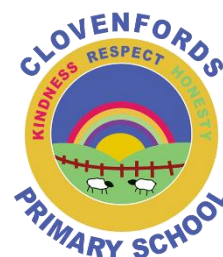


Clovenfords Primary School

Kindness Respect Honesty

Weekly Update – Friday 31st October 2025



Head Teacher's Update

Dear all,

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to our Family Stay and Learn session on Wednesday where children shared aspects of their literacy learning with you. As you can see from the photos, there are several ways children learn to write across the curriculum. Parents were able to observe their child's development of skills, knowledge of spelling patterns and how they are practising writing for a range of purposes. All these aspects of literacy support children's progress. For our youngest children, the development of fine motor skills, such as manipulating small objects and developing scissor skills helps to strengthen their hands in readiness to write.

The children took part in a Halloween Scavenger Walk around the village on Thursday and Friday, looking for clues to solve a spooky word find. Thank you to the Parent Council and parent volunteers who organised and supported this event for the children.

On Monday 3rd November the Parent Council are holding their next meeting. You will find the link and agenda for this below. You are warmly welcomed to attend, as events like the Halloween Scavenger Walk are all the more successful with lots of volunteers and support.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful weekend. Happy Halloween!

Mrs Saxon

Dates for the Diary

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 Party 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

Enrolment Week ELC

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE ENROLMENT WEEK

FOR 3 AND 4 YEAR OLDS AND
DEFERRED ENTRY TO P1

17 - 21 NOVEMBER 2025

Further Information, visit:
www.scotborders.gov.uk/elc



Early Learning and Childcare (3 and 4 year olds)

- To register for and Early Learning and Childcare care place for all children born between 1 March 2022 and 29 February 2024 you should complete the online form during enrolment week.
- 3 year olds will be eligible to start Early Learning and Childcare the school term after their 3rd birthday (August; January; April).
- Please contact the Early Learning and Childcare setting of choice prior to making an online application.
- Find out more at and to access the form, visit: www.scotborders.gov.uk/elc

Deferred entry to Primary 1

- Children who will turn five years of age between 20 August 2026 and 28 February 2027 are eligible to apply for an additional year of funded Early Learning and Childcare. To defer entry to Primary 1 you only need to complete an application for another year of Early Learning and Childcare do not apply for a Primary place.
- Find out more at and to access the form, visit: www.scotborders.gov.uk/elc

Primary 1

- To register for Primary 1 for children who are 5 years old before the 28 February 2027 please complete the online School Enrolment application form during enrolment week.
- For more information and to access the form, visit: www.scotborders.gov.uk/schoolenrolment

Making a placement request

- If you would like to a placement request to send your child to a school out with their catchment area, please complete the online School Enrolment application form for the catchment school and select that you are applying to a non-catchment school to complete the Placement Request.
- To find out more, visit: www.scotborders.gov.uk/schoolenrolment

Parent Council Meeting

Date: Monday 3rd November 2025

To be held online : **1830 hours via Teams** link Meeting ID: 339 580 744 077 85 Passcode: JK6pg6nz

Agenda

1. Welcome and Attendees
2. Apologies received & approval of previous minutes
3. Matters arising from previous minutes
4. Financial Report
5. Headteacher Report
6. Parent Council: Communication Parent Council: Constitution
7. Out of School Care update
8. Music Lessons - Borders School of Music
9. School grounds - clean up/painting
10. Mission Christmas & 100 club
11. Gardening Club update
12. Community Council update
13. Clothingfords
14. Christmas coffee morning
15. AOCB

Any matters arising after the agenda has been circulated should be raised under AOCB. No major items should be brought up at this point. This is an opportunity to make suggestions for the next agenda.

Meeting Link:

[Join the meeting now](#)

Cluster iPad Survey

All Galashiels primary schools are reviewing how P4-P7 pupil iPads are managed over holiday periods. Some schools, such as Clovenfords PS, acted on parental feedback (following iPads remaining in school over the summer break) and kept iPads in school during the October break, reissuing these when pupils returned. They found that iPads staying in school over this holiday resulted in less breakages and allowed staff to ensure the iPads were ready for the children's return to their learning. All schools in the cluster recognise the importance of giving children a healthy break from screen time and encouraging family, outdoor, and creative activities during holidays. We would appreciate your feedback on this approach to actively supporting pupil health and wellbeing. Your views will help us make informed decisions as a cluster about how iPads are used and managed in the future. Thank you for taking the time to complete this short survey.

[Galashiels Cluster Inspire iPads in school over holiday periods – Fill in form](#)

We are delighted to be supporting **Poppy Scotland** again this year. Collection tins and poppies are available in your child's class and at our main office if you and your child(ren) would like to make a donation. Many thanks.

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/or **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.
- 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.
- Using polite language and having good manners.
- Respecting their own and others' belongings.

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.

James took part in a youth brass band competition in Innerleithen recently, playing tenor horn with his band, Maroon Brass. They achieved a "Gold" award and won the novice section. To make the achievement even better - he also learned to tie his tie all by himself!

Clovenfords Coins

This week's Clovenfords Coins winners are P2/3! Congratulations to all the children in this class!

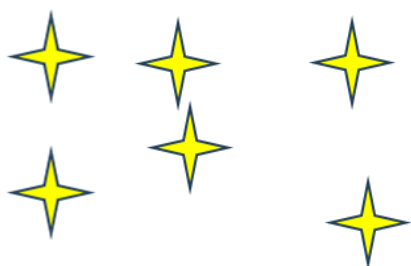
Please keep supporting your child to explore and practise how to be part of a team at home; to positively share in others' achievements, and support others to feel included and welcome in events and activities outwith school. This will help them to keep doing this in school too.



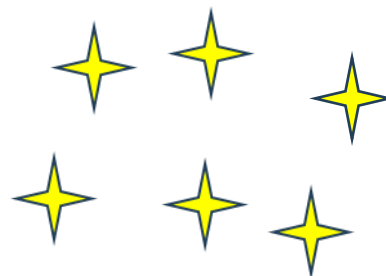
Harvest Assembly

This week's assembly was all about thankfulness. We shared with the children the fantastic number of boxes of cereal that will be donated to the Galashiels Food Bank. Thank you to all the families who contributed towards this. We also learned the BSL sign for 'harvest' and recapped on the BSL signs for Halloween. Ask your child to share these with you at home; they have done a super job of remembering them across this week. 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	George
P1/2	Violet
P2/3	Hope
P3/4	Cadence
P4/5	William
P5/6	Millar
P6/7	Ayla



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))