

Ravenswood Primary School



August/September 2025

Parent/Carer Newsletter

Welcome to the new school year everyone and in our temporary new home! We are very proud of all of our children, coming to school after a long break where everything is unfamiliar is a challenge. The children have gone above and beyond to make the most of it.



Dates for your Diary

Monday 18 th August	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	9am all children P2-P7 Staggered start P1
Wednesday 20 th August	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	Meet the Teacher 6pm – all welcome 😊
Thursday 4 th September	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	6pm – Parent Council AGM
Wednesday 24 th September	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	3.15pm onwards Progress Conferences
Friday 26 th September – Monday 29 th September	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 30 th September	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	Pupils return

Staffing Changes

Miss Nadeem has joined our school this year. She is leading all the fun in Primary 3 this year. Welcome to the team!

Mr Hornsby is leading primary 5 with Mrs Fairfield this session. Welcome to the Ravenswood family!

Classes 2025-26



Primary 1	Miss Flannighan
Primary 1/2	Mrs Simpson (Monday – Wednesday) Mrs MacCuaig (Wednesday – Friday)
Primary 2	Mrs Merrison
Primary 3	Miss Nadeem
Primary 4	Mrs Weir (Monday – Thursday) Miss Phillips (Friday)
Primary 5	Mr Hornsby and Mrs Fairfield

Primary 6
Primary 7

Miss Reid
Miss Goodbrand

Meet the Teacher

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our first in person event for the school year, 'Meet the Teacher'. This will take place on Wednesday 20th August at 6pm. Our class 'Meet the Teacher' guides will be added to the school website in preparation for this. Please check these out as they are full of specific class details. As always contact details for each teacher/school will be included as part of this. If you have any questions that have not been answered after this experience do not hesitate to contact us.

Parent Council AGM

Our PCA AGM will take place on Thursday 4th September 6.00pm – 7.00pm. We are so excited to welcome all members of the parent forum. The PCA are a tremendous support to our school, the more the merrier. Please join us if you can. More information will be emailed closer to the time.

Progress Conferences

Progress Conferences are scheduled for Wednesday 24th September. Afternoon and evening slots are available. If you are unable to attend on these dates, please contact the school so we can arrange something that suits you better. Please remember, your child should attend with you. You will be able to book your own slot at a time that suits you best using Groupcall. More information about this will be shared by email. The office staff will be able to assist if you require more details. Looking forward to it!

Phones and Smart Watches

If your child is bringing a phone/smart watch to school, please remind them that this should be off when in school/on school grounds. All teachers have a safe space to keep phones throughout the day. Please contact the office for information to be shared with your child during the school day. Thank you for your help.

Uniform Preparations

It is great to see everyone wearing their school uniform. It has been incredibly helpful identifying pupils with ease as we share school grounds. Thank you for your support with this. Please ensure your child is wearing their Ravenswood jumper/cardigan on PE days also.

This is a gentle reminder that all children should be appropriately dressed for PE, we aim to go outside as much as possible and use our MUGA. Crop tops are not appropriate in school. We will request a change to be delivered to the school from home for those presenting wearing these.

School Car Park and Playground

St Mary's school car park is not the biggest and we are trying to squeeze two staff teams in! The car park is only for staff, including at breakfast club drop off, and for access for one child with a disabled badge. Please park and stride using designated parking spaces and leaving pavements clear for our children to walk safely to school. Please do not use the car park at the end of the school. Thank you to everyone who is parking safely in the community. There is a one way system in operation around St Mary's school with double yellow lines that must be kept clear. We understand parking locally is a nightmare and appreciate everyone in working together with the local community. 😊

All classes will be escorted to the playground by staff. There are artificial road markings (a solid white line) that we ask all parents/carers to stay behind so children and staff can clearly see parents/carers. This is for the morning drop off and afternoon collection.

We are escorting bus lines and ask that parents/carers leave a clear pathway. Staff will be on hand to help.

P1 – P4 children are escorted to the playground by the teaching staff to ensure they are met with a safe adult. P5 – P7 leave independently. Thank you for cooperation keeping our children safe.

Absences and Late Comings

The office role is very busy, please help us out by emailing or calling the school to inform us if your child is off. The school phone has an answering machine that is checked throughout the day. Please inform the school, ideally prior to 9am. This saves Mrs Reid or Miss Rose having to contact individual families. enquiries-at-ravenswood@northlan.org.uk 01236 632100

We are lucky that our school is well supported by a Family Engagement Support Assistant (FESA). The FESA supports families identified by the school whose attendance is concerning. Our aim is for children to attend at least 95% of the school year. We understand that this is not always possible. Communication is vital so we know why children are off school. We are keen to support in any way we can. We have noticed that many children are attending late to school and missing vital teaching time. The school is happy to help families who are struggling with time keeping. I have attached the council Attendance Matters information guide for your reference.

Weekly Snapshots

We have started sharing weekly snapshots of learning to our school website class pages. These are updated every Friday for you to enjoy.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/ravenswoodps/>

Community Learning and Development Officer

Our Community Learning and Development Officer, Val is amazing! She supports many families in our community and would love to add more! Please see attached information regarding the workshops she has on offer.

Financial Inclusion Team

The Financial Inclusion Team help North Lanarkshire residents with money advice and welfare benefits. The team includes a combination of debt advisers and welfare rights staff. If you are worried about debt or experiencing financial difficulties, the debt advisers can provide free, impartial and confidential advice. If you would like Mrs. Hawthorn to make a referral please do not hesitate to contact the school. NLHawthornr@northlan.org.uk or 01236 632100

Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Care

Cumbernauld and Kilsyth Care are a registered charity, working since March 2016, with the aim of helping families in our community. They provide two services in our local area – a school uniform bank and a Baby bank, both of which support children of all ages. If this is a service that could help your family please contact the school. Mrs Hawthorn would be delighted to make a referral on your behalf. NLHawthornr@northlan.org.uk or 01236 632100

School Information

Keep up-to-date with the latest School news and events on:

School Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/ravenswoodps>

Please visit our School Website for more School, staff and class information.

Contact Us - Telephone - 01236 632100

First point of contact for all enquiries should be directed, in the first instance, to the School Office on the above telephone number. In most cases, these enquiries can be addressed and answered promptly by School staff. These arrangements should also be followed for any other specific issues which might require the personal attention of the Class Teacher and/or Principal Teachers or Head Teacher during School hours.

Changes to information

Please note that some information included in this Newsletter may be subject to change. If any changes are made, Parents/Carers will be notified in advance via email, GroupCall and/or letter.



Diary Dates

It is possible that some changes will be made throughout the school year. Please keep an eye on newsletters and check your emails for updates from staff.

Important Dates 2025-26

Monday 18 th August	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	9am all children P2-P7 Staggered start P1
Wednesday 20 th August	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	Meet the Teacher 6pm - all welcome 😊
Thursday 4 th September	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	6pm - Parent Council AGM
Friday 26 th September - Monday 29 th September	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Wednesday 24 th September	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	3.15pm onwards Progress Conferences
Wednesday 1 st October	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	Flu Immunisation

Monday 13 th October - Friday 17 th October	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Thursday 23 rd October	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	PCA Halloween Disco P1 - P3 6.30pm - 7.30pm P4 - P7 7.45pm - 8.45pm
Thursday 27 th November	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	PCA Christmas Fayre 6pm - 8pm
4 th December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm P1 - P3 Nativity 6.30pm P1 - P3 Nativity
8 th December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm P5 and P6 Christmas party
11 th December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm P3 and P4 Christmas party
15 th December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm P1 and P2 Christmas party
18 th December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	9.30am Christmas Service - P4 leading, all welcome 😊
18 th December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	2.30pm - school closes
Friday 19 th December - Friday 2 nd January	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
16 th January	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.30pm - school open afternoon - all welcome 😊
22 nd January	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm - Burns celebration P6 leading, all welcome 😊
Monday 16 th February - Wednesday 18 th February	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 31 st March	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm - Spring service - P5 leading, all welcome 😊
Tuesday 31 st March	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	PCA Spring Disco P1 - P3 6.30pm - 7.30pm P4 - P7 7.45pm - 8.45pm
Thursday 2 nd April	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	2.30pm - school closes
Friday 3 rd April - Friday 17 th April	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Monday 4 th May	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY

Friday 8 th May	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	9.30am - Potential Sports Day - more information to follow
Wednesday 20 th May	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	3.15pm onwards Progress Conferences
Friday 22 nd May - Monday 25 th May	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Wednesday 3 rd June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm whole school concert
Thursday 4 th June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm whole school concert
Thursday 11 th June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm Celebration of Achievement - all welcome 😊
Thursday 11 th June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	PCA Summer Disco P1 - P3 6.30pm - 7.30pm P4 - P7 7.45pm - 8.45pm
Thursday 18 th June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.30pm Summer service - P7 leading - all welcome 😊
Friday 26 th June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1pm - school closes

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.

DID YOU KNOW

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 make 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 = **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.

DID YOU KNOW

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?

