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Carstairs Junction Primary School and Early Learning & Childcare

Our Wee School's a Good Wee School

Friday 30th May 2025



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our May Newsletter, with 15 ½ school days to go, there is so much to fit into the short space of time.

Shades Disco Our Shorts & Shades Disco was a great success today, even if the weather didn't match the theme! Thank you to the Parent Council for supporting the event by way of organising the snacks and supporting with the running of the afternoon. Also, many thanks to DJ Angie for making the party a hit. We appreciate the time she gives up from her busy schedule to entertain the children free of charge.

Small Schools Football Tournament Our team did us proud at the recent tournament, showing great effort and attitude. Out of all the schools taking part, we were awarded the 'Fair Play' award.



Potted Sports & Sports Day The children showed great teamwork and we really supportive of each other at both our potted sports and sports day. A huge thank you to all the families who came along to support. Thank you to Mrs Savova for sourcing free bottles of water for our Sports Day from Tesco Lanark. Here are a few photos from our sporting events last Friday and Monday.





Reporting Your child's school report has been shared with you today via Parents Portal. You have also been sent a feedback form via Parents Portal. We would appreciate if you could discuss the report with your child and provide feedback from yourself and your child.

Prize Giving Parents have now been notified if their child is receiving an award at our Prize Giving. Please remember, we keep this a secret until the actual event so please can you refrain from sharing this with them. All parents are welcome to attend; however places will be limited. If you would like to attend, please can you let the school office know by Wednesday 11th June, either by phone call or email.

School Improvement Plan Update

We had purposeful discussion at our May INSET, with all staff engaging in our School Improvement Plan evaluation. We asked staff to highlight the successes over the year. Here is a snapshot of some of the feedback – with a short description for some explaining what these comments refer to:

- ✓ Interventions in Literacy & Numeracy and upskilled support staff (*additional support for some identified pupils or small groups over a short time period to measure impact*)
- ✓ NELI (*this is a focused Literacy intervention which is new to our ELC and in our second year in our infant class*)
- ✓ Greater consistency regarding behaviour
- ✓ Residential to Lockerbie Manor
- ✓ Attention Autism
- ✓ World of Work Week
- ✓ Enhanced transition from ELC to Primary 1 (*we provided more opportunities for our pre school learners to visit room 1 and familiarise themselves with the environment, resources etc*)
- ✓ Cycling Friendly Award, Bikeability and bespoke support to those who needed help to ride a bike
- ✓ Focused attendance tracking and support to families
- ✓ Forest Schools
- ✓ Silver Sports Award, clubs led by pupils, visiting specialists and staff

'Cost of the School Day' We continue to try to keep costs as low as possible during the course of the school year, however we appreciate there are times in the year where there is more of an outlay for families, such as preparing for a new school year in August. Please remember your child does not need to come to school with their own pencil case and pencils, all class are fully equipped with all the resources they need and sometimes pencil cases from home can be more of a distraction!

Our school uniform is grey trousers/skirt/pinafore with white shirt/blouse/polo shirt and maroon sweater/cardigan. Plain white polo shirts from supermarkets are the most cost effective. There is no separate PE kit. School ties are kindly provided for by our Parent Council during the transition visits. Children who join part way through the year are offered pre-loved items, if available in their size. 'Book bags' are provided for by the school for pupils starting Primary 1.

Parents on certain benefits can access a clothing grant to help with school uniform costs. There is information about entitlement to clothing grants and how to apply on the SLC website

(https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200259/education_benefits/159/school_clothing_grants_and_free_school_meals).

We also have access to funding which gives families a 'helping hand' during times of difficulty. The grants are there to help people by providing individual items that can make a huge difference to family life – such as white goods, beds and mattresses to aid restful sleep, grocery and clothing vouchers to support the purchase of essentials. If you would like us to make a referral on your behalf, please call and ask to speak to either Mrs Armour or Elaine (our YFCL). Elaine works each Wednesday at Carstairs Junction. We will deal with each enquiry with the utmost confidentiality.

Best Work Award Winners for May

Room 1 – Amber has been awarded for being a successful learner in writing. She has used openers and connectives to join two sentences together. She has also given more information.

Room 2 – All of Room 2 are celebrated this month for developing confidence and being successful learners showcasing their learning about Handa's Surprise during their class showcase. They were also showing BMW and great sportsmanship during their Sports Afternoon.

Room 3 – Congratulations Adler, Christopher and Kayden for really impressive writing, meeting your success criteria. Successful Learners all round!

Room 4 – Teddy has been awarded for being a successful learner in maths. He has been able to recall facts about maths that have been previously taught.

Room 5 – Congratulations Abi you have been awarded Successful Learner as you have been working hard, writing notes.

Room 6 – Alisha is the Room 6 Best Work Award winner. She included a 'first, next and last' to her recount about her trip to the park including detailed drawings.

Parents as Partners

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting is on **Thursday 19th June 9.30am** in the school gym hall. This will also be our Annual General Meeting.

Please just pop along to our meeting and we will be delighted to see you. If you can come along (bring another parent with you?) we would be over the moon to see you.

Diary Dates:

2 nd June	Biggar High School (Transition Day 1)
3 rd June	New ASN Transition Visit 1- 9.20-10.00 (for some of our new starts in August)
3 rd June	Biggar High School (Transition Day 2)
3 rd June	Room 1 class trip
3 rd June	P5 Swimming (Lesson 9)
4 th June	Biggar High School (Transition Day 3)
9 th June	Room 5 Class trip
9 th June	New P1 Mainstream Transition Visit 1 – 2.00-2.45 (pupils only – letter being posted out today with information!)
10 th June	New ASN Transition Visit 2 – 9.20-10.00 (for all our new starts in August) This is also 'Step Up Day' for all pupils in our ASN classes (where they will go to their new class from 9.20-10.00)
10 th June	P5 Swimming (Lesson 10)
10 th June	Lanark Grammar (Transition Day 1)

11 th June	Lanark Grammar (Transition Day 2)
11 th June	New P1 Mainstream Transition Visit 2 – 1.30-2.30 (+ parent information session) This is also 'Step Up Day' for all Mainstream pupils (where they will go to their new class from 1.30-2.30)
12 th June	Lanimer holiday
13 th June	Lanimer holiday
16 th June	P7 Treat evening
17 th June	P5 Swimming (Lesson 11)
18 th June	Room 3 Class Trip
19th June	Parent Council AGM at 9.30am
20 th June	Room 5 Showcase incorporating P7 Leavers Showcase at 1.30pm (invites to follow)
23 rd June	Prizegiving Ceremony
24 th June	Re-scheduled P5 Swimming (Lesson 12)
25 th June	School closes at 1pm for Summer break
12th Aug	Inset 1 – Staff only
13th Aug	Inset 2 – Staff only
14th Aug	Pupils return to school

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.

Kindest regards,



Jill Armour
Head Teacher