

Stepps Primary



Tel: 01236 632148

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



Dear Parents/Carers,

Christmas now seems like a long and distant memory! We have a very busy term ahead as we look forward to slightly lighter evenings and hopefully a little more sunshine. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our collection for Strathcarron Hospice at our school service. Thanks to your generosity, we have been able to forward a cheque for £746.88 to Strathcarron Hospice.

Just a quick reminder that the school and nursery will close for pupils at 3.00 pm on Friday 10th February for the mid-term break and re-open on Thursday 16th February at 9.00 am.

Enrolment of P1 Pupils for Session 2023/2024

Enrolment of new P1 pupils for next session took place during the week beginning Monday 16th January 2023. If your child is due to start school in August 2023 and you have not yet registered them, please call at the school office as soon as possible to arrange a suitable time to complete the registration process.

Enrolment of Nursery Pupils for Session 2023/2024 Update

As you may be aware, all 3 and 4 year olds, and eligible 2 year olds, are entitled to 1,140 hours of free childcare per year. Applications for admission to early years establishments and nurseries in North Lanarkshire cannot be commenced at present due to a legal challenge which prevents the council from concluding the framework with early years and nursery suppliers. The Council's web page will be updated with information on applications for 2023/24 once this legal challenge is resolved. We will also inform parents/carers, through our normal communication channels, once we are informed that the registration process can begin.

School Handbook

The school handbook contains information for parents on all aspects of the school and is updated each year. Parents whose children are about to start school will receive a copy automatically. It is, however, possible for any parent to inspect or consult the handbook or to request a copy free of charge at the school. It will also be available on the school website - <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/steppsprimary>.

Scottish Focus Week

Our annual Scottish Focus Week took place from Monday 24 January – Friday 28 January 2023. All classes had the opportunity to explore different aspects of Scottish culture, literature and landscapes during the week. Pupils in P4 – P7 had the opportunity to participate in our verse recital challenge, while pupils in P3 – P7 were also able to participate in our Scottish art challenge. A list of the Scottish verse and art challenge winners has been included below for your information. Well done everyone!

Scottish Art Challenge Winners

P3A	Georgie Nixon & Laura Dornn	P3B	Aizah Abdulah & Jessica Power
P4A	Amber Logan & Amber O'Neill	P4B	Emily Dolan & Braxton Reid
P5A	Calum Adam & Julia Rodriguez	P5A	Tessa Stevenson & Emma Aitken
P6A	Jade Fleming & Pippa Ferries	P6B	Ruaridh McIntosh & Emily Wilson & Bailey Reid
P7A	Bethany Hall & Eilidh Fullarton	P7B	Lauren McDonald & Zoe Maxwell



Scottish Verse Challenge Winners

P4A	Dawson Kerr & Amber Logan & Amber O'Neill
P4B	Max McKinlay & Mila Burnett



- P5A Theia McKay & Pippa McElveen
- P5B Ben Ryan, Carys Peart & Kasey Reid
- P6A Caitlin Blair & Lucy Devine
- P6B Jessica Lander & Ben Richardson
- P7A Jannat Umar & Dominic McElveen
- P7B Elliot Nelson & Jay McGugan



Sharing the Learning Events 2022/2023

Our programme of Sharing the Learning events is now underway. The dates for all remaining events have been noted below.

DATE	CLASS
10 February 2023 @ 9.30am	Primary 7A & P7B
24 February 2023 @ 9.30am	Primary 6A & P6B
3 March 2023 @ 9.30am	Primary 5A & P5B
28 April 2023 @ 9.30am	Primary 3A & P3B

For safety and security reasons, we would ask all parents/carers attending these events to enter through the Cultural Centre doors. **Doors into the school hall will be opened approximately 10 minutes before the event starts.** This enables staff to set up the hall for the event as well as allowing the children some additional rehearsal time. We look forward to welcoming you into school to share in the work your child has been studying in class.

We will do our best to ensure that all the events go ahead as planned but please be aware that circumstances beyond our control may result in changes to these arrangements at short notice

Energy Drinks

We actively encourage pupils to drink plain water throughout the day. Pupils may still bring cartons or plastic bottles of juice for lunch and playtimes, however, **only plain water is allowed to be consumed during class time.** Fruit juice or diluting juice should be kept for morning interval and lunch. **Energy drinks such as PRIME, Red Bull and Monster should not be brought to school, as these drinks are not recommended for under-18s and contain high levels of caffeine.**

Attendance & Late Coming: Reminder

We fully appreciate and understand that, on occasion, pupils may be late in the morning due to unforeseen circumstances. A child will never get into trouble for being late as we are always glad to see them and know that they are safe and well. While this is the case, we have noticed an increase in the number of children being dropped off after 9.00am on a daily basis. We would ask all parents/carers to ensure that children are in school for the start of the school day at 9.00am. So how does late coming affect school? Firstly, it is learning time missed by the person who is late. They miss important information, instructions and pastoral support at the start of the school day. However, it also has a significant detrimental affect on others in the class. The class is disrupted, the teacher often has to stop what he or she is doing and pupils lose concentration. Attendance registers are completed as soon as the children enter the building at 9.00am to ensure that we are able to identify and account for any absence. Lunch orders are also taken at this point. It is important that all children are in at the correct time to enable these procedures to be carried out quickly and accurately.

Reminder: Wearable Technology/Mobile Phone Policy

After the Christmas break, we always notice a significant increase in the number of pupils with mobile phones and wearable technology. As a result, we feel it is important to remind parents/carers of our school policy in relation to these items. We recognise that there can be legitimate reasons why children bring mobiles to school. Unlike some schools, we have been fortunate not to encounter any major problems involving mobile phones/wearable technology. We have a clear mobile phone policy in Stepps Primary that we enforce to **keep all of our pupils safe, and to avoid the many issues with social media that children encounter outwith school.** We have also noted an increase in pupils coming to school with 'smart watches' which are capable of making calls, sending and receiving text messages as well as taking photographs. Class Teachers have reported a number of occasions where pupils have received text messages from parents/carers while they have been in class or in the playground. As you can imagine, this can be extremely distracting and disruptive for the rest of the class. We would remind all parents/carers that the same mobile phone rules apply to these devices, in terms of calls, text messages and photographs, in school. If you need to get a message to your child, please call the school office and we will be happy to pass it on.



Key Diary Dates: Further Dates & Information to Follow
Dates will be added on an ongoing basis



Day	Date	Month	Event
Monday	6 th	February	PTA Meeting @ 6.30pm
Monday	6 th	February	Parent Council Meeting @ 7.00pm
Friday	10 th	February	P7 Sharing the Learning Event for P7 parents/carers @ 9.30am
Monday	13 th	February	School & Nursery Closed – February Break
Tuesday	14 th	February	School & Nursery Closed – February Break
Wednesday	15 th	February	School & Nursery Closed – February Break
Friday	24 th	February	P6 Sharing the Learning Event for P6 parents/carers @ 9.30am
Thursday	2 nd	March	World Book Day – Information to follow
Friday	3 rd	March	P5 Sharing the Learning Event for P5 parents/carers @ 9.30am
Wednesday	15 th	March	P1 Health Checks with the School Nurse
Friday	17 th	March	Red Nose Day – Further Information to follow
Tuesday	21 st	March	Parents' Evening
Thursday	23 rd	March	Parents' Evening
Monday	27 th	March	P7 Residential Trip
Thursday	30 th	March	P7 pupils return from residential trip
Friday	31 st	March	School & Nursery close at 2.30pm for the Spring Break
Monday	17 th	April	School & Nursery reopen for the Summer Term
Monday	24 th	April	PTA Meeting @ 6.30pm
Monday	24 th	April	Parent Council Meeting @ 7.00pm
Friday	28 th	April	P3 Sharing the Learning Event for P3 parents/carers @ 9.30am
Monday	1 st	May	May Day Holiday – school & nursery closed
Tuesday	2 nd	May	In-service Training Day for staff - school & nursery closed for pupils
Thursday	11 th	May	PTA Discos
Friday	19 th	May	Nursery, P1 & P7 year group photographs
Friday	26 th	May	May Holiday Weekend - school & nursery closed
Monday	29 th	May	May Holiday Weekend - school & nursery closed
Monday	5 th	June	Parent Council Meeting @ 7.00pm
Friday	23 rd	June	P7 Graduation – Evening Event
Wednesday	28 th	June	School closes at 1.00pm for the Summer Break