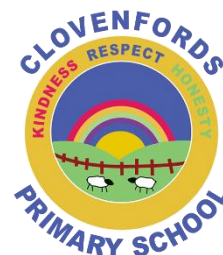


Clovenfords Primary School

Kindness Respect Honesty

Weekly Update – Friday 24th October 2025



Head Teacher's Update

Dear all,

We welcomed the children back after the break and it was lovely to hear their news and to see them catching up with others in their class and around the school. Some highlights from this week include:

- Our P6 and P7 pupils enjoying the opportunity to take part in the after-school Netball Club which is being supported and run by Miss Fairbairn and Miss Scott each Tuesday.
- A visit from the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service to support the children to learn more about fire safety at Gathering on Wednesday.
- Some wonderful conversations with the children, capturing pupil voice on reading for pleasure across the school to support our Reading Assembly this week. The children shared their enjoyment of their class novels, their favourite books and authors, as well as some of the other ways they access books and texts for pleasure in school.

If you can join us on Monday evening, Miss Jeffrey will be sharing more information for families on the **Massage in Schools Programme** which starts at 6.00pm. There is an opportunity for you to come into school on Tuesday afternoon and hear more about our **Ready to Learn** team and how they support families in our cluster. You can also join us at our **Family Literacy Stay and Learn** session next Wednesday afternoon from 2.15pm and at the end of the week teachers will share on your child's Class Communication Group the latest **Family Friendly Learning Overview** for you to stay up to date with all the learning that is happening from now until Christmas.

It is **Walk to School Week** next week and our JRSO team have been actively promoting this in school with posters and class visits. **Archery Clubs** are also starting next week for P4-P7 children. Thank you to Active Schools, Miss Sked and Mrs Seaton for supporting and running these clubs.

Finally, a thank you to everyone who engaged in our short survey recently about parental engagement with Showbie. Please see the results from this below.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful weekend.

Mrs Saxon

Dates for the Diary

Monday 27th October	Walk to School Week begins
Monday 27th October	Massage in Schools Programme Parent Information Session 6.00pm-6.30pm
Tuesday 28th October	Galashiels Ready to Learn Team Drop-In session 2.30pm
Wednesday 29th October	Family Literacy Stay and Learn Session - ELC-P7 2.15pm
Friday 31st October	Family Learning Overviews published
Wednesday 12th November	P2-P7 Families invited to Citizenship Gathering 9.15am-9.45am
Friday 14th November	P4/5 Class Assembly 9.00am – all P4/5 families welcome
Friday 14th November	Cloven Quiz and Bingo Night – 6.30pm
Friday 14th November	Travelling Book Fair arrives
Monday 17th November	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 19th November	Pupil Progress Consultations
Thursday 20th November	Pupil Progress Consultations
Friday 21st November	Travelling Book Fair departs
Monday 1st December	St Andrew's Day holiday. School closed to all

Tuesday 2nd December	ELC Families Stay and Make session 2.15pm
Tuesday 2nd December	Galashiels Ready to Learn Team Drop-In session 2.30pm
Monday 8th December	P6/7 Christmas Class Party 2.00pm
Tuesday 9th December	P5/6 Christmas Class Party 2.00pm
Wednesday 10th December	ELC Christmas Show 2.15pm
Thursday 11th December	P1 and P2 Nativity Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm and Evening Show at 6.00pm
Friday 12th December	P4/5 Christmas Class Assembly 11.15am
Monday 15th December	P3/4 Christmas Class Party 2.00pm
Tuesday 16th December	Whole School Christmas Lunch
Tuesday 16th December	P2/3 Christmas Class Party 2.00pm
Wednesday 17th December	P3-P7 Christmas Sing Along Dress Rehearsal 2.00pm & Evening Show 6.30pm
Thursday 18th December	P1/2 Christmas Class Party 2.00pm
Friday 19th December	ELC Christmas Party
Monday 22nd December	Christmas holiday begins
Monday 5th January 2026	Staff and pupils resume

Box of Cereal Donation for Harvest Assembly

Our Harvest Assembly will take place on Friday 31st October. At this time of year, we celebrate the end of the growing season and the land that supports our food production. To continue to develop the children's understanding of the importance of community and sharing, we would love to support the Galashiels Food Bank by donating as many boxes of cereal as possible. If you can contribute to this donation, please could your child bring a box of cereal to school with them by Thursday 30th October. Many thanks!

Showbie Parental Engagement

Families have been sharing their views on what they access on Showbie and which folders and groups provide them with the best ways of viewing their child's progress and achievements.

56% of parents have notifications switched on to receive alerts.

89% of parents have joined their child's Class Communication Group.*

78% of parents access their child's Class Communication Group weekly.

89% of parents have accessed their child's Portfolio this term.

44% of parents have accessed their child's Achievement folder this term.

44% of parents have previously accessed the class learning folders. 22% have either never, or rarely accessed these.

*These are now called Communities on Showbie.

When asked to what extent there was agreement with the statement: **I feel that navigating Showbie and all the information on there can be challenging**, 89% of parents agreed or strongly agreed.

When asked to what extent there was agreement with the statement: **I feel that access to my child's Portfolio and Achievements folder alongside the Class Communication Group provides me with appropriate information on what is happening in my child's class and how they are making progress**, 88% agreed or strongly agreed.

When asked for further feedback on their engagement with Showbie, comments included:

"There is a lot of information on Showbie and I don't have the time to keep looking through all the folders. I liked the starred folder that has things that the teachers have left a comment on as I don't have to worry about trying to find it. The important information I need gets posted on the class group and anything else I need to know will be on the weekly newsletter."

"I'll look at the class folders every now and again but it doesn't really tell me anything I don't already know from talking to my child. The comments from the teachers are important to me because I can see how they are getting on and what they should do next so I don't have to wait until parents evening to find out how they are doing. I see the teachers every day so if there was anything I wanted to ask them about what he has been doing in school, I could just ask them and it saves me having to look through all the folders."

"Great tool for parents to share their child's learning and be part of their learning journey. Pupils in P4-7 are able to show their digital jotters to parents at any point and encouraged to share their experiences. The comments in Portfolio are a great way of reporting and sharing pupil progress."

"The issues we have with showbie are absolutely nothing to do with school, it's just the actual programme can be clumsy and folders do not always open. You have to constantly refresh the app to get it to work. Sometimes it works better when going through the email notification rather than the banner one. This is not a school issue though, a showbie one. We really appreciate the quality of the content being shared rather than quantity. Over ELC - p2 it was lovely to see photos of what our child was up to but there was very little information with that photo. So now we are getting far less photos but we are getting way more information. If that makes sense. We are very happy and thank you for your continuous engagement with parents as you find out what works for busy teachers and staff and parents."

"Showbie is easier to navigate this year with parents only having portfolio access. Last year there were too many notifications and parents went down a rabbit hole with assignments and folders etc. I don't think the communication groups are used to their full potential. It would be good to see more pictures of general goings on in the class e.g. after the P5 Countryside day last year we didn't see a single photo from the trip. The Showbie communication group would have been a great platform to share some pictures from the day."

"I do find Showbie useful as a tool to prompt discussion on what's been happening in school. However I would prefer an email with regards information that is deadline sensitive or requires immediate action."

As a result of this feedback we will keep Showbie streamlined with parental access to Portfolios, Achievement folders and Class Communication Groups. We will endeavour to add photos where appropriate of class trips etc., whilst remaining mindful of staff workload and other priorities, and we will continue to use this Group/Community to provide information for families on their child's class. Parents of pupils in P4-P7 can continue to share in their child's learning using their school device.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to share their views.

Ready to Learn Team

If you are interested in being introduced to, and finding out more about what our Galashiels cluster Ready to Learn team do, they are running a series of drop in sessions. The team can support parental understanding around the importance of routines, screen time, parent portal, booking lunches, free school meals, uniform allowance, and signposting, etc. to other services and supports available. The team will be in school between 2:30-3:15pm on the following dates:

28th Oct
2nd Dec
20th Jan
3rd March
21st April
19th May

If you have any questions about our Ready to Learn team, please contact the school office in the first instance.

Shoe Box Appeal – Last Day!

Today is the last day for the shoe box drop at the school office. You can find more information online at: [Shoe Box Appeal | Blythswood](#)

Wider Achievements

To support an even wider range of achievements, and to help your child to continue to develop key skills and qualities, we would like to invite you to email our school office with examples – photos would be great! - based on your child's developing understanding and demonstration of our school aims of **Respected and Safe**.

Some examples of children showing their understanding of the meaning of **respected** may include:

- Good sportsmanship – showing respect by demonstrating graciousness in both winning and losing. This may include shaking hands with opponents, applauding good play – even if it is from the other team.

- Playing fairly – this shows respect for the culture and rules of the game and shows that children understand that fairness is crucial for making the experience enjoyable for everyone.
- Positive communication – using encouraging words with others and avoiding negative comments that do not demonstrate respect.
- Using polite language and having good manners is a key skill and shows respect for others.
- Respecting their own and others' belongings. If your child is tidying things away they are showing respect.

Some examples of children showing their understanding of being **safe** may include:

- Following rules and procedures during out of school activities including wearing safety equipment (helmets etc) and following the rules of the game.
- Using equipment properly in games, or during other activities such as baking and cooking and learning how to check equipment is in good working order.
- Being safe in their environment such as looking both ways before crossing the road, or being aware of their own and others' space during games and play.
- Helping younger or less experienced peers to follow safety rules.
- Learning how to stay safe online by following rules and checking in with an adult about safe sites, chat groups and games that are age appropriate.

We use all that you share as part of our termly contribution and achievement assemblies where the children will be celebrated. Thank you in advance.

Ben has been helping at home and safely using kitchen utensils to make yummy Halloween brownies!

Lyle rode on the Guinness World Record's steepest rollercoaster!

Hope wanted to share how proud she was of her sunflower which she took home from school. It grew very tall and produced two flowers!

Oliver was Tweedbank Thistle Football P4 player of the week for working hard at training.

James was football Player of the Week.

Mrs Noble finally ticked Ben Nevis off her 'to do' and made it to the top and back down again. She has now done the three-peaks challenge.

Delta took part in the Edinburgh International Mural Festival.

Clovenfords Coins

This week's Clovenfords Coins winners are P1/2! Congratulations to all the children in this class!

The race is on for the most coins at the end of term for the highly coveted dress down day!

Please do keep supporting your child to explore and practise how to be part of a team at home; to positively share in others' achievements, and support others to feel included and welcome in events and activities outwith school. This will help them to keep doing this in school too.



Reading Assembly

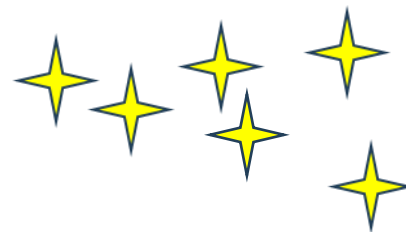
Our library is currently undergoing a significant reorganisation with lots of effort going into sorting and categorising the books as well as ideas on how to make the library feel even more cosy and comfortable to promote the children's reading for enjoyment. This week in assembly we celebrated lots of ways that the children enjoy reading in school, their favourite books, what they like about their class novel, and explored some of the other opportunities that are provided for reading for pleasure.

We also congratulated our new Sign Language Ambassadors and took part in some whole school singing. We continue to celebrate our weekly Star Achievers. All children's learning paths are different, from their progress and understanding, to their social and emotional regulation, as well as their skills development. We recognise that everyone's learning journey is unique to them.

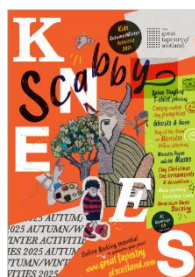
Our Star Achievers enjoyed their hot chocolate today and we would like to say congratulations to:



ELC	Charlotte
P1/2	James
P2/3	Reina
P3/4	Oliver



P4/5	Struan
P5/6	Daisy
P6/7	Olivia



Clothingfords

Clothingfords is available for you to come and browse across the school day as well as during after school and evening events. Please do not be shy about coming in to use this great facility! There is a great mixture of good quality, used items. We also welcome donations.

Please pop in for a browse for any additional uniform items that you require for your child.

Communication

If your child will not be in school, it is important that you inform the school office by 9.00am. You can report absence by phone or email.

Office phone number: 01896 662755

Office email: clovenfordsps@scotborders.gov.uk

Twitter (X) : @Clovenfords_ps

Website: [Clovenfords Primary School – Kindness, Respect, Honesty \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](http://Clovenfords Primary School – Kindness, Respect, Honesty (glowscotland.org.uk))