



CARING FRIENDLY HARDWORKING



Newsletter 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I very much hope that all families had a relaxing September weekend.

'Welcome to our Classroom'

Thank you to the parents/carers who attended our 'Welcome to Our Classroom' event on Friday 20 September and 26 September 2024. We received a good level of feedback from parents/carers from this event. Thank you for your support. Your feedback is important.

Visit to Linn Park

On Thursday the 12th of September all ASN classes took their first trip of the year to Linn Park Adventure Playground in Glasgow. The children enjoyed the bus ride to Linn Park and had a fantastic morning in the sun enjoying both the outdoor play area and indoor sensory room. A fabulous time was had by all and the children were a credit to their parents/carers and to the school, Well done!

Autumn Weather



As the season changes and the colder weather arrives, please ensure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing, clearly marked with their name. We always try to allow the children outdoor breaks when possible.

Harvest Assembly

Our Harvest Assembly is being held on Friday 6 October at 1:30pm. Parent/Carers are welcome to attend. **Please remember to send your donations to the school this week.**



Evaluation of Learning

During the w/b 30 September and 7 October staff will be assessing pupils' progress in literacy, numeracy and Health and Well-being. The data from these assessments will be used by staff to identify next steps in learning.

Parent Consultations



We look forward to welcoming you to our Parent/Carer Consultations which will be held on Thursday 7 November from 3.30 until 8.30 pm. Parents/Carers will have a one to one (7 minute) appointment with their child's class teacher to discuss their child's progress with learning as well as their behaviour/attitude in school. Parents/carers will also have an opportunity to look at a variety of their child's classwork so far this session. Further information on how to book an appointment through Parentsportal will be issued in due course.

Book Fair

The school book fair will also be open on Parents' consultations evening. Parents/Children will have an opportunity to purchase books and a selection of stationery items.

School Uniform Support

We have supply of pre-loved and nearly-new school sweatshirts, cardigans and jumpers which are available to families who require support. If you require support to ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the wintry weather then please email the school office: office@cathkin-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Fernbrae Meadows

As part of our commitment to extend learning beyond the classroom, learning experiences may be planned to take place locally at Fernbrae Meadows. As Fernbrae is within our local environment then there is no requirement to obtain an additional signature of authorisation from parents/carers for learning experiences taking place at Fernbrae.

'Hands Up' Travel Survey

During September we completed a 'Hands Up' Travel Survey which polled pupils' travel arrangements to school. As the nights begin to get darker, we will be encouraging pupils to 'Be Seen.'



October is International Walk to School month. We would encourage everyone to try their best to walk to school (or park further away and walk some of the way - Park and Stride). This will have benefits for health, road safety awareness for children and a positive action in reducing pollution. Please refer to the website:

Parents' Forum Meeting



Our next Parents' Forum Meeting of the school session will be on Monday 4 November at 7pm. To date meeting there has been low attendance at meetings this session. Meetings are open to all parents/carers. Please contact the school for further information if you wish to attend and we can pass on your information to the chair of the Parents' Forum.



Parents' Forum Halloween Disco

Our Parents Forum will be hosting a Halloween disco for pupils later on this month. The planned date for this event is . **Wednesday 30 October 2024**. Further details regarding this event will be sent in a separate letter once planning for the event has been completed.

If anyone would like to donate Halloween costumes/outfits that are in good condition then we are happy to 'recycle them.' Please hand any 'pre-loved' clothing into the school office.

Wet Weather Arrangements

On wet weather days all pupils should enter via the senior playground and go directly into the school gym hall. **Staff will be present to supervise pupils in the gym hall from 8:50am**. Where possible, pupils should not be dropped off at school any earlier than this time unless they plan to attend our breakfast club which starts at 8:30am.

Attendance Procedures

Are you sure your child is at school today?



If your child is unable to attend school for any reason you should let the school know. Notify the school first thing in the morning when your child is going to be absent. Let the school know the date of return and keep them informed if the date changes. The school must be kept fully informed of any change to the following:

- home telephone number
- mobile number
- emergency contact details

Where no notification of absence has been received the school will make all reasonable attempts to contact:

- parent/carer
- emergency contact

In certain circumstances the school may seek advice from other agencies. The safety and wellbeing of our children is everyone's prime concern. By working together and sharing information we can minimise risk and keep our children safe.

Cathkin Learning Community Attendance Policy



Within Cathkin Learning Community we value excellent attendance and recognise the connection between regular attendance at school and the attainment and achievement of our children. A focus for all Scottish schools is to improve attendance. Therefore, attendance is a key priority within our schools. Our target being that pupils should attend for at least 95% of the session and should not be late for school. We understand that sometimes children cannot attend school due to ill health. However, we are keen to work in partnership with parents/carers to enable all children to attend school as much as possible.

All absences from school are required by law to be recorded. Absences will normally fall under two categories - **authorised or unauthorised absence**. In cases where children are unable to attend school parents/carers are asked:

- To contact the school office if they know in advance of any reason why their child is likely to be absent from school.
- To notify the school by phone call, email or via Parent Portal before 9:30am, stating the reason for absence and the likely date of return. Parents/carers are asked to keep the school informed if the date changes.
- To inform the school of any changes to contact details including any changes to emergency contact details.

Daily Attendance

Pupil attendance is monitored daily within all schools in the Cathkin Learning Community following the below procedure:

Parent/Carer Contact

- Telephone or Parent Portal message made by parent/carer to school office.
- Absence reason recorded.

Successful School Contact

- School will make contact with parent/carer by telephone or text to alert them of their child's absence.
- Absence reason recorded.

Unsuccessful Attempt Made

- Attempt recorded and message left if possible.
- Contact made with emergency contacts (where appropriate) asking parent/carer to contact school.
- Further attempts made (where appropriate) to contact the family during the school day.

Monthly Attendance

Children's attendance data will be monitored monthly by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) within the school. Cathkin Learning Community use the below table to identify the level of risk:

Days off school add up to lost learning.					
190 days of education each year.	Up to 10 days absence (2 weeks) 180 days of education	Up to 20 days absence (4 weeks) 170 days of education	Up to 30 days absence (6 weeks) 160 days of education	Up to 38 days absence (7 ½ weeks). One day for every week at school. 152 days of education	More than 39 days absence
100%	95% - 99%	90% - 94%	85% - 89%	80% - 84%	Less than 80%
Excellent	Very Good	Slight Concern	Concerning	Risk of Underachievement	Severe Risk of Underachievement
<i>All children have the 'Right to an Education' (UNCRC Article 28)</i>					

Cathkin Learning Community adheres to the following procedures when monitoring attendance:

Step 1	Attendance data will be gathered and analysed each month and shared with Class Teachers.
Step 2	SLT will use the above table to identify children at risk and will issue parent/carer with appropriate level of attendance letter and the parent/carer information leaflet Letter 1 - attendance statistic letter <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter 2 - request for parent/carer to contact the school for discussion• Letter 3 - advising of phone call from SLT• Letter 4 - advising of meeting with SLT• Letter 5 - advising of referral to SMPS (Senior Manager of Pupil Support)• SLT will issue letters in the above order if there is a continued decrease in

	attendance. A letter acknowledging an improvement in attendance will be sent monthly where appropriate. SLT will use their knowledge of families and circumstances to determine the appropriateness of the above letters and the support offered to reduce barriers to attendance.
Step 3	SLT will record outcome of above actions on Pastoral Notes.
Step 4	SLT will engage support from other stakeholders/partners as appropriate.

*At Letter 4, an Attendance Support Plan will be discussed and created to support the child. This will be reviewed monthly by SLT and parents/carers as appropriate.

The aim for all schools within Cathkin Learning Community will always be to support children and their families to attend school regularly and receive the appropriate support. Child Protection procedures will be followed at all times to ensure the safety of all children. All schools will consider the Cost of the School Day implications for families to ensure this is not a barrier to attendance.

Please note that in line with our Learning Community Improvement Plan this policy will be implemented from October 2024. A parent/carer leaflet will be uploaded to parentsportal which includes information on : ***What can I do to support my child's school attendance? Top Tips for Parents/Carers to Promote Good Attendance and What happens if my child continues to be absent from school?*** If you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's attendance at school, then please do not hesitate to call me.

Assemblies - General, Reflection and Gold Award Assemblies programme



Our Award Assemblies will be an opportunity to celebrate pupils' achievements both within and out-with school. These take place tri-annually throughout the school session. Parents/ Carers of pupils nominated to receive an award will be invited to join these assemblies. The children will be unaware that they will be receiving an award. Parent/Cares will receive a phone call on the Tuesday before the assembly to inform your child is receiving an award.

This session we will also have a **Nativity Performance, Nursery Graduation, End of Year Awards** and a **P7 Leavers' Assembly**.

Religious Observance

In line with South Lanarkshire Council Guidelines regarding Religious Observance and Religious and Moral Education I would like to draw your attention to the following:

- Our school chaplain is Rev Aquila Singh. She is the senior minister at Fernhill and Cathkin Parish Church.
- Mr Ross Murray, Miss Laura Hutchinson and Mr Ewan Cairns from Cambuslang and Rutherglen Reach Out Trust, will lead our reflection assemblies.
- There are 6 reflection assemblies throughout the school year led by Rev Singh, Mr Murray and/or Miss Hutchinson.
- There is also a Harvest, Christmas and Easter service during the school year.
- The themes for our reflection assemblies this session are Starting Well, Remembrance, New Beginnings, Friendship, Taking Care of the Planet and When Things go Wrong.
- An outline of religious observance events (Reflection assemblies) is available on request.



Cathkin Primary School RME Programme



Activities are planned for Early, First and Second Level based on the Curriculum for Excellence Experiences and Outcomes.

The religions, which are included, are Christianity, Islam and Judaism. At each level pupils will learn about one or more aspects of each religion. By the end of Primary 7, pupils should have the skills to begin to make informed choices and decisions about faith and religion.

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents/carers have the right to ask for their child(ren) to be withdrawn from religious observance and/or religious and moral education.

Requests should be made in writing to the Head Teacher.

If a pupil is withdrawn then arrangements will be made, in consultation with parents, for the pupil to participate in a worthwhile activity.

If you have any concerns about Religious Observance at Cathkin Primary School then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Parentsportal

We would be grateful if you could complete your child's EV5, photograph permission, annual data check - personal data and medical information, internet agreement and SLC media on Parentsportal as soon as possible. If you require any support with setting up your child's account, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you!

Dates for your Diary - October

Thursday 3 October – Room 9 Visit to David Livingstone Museum

Friday 11th October - Achievement Awards Assembly 1:30pm

Monday 14th October to Friday 18th October (inclusive) - October Break

W/b 21 October – P2 ASN Settling in Reviews

Monday 28 October – Flu Vaccination

Wednesday 30th October Parents Forum Halloween Discos

Thursday 31st October 'Halloween Hop' – Nursery (Fundraiser) and ASN Halloween Fun

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions regarding any aspect of your child's progress at school, then please do not hesitate to contact myself, or a member of our school leadership team by email or telephone:

Email: office@cathkin-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Tele: 0141 634 4569

Noreen Black

Head Teacher



'Working together to nurture every child providing opportunities for them to grow and achieve; a stepping-stone to their future.'