

CARSTAIRS  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 2024

October

## GAZETTE REMINDER FOR P1 PARENTS



The Carlisle and Lanark Gazette will soon publish their P1 special edition. P1 parents – please see below for a final reminder on this:

The special edition will be published on 13 November 2024.

The deadline to pre-order copies online is 11.30pm on Tuesday 05 November.

Orders can be placed by calling 0330 403 3004. If using this number, then the deadline is 4.30pm on Tuesday 05 November.

# WORKING WITH YOU TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

We hope that you found it useful to receive your child's **interim report card** in October and also to have the chance to speak with your child's teacher about his / her progress during our **Parents' Evening**. Thank you to all who returned the requested **report card feedback sheet** with pupil and parent comments. We are always grateful for this feedback and acknowledgement. 😊

Children's termly **Learning Targets** are another way in which we attempt to keep you up to date and involved in your child's ongoing progress. The Learning Targets for all children have been updated for term 2. **Term 1's targets have been reviewed by teacher and pupil – and your comments are welcome – and the targets for this term are available online for your perusal.** Please check these out. (P1 have received these in their diaries on paper copy until such times as we get our new P1 families up to speed on Google Classroom).



See our school website [‘LEARNING TARGETS – VIDEO FOR PARENTS’](#) for a reminder of what our Learning Targets are all about. Your strong engagement with us makes all the difference to your child's learning and progress. **Please get involved.**

# WORLD OF WORK FOCUS WEEK

We are grateful to our **school nurse** Mr Stephen Comiskey for speaking to all classes last month about his role – helping our children to learn more about the **world of work**.

We also had a great visit from **Tinto Farm Vets** – our P2/3 learners had a great session with Sarah and we are very grateful to our colleagues from Tinto Farm Vets for giving us this time and effort.

Unfortunately, we didn't manage to gain any parental volunteers to speak in school about their jobs during our October focus week but we do recognise that we asked at fairly short notice!

**We are happy to welcome parents in to deliver job talks at any time throughout the term**, so if you would like to offer, we can arrange a date and time between now and Christmas. We would love to hear from you.



## WELL DONE TO CARSTAIRS VILLAGE GIRLS BRIGADE

On the evening of Thursday 24 October, **1<sup>st</sup>** **Carstairs Girls Brigade** ran a hugely successful Harvest Celebration in the in Carstairs Community Centre. The event had lots of lovely activities going on to help the girls and their visitors **celebrate, and show gratitude for, Harvest**. It was lovely to be part of it and see lots of our girls, and families, in action – **very well done to all involved**. I observed a large collection of foodstuffs donated at the event, ready to go to **Clydesdale Foodbank** too – it was lovely to see the **generosity of our community in action**, as always.



# HALLOWEEN DISCO 2024

Huge thanks to our **Parent Partnership** for running two hugely successful discos for our children on the evening of Friday 25 October. It was a fun night for all and we are most grateful to our Parent Partnership for their hard work to make sure it was, once again, a fun night for our children. **Thank you.**

The children's costumes were marvellous, and it was great to see how much they loved having this extra chance to get into the Halloween spirit and get dressed up.



A big **thank you to Mr Turner**, one of our school parents, who DJ'd for both discos. It was great to have the full DJ set up and lights in action and really contributed to the success of the night. **Well done Mr Turner** and **thank you to our Parent Partnership for funding this special addition to our annual Halloween Disco.**

# HALLOWEEN DISCO ACTION SHOTS



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# ACTIVE SCHOOL

We have been delighted to welcome Alan, our Active Schools coach, back into school in the month of October to lead **Multi Sports for our P3 and P4** children on a Monday after school. These sessions have been well received by all attendees and their effort and engagement has been excellent. Well done, children and thank you to Alan. 😊



We are delighted to highlight that we have once again had the pleasure of welcoming a representative from **Biggar Rugby Club** to our school on a Friday morning in the month of October, to provide **rugby taster sessions for our Base 6** (P6/7) class. These sessions are going well. **Thank you to Cerys from Biggar Rugby Club** for her time and effort on our behalf.



# JUDO TASTER SESSIONS

It was a pleasure to welcome **Andy Malone** back into our school last week to deliver **Judo taster sessions** for the whole school.

All of our classes engaged **BRILLIANTLY** with Andy and all of the activities on offer, representing our school very well.

Andy reported how much he enjoyed visiting our school and we hope he can come back again in the future, following a superb morning with us last week.



**Thank you, Andy –  
our children from P1  
to P7 had lots of fun  
in their Judo taster  
sessions.**



# SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Staff are working hard to push forward our school improvement targets for this school session.

Our **Invisible Backpack** training is off the ground and influencing the thinking of staff involved to date – we look forward to completing the remaining training sessions: session 2 is planned for next week's in-service day.

Tomorrow, staff will undertake **further training** in our staff meeting, to look at how we ensure that children fully recognise the breadth of skills that they are developing in our school – looking at **Skills Development Scotland Meta Skills** materials.

And by the end of term 2, we expect to have our all new **Play Station in action in Base 3** (using our currently empty classroom to extend play based approaches to learning, with new purchases made from our Pupil Equity Fund Budget).

We have been busy working on a number of **school policy updates** and look forward to sharing these with you too. Before we do, we would like your input on our Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policy. Staff and children have discussed what they consider key features of best lessons and quality learning look like and we would like your views on this too. **Please spare us a few moments to complete the short Google Form, shown on the link shown here, by Friday 08 November, at 5pm:**

What Makes A Great Lesson?

**GET  
INVOLVED**



Please get involved! Thank you! 😊

# NOVEMBER DATES

- **Thursday 07 November** – Primary 6 learners RHET Visit educational excursion – Food & Farming Day at Lanark Agricultural Centre (letter / permissions will be issued on Parents Portal on Tuesday 05 November)
- **Thursday 07 November** – 3 until 4pm – P6 and P7 Code Club with Mrs Whitehead (final session)
- **Monday 11 November – School CLOSED to all pupils** – staff inservice day
- **Monday 18, 25 November and 2 December** – 3.00 – 3.50pm – P5 to P7 Glee Club with Miss Watson
- **Thursday 21 November** – 9.30 – 10.30am – Base 4 (P4/5) Carstairs Connect Session – Parents working 1:1 with own children
- *Please note, these dates are likely to be added to – please do keep an eye on Parents Portal for further info / check messages as they arrive. Thank you.*



Thank you, families, for your continued support. As always, please get in touch if you have any questions or queries about any aspect of our work. We are always more than happy to help.

October has been a busy, productive and successful month for us! Bring on November! 😊