

# Crossmichael Primary School

## January/February 2026 Newsletter

As we move through January and into February, Term 3 is already in full swing across our partnership. The brighter mornings and lighter evenings are a welcome sign that Spring is on its way, bringing fresh energy into our schools and classrooms. This term is a long and very busy term, filled with rich learning experiences, partnership opportunities and exciting events for our children.

### Partnership Opportunities

Last week we welcomed Gelston pupils over to Crossmichael for Partnership Day 4. The theme was focussed on all things Scottish as a celebration of Burns Day. The children took part in different activities with different teachers throughout the day and then we shared our learning at the end of a busy day. We also held our Partnership Burns Competition, judged by Mr Graham Bell, and our winner for the Partnership was Honor Moultrie, P5 at Gelston.

After each Partnership Day we collect feedback from pupils and staff in order to plan the next Partnership Day. We would also like to collect some parent/carers feedback regarding Partnership Day. **Please complete this very short survey regarding Partnership Days.**



### Additional Support for Learning Funding

In October we were allocated some funding to help support pupils in our school. We have spent the money on technology to help support children who use ipads during writing lessons. We have also bought a resource 'Emotion Works' to help support emotional literacy. During the February Inservice days staff will plan how this will link in with our current health and wellbeing curriculum and how to embed it in our everyday practice. We plan to have some parent information sessions and resources available in term 4.

## Attendance

Our school stretch aim for attendance is 96%. Crossmichael whole school attendance is currently 96.3%, which is very positive. Each month we track and monitor pupil attendance and get in touch with parents whose children have less than 85% attendance to discuss how we can support pupils to attend school.

**If your child is absent from school please ensure you phone or e-mail the office by 9:15am each day of absence so that the register can be updated.**

## Scots Poetry

Well done to everyone who learnt a Scots poem to recite in class. Staff were very proud of all the effort put in. The class winners and runners up were

**P1-4 – Isla and Rosie**

**P4-6 Ailsa and Magnus**

**P6/7 – Liam and Jack**



## Scottish Opera

All P5, P6 and P7 pupils across our partnership will take part in a musical experience through Scottish Opera. Pupils will learn songs from the show 'The Dragon of the Western Sea' throughout the term and this will end with a performance for family and friends at Castle Douglas Town Hall in the afternoon of **March 6<sup>th</sup>**.



## Outdoor Learning

Mrs Stevens and Mrs Graham have been working on an Outdoor Learning Framework with a 3 year progression so that we can ensure that all pupils experience a variety of skills and knowledge in their outdoors over their primary school education. Mrs Stevens completed her Forest Schools and Outdoor Learning leadership course last year and is trained in first aid.

Mrs Stevens will take each class outdoor every week.

**P1-4:** Tuesday

**P4-6:** Thursday

**P6/7:** Friday

On Outdoor Learning days please ensure that your child comes to school with appropriate footwear and a jacket. Sometimes the pupils visit the community woodland attached to the school and it can be quite muddy. If there are any parents who wish to volunteer to help with Outdoor Learning please contact Mrs Stevens on [gw08stevensrosslynn@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08stevensrosslynn@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)

### Reporting to Parents

Each year we have a parents night in November and we send out an academic report in March. The reports will be sent to parents on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March**.

These reports will let you know the level your child has already achieved and how they are progressing through the next level. They will also include a comment in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and a general comment. This will comment on their strengths and their next steps.

### World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March**. World Book Day champions reading for enjoyment. It is estimated that only 1 in 3 children enjoy reading for pleasure.

Our pupil leadership group will meet next week to discuss how they wish to run the event so please look out for further information.

### Lockerbie Manor Residential (P6 & P7)

P6 and P7 will join other small schools to take part in a residential trip to Lockerbie Manor on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March. Pupils will take part in 3 days of outdoor adventure activities. The activities that the children chose were climbing, rifle shooting, fencing, archery, axe throwing, obstacle course, blind trail and zip wire. We have previously sent out a packing list but if you require another copy please contact the school office. The staff who will accompany the pupils to Lockerbie Manor are Mrs Burton, Miss Reid and our student teacher Miss Kirk.

### Dates for your diary

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> Feb:** P4 swimming begins

**Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> March** – World Book Day

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup> March** – Scottish Opera Performance (P5-7)

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup> March** – P5-7 CPR training

**Mon 16<sup>th</sup> – Wed 19<sup>th</sup> March** – Lockerbie Manor Residential

**Tues 24<sup>th</sup> March:** P4/5/6 trip to New Lanark

**Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> April:** Parent Council AGM

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> May:** Sports Day

**w/b 22<sup>nd</sup> June** – P7/S1 transition week

**Crossmichael - Primary ~  
Stakeholder Survey - For  
Parents/Carers**



If you haven't already done so please complete our Parents/Carers survey before 20<sup>th</sup> February in order to help us evaluate our strengths and areas for development.

## **Parent Council News**

Parent Council met on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January @ 6pm. This is always a very informal meeting that lasts no longer than an hour.

Our new playpark is in and the children have been accessing it at playtimes, albeit muddy. Parent Council have secured some additional funding to enhance our playpark and playground further with the additional of picnic bench seating, bins, planters and playground paintings.

We discussed fundraising and have 2 planned events for the next two terms. The first of which will be sent home before the end of term where each family can choose their own sponsorship event e.g. sponsor walk, sponsor read, sponsor silence, sponsor cycle.

The second event will be held in the Summer term. We plan to hold a fun run and this will be in conjunction with our Summer BBQ.

The next Parent Council Meeting is the AGM (**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 6pm**) and we desperately need other parents to join our Parent Council. Our office bearers, Ben and Larissa and our long-standing member Shani will all move on when their children begin S1.

## **Pupil Leadership Opportunities**

**Culgruff – Health Group** – A successful start to encouraging pupils to bring/eat a healthy snack. We set up a Healthy tuck shop on a Tuesday playtime with a variety of choices. The healthy tuck will run each Tuesday in term 3. Our next focus will be on Mental Health Awareness Week.

**Livingstone – Eco Group** – The focus for Eco Group this month has been on the Big British Bird Watch where we set up feeders around the school and each class are taking part in the big bird count. We have also been consistent with our re-cycling plan, emptying the paper and plastics bins around the school.

**Danevale - Community Connections** – The focus for our group this month has been to connect with the elderly population by sending postcards to care homes in our local area.

**Greenlaw – Rights Respecting Pupil Council** – We have recently updated our display boards so that our pupils know who the duty bearers in our school (adults/staff) and we have our rights posters on display.

**Leaders of Learning – P6 and P7 pupils** – 4 mornings a week the P6 and P7 pupils pair up with a younger child to spend 5/10 minutes with them practising sight words, reading, spelling or maths. This increases pupil confidence from both stages and has had a positive impact on learning.