



August 2026

Together we will shine!

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome our children back to school, including our new Primary 1s and Enhanced Support Provision Primary 1/2s.

The children look very smart returning to school after the summer in full uniform. We would encourage this going forward and would like to remind all parents that our brand new and pre-loved uniform bank is available in the school during community events and for you to access at any point throughout the school year by contacting the office.

School Vision and Values - SHINE

We would like to remind our school community of our school vision and values as we enter into our new term. Children are regularly rewarded for displaying these values through whole school assemblies.

S - Successful

H - Happy

I - Include

N - Nurtured

E - Engaged

MUGA

As you will see our new MUGA is well underway and work has been continuing over the summer. We look forward to utilising it as part of our school day and it being available to our school community.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that children should not use mobile phones in school. Should you choose to send your child to school with a mobile phone, this must remain in their school bag throughout the day.

Annual Calendar

Our Annual Calendar can be found on the school website which can be accessed at the QR code contained at the end of this newsletter. Please check this regularly as updates can occur as throughout the school year.

Pupil Profiles

Instructions for accessing Pupil Profiles can be found on our school website under 'Key Information' and 'Useful Learning Links'. Profiles for this session will be generated, and we will update you when these are finalised.

Senior Leadership Team

The remits of the Senior Leadership Team include:

Mrs McPhee (Head Teacher) - Child Protection and Safeguarding, managing the affairs of the school, driving forward whole school change and improvement, Self-Evaluation and Partnership Working in line with the Empowering Cluster model

Mr Miller (Depute Head Teacher) - Nursery, Additional Support for Learning Coordinator, P1 and P7 Transitions, Nurture

Mr Rutherford (Principal Teacher) - Developing the Young Workforce, Digital Learning, Literacy and Numeracy Interventions, Pastoral Care for P4-P7

Miss Nicholson (Acting Principal Teacher) - PT for Enhanced Support Provision, Lead in Play and Enquiry Pedagogy, Pastoral Care for P1-P3

Staff

Our current school staff team is as follows:

Class Teachers

ESP - Ms Quinn

P1 - Miss Anderson

P1/2 - Mrs Lam

P2/3 - Mrs Duncan

P3 - Miss Wilson

P4 - Miss Calderhead & Mrs Tierney

P4 - Miss Stevenson & Mrs Campbell

P5 - Mrs Dickson & Mrs Campbell

P6 - Mrs Steel

P7a - Mrs Mills

P7b - Mrs Harkins

Learning Assistants - Mrs Ashbridge, Mrs Latta, Miss McCrae, Mrs McNaught & Mrs O'Neill

Clerical - Mrs McGowan (Senior Clerical), Mrs Juba & Mrs Carroll

Facilities Support - Mr Kilpatrick.

We also benefit from the support of our catering team, cleaning team and a number of external partners and agencies.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning journey, please contact their Class Teacher in the first instance. If required, Class Teachers can then seek to involve appropriate members of the Senior Leadership Team. In line with North Lanarkshire Council ("NLC") policy, the School's Communication Policy allows for 5 working days to respond to any queries. When emailing the school, please use enquiries-at-eastfield@northlan.org.uk and not staff members' personal email addresses.

House Captains

We would like to congratulate our new House Captains:

Auchinbee - Austin Melvin de Andrade and Logan Stark

Carrickstone - Jamie Whyte and Sophie Jones

Craiglinn - Riley Devine and Amber Mulgrew

Mainhead - Hope Weir and Amber Wright

We look forward to them being positive role models and supporting the ethos of the school.

Drop Off and Collection

Please continue to use the one-way system to ensure efficient drop off and collection. By following this, you will support the safe and speedy arrival and departure of all children. Thank you to everyone for supporting the school and our children with this.

The school playground opens at 8.45am and is supervised from this time by school staff. Please do not send children before this as they are unsupervised within the community.

The external gates which provide access to the path behind the school will now be closed from 9.15am until 2.45pm.

Morning Drop Off is from 8.45am. P1 to P3 children should use the Infant Gate and P4 to P7 children should use the Senior Gate. Siblings can enter via the same gate. At Collection at 3pm, P1 to P3 children will exit via the Infant Gate and P4 to P7 children will exit via the Senior Gate. Siblings may exit from the same gate; please ensure that your children and their Class Teachers are aware of such arrangements. Please also ensure that you follow the one-way system to ensure the safe and speedy departure of all children. Our ESP class will arrive and depart from the front door of the school and drop off is from 08.45am till 9.00am and pickup at 3.00pm.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club opens at 8.15am and is accessed via the main door at the front entrance. There is no need to register your child; please use as you require it and remember that, as with school lunches, there is no charge for P1 to P5 children. The cost for P6 and P7 children is £1.10 per child per use.

Car Park

A reminder that the school car park is for the use of staff, out-of-school care, ESP drop off, NLC taxis and the School Bus. Our Nursery children and staff walk through the car park to access the Nursery Garden and as such require safe access.

Parking Spaces are pre-arranged for the use of **children with blue badges** or school parking permits; should you wish to request a parking permit, further information is available via the School Office.

Bikes and Scooters

If your child is cycling or scooting to school, please ensure they are wearing a helmet and remind them to park (and lock) their bicycle or scooter in the bike shed in the Primary 4/5 Playground or the scooter stand in the infant playground.

Bikes and Scooters are left entirely at your own risk and neither NLC nor the school accept liability for any loss or damage.

Attendance and Late-coming

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential and for them to have the best start and brighter future. In line with NLC Policy, attendance and late-coming are being closely monitored as these have a marked effect on children's education. In line with NLC Policy, we will regularly issue communication to

parents/carers when children's attendance falls below expected attendance figures. Please see the attached "Attendance Matters" leaflet for further information. We work closely with partner agencies, including our Cluster Family Engagement Support Assistant, to support attendance. A reminder that, if your child arrives after 9am (and before 9.15am), they should enter via the Senior Gate and, if they arrive after 9.15am, they should enter via the Main Entrance (having entered the school grounds via pedestrian access paths and not the school car park).

Meet the Teacher

Meet the Teacher will take place on Tuesday 8th September from 3.15pm to 4pm. We look forward to seeing you at this drop session in which you will get the opportunity to meet your child(ren's) class teachers and see their classroom(s).

I hope you found the information in this newsletter helpful and are looking forward to the school year ahead. Thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Lesley McPhee

Head Teacher



QR code link to school website

Make every day count: what can you do to help?

- Think about the impact of regular absences - missing school is missing learning and play.
- Try to arrange non-urgent dental and medical appointments outside school hours and if an appointment must be made within school hours, try to ensure your child is back at school as soon as possible.
- Establish routines at the start and end of the day so your child is prepared for the school day ahead; building up habits of punctuality and attendance. Your child's school may have a breakfast club which will support you.
- Talk to your child's school - ask questions and have regular discussions which support you and your child.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school: staff are there to help and will be supportive. You have support from school staff, the Head Teacher and Cluster Integration and Improvement Lead (CIIL) for the cluster.
- Let the school know if your child is absent due to illness or other reason. This can be a call or text.



What should I do if my child is anxious or worried about going to school?

Your child has a right to an education and to be safe and happy at school. But sometimes children and young people can be anxious or worried about going to school due to many possible reasons.

You may think letting your child stay off school when they feel this way is the best option, however experience tells us it is better to talk to the school about this as soon as you can. Longer absences makes it harder for your child to return.

Your child's school staff are there to help. Your first point of contact should be the school. Staff in your child's school and the CIIL are keen to help and support you.

If you are unsure who to talk to in the school, ask to speak to the Head Teacher.

However there are also a number of agencies and services that can provide you with professional help and advice.

(Contact details can be found on the following page).

Support, information and advice

ParentLine Scotland

At some time all parents find that parenting can be difficult or stressful. ParentLine Scotland is the free, confidential, telephone helpline for anyone caring for a child in Scotland. You can call about any problem, however big or small. Phone: 0800 800 2222

On line at: www.children1st.org.uk/parentline-scotland

Parentzone

Parentzone provides information for parents and carers about how you can support your child's education. On line at: www.educationscotland.gov.scot/parentzone

Childline

Children and young people can get confidential help about any question, concern or worry. Phone: 0800 1111

On line at: www.childline.org.uk

Citizen Advice Bureau

Your local CAB can provide information and support about rights and responsibilities when it comes to schools and education. Information and advice on lots of areas at: www.adviceguide.org.uk where you can also find your local CAB.

Enquire

Enquire is the Scottish advice service for additional support for learning and operates a helpline for parents, carers and practitioners.

An interpreter can be arranged upon request.

Telephone helpline: 0845 123 2303

E-mail: info@enquire.org.uk

On line at: www.enquire.org.uk

ABEL

ABEL is a voluntary organisation that developed out of the strong desire of parents to do something for themselves to overcome the devastating effects that bullying can have on children, their families and their community. ABEL offers information and support to the young person being bullied and their family and the young person displaying the bullying behaviour and their family.

Contact them through their website at: www.antibullyingeastlothian.org.uk

National Parent Forum of Scotland

Provides parents with information and advice on understanding the new curriculum and supporting their child's education.

On line at: www.parentforumsotland.org



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



EMPOWERING OUR CLUSTERS | LEARN HERE

Why is school attendance so important?

We want all our children and young people to realise their full potential.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential and for them to have the best start and brighter future.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To have fun and opportunities to experience new things
- To develop new skills for learning, skills for work and skills for life
- To understand responsibility
- To make new friends and build positive relationships
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religions, ethnicity, and gender difference
- To celebrate achievements with friends and peers
- To attain in curricular pathways
- To build confidence, self-esteem and resilience
- To grow as individuals

Every school day counts

When you have a conversation with your child's school they will give you attendance in a percentage. This can be confusing!

Have you considered the following:

100% attendance	0 Days missed	Gives your child the best opportunities in their learning and achievement
95% attendance	9 days of absence 1 week and 4 days of learning missed.	
90% attendance	19 days of absence 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed.	This will potentially impact on your child's progress in learning.
85% Attendance	27 days of absence 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed. This is almost a half term.	This will impact on your child's progress in learning, achievement and attainment.
80% Attendance	36 days of absence 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed. This is a half term.	
75% Attendance	45 days of absence 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed. Almost a whole term.	

DID YOU KNOW



MISS SCHOOL MISS OUT

Did you know...?

There are **190 days** in each school year

That means there are **175 non school days** for holidays, haircuts and appointments!

90% attendance may sound good but it's **19 days missed** each year

2 school days missed each month during your school life adds up to **1 whole year** of school lost

15 mins late every day = **2 weeks** of lost learning each year.

In Primary School there are **25 hours** of learning each week. **4 weeks** missed = **100 hours** of learning missed.

Some children and teens find it hard to come to school. Tell the school as soon as you can if there is a problem.

Don't worry... you are not on your own. We are here to help and to work with you and your family.

Working Together we can do it and make sure your child does not MISS OUT

LEARN HERE

Is it ever alright for my child to be off school?

Your child can be off school if:

- They are ill
- They are attending a doctor or hospital appointment
- They are going to a meeting about a Children's Hearing or court, or if they are going to a Children's Hearing, case review or court
- If they are involved in an activity and the school agrees in advance
- Someone close to your child has died
- There is a crisis or serious difficulty at home or in your family
- They are going to a religious ceremony or a wedding of someone very close to them
- You are a Gypsy/Traveller family and while you go travelling you keep in touch with your child's teacher
- Your family is returning to a country of origin for cultural reasons or to care for a relative.

As long as you have informed the school of the reason why your child is off, and the school is satisfied that this is a valid reason, these would be called authorised absences.

However this is still recorded as an absence for your child.

Top tips it's good to talk!

Any child currently avoiding school is likely to become nervous when they are asked about their worries or returning to school.

These questions can help to start the conversation about feelings and fears.

- What are the three best things about school?
- Would you prefer to text, draw or write about it?
- What three things are you most worried about?

