



CARING FRIENDLY HARDWORKING



January

Newsletter 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a new year and new school term. We hope that 2026 will be a year of peace, prosperity, health and happiness. At Cathkin Primary School and Nursery Class we will continue to place the needs of our learners and their families at the heart of our work. We look forward to your continued support.

Thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas events held last month. It was great to be able to welcome family and friends to the various events held. Well done to our Christmas raffle winners. We are pleased to announce that we raised over £900 at our school Fayre. The money raised which will go towards our school fund and will support future pupil activities and events.



Thanks to the team from the High Numbers Scooter Club, which is based at the Black Bull, Cambuslang for the selection boxes which were distributed to P1-P6 pupils within our mainstream department. Thanks also to Tom and Brian and Parishioners from St Anthony's Church, Rutherglen and St Marks Church, Fernhill for their kind donation of £300 which will be used to support learners and families who may require financial support during the winter season. Finally, thanks again for the Christmas gifts received by staff from pupils and parents/carers.

Parents' Forum Meeting

Our next Parents' Forum meeting will take place on **Monday 19 January 2026**. This will be a virtual meeting via Zoom as well as an in-person meeting at the school. Further details regarding how to join the meeting will follow via parentsportal. We look forward to welcoming as many interested parents and carers to this meeting.

Wintery Weather Conditions



Although the weather at present is mild, communication is the key. If you wish to be included in our school communication network, then please continue to check parentsportal.scot as we will continue to use this communication channel to enable us to give you notice of any exceptional closures.

Indoor/Gym Shoes



Please check your child's gym shoes. We have noticed some shoes are quite worn or getting tight for children. Please replace where necessary. Thank you.

Gritting - Ice/Snow

During freezing weather, a programme of gritting will be initiated by the school janitor in consultation with myself and support services. This will be sufficient to enable operations to be carried out safely within the school grounds and particular attention will be paid to pedestrian walkways and areas where vehicle risk may be present due to reasons of speed, adverse slope/camber, cornering requirements or stopping areas. When significant snowfall occurs an assessment of snow clearance will be made, and appropriate action will be taken bearing in mind the above risk factors and any others that may arise.



Mobile Device Policy

Our school follows South Lanarkshire Council guidance on mobile device use, which is rooted in Scottish Government policy. Mobile technology can support learning and communication, but it can also disrupt lessons and affect wellbeing if misused. To maintain a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment, pupils are expected to use mobile devices responsibly and in line with school policy. This term we will be collaborating with the head teachers from the primary schools within our learning community and with senior leadership team members from Cathkin High School to create a learning community mobile phone policy which will link in with the recent mobile phone policy implemented at Cathkin High School.

Insurance for Pupils' Personal Belongings

As outlined in the SLC School Handbook Guidance for January 2026 please note the following information:

Personal Items

- The Council cannot accept responsibility for the loss or theft of personal belongings, including mobile phones, tablets, or other valuables. These are brought to school at the pupil's and parents' own risk.
- To reduce the chance of loss, please avoid sending expensive or unnecessary items to school.
- School staff are not permitted to look after pupils' personal belongings.
- This policy also applies to musical instruments and equipment used for school activities. If these items are left at school, it is at the pupil's and parents' own risk.
- For valuable items such as musical instruments, parents should make sure they are covered by their own household insurance.

Clothing

- The Council will only consider claims for damage to pupils' clothing if the damage was caused by negligence on the part of the Council or its employees.
- Claims for any other reason cannot be accepted by the Council's insurers.

In line with the above guidance staff will no longer collect in and look after pupils' mobile phones during the school day. Pupils who bring a mobile phone to school will be instructed to switch it off and leave their phone in their school bag/jacket pocket.

Pupils should not access their phones during the school day.

Please note that pupils should not be using their phones in the school playground prior to the start of the school day. Recently we have had a few incidents of pupils recording/photographing other pupils against their consent and 'posting' these recordings/images on social media platforms.

If your child currently brings a mobile phone to school and you have asked them to contact you to let you know that they have arrived safely at school then I would politely request that your child does this before entering the school playground.

Please note that failure to comply with this procedure will result in your child's phone being confiscated by a member of the senior leadership team and you will be contacted regarding this.

Please note that this new procedure will be effective from w/b Monday 12 January 2026. I would encourage all parents/carers to speak with their child regarding this new procedure and ensure that your child fully understands this request.

Request to Remain

During the school year, some families move house in the local area. If you move house, please can you inform the school of your new address as soon as possible. Please also check if your new home address is still within the catchment area for Cathkin Primary School. If the address is not within the catchment area, then a 'Request to Remain' form will need to be completed. This can now be completed online by clicking on this link: [Changing schools during term-time - South Lanarkshire Council](https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/primary-schools/cathkin-primary-school/parents-and-carers/changes-to-school-during-term-time)

Enrolment of New Beginners - School

Online registration of infant beginners starting in August begins from Monday 5 January 2026. Children who attain the age of five between 1 March 2026 and the end of February 2027 should be registered. **Parents** should register their child and upload a copy of their child's full birth certificate (abbreviated certificate not accepted), along with copies of 2 items of proof of residency (e.g. utility bill, council tax statement, housing rent card). If any parent/carer is unable to access completing their child's registration online, please contact the school office (0141 634 4569) and our office staff will be available to assist.

Enrolment for New Beginners - Nursery

Applications for nursery places will be taken in the months of January and February 2026. This is for the 2026/2027 session. The closing date for all applications will be the end of **February**. Any applications taken after this date will be considered late applications and will take longer to process. If you or anyone you know may like to apply, please contact the nursery to speak with a nursery team leader on 041 634 4569 (Option 3) and they will be able to assist you with your application.

Transfer to High School

For those parents whose child is transferring to High School, a letter regarding this transition was issued before the Christmas break. Should you have any questions regarding your child's transition to high school then please contact the school.



Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme

As mentioned in our December Newsletter we are currently reviewing our school's playtimes and with the support of the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) programme, we are actively engaged in planning to improve them. We would be greatly appreciate if you would take a few minutes of your time to complete the following questionnaire by clicking on the link below:

[Parent Baseline Playtime Survey Cathkin Primary - Fill in form](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CathkinPrimaryOPALSurvey)

Your views will enable us to consider the viewpoint of parents/carers when considering how we take our plans forwards.

Please note that this form will remain 'open' until **Friday 23rd January** to enable as many parents/carers as possible to submit their responses.

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

N. Black

Noreen Black

Head Teacher



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