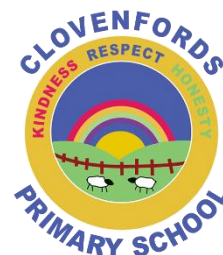


Clovenfords Primary School

Kindness Respect Honesty

Weekly Update – Friday 14th November 2025



Head Teacher's Update

Dear all,

Our Gathering on Wednesday morning shared some of the ways children build their literacy skills from ELC to P7. There was a focus on how they develop skills and knowledge in recognising *phonemes* (the sounds that make up a spoken word) and *graphemes* (what those sounds look like when we write them down). It all starts with children's ability to recognise sounds. Nursery rhymes are a great way to begin this process for our youngest learners and are among the building blocks needed to support children's understanding of how their reading and writing skills develop through spoken language and song. Thank you to all the parents who joined us for this – and who helped give out Clovenfords Coins to children for participating, being respectful and including each other in their House task.

We also welcomed families into school for our P4/5 assembly this morning. They have raised £533 so far for Children in Need. Their focus on kindness and upholding the rights of children across the UK through their fundraising efforts is such a wonderful example of our values in action.

We often ask for your views as parents, and we very much value the time you give to sharing your opinions as part of our school community. We try very hard to make sure these surveys are short but useful to gauge the direction and focus of our improvements etc. Our decisions in school always take account of the feedback we receive. Please do keep engaging with these through our Weekly Updates and when you are in school as your voice matters to us. There is a survey below asking for your thoughts on engaging with the **Borders School of Music**. We will also be gathering your views on our Family Friendly Overviews next week during the Pupil Progress Consultations. We are delighted that former pupils Robbie and Harris will be on hand to oversee this fact-finding exercise so please do engage with them when you are in school next week.

On Monday the NHS will be in school for the annual **flu vaccinations** and our **Pupil Progress Consultations** are taking place on Wednesday and Thursday. The **Travelling Book Fair** will be in school all next week so please do have a look at this when you are in. The school receives commission from any sales made which means we can buy books for our school and class libraries.

Wishing you a safe and peaceful weekend.

Mrs Saxon

Dates for the Diary

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
Friday 5th December	Christmas Fair 11.30am-1.00pm
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	Christmas Jumper Day – donation for charity
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 (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

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

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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

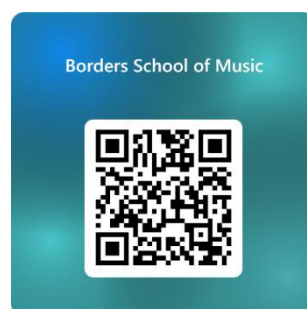
- To register for Primary 1 for children who are 5 years old before the 28 February 2027 please complete the online School Enrolment application form during enrolment week.
- For more information and to access the form, visit: www.scotborders.gov.uk/schoolenrolment

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

Borders School of Music

There has been some interest from parents about children working with the Borders School of Music. Currently they are promoting a programme called "The Rock School Project". The Borders School of Music Community works alongside other primary schools in the area providing in school sessions consisting of 30 minute lessons once a week (P1-7) where children get to learn different instruments (vocals, guitar, drums, bass guitar, electric guitar, and keyboard). They get to work together in groups to make music and experiment with learning different instruments. The sessions are run by skilled tutors and performers. There is a monthly cost to parents whose children take part in this initiative. In order to gauge interest in this please can you click on the link below to share your views about this programme in the first instance. The survey will remain open until the 28th November. Many thanks.



[Borders School of Music – Fill in form](#)

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
- Playing fairly
- Positive communication
- 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
- Using equipment properly in games, or during other activities such as baking and cooking
- Being safe in their environment such as looking both ways before crossing the road
- Helping younger or less experienced peers to follow safety rules.
- Learning how to stay safe online

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.

Eilidh took part in the Creative Stage Showcase at the Volunteer Hall in the Grade 1 Tap and Grade 1 Modern groups and did a great job on both performances.

Ivar worked really hard to win a bronze for his breaststroke at Gala ASC Club Championships and showed great sportsmanship with his teammates!

Harry was so proud of himself for passing his level 3 swimming. One more level to go!

Rowan claimed a silver medal at the annual Bonsai Judo competition which took place in Livingstone.

Sean and **Jamie** joined their Dad at the laying of the wreaths at the Caddonfoot Parish Remembrance service.

After seeing an advert about Children in Need, **Eli**, **Luca** and **Nico** said they would like to raise money. They did a bit of research with mum and found a pudsey quiz and arranged a date and time with family from Northern Ireland who all donated to attend. Dad and Nico were the winning team. Lots of fun was had by all and £40 was raised and donated online.

Clovenfords Coins

This week's Clovenfords Coins winners are **P4/5**! 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.

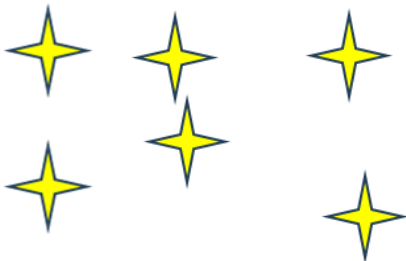


P4/5 Class Assembly

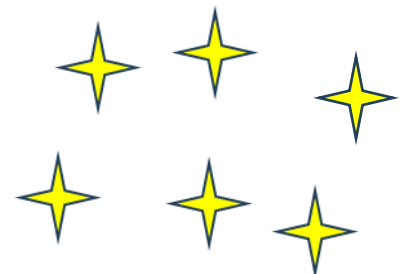
The children in P4/5 have been raising money for Children in Need. They created and presented a wonderful assembly that links our school vision and values of kindness and emphasised the importance of children's rights. Thank you to everyone who has supported with the fundraising aspect of the children's chosen efforts - your money is going to a great cause!

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 and biscuit today and we would like to say congratulations to:



ELC	Martha
P1/2	Frankie
P2/3	Ailsa
P3/4	Lochlan
P4/5	Harry F
P5/6	Ellis
P6/7	Charlotte



Raising Children with Confidence
Six week online course

Open to primary school parents in the Galashiels, Selkirk and Berwickshire area

Delivered over Microsoft Teams
Tuesdays
27 January to 10 March
1-2.30pm

This course is designed to raise awareness and confidence about the importance of promoting positive mental health and emotional wellbeing in parents/carers and young people. It uses a variety of current theories and research on what influences our mental health and wellbeing.

Priority will be given to P1 parents
To book your place email BChild@scotborders.gov.uk

For more information please contact:
BCChild@scotborders.gov.uk if you live in the Galashiels and Selkirk areas.
Amelia.Dempsey@scotborders.gov.uk if you live in the Berwickshire area.

Scottish Borders Council



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 \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.glowscotland.org.uk)