16<sup>th</sup> October</b>	October Break (School Closed)
<b>17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	October Break (School Closed)
<b>18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	October Break (School Closed)
<b>21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Lockerbie Manor Residential Trip for P6/7 pupils
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	Planet Protectors Workshop (selected families)
<b>25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Newsletter issued

Please note these dates may be subject to change.

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**

