

Ravenswood Primary School



November 2025

Parent/Carer Newsletter

We hope that everyone feels well rested and had a fun filled October break. I can't quite believe it is the November newsletter already!

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 4 th November	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	Free Family Fun Event 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday 12 th November	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	Routes to Work 2.00pm
Monday 17 th November	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	In-Service Day - school closed to children
Thursday 27 th November	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	PCA Christmas Fayre 6pm - 8pm
Thursday 27 th November	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	School Photographer

Staff Update

We have a new name to get used to. Miss Robertson is no more, she has finally agreed to go by her married name, Mrs Whitton. This is taking some getting used to, mostly by Mrs Whitton! Congratulations! 😊

Miss Reid, Primary 6 class teacher, has announced she and her partner are expecting a baby. We are all so excited! 😊

School Photographer

The whole school will have individual and sibling photos (of those who attend Ravenswood Primary) on 27th November. Please ensure your child is in school uniform, there will be no PE on this day.

Parent Council – THANK YOU

Our Parent Council are a tremendous support to our school, their funding has allowed all classes to have a reduced cost for class excursions as well as much needed school provisions. They are a wonderful team of volunteers who give up their own time to give back to our school community. We are so grateful. 😊

The Halloween disco was a HUGE success. The costumes were super, the treats were sugary and the tunes were banging. Thank you also to staff who committed to supporting this event.

KPOP-Demon Hunters night organised by the Parent Council couldn't have been better. The treats, the live music, the glitter tattoos, the meet and greet.... the list is endless. The community packed in to the hall and danced the night away. Thank you so much to the Parent Council and the many additional volunteers who made the vent a HUGE success.

A whopping £1458.62 has been raised and added to the Parent Council bank account. All funds go towards supporting the school. We are so lucky to be part of this tremendous community.

School Uniform

Most children continue to wear full school uniform each day, thank you for this. It is wonderful to see everyone looking so smart. A reminder that all children should wear uniform each day. Any jumpers/cardigans that are not uniform cannot be worn in class. At times, parents/cares may be called to bring uniform to school if children are not dressed appropriately. We have no school stock, please send your child to school wearing uniform.

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. Plain t-shirts or polo shirts and dark joggers/leggings/shorts are ideal. No branded items or football strips are permitted.

If sourcing uniform is a problem, we can help. The Cumbernauld Clothing Bank are a great support and will happily assist once we know your child's size details. Request support by emailing the school enquiries address or talk to a member of the team.

enquiries-at-ravenswood@northlan.org.uk

Nativity

Primary 1- Primary 3 nativity rehearsals are underway! Over the next few weeks children will be issued with parts. If for any reason your child cannot make both the

afternoon **and** evening performance on the 4th of December, please let Mrs Whitton know ASAP - NLRobertsonA@northlan.org.uk
Looking forward to lots of singing, dancing and tinsel in the months ahead.

Family Fun Event

Ravenswood Primary will be hosting our first family fun event at St Mary's Primary School. These events are full of fun and show our community at its very best. We would like to welcome you all to our free family fun after school event on Tuesday 4th November 3.30pm - 4.30pm. This will be a fun filled experience for your family enjoying orienteering, fire pit and smores making. All children must be accompanied by an adult to attend this event. Please wear your autumnal cosy clothes, bring a torch or head torch if possible and sign up. We need families to be able to run our events and we are buzzing with the sign up response so far. We can't wait to host you at Ravenswood Primary School in the St Mary's Primary playground.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Ey3NQjMnzY?origin=lpLink>

Tuesday 4th November - 3.30pm – 4.30pm

After School Clubs

We are so grateful to have sports after school clubs running this session for P3-P5 children. Any after school clubs will be shared using a Microsoft Form. Please check your inbox daily so your child doesn't miss out on these opportunities.

The Primary 4 and Primary 5 football after school club will now use the MUGA on a Thursday afternoon. Please dress for the weather, it is starting to get chilly!

Christmas Fayre

The Parent Council are well underway organising a fabulous Christmas Fayre. Each class will complete an enterprise project to sell at the fayre, we are always looking for fresh ideas, classes will be in touch with more details. We hope you can come along and enjoy the fun. Entry to the fayre will be a donation on the door and is sure to be a fun event. Save the date!

Thursday 27th November – 6pm – 8pm

Routes to Work

We are delighted to say that 'Routes to Work' a charity working in partnership with North Lanarkshire Council, have offered to come in and speak with parents. They are currently delivering the Working for Families programme to parents and carers who may be unemployed, facing barriers to work, or looking to gain new skills. In addition to this they can also support low-income families who are in work to upskill or gain new employment.

Their support is free, personalised, and designed to help families build brighter futures through training, confidence building, childcare advice, and access to employment opportunities.

St Mary's have organised a short information session of around 15 minutes or so with some tea/coffee and an opportunity to chat on Wednesday 12th November at 2pm in St Mary's School Hall. We would be delighted to see you there and have attached a leaflet with some further information. Thank you to St Mary's staff for including us.

Pupil Feedback

The children continue to amaze us and are doing well in our temporary environment. We collected pupil views prior the move and listened to their questions. We completed a transition programme to the best of our abilities including videos, a visit and social stories. Understandably many children felt nervous. On average children said they felt 3 out of 5 stars about the move.

Our buddies, prefects and captains have worked with the staff to help everyone to settle. This continues to be a work in progress but we are delighted that our latest survey has shown more children feeling happier rating the move 4 out of 5 stars.

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

Absence and late comings emails have been shared with parents and carers for those below 95% attendance at school. We are keen to support high attendance and punctual time keeping. Please speak to a member of the team if you are looking for supports.

enquiries-at-ravenswood@northlan.org.uk

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/>

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

Tuesday 4 th November	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	Free Family Fun Event 3.30pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday 12 th November	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	Routes to Work 2.00pm
Monday 17 th November	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	In-Service Day - school closed to children

Thursday 27 th November	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	School Photographer
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 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 cares 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.	

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.

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?



Are you a parent who is feeling:

Low in confidence? Isolated? Overwhelmed?

Do you

- Struggle to make ends meet?
- Want to find flexible, family-friendly employment?
- Want to increase your hours/day if you're in low-paid employment?
- Struggle to find affordable childcare?

You are not alone
Working for Families can help.

We have a dedicated team who provide free, confidential support to help you start a new chapter, increase your household income, provide funding for and advice about childcare, support you to improve your wellbeing and learn new skills, and when the time is right support you to look for employment that works around your family life.

Working for families is here to support you to get things back on track.

Get in touch today for an informal, confidential chat:

Freephone:
0800 073 0226

To find out more:
workingforfamilies.co.uk

routes to work Scottish Government
Roghadan na h-Aibidh
Gov.scot

WORK HERE