



Carstairs Primary Newsletter

August 2025

Well done 😊

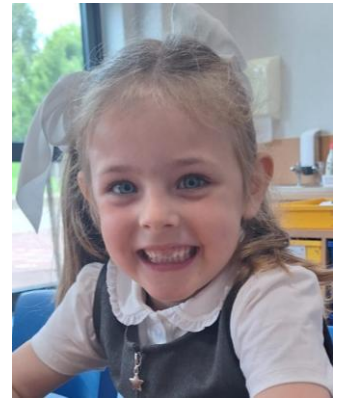
Our school year is off to a flying start, with our newly formed classes having settled remarkably well! School and class routines are establishing well and it is lovely to see some nice new relationships forming across the school. Long may this continue. **Well done to all children and staff.**

A **special well done goes to our wonderful new P1 cohort.** It is hard to believe that they have only been with us for two weeks and two days! It is absolutely superb to see them making themselves at home! **Well done also to our P7 buddies,** who have been very **kind and supportive** throughout this settling in period.

Reminders

Children have been looking very smart in their school uniforms and we thank all parents in anticipation of ensuring that our full standardised school uniform (white polo shirt, royal blue jumper, black or grey school skirt / trousers, black footwear) is consistent and upheld throughout the school year. **Please label all of your children's belongings.**

We continue to ask that all families support best possible **attendance** and **punctuality** at school throughout the school year. This gives your child the best chance to maximise his / her learning potential.



Shiny new House Captains voted
in for session 2025/26. 😊

Castledykes

Caleb – House Captain
Taya – Vice Captain

Clyde

Ada – House Captain
Luca – Vice Captain

Monteith

Lucas – House Captain
Olivia – Vice Captain

Tinto

**Josh -
House Captain**
**Blake -
Vice Captain**

CONGRATULATIONS

Well done to all P7 learners who were brave enough to put themselves forward to deliver a speech in front of all pupils and staff on Friday 29 August. We are proud of all of your efforts. And huge congratulations to all pupils who have now been voted in to take on this important responsibility for the school year ahead. You've got this!

Assembly Awards & Colour the World with Kindness

Our programme of **assembly awards** is officially up and running, with Stars of the Week and Kind Kid Certificates awarded on Friday 22 August and Stars of the Week and Captaincy Awards on Friday 29 August.

We seek to celebrate our learners' achievements at every opportunity. Stars of the Week will continue every week and as well as **Kind Kids**, our rota will include: **Marvellous Mathematicians**, **Wellbeing Whizzkids**, **Sensational Spelling & Heroic Handwriting** and an **HT Honour Roll Award**. Running in the consecutive order shown here, these will be the awards that will be shared in assembly on the remaining Fridays until the October Week. 😊

During our first assembly, when exploring the theme of kindness, a **competition was launched for P4 to P7** to design a poster to share the message that we should all colour the world with kindness, throughout the school and throughout our community. The winning design will be widely shared! I am delighted to say that **18 AMAZING entries** have been received and the winner will be announced at assembly next Friday. ***All entrants have put a great deal of effort into the work they have handed in. Very, very well done to all participants! Great job! 😊***



School Improvement Plans – Session 2025/26



We are pleased to be able to share, our [‘Plan on a Page’ for 2025/26 – a summarised version of this year’s School Improvement Plan](#) for your perusal (see overleaf).

These priorities are formed, based on observations in and around the school, dialogue with learners, feedback from teachers and support staff, dialogue with parents and community members, feedback from pupil surveys, feedback from staff surveys and feedback from parental surveys, in addition to taking national priorities into consideration.



This year we will be looking for a few parent representatives to participate alongside pupils and staff on some short life working groups, to help us ensure that our approach to rewarding pupils for best choices is the best it can be, and also to help us update our health and wellbeing curriculum, with a particular focus on RSHP (Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood), in keeping with a national resource called ‘Healthy Schools’.

If you are interested in getting involved, please drop us a wee email to let us know you are interested and to give us an indication of days / times that you would be available to get involved.

Carstairs Primary School – Summary of School Improvement Plans 2025/26

Through looking at the impact of our work last year, through listening to your voices, to pupil voices and to staff voices – our plans for the year ahead have been formed. Thank you, parents, for your input into this process. We are excited to proceed with these plans and to keep you up to date and involved.

Priority 1: Curriculum Development – Health and Wellbeing, Rights & Respect

Behaviour, Rights & Respect for All

Support all children to ensure that their behaviour is of the highest standard and does not interrupt the learning of others.

Support all children to feel fully respected by their peers at all times and feel comfortable with the behaviour of all.

Parent representatives sought for short life working group. Interested? Get in touch with HT.

Health & Wellbeing

Update relationships, sexual health and parenthood lessons, keeping in line with Healthy Schools materials.

Parent consultation will follow in term 2.

A curriculum open evening for parents will take place in February, before any revised materials go into use.

Rights & Respect – Anti Discrimination

Support all learners to be fully responsible citizens and effective contributors through further updating of our anti-discrimination curriculum.

Further upgrade school resources to support this curricular area.

Parents will have the chance to learn more about these updates and see these resources at our curriculum evening in February.

Priority 2: Learning, Teaching & Assessment / Sustainability, Employability & Creativity

Data analysis & learning intervention

We know that some learners need some extra help with their writing. We will use research informed strategies to plan and action specific supports to help individuals and small groups that need it, to reach their writing milestones.



Moderation – collaborating to agree shared standards

We will collaborate with colleagues in the Lanark Learning Community and beyond to discuss and agree shared standards in pupil learning.



Digital Schools Award – Our Kids Get Coding

We will work to achieve our third Digital Schools Award – this time, with a focus on coding.

Play Pedagogy / Inquire to Inspire – Promoting Active Learners

We will engage our learners in a variety of project-based learning that allows them to transfer their knowledge and skills into new and motivating contexts.

Priority 3: Equity – Closing the Gap & Raising Attainment

School Support Assistants: Ongoing Learning

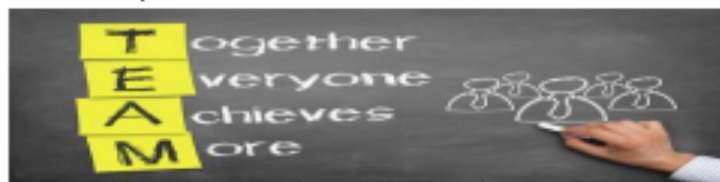
Our learners benefit well from the extra support available from our school support assistants. This year we will give further training to our school support assistants around closing gaps in pupil learning, to help them to help further accelerate pupil learning gains.

Teaching Staff: Practitioner Enquiry

Our teachers will use research based methods to intervene to support areas of difficulty in writing for a minority of learners. Children who need help in this area will benefit from our additional support timetables. We strive to ensure that our children reach expected milestones.

Collaboration: Working with Parents

We will provide home support materials for small groups of identified learners to help further improve their writing and we will keep these under review, termly.



As usual, regular updates will continue via our monthly newsletters & Parent Partnership meetings 🍌

School Social Media

Twitter (X) has been used by our school since early 2015 as a means of sharing photos and quick updates about school life. Sometimes these will be learning based and sharing exciting things going on in school / on outings etc, other times it has been very helpful for us to be able to get speedy emergency messages out to families, for example, regarding bad weather / school closures etc.

We are keen to move away from Twitter (X) as our school's social media channel, but we are eager to keep a social channel on the go for ease and convenience for updates.

It would take a little while to set up / get permissions sorted out, but we propose that we will stop using our X account and open a closed school Facebook page instead. **It's great on the school purse that this is also free!**

Please use the link below to let us know if you are happy with this or would prefer a different channel:

[School Social Media Consultation August 2025/26](#)



Diary Dates 2025/26

We shared core dates with you much earlier this month and hope it was helpful for you to receive a paper copy as well as the electronic copy.

The link to the original list is here again, for your convenience. Please make a note of the dates that apply to your children. We are hopeful that as many families as possible can attend our children's assemblies / showcases and Carstairs Connect (family learning) sessions.

[Diary dates list 1](#)

Please remember that our Parent Partnership (Parent Council) AGM takes place at 7pm on Monday 15 September, and office bearer roles will be part of this meeting.

Please note that the dates on the right hand side here have recently been added. These will be added to Parents Portal and the school website calendar as soon as possible. Meantime, please take note of these.
Thank you. 😊

- **School Photos:** Tuesday 9th September AM
- **Outdoor Learning @ Lime Walk Woods:**
Base 2, P3 – Wed 02 Sept
Base 3, P4/5 – Wed 10 Sept
Base 1, P1/2 – Wed 24 Sept
Base 6, P7 – Wed 01 Oct
- **P5/6 all day visit to Castlebank Park** – Wed 17 Sept

Further details will follow for all.



Thank you for your help in getting the school year off to such a positive start.

We are very excited to see what can be achieved this school year, working together with our community. We are determined to maximise every minute of learning time – to help maximise your child/ren's progress and fulfil their potential. 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 more than happy to help. 😊