

Gelston Primary School

January/February 2026 Newsletter

As we have moved 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 travelled 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.

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/carer feedback regarding Partnership Day. **Please complete this very short survey regarding Partnership Days.**

Partnership Days - Parent/Carer Feedback (Gelston)



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 an iPad during writing lessons – buying adaptors and keyboards. We have also purchased a 2-year subscription to 'Nessy Spelling' which is an online platform used to support spelling, reading and writing and can be used by all pupils in the school. We are currently exploring the purchase of new maths materials at 2nd level.

R.A.R.E

Respectful Achieving Resilient Equal



Attendance

The authority stretch aim for attendance is 94.7%. Unfortunately we have been notified that Gelston Primary is currently below the stretch aim with an overall attendance of 91.8%.

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 has 85% attendance this equates to nearly 1 month off school a year and over the course of 7 years this would mean your child misses 1 whole year of education compared to their peers. Low attendance has a direct impact on attainment.

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

P1-5: Gabriel, Rhys and Nela

P5-7 – Honor and Natan



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 6th.



World Book Day

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

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

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 28th 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.

Rights Respecting Schools

Our RRS squad are holding a clothes swap next Thursday (12th February). Please send any donations in to school before Thursday. The squad will set up their 'shop' on Wednesday afternoon.

They would like to invite all parents in to the school dinner hall on Thursday morning from 9am for a cuppa and biscuit.

2025 – 2028



UNITED KINGDOM



Dates for your diary

Tues 24th Feb: P4 swimming begins

Thurs 5th March – World Book Day

Fri 6th March – Scottish Opera Performance (P5-7)

Tues 10th March – P5-7 CPR training

Mon 16th – Wed 19th March – Lockerbie Manor Residential

Wed 27th May: Sports Day

w/b 22nd June – P7/S1 transition week

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

Gelston - Primary ~ Stakeholder Survey - For Parents/Carers



Parents for Gelston

The Parents for Gelston group met on 20th January. Minutes from the meeting were e-mailed to parents and can also be found on our public BLOG <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/gelston/>

Parents for Gelston are keen to support the school's improvement priority of enhancing the playground. The SWAG (School Wellbeing Action Group) is keen to develop an area of the playground to be a peaceful and tranquil space. The SWAG group intend to get in touch with the parent group to ask for support.

We discussed fundraising ideas and have decided to go ahead with an Easter afternoon tea with bunny drive towards the end of term 3 and then plan another event towards the end of term 4.

Our next Parents for Gelston meeting is still to be confirmed however if you have anything you would like discussed at these meetings please email our chairperson Kay Davies at: gelstonprimaryschoolparentcouncil@outlook.com.