

Gelston Primary School

September 2025 Newsletter

September has seen the start of Autumn days and wet and windy weather. Please ensure all pupils come to school with a jacket. This is important as children need to walk to the dinner hall every day and the village hall on PE days.

Please note our school day begins at 9am and ends at 3pm. Please ensure your child is in school for 9am as late arrivals disrupt the class and Mrs Fenwick's lunch order. Please collect children at 3pm as we can not guarantee that school staff will be on site to supervise children (e.g. staff training at another location).

Partnership Opportunities

September saw the first of our Partnership Days. The theme was Our Partnership, and the focus was covering Health and Wellbeing outcomes surrounding building relationships. The feedback from staff and pupils was very positive.

87% of children rated the day as 4 or 5 stars.

What was the best thing about the day...

13 respondents (17%) answered new people for this question.



Some suggestions for next time included...

- Swap teachers around
- Rotate classes
- More playtime
- Variety of different activities
- Visiting 'specialists'

The cost of transport from one bus was £115, this was split £57.50 from each school. We really appreciate parents/carers being able to transport as this reduces the cost of the day and allows us to use this money elsewhere.

The next partnership day is planned for **Thursday 6th November**. Could all Gelston parents/carers complete the attached slip to let us know if you require support with transport.

R.A.R.E

Respectful Achieving Resilient Equal



House Group – Pupil Leadership

Each pupil in our school is a member of a house group and each House Group takes on a Leadership area in our school. House Group mornings are held once a month on a Thursday and pupils hold a meeting to discuss improvements in our school.

Owls – Pupil Council with Mrs Glover

Falcons – SWAG (School Wellbeing Action Group)

Eagles – Rights Respecting Schools Steering Group

Mrs Lumsden will work with a group of children once a term during her management time to continue our Eco Schools Award.



Attendance

Gelston Attendance is currently sitting at 93%. Our authority have flagged this up as a concern. Please ensure that your child is in school unless they are too ill to attend. We will send letters to parents at the end of term who have had their attendance raised as a concern.

If your child's attendance is below 90% this means that they have 19 days off a year. If they had this every year for their 7 years of Primary school then this is 133 days of school missed, this is 70% of a year of education missed compared to their peers.

Attendance is used as an indicator for academic attainment. We are seeing a number of referrals returned to us for additional support interventions and assessments as attendance at school has been low.

If you wish to discuss ways we can support your child to attend please get in touch.

Halloween

Parent Council would like to hold a Halloween party for the whole school on Friday 31st October. This is dependent on members getting a PVG in time. We will let you know as soon as we can if this is going ahead.

Operation Safety

P7 pupils attended an event last week with the emergency services. Children had the opportunity to learn about fire safety in the home, firework safety, the dangers of smoking and vaping, electrical safety and first aid.

This was a valuable experience for all pupils involved.

P4/5 Tag Rugby

Some P4/5 pupils across our partnership have taken part in a Tag Rugby Festival, organised by Active Schools. We entered 2 mixed teams and one team came home with a 2nd place medal. Thank you to the parent helpers who transported and supervised the children on the day.

Parents Night

We would like to invite parents/carers to attend a learning conversation regarding their child's academic progress and attainment. We have 2 opportunities for this.

Please indicate on the tear off slip on the next page which date/time suits best and we will try our best to accommodate everyone.

We look forward to seeing everyone there.



Parents for Gelston

Member of Parents 4 Gelston met this week for the termly meeting. We would encourage as many parents as possible to attend meetings to help shape the way forward. At this meeting we held an AGM and all office bearer roles will remain the same for the next academic year. The chairperson is Kay Davies, secretary is Abbie Robertson and treasurer is Jess Wilson.

Any Parent Council events now need all helpers to hold a PVG. Without the PVG you will not be able to help and without helpers there will unfortunately be no Parent Council Events. Please speak to Kay Davies if you would like a PVG (free of charge) on behalf of the parent council.

Our next Parents for Gelston meeting will be **Tuesday 18th November, 6pm**. If you have anything you would like discussed at these meetings please email our chairperson Kay Davies at : **gelstonprimaryschoolpaentcouncil@outlook.com**.

To be
returned to
school by
Friday 10th
October 2025

Pupil Name _____ Class _____

- ☐ Wednesday 5th November 5pm – 7pm
- ☐ Tuesday 25th November 3:30pm – 5pm

Signed _____ Date _____

Pupil Name _____

- ☐ I am able to transport my child/children to and from Crossmichael Primary for the Partnership Day on Thursday 6th November.
- ☐ I am unable to transport my child/children to and from the Crossmichael Primary for the Partnership Day on Thursday 6th November.

Signed _____ Date _____