

Carstairs Junction Primary School and Early Learning & Childcare

Our Wee School's a Good Wee School

Friday 25th April 2025



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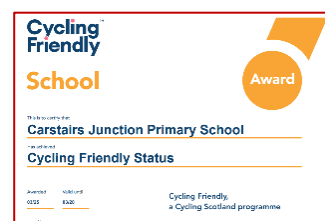
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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and we hope that you had a lovely Easter Break.

Achievements We are delighted to have received our Cycling Friendly Award from Cycling Scotland. This was celebrated at Get Together today. This is in recognition of all the hard work across the school and ELC.



School Improvement Plan Update

Through our 'Improving Our Schools' improvement priority, teachers are taking part in trios, visiting each other's classes, with a focus on Numeracy & Differentiation. This will run over the coming weeks.

Targeted interventions in Literacy & Numeracy continue for identified groups and individuals with positive impact.

As of end of March 2025, average attendance for whole school was 93.4%, this is a dip from Nov 2024 but an increase on the past two years. A huge thanks to our families for their support and commitment to improving attendance at Carstairs Junction Primary.

Staff Development/Training

Mrs Joyce and Elaine (YFCL) attended 'Play on Pedals' training at Carluke Lifestyles yesterday. The training will help them to support in leading our balance bike sessions!

Mrs Gordon (Room 6) has been attending Maths Recovery training this week as part of our School Improvement Plan. By the end of session, all class teachers will have been trained.

At the INSET next week, we look forward to reviewing our School Improvement Plan for 24/25 with all staff, recognising the progress made over the year.

'Cost of the School Day' In order to support our families, we now include the 'Cost of the School Day' as a standing item on each month's newsletter. We use this opportunity to share the range of support which is available to you. We are very thankful that we can provide 'no cost' class trips again this session. The trips were partly funded through our Participatory Budget, with thanks to our Parent Council for paying the remaining balance.

The Parent Council also very kindly agreed to pay for all P7 ties for August 25, so please do not go out and buy one if your child is currently in P7. The school is also purchasing book bags for our P1 new starts.

Live Parents Portal items Room 1, Room 3, Room 5 and Room 6 trip letters have gone live on Parents Portal. Please action these as soon as possible.

Room 1 (Group 2) Forest Schools consents have been posted on Parents Portal for their session due to start on 7th May. Please check if your child has been issued this consent and action this to allow them to take part.

Showcase invites for Room 1 and Room 2 have gone out on Parents portal. Please let us know if you can make it along.

World of Work Week On the lead up to the Spring Break, we held our World of Work Week. It was a week packed full of visitors, from parents to emergency services to local businesses. We would like to thank each and everyone one of you who supported this week. The children talked enthusiastically about the different activities, and it was lovely to hear from parents that children were going home and talking about what had happened each day. We have shared a few photos below, apologies, we haven't been able to share all photos due to consents etc (and it would also take up the whole newsletter! 😊)



Themed Lunch A reminder that on Wednesday 30th April we are taking part in a Stop Food Waste themed lunch to coincide with International Stop Food Waste Day. The menu choices are:

Blue meal - Firecracker Pizza and arrabiata pasta (v)

Red meal - Sausage in a finger roll with potato croquettes

Green meal - Ham sandwich

Dessert – Half and half cookie

Cheese and tuna sandwiches available (orange/purple tray)

Fresh fruit and salad selection also available

Our Stop Food waste menu includes food items from the top 5 menu choices you choose each week from our primary menu. This also helps to ensure you eat everything on your plate and reduce food waste!

Parents as Partners

Parent Council



We have been fortunate to have a healthy Parent Council in terms of the number of parents attending over the past few years, however as pupils move on, our Parent Council numbers have significantly decreased. We cannot operate without a Parent Council as they are instrumental in so many ways.

I would really appreciate if we could have a few more parent/carers join, particularly at the younger stages and from our ELC. Please do not be put off by the name 'Parent Council' as this may sounds formal, it is a really relaxed time to hear about what's going on in the school and to help with fun ideas for fundraising etc. I know it may not be everyone's 'cup of tea' to speak at this type of meeting – that's no problem, we would love to have you along to have a cup of coffee and cake and just listen.

The next Parent Council meeting is on **Thursday 5th 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:

28 th April	Room 2 Class Trip
29 th April	P5 Swimming (Lesson 4)
30 th April	Room 1 Forest School – (Group 1, Final session)
30 th April	Stop Food Waste Themed Lunch
1 st May	INSET day – no school for pupils
5 th May	May Holiday
6 th May	P5 Swimming (Lesson 5)

6 th May	Room 1 Showcase at 2pm
7th May	Multiply Parent workshop for Early Years – Session 1 (see Flyer)
12th May	Multiply Parent workshop for Early Years – Session 2
13 th May	P5 Swimming (Lesson 6)
13 th May	Lanark Grammar P7 After School Club
14 th May	Room 1 Forest School – (Group 2, Session 1)
15 th May	Small Schools Football Festival
15 th May	Lanark Grammar Parents' Information Session
16 th May	Room 2 Showcase at 2pm
20 th May	P5 Swimming (Lesson 7)
20 th May	Lanark Grammar P7 After School Club
21 st May	Room 6 Class trip
21 st May	Room 1 Forest School – (Group 2, Session 2)
21st May	Multiply Parent workshop for Early Years – Session 3 (see Flyer)
23 rd May	School Sports Day at 1.30pm
26th May	Multiply Parent workshop for Early Years – Session 4 (see Flyer)
27th May	New ASN Transition Visit 1- 9.20-10.00 (for some of our new starts in August)
27 th May	P5 Swimming (Lesson 8)
28 th May	Room 1 Forest School – (Group 2, Session 3)
30 th May	Reports to Parents
30 th May	Shorts & Shades Disco (Dress down)
2 nd June	Biggar High School (Transition Day 1)
3rd 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
9th June	New P1 Mainstream Transition Visit 1 – 2.00-2.45 (pupils only – letter being posted out today with information!)
10th 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)
11th 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 – more information to follow
17 th June	P5 Swimming (Lesson 11)
18 th June	Room 3 Class Trip

20 th June	Room 5 Showcase incorporating P7 Leavers Showcase at 1.30pm (invites to follow)
23 rd June	Prizegiving Ceremony (invites to follow)
24th June	Re-scheduled P5 Swimming (Lesson 12)
25 th June	School closes at 1pm for Summer break

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