

Ravenswood Primary School



February 2026

Parent/Carer Newsletter

Happy New Year! It has been lovely to see everyone return to school, we hope you had a great break. It has been wonderfully wintry however chilly! Please remember winter woollies for break times at school.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 16 th February - Wednesday 18 th February	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
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Thank you, Miss Purdon!

thank you

Miss Purdon has supported our school for many years initially as a Class Teacher and then securing her post as Principal Teacher. Miss Purdon will be leaving the team and taking on new adventures. We are so grateful for her support over the years and wish her all the best. We will ensure that February 2026 is her best working month yet! The Principal Teacher advert is live, and we hope to have this recruited soon.

Primary 1 Enrolment

Mrs Whitton has already started to visit local nurseries for children who have enrolled with us for August 2026. We are looking forward to getting to know all new children and their families. It is important that we make transition as smooth as possible, if you know anyone who has not yet enrolled but is looking to attend Ravenswood Primary next session, please spread the word that important transition opportunities are underway.

School Uniform

We have seen a significant dip in children wearing appropriate clothing to school. Children will be asked to remove any jumpers that are not school uniform when in class. Please wear school uniform every day to school. At times, parents/carers

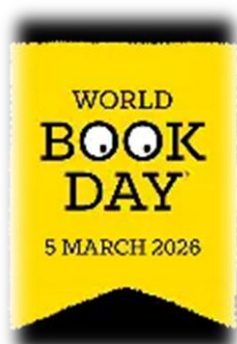
may be called to bring uniform to school if children are not dressed appropriately. We have no school stock, please send your child to school wearing uniform.

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.

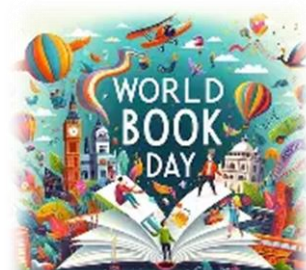
enquiries-at-ravenswood@northlan.org.uk

Handball Tournament

We are delighted to report that our handball team played a blinder last week in the local tournament at the Tryst. They cooperated, communicated and scored goals, goals, goals! Well done team, you placed silver overall! BUZZING! 😄



World Book Day



We are looking forward to celebrating World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. This will be a fun day where children will enjoy everything about books. Children can dress up as a favourite book character or come to school ready for a cosy reading day wearing their pyjamas. Can't wait! 😊

Reading Schools Week, 2026

We will be participating in Reading Schools Week from the 2nd – 5th of February. The Reading Schools committee have LOTS of fun activities planned across the week. They have organised the ultimate reading challenge...the 'Raven Reader'. Starting on the 2nd of February over the next 30 days children are challenged to read/be read to every day for at least 15 minutes.

Each day you complete you should colour in one book on the tracker attached at the end of the newsletter. The tracker can be printed, for those without a printer you can take a screenshot of the tracker and use 'Mark Up' tools within the iPhone Photos App to digitally colour. Once you have completed your 30 days please bring your tracker into school, or email to Mrs Whitton – NLRobertsonA@northlan.org.uk

Good luck and happy reading! 😊

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.

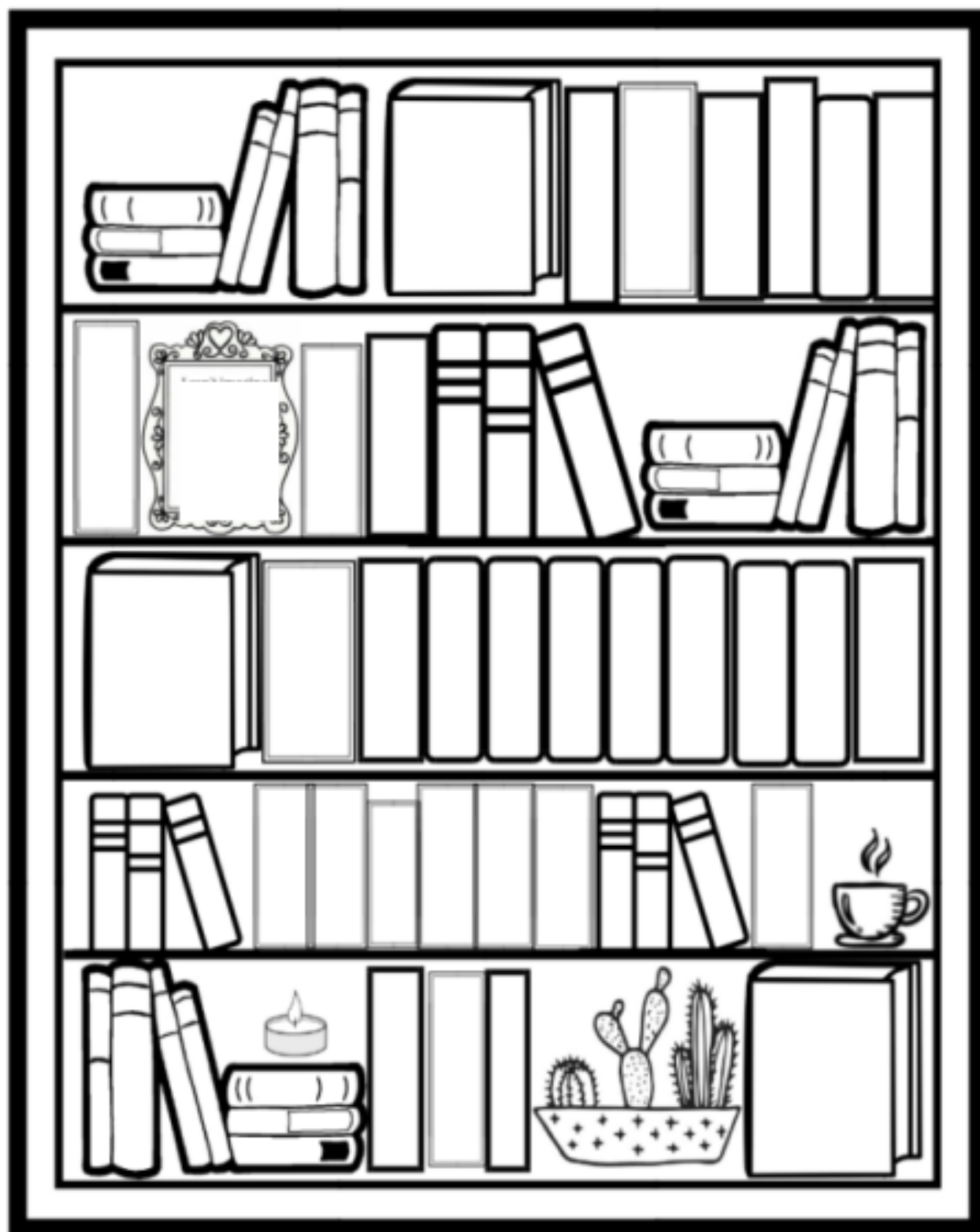
Important Dates 2025-26

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

Raven Reader Challenge – February

For the next 30 days read/be read to for 15 minutes or more each day. For each day you complete, colour in a book. You can either print this sheet out or take a screenshot and colour it digitally using the iPhone 'Mark Up' tools in Photos.



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?

