

# Ravenswood Primary School



## December 2025

### Parent/Carer Newsletter

It is almost Christmas, and the school excitement is real! Have a look below at the fun happening throughout December. From everyone at Ravenswood Primary School, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

#### Dates for your Diary

4 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.30pm P1 - P3 Nativity 6.30pm P1 - P3 Nativity
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Greenfaulds High School	1.30pm P7 Christmas Ceilidh
8 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm P5 and P6 Christmas party
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm P3 and P4 Christmas party
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm P1 and P2 Christmas party
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	P1 and P7 Dental Inspections
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	9.30am Christmas Service - P4 leading, all welcome 😊
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	2.30pm - school closes
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY

#### Parent Council – THANK YOU

Thank you to the Parent Council and staff team who work so hard and delivered a very successful Christmas fayre. We know how much work goes in to making these events a success. Our school is well supported by the Parent Council and cannot thank you enough. 😊

## School Uniform and Christmas Jumpers

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, however throughout December please feel free to wear a Christmas jumper to school. Any other 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. Please wear school jumpers/cardigans on PE days (or Christmas jumpers throughout December).

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](mailto:enquiries-at-ravenswood@northlan.org.uk)

## Nativity

Excitement is building as we get closer to our big performance date! On the 4<sup>th</sup> of December Primary 1 - 3 will take to the stage to perform 'Bethlehem Bake-Off'! Children are required to attend both performances, 1:30pm and 6:30pm. For the evening performance, children should return to school at 6pm to give us plenty of time to get into costumes. Children should enter via the main blue doors (St Mary's entrance) where Mrs Whitton will greet them.

A huge thank you for your continued support in helping to make our Nativity a success!

## House Captains

Our House Captains have worked hard to create a beautiful 18 days of Christmas calendar (as we are in school until the 18<sup>th</sup> of December). This is a thoughtful calendar of nice gestures that EVERYONE can engage in. This was a collaborative task that the Captains undertook to promote the school vision and

values. This has been shared with the whole school and used daily in the classrooms. You can find a copy of their hard work on the school website. Thank you, Captains, we are very proud of your effort to spread Christmas cheer!

## Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will be served on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Looking forward to another tasty, festive feast! Children have already ordered lunch for this day. There will be no alternative lunches served at the cafeteria on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December.

## Christmas Parties

Classes will enjoy a Christmas party in school. These are always fun and a great chance for the children to get together with other classes. The PCA will run a tuck shop at the parties. Children will be limited to purchasing 3 items or less. No more than £2 is required if you are sending money in with your child. Photographs will be shared of the celebrations as part of the class weekly snapshots.

P7 are partying at the first cluster ceilidh! This is a super opportunity for our Primary 7 children to get to know pupils across the other cluster schools, as well as the staff who will be supporting them too. This will take place on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm - 3pm. The children will be escorted to the ceilidh by staff and then staff will return to Ravenswood Primary by 3pm. If your child uses the school bus and needs to return to Ravenswood Primary to go home by bus on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December, please contact the school enquiries mailbox [enquiries-at-ravenswood@northlan.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-at-ravenswood@northlan.org.uk) Otherwise it is assumed your child will leave independently from Greenfaulds High on this day.

It will be assumed that your child will make their way home independently from Greenfaulds High unless other specific arrangements are shared using the enquiries mailbox. [enquiries-at-ravenswood@northlan.org.uk](mailto:enquiries-at-ravenswood@northlan.org.uk)

5 <sup>th</sup> December	Greenfaulds High School	1.30pm P7 Christmas Ceilidh
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11 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm P3 and P4 Christmas party
15 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm P1 and P2 Christmas party

## Primary 1 and Primary 7 Dental Inspections

Dental inspections for our Primary 1 and Primary 7 pupils will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## Christmas Service

Primary 4 will be delivering our school Christmas service On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am. Families and friends are welcome to attend. The whole school will be in attendance and the hall is significantly smaller than what we are used to in our school building. We will have as many chairs available as possible and will do our best to seat everyone who attends. Please be mindful that whilst we hope the hall can facilitate everyone who wishes to attend, it is possible the hall may be too small for some. We will put out signage to show the door entrance to the hall for families on this day, ideally not disrupting the front entrance of St Mary's Primary School.

## School Early Closure

School will close for the Christmas break on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 2.30pm. The bus service is aware of the early closure on this day.

## Family Fun Orienteering Feedback

Thank you to everyone who attended the family fun orienteering event. Everyone reported that they had fun and that is exactly what we hoped for. 32% of families were new to our family fun events, it was great to see you all. On the day families submitted a word to best describe the event, see below! 😊



## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

4 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.30pm P1 - P3 Nativity 6.30pm P1 - P3 Nativity
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Greenfaulds High School	1.30pm P7 Christmas Ceilidh
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18 <sup>th</sup> December	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	2.30pm - school closes
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December - Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
16 <sup>th</sup> January	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.30pm - school open afternoon - all welcome 😊
22 <sup>nd</sup> January	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm - Burns celebration P6 leading, all welcome 😊
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February - Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm Spring Service P5 leading, all welcome 😊
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	PCA Spring Disco P1 - P3 6.30pm - 7.30pm



		P4 - P7 7.45pm - 8.45pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	2.30pm - school closes
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	9.30am - Potential Sports Day - more information to follow
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	3.15pm onwards Progress Conferences
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May - Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm whole school concert
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm whole school concert
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.45pm Celebration of Achievement - all welcome 😊
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	PCA Summer Disco P1 - P3 6.30pm - 7.30pm P4 - P7 7.45pm - 8.45pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Ravenswood Primary at St Mary's	1.30pm Summer service - P7 leading - all welcome 😊
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:info@enquire.org.uk)

On line at: [www.enquire.org.uk](http://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](http://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](http://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

NORTH LANARKSHIRE

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?

