



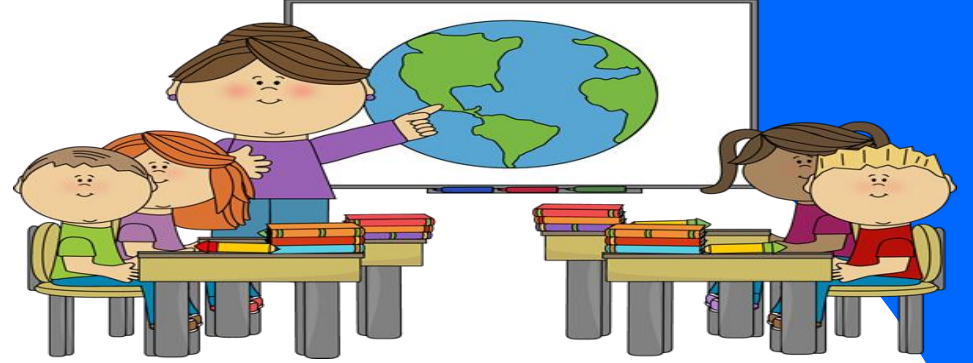
Carstairs Primary School

January / February 2025

Newsletter



Getting 2025 started



We warmly welcomed everyone back to school on the 6th of January and have been working at pace ever since....it's hard to believe we are fast approaching the February Weekend.

We commenced the first few weeks of Term 3, with a strong and clear focus on pushing for the best possible attainment for all. Things were deliberately quiet on the after school club front in January, allowing staff the time to concentrate on starting the year off with strong attainment in mind.

This continues to be the case now – and well into the future – and we are now back to layering up our school clubs for the term, providing a range of opportunities for achievement beyond the 9.00 – 3.00 school day. Check out dates on the school website calendar – these are also shown on the Parents Portal Calendar.

Carstairs Connect



Carstairs Connect is our own bespoke approach to one aspect of our parental engagement strategy. It evolved from engagement with a programme called Families Connect, geared at infants. We now use this format to attempt to allow ALL families from P1 to P7 to find out more about, and therefore help children more with, class-based learning. Generally, these sessions are well attended – we encourage all families to get involved where these are on offer, as far as possible.

Carstairs Connect – Some Figures

In November – we achieved 100% attendance of families at a Carstairs Connect session.

In January – we achieved 74% attendance of invited families at a Carstairs Connect session.

In February- we achieved 60% attendance of families at a Carstairs Connect session. ***

*** This changed from being 75% expected on the morning of the event based on your returns, to an eventual 60% in reality.

We increasingly find that families sign up and then forget - or change plans to come at the last minute. We do understand that things change for busy families but do ask you to understand that this has implications for our planning and for our workload on the morning of school events. **We ask that families make a note of dates in diaries when the letters are issued** for Carstairs Connect, to help us to eradicate the need for added workload and support the smooth running and timing of each of the sessions.

Carstairs Connect - Feedback

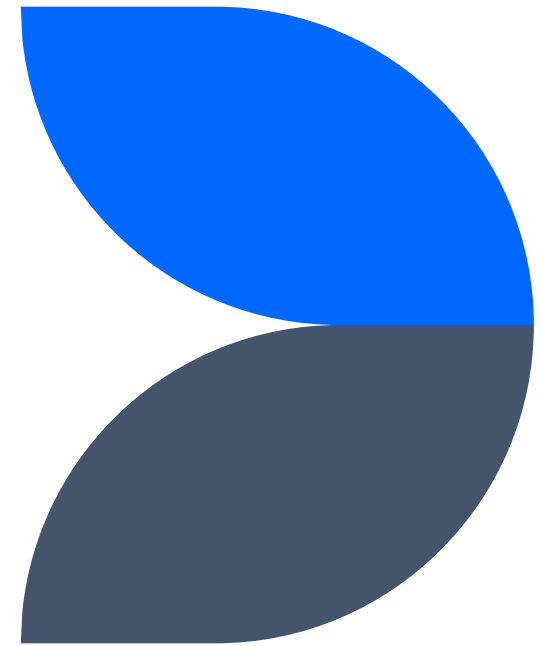
[If you attended the Carstairs Connect session in January with Mrs Guthrie leading for P6/7, click here to submit your feedback.](#)

[If you attended the Carstairs Connect session in February with Mrs Allan leading for P5/6, click here to submit your feedback.](#)

[We would like to know about specific aspects of learning that you would like more support with, in order to best support your child. ALL families are invited to provide feedback on this – click here to do so.](#)

Learning Targets

[Click here to find out what our Learning Targets are all about](#)



Parental Engagement with Learning Targets



The following information was shared on Parents Portal on 23 January:

All children who already have Google Classroom access have Learning Targets set termly within this platform. Children, along with their teachers, set and reflect on progress with the targets termly. In examples of best practice, parents get involved in the learning targets too. We invite all families to leave a comment on children's Learning Targets on a termly basis. We find that parents do not comment on these with the regularity that we would like (the same is true of children's home / school diaries). Today, we make you aware that the most recent updates are available in the 'Learning Targets' area of your child's Google Classroom. Please take a look in this section and make comment on your child's learning progress. PLEASE click the link on the document attached here to find out about more about Learning Targets before doing so. Getting involved with this supports our school to promote and achieve best practice.

Despite issuing this to try and generate more involvement, unfortunately, less than 15% of families have taken the time to leave a comment. We ask you once again to help our school achieve best practice and get involved.

New School Award – BUILD UP BOSS

Eager to ensure that children always **BUILD OTHERS UP** and never tear others down, we introduced a brand new school award in January – our all new BUILD UP BOSS award.

Children can earn these awards on any given day and they are able to progress through four different Build Up Boss levels, increasing their House Points gains as they go.

So far, since launching on 27 January, we have awarded 29 Build Up Boss Awards! Keep going, Team Carstairs!



School Improvement Plan (SIP) Updates



In January, staff completed the third session of '**Invisible Backpack**' training. This training is available to us through a partnership with Barnardos Education. The work completed so far has allowed staff to reflect on what children may be carrying in their 'invisible backpacks' and to dive into looking at ideas and strategies, additional to those already in use, that we can use to best support them manage these. We have made and are trialling new resources this term, as a result of the training. We will evaluate the impact of these new ideas in March.

In January, staff also used the '**Circle Framework**' to support planning for learners who find particular aspects of engagement with their learning difficult. Actions from this planning are in motion and will also be evaluated in March.

SIP Updates

Black History Month

February



Anti racism is featuring as part of the learning in all of our classes this month.

We want to support our children to learn about and embrace the beauty of, and necessity for, equality and diversity. We are working hard to educate our learners to recognise, avoid and call out discrimination in all forms.

On the 28th of February we will share videos made by each class to summarise aspects of what they have learned about this in the month of February.

Watch this space!

A photograph of eight wooden blocks arranged in a slightly curved line to spell out the word 'EQUALITY'. The blocks are light brown with black letters. The background consists of three overlapping geometric shapes: a yellow triangle on the left, a green triangle in the middle, and a purple triangle on the right. The lighting is soft, casting gentle shadows from the blocks.

In keeping with our drive to promote and support **equalities** and **diversity**, and to support our learners to learn about **discrimination** and avoidance of this, we will welcome colleagues from **Show Racism the Red Card** to our school on **Tuesday 04 March**. They will deliver workshops to P4 and P5 together, and P6 and P7 together. We look forward to sharing highlights.

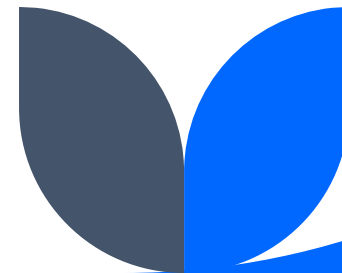
Staffing Update

P5/6

Miss Watson has now moved on from our establishment, owing to the fact that Mrs Casserly has now returned from her maternity leave.

We extend our thanks to Miss Watson for the hard work she put in to support P5/6 and wish her well in her onward journey.

We welcomed Mrs Casserly back with open arms this week – we have missed her greatly and it is a delight for us all to have her back with the Team. We know she will support P5/6 to achieve high levels of success, in partnership with Mrs Allan.



Diary Dates

The link to the right of this page takes you directly to our school website.

All dates that are available so far are shown on this calendar. The same information is available on the Parents Portal calendar.

We will alert you to any further additions.

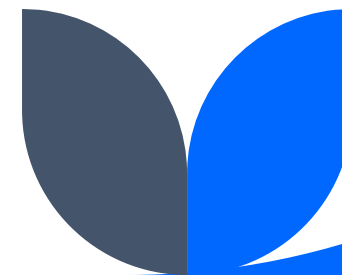
We ask parents to be vigilant in keeping track of dates that are pertinent to their children. Thank you.

Please note that training for P6 and P7 Cross Country is not yet finalised, owing to staff absence.

Lockerbie Manor families are reminded that the full payment deadline is 28 February. Further Lockerbie details will be forthcoming this month.

Remember that school is closed to all pupils on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

[Click here to go straight to the home page of our website for the school calendar on our school website.](#)





If you have any questions or queries about any aspect of our work, please do not hesitate to get in touch. We will be very happy to help.

We wish all of our families a lovely LONG weekend. Take care and enjoy. 😊

