

Clovenfords Primary School

Kindness Respect Honesty

Weekly Update - Friday 9th January 2026



Head Teacher's Update

Dear all,

Welcome back and a very Happy New year to all our families as we begin 2026 and a new term of learning and opportunities for the children.

As the children settle back into their routines there is much for them to look forward to and engage in. Here are a few highlights and reminders for the term ahead:

Our ELC children are looking forward to their families joining them for the Stay and Read sessions next week.

The children will take part in our upcoming Scots Focus Fortnight, celebrating Scottish culture through poetry, texts and song as well as learning more about the country's heritage and history. In addition, some of our children will represent our school as part of the Galashiels Scots Poetry Recital Competition in February.

This term we hope to see as many of you as possible at our family Stay and Learn Maths Open Afternoon, the class assemblies that are planned, and our annual Café Conversations Open Afternoon. The dates are below too for the next Pupil Progress Consultations in March, providing you with another opportunity to engage in your child's learning and progress.

You will notice there has been a slight change of date for the Family Learning Overviews being published, as following consultation with you during the November Pupil Progress Consultations, we have taken on board your feedback. Staff are making use of this adjusted date to ensure your feedback is reflected - to streamline the information provided and make the overviews even more user friendly. Thank you for your input and opinions.

All the important dates and times are below for you to support your own calendars and commitments. We hope you will be able to come to as many of the planned events as possible.

As we start back for 2026, we continue to be committed to ensuring a positive and purposeful environment for all, and as such we focused on this at our Gathering and Assembly this week. Please see below some of the comments captured from your children about their school.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to your child(ren) flourishing as part of our school community. Wishing you all a safe and peaceful weekend.

Mrs Saxon

Dates for the Diary

Monday 12 th January	ELC Families Stay and Read 2.30pm
Thursday 15 th January	ELC Families Stay and Read 2.30pm
Tuesday 20 th January	Ready to Learn Team Drop In Session 2.30pm
Wednesday 21 st January	P7 Burns Supper - 2.00pm
Friday 23rd January	Family Learning Overviews published
Wednesday 4 th February	P2-P7 Parents invited to Citizenship Gathering 9.15am-9.45am

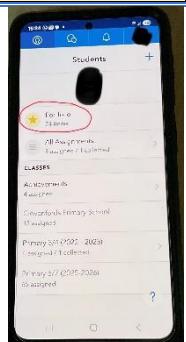
Friday 6th February	P3/4 Class Assembly - 9.00am - All P3/4 parents invited
Monday 9th February	Family Maths Stay and Learn Maths Session - ELC - P7 2.15pm
Monday 16th February	February Half Term Holiday week begins
Monday 23rd February	In Service Day. School closed for pupils
Tuesday 24th February	Pupils resume
Friday 27th February	World Thinking Day - Pupils can wear their Brownie, Scout etc. uniforms
Tuesday 3rd March	Ready to Learn Team Drop In Session 2.30pm
Thursday 12th March	Travelling Book Fair arrives
Friday 13th March	P5/6 Class Assembly - 9.00am - All P5/6 parents invited
Wednesday 18th March	Café Conversations Open Afternoon - all families invited 1.15-3.15pm
Thursday 19th March	Travelling Book Fair departs
Friday 20th March	P2/3 Class Assembly - 9.00am - All P2/3 parents invited
Wednesday 25th March	Pupil Progress Consultations 4.00pm-6.00pm
Thursday 26th March	Pupil Progress Consultations 3.30pm-5.30pm
Friday 27th March	Charity Bake Sale 11.30am - 12.30pm
Thursday 2nd April	Last day of term
Friday 3rd April	Easter holidays begin
Monday 20th April	All resume

Pupil Portfolios

We hope you enjoyed reading about the progress your child is making in their learning via their online Showbie Portfolio. Teachers commented on the children's learning in Writing, Maths/Numeracy, IDL/Science and Health and Wellbeing.

Across this term teachers will report on progress on your child's **Reading, Numeracy/Maths, PE and IDL/Science**.

Please contact the school office if you have trouble viewing your child's Portfolio.



Our School

As part of the children returning to school this term we have had a reestablishment phase, which means the children have time to reflect and discuss the ways they contribute to keeping their school feeling calm, happy and purposeful to allow everyone the best opportunities to learn and flourish. This term we will further develop the children's understanding of our Aims of **Included** and **Nurtured**.

Pupil voice is important in our school. As such we asked the children to tell us more about how our values, vision and ethos matter:

We asked the children, "Why are our values important?"

They said:

"They help us to be together and safe."

"Our values are important because it teaches people what we want our school to be."

"The school values are important because they guide us in the school and learning."

"Our values encourage us to be kind and caring."

"Our values are important not only for school but for out of school as well because they teach us to value others but also yourself."

We asked the children, "What does a good learner look like in our school?"

They said:

"Someone that is honest, pays attention and doesn't speak over the teacher."

"Someone who respects others and lets others have their own opinion."

"Resilient and hard working."

"A good learner looks like a person who is trying, listening and helping."

"A good learner looks like when they have got their head down focusing on their work even when things are tricky."

We asked the children, "Why is it important that your voice is listened to?"

They said:

"We have good ideas in school and it's not just our teachers that do and we have a right to be listened to."

"So everyone gets a say in their life."

"Because if it wasn't we wouldn't have the tyres or the footballs."

"Because it's important that everyone's voice is listened to and everyone's ideas are shared."

"So you know that you matter and you are listened to."

We asked the children, "What do you do to include others?"

"It's easy to include your friends but sometimes you have to think about other people that are not your friends so maybe say hello to them and talk to them sometimes."

"If they are in the playground we can go make sure they're okay and we can ask if they want to play."

"Say yes if they ask to join in."

"When I see people left out I go see if they want to play with me because sometimes, I am left out and I like someone who wants to play with me."

We asked the children, "What is special about our school?"

They said:

"We have love in cLOVEn and we all respect each other."

"The safety and teachers giving us time."

"Lots of stuff to play with and lots of staff to talk to."

"It is calm, quiet sometimes and kind and special."

"The school values and rights respecting school."

"Because everyone is amazing in their own way and that is how this school is so special."

"The thing about this school is that everyone gets to talk about their own ideas and opinions."

"Our school is special because everyone cares about each other and it feels like there's always someone to talk to whether that is a teacher or a friend."

"That there's hot chocolate."

The Nest

Our P7 House Leaders organised a competition to create a logo/door sign for The Nest which is what the children agreed to call our Nurture and Wellbeing Room. It is here where we have our Book Clubs, Star Achiever Celebrations and Wellbeing Groups, amongst other things.

We asked Mrs McGlinchey, who has designed logos and created artwork and flyers on behalf of the Parent Council to come in and help judge the competition and choose the winning entries. The results of the competition were shared at our assembly today and the winning design revealed!

Congratulations to **Daisy** who won, and to **Ellis M** and **Millar** who were second and third respectively.

The Nest - Winning design



Daisy

The Nest - 2nd Place



Ellis

The Nest - 3rd Place



Millar

Wider Achievements

To support a wide range of achievements, and to help your child 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 **Included** and/or **Nurtured**. All children

can practice nurture and inclusion through simple, meaningful actions that foster a sense of belonging and care, and build on the examples they shared with us this week, (see above). We would love to see how they are demonstrating these skills in the wider community.

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

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 and in the wider community; to positively share in others' achievements, and support others to feel included. This will help them to keep doing this in school too.

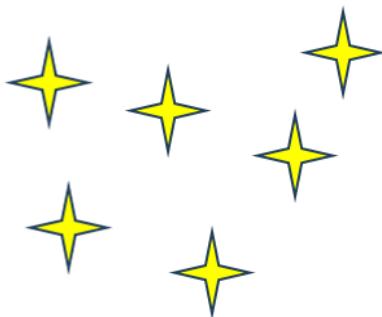


Assembly

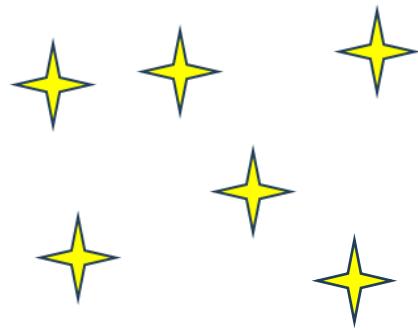
Our first assembly of 2026 included the sharing of pupil voice as part of our reestablishment phase as well as announcing the Nest Competition winners - see above for more details on both.

We also celebrated our first Star Achievers of the new year. 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	Freya
P1/2	Owen C
P2/3	Owen B
P3/4	Oliver
P4/5	Alice
P5/6	Emily C
P6/7	Ellis L



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](https://twitter.com/Clovenfords_ps)

Website: [Clovenfords Primary School - Kindness, Respect, Honesty \(glowscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.glowscotland.org.uk/schools/clovenfords-primary-school-kindness-respect-honesty)