

# Carstairs Primary School Newsletter

May 2024



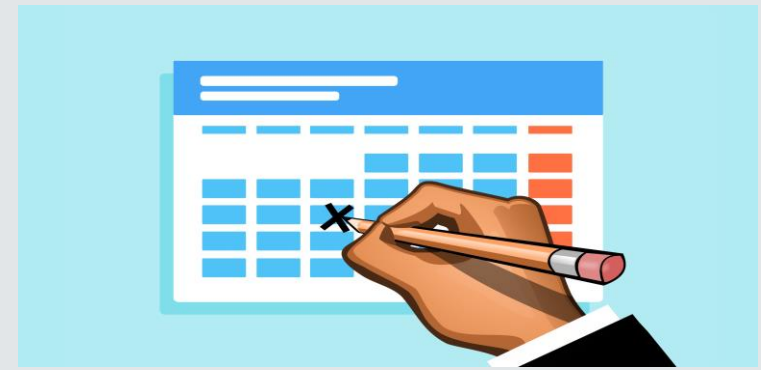
#TeamCarstairs



**It is hard to believe, but we are racing towards the end of term 4! Today we bring you up to speed on some of the action from our return to school from the Easter break in April up to today! As usual, it has been busy, busy – and will continue to be, right up until the very end of term.**

# Dates for your Diary

*The list below provides the remaining dates for you to be aware of in the school diary this term:*

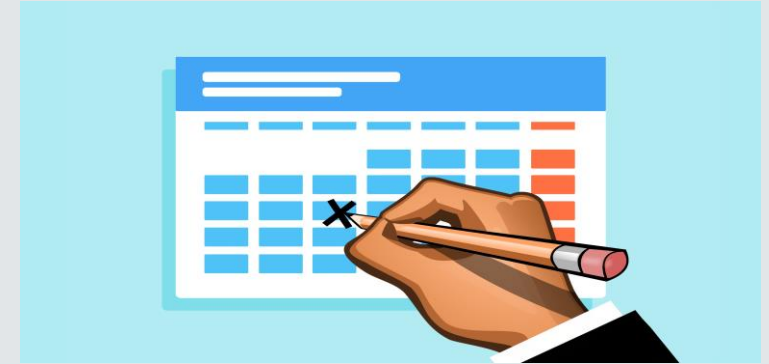


- **Monday 03 June – 4.00 onwards – Transition Tours for new P1 intake families**
- Wednesday 05 June – School Sports AM – Dress down day – pupils to come ready to race! Timings per class have been issued on Parents Portal – please see the schedule should you wish to spectate during your child's slot
- **Wednesday 05 June** – we *hope* to be able to issue pupil report cards – we will alert you when issued
- **Thursday 06 June – SCHOOL CLOSED – Lanimer Holiday**
- **Friday 07 June – SCHOOL CLOSED – Lanimer Holiday**
- **Tuesday 11 June & Wednesday 12 June** – P7 Transition Day to LGS – Come to school at normal time here + bussed to LGS from here, returning to be excused from here at home time. Children should come in Carstairs Primary School uniform



# Dates for your Diary – Cont'd

*The list below provides the remaining dates for you to be aware of in the school diary this term:*



- **Wednesday 12 June** – 9.20 – 10.20 New P1 intake Class Visit 2
- **Thursday 13 June & Friday 14 June** – P7 Level 2 Bikeability pupils to bring bikes to complete block during school day
- **Friday 14 June** – Magnificent Me Assembly – if your child has an out of school achievement to be recognised it must go in the **ONLINE DIARY** no later than Wednesday 12 June
- **Friday 14 June** – Learning Targets (see Google Classroom) available for term 4 parent comment – please look at the targets per term and add your comments for term 4
- **Tuesday 25 June** – 9.30 – Whole school Summer Celebration, with special focus on P7 – All welcome
- **Tuesday 25 June** – 6.00 to 7.30 – P7 Leavers' Event in school- (Movie night and take away) – (previously due to start at 6.30 – now brought forward to accommodate request for movie)
- **Wednesday 26 June** – Children to spend time in new classes for 2024/25 AM, as far as possible, with intended new teacher
- **Wednesday 26 June** – School closes at 1pm for summer holidays – cold meals and soup only today for lunch order

We have been short staffed for a very significant amount of time, since our return from Easter break. As always, all of our Team members step up to the plate, to help ensure the smooth running of all things Team Carstairs for our learners. Thank you to all staff for the ongoing, consistent hard work shown to this end.



Thank You!

*Extra special thanks* go to Miss Colligan and Miss Guthrie, who have both shown such flexibility during this period of time, readily adapting their daily timetables to accommodate significant changes to their classes over the last few weeks, without question or hesitation – can do attitudes in spades! *Well done and keep up the great work, ladies.*





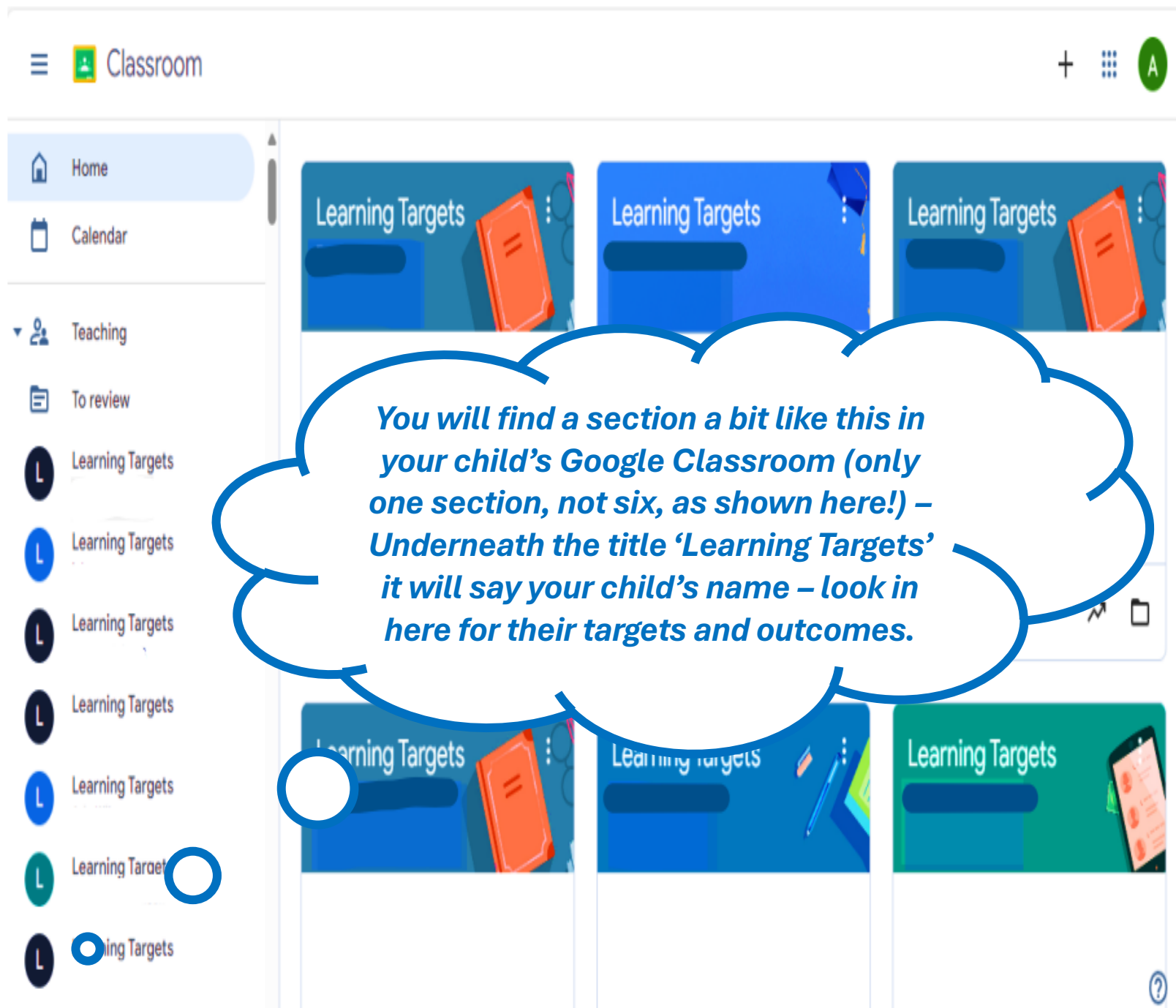
## **Bikeability – Level 2**

This block of Bikeability has proven quite the challenge, with weather and date clashes scuppering our best laid plans over time and meaning much more chopping and changing than we would have liked. In order to make sure that the children involved can successfully complete the course and gain their Level 2 certificate, we will now fulfil the remaining 3 hours' worth of training on the following dates and times:

- ✓ **Thursday 13 June – 1.10 – 2.40pm**
- ✓ **Friday 14 June – 9.15 – 10.45pm**

**All Bikeability participants MUST come prepared on these days with their bikes and helmets, in order to complete and achieve certification.**





## Learning Targets

Unless your child is new to our school, they all have a **Learning Targets** section in their **Google Classrooms**. (Previously named *Learning Journeys*). These show **termly targets** for your child, along with **pupil and teacher comments** and **evidence of linked progress**. We ask that **you comment on these each term**, please.

The background features a large graphic with concentric circles in shades of blue and teal, centered around a red circle. A thick yellow horizontal bar and a grey diagonal line cross the scene. 

# ***Why bother to get involved in commenting on the Learning Targets section in Google Classroom?***

Well, research shows that parental engagement in children's learning plays a strong part in their progress.

We urge you to get involved. The video shown on the link below provides some further information on the point of all this! 😊

**[Learning Targets – Info Video for Parents](#)**



**SAINT PHNX helped our children learn some calming breathing techniques and how to channel their minds to believe in themselves. They used music and song to help our children think about being in their very own HAPPY PLACE. A lovely session for all. Well done, children and thanks to Stevie and Alan for their well received input.**



**SAINT PHNX**  
**Thank you to SAINT PHNX,**  
**local band,**  
**for delivering their**  
**Happy Place Workshop in**  
**our school on**  
**Thursday 09 May**



On the subject of music, we say a huge **WELL DONE** and **CONGRATULATIONS** to **Ethan, P7**, for his recent success playing saxophone in a special event at Hamilton Townhouse.

Participation in the event took a great deal of courage, spending the full day at the Townhouse, working with lots of children from other schools and staff from SLC's Instrumental Music Service and performing for a large audience there.

What an awesome achievement, **Ethan** – we are very proud of you. Well done.

Ethan has been learning to play the saxophone for a year now and is making fantastic progress. Keep it up, Ethan!



SLC Instrumental Music Service  
@MusicSLC

South Lanarkshire Primary Schools' Concert Band are **HUMONGOUS!!!!**

One hundred and eleven wind band musicians preparing for today's big concert at 4pm in Hamiltons Town House.

We are SOOOOO excited



He's  
here! 😊

@EducationSLC





No act of  
kindness, no  
matter how  
small, is ever  
wasted.

Be kind  
whenever  
possible. It is  
always possible.



**Thank you to Reverend Harrison, for coming into school this month to join us for assembly, sharing the story of The Good Samaritan and the idea that sharing kindness brings light to others.**

**We see lots of acts of kindness from our children day to day in school and Reverend Harrison helped us to reinforce the importance of kindness, well.**

**Thank you, Reverend Harrison, it is always a pleasure to have you join us. Your support for our school is appreciated. 😊**



#TeamCarstairs

♥ Can do school

Be safe,  
Be happy,  
Be all you can be

We value:

♥ effort

♥ respect

♥ confidence

♥ kindness

Each time Reverend Harrison visits us, he is always so full of praise for the effort and respect that our children demonstrate.

We are proud that visitors to our school can see our school values shining through in our children's actions.

Keep it up, children, both in and out of school! Keep our school values proudly on display! 😊

# Health and Wellbeing

## YOU SAID – WE DID

*Back in term 3, we took your views on what our health and wellbeing curriculum needed, in order to personalise it for the needs of our very own community.....your feedback told us that there were key areas around the theme of RISK that you would like us to ensure are well covered, because these are especially pertinent to OUR local community....*

- ✓ Risks linked to road safety
- ✓ Risks linked to railway safety
- ✓ **Risks linked to water safety**
- ✓ Risks linked to physical health & healthy lifestyles

*In keeping with your feedback, we organised for Embers Aquatics, a social enterprise company, to come and deliver **water safety workshops** in our school for all classes. Thank you to Anna from Embers Aquatics for her time, effort and lovely manner with our children! 😊*



*We continue to liaise with a variety of partners to further promote these aspects of learning that you have told us are especially pertinent to our community, in addition to our core teaching in these areas. 😊*



# Attendance – it really matters

We encourage all families to be mindful of the fact that strong attendance at school leads to strong attainment in learning.

Please help us make sure that our children's learning progresses as far as possible by making sure that they attend school as much as possible.

We *completely* understand that if children are unwell, they need to be off school. Please help us help our children attain expected levels – and beyond – by avoiding any *unnecessary* absences.

**We encourage all to aim for full attendance, as far as possible, for the remainder of the term.**

## SO WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE ?

190 School days in each year	10 days absence 180 Days of education	19 days absence 171 Days of education	29 days absence 161 Days of education	38 days absence 152 Days of education	47 days absence 143 Days of education
190 days for your child's education					
100%	95%	90%	85%	80%	75%
ATTENDANCE GOOD Best chance of success. Gets your child off to a flying start	CONCERN Less chance of success. Harder to progress		SERIOUS ATTENDANCE CONCERN Attendance needs investigated, attendance letters and possible referral to Children's Reporter		

**GOOD ATTENDERS GET GOOD RESULTS!**



# Class Showcases



*Thank you to our P1/2 families for coming along this month to share in children's learning about planting and growing, and to P4 families for coming along to share in children's learning about Egyptians.*

*We absolutely love to have you here – it is always a pleasure to see you get hands on in school, supporting our children with their learning and encouraging them so much!*

*Apologies P1/2 – my photography skills were not up to scratch on your visit!*





A group of approximately 18 P7 students and two adults are posing for a photo on a grassy area. The students are wearing blue school jumpers and red lanyards with ID badges. They are standing in front of a large, curved sculpture made of many discarded plastic bottles, which is shaped like a whale. The background is filled with lush green trees. A white heart-shaped graphic in the top right corner contains the text 'P7 Sky Academy'.

**P7 Sky  
Academy**

**It's been an especially busy month  
for school trips!**





**P7 Sky  
Academy**

**Well done, P7  
– your news  
report on AI  
technology  
was fab**

**Well done to P6  
on their  
successful trip to  
Sky Academy this  
week, too!**



**P4 & P5 had  
a great time  
at Whitelee  
Windfarm**

**Well done to  
all P4 & P5**







# P1, P2 & P3 Trip to Five Sisters Zoo

What a buzz of excitement as our P1/2 and P2/3 classes set off for Five Sisters Zoo this morning....and that was just the staff!

We were so pleased to see the beautiful blue skies and sun shining for our wee ones as they set off for their big adventure today!

We hope everyone has a wonderful day – it's already off to a superb start (10.15am update 😊), as you can see here.

*Thank you to all staff for the excellent team work that has gone in to making sure that all of our school trips over the month of May for have run smoothly.*

# Participatory Budget (Pupil Equity Fund)

This session our community – pupils, parents and staff voted to use the £1250 that we had available to support extra curricular experiences. We are delighted that using this money to support the buses for our school trips has meant that we have been able to send ALL children on their educational excursions this year, completely FREE of charge to ALL families. We continue to be very mindful of the cost of the school day for our families and look forward to the voting on how the money we have available for this year's Participatory Budget will go! We have roughly the same amount for this again for session 2024 / 25 – watch this space for your chance to vote on the upcoming spend!





A fan of £20 banknotes is spread out on a wooden surface. The notes are white with blue and purple accents, featuring the Queen's portrait and the Bank of England logo. The text is overlaid on the image in white boxes with black text, and some parts are in purple.

# Thank you, Parent Partnership & Parent Forum

We were recently in the running for a Tesco Stronger Starts Grant. Our bid highlighted that.....

*'We would like to broaden our children's experiences beyond the school day and gate by funding buses for excursions, after school clubs and purchasing playground equipment.'*

.....and we are DELIGHTED to let you know that our cause came first in this bid for the funding this time around!

HUGE thanks to our Parent Partnership setting up with Tesco the opportunity for us to be in the running to gain another Stronger Starts grant, and to our Parent Forum for adding plenty of blue tokens in Tesco in Lanark for us! *This £1500 will be a HUGE support to us in the coming school year – well done and thank you all SO much!*



# Cyber Safety and Internet Resilience

We actively promote internet safety through our school curriculum every year and this year, we have given this an extra special push, in our quest to receive a Digital Wellbeing Award for our school. Our P7 Digital Leaders have helped with this and we have had help from children in a range of classes to make this special video to remind everyone of being SMART online.

[Click here to hear from our Team Carstairs SMART Stars with the important safety advice needed! 😊](#)



# Community Spirit

And speaking of community spirit, we extend very special thanks to the family of Bethany Orr (P1) for the HUGE kindness they showed us this week.

Bethany's Dad has very generously provided materials as well as his hard graft, roped in Bethany's Uncle to help and together, with a little help from Mr D, they got their backs into finishing off the area surrounding area of our new polytunnel, completing it now to a very high standard.

We are SO grateful for the time and effort we have been given, and for kindness and generosity we have been shown.

Thank you so much to Mr Orr and all involved.



***Our warm thanks are also extended to R J Doak & Sons, Lanark, for providing us with a ton of sand, completely free of charge! And to Cloburn Quarry, Lanark for the two free tons of stones! We are very grateful for these brilliant donations – all so appreciated! 😊***



*Phew! May 2024 sure has been action packed – and June promises to be the same! Thank you, families, for your continued support. It is much appreciated.*

*As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or queries about any aspect of our work. We are always more than happy to help.*

*Wishing you all a fantastic weekend when it arrives – take care and enjoy! ☺*