



Website: crawforddyke-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk
Email: gw14crawdykepsoffice@glow.sch.uk



November 2025 Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

With only 4 weeks to go, we have a very busy time ahead of us! This newsletter is packed full of all the information you need, so do please take time to read it through carefully! I look forward to seeing you all at some point during one of our school events. Let the festivities commence!

Mrs Angela Gibson, Head Teacher

P1/2/3 Bookbug Bags!



Bookbug

The Scottish Book Trust aims to support families to read, sing, and play with their little ones to give them the best start in life. Sharing stories, songs and rhymes with babies and young children has many benefits including supporting children's development, language and social skills. [Cuddling up with a book](#) is a lovely way for families to spend time together, develop their relationships and most importantly, have fun!

Each year the Book Trust gifts Book Bags to all children in P1/2/3. You can find out more about them by following this [link](#).

The Bookbug Bag will be gifted to all P1/2/3 children on Thursday 20th November, at a special afternoon event for parents and their children. Thank you to Mrs Williamson and the P1/2/3 staff for coordinating this! It has proven to be very popular!

Garden Gang Update

A huge 'thank you' to the volunteers and staff members who came along to help with our Garden Gang! We were truly overwhelmed with the response and are so pleased with the progress made. Filling 2 skips is no small task, but you did it! We are now taking a wee break over the cold winter months but will be in touch when we are back up and running again! Huge thanks to Mrs Cullen for all her hard work on this!



Open Afternoon for New P1s

It will soon be time for enrolling our P1s for August 2026 (more details at the end of the newsletter). We are hosting an Open Afternoon for parents of pupils due to start with us next session. This will give the opportunity to see the school and classrooms and meet key members of staff. This event will take place on **Thursday 4th December, from 4-5pm.**

Thursday 4th
December
4-5pm

Transition Open Evening

If your child is due to start school in August 2026 and you live in the Crawforddyke catchment area, please come along for a chat and a tour of our school.

Crawforddyke Primary School
Eastfield Road
Carlisle
ML8 4NZ

Contact Mrs Williamson on
01555 771215 for more details.

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Childsmile



Childsmile will be in school on Thursday 27th November 2025 to do fluoride and varnish on the children from P1 -P4. You will have had an orange form to complete and return regarding this. If you do not wish your child to receive the fluoride and varnish, please drop an email into the school office and we can pass this on to the Childsmile team.

Scottish Celebrations



To coincide with St. Andrew's Day and to celebrate Scotland's success in qualifying for the World Cup 2026, we are inviting children to dress in tartan/Scottish on Friday 28th November. We will provide some tasty shortbread and watch the highlights of the game!

Staffing Update

Mrs Buchanan is continuing in her role as Acting Head at Quarter Primary School. However, I am delighted to say that Mrs Williamson has taken on the post of Acting Depute Head during her secondment!

Mrs Hamilton returns from maternity leave on Wednesday 3rd December, and will be working 3 days a week until June. Mrs Harvie will begin her maternity leave at the end of term. We will keep you updated on any class changes once we have confirmation of further cover.

Read our Cost of the School Day Policy by clicking the link below!

[CDYKE PS COSD POLICY](#)

**THE COST OF
THE SCHOOL DAY**



Find out more about what Pupil Equity Funding is by reading this [Scottish Government Parent Leaflet](#).

Participatory Budget

This session we gave you the opportunity to have your say on what we could spend 5% of our PEF money on. The main purpose of this 5% is to help reduce the financial costs of sending your child to school. All staff and pupils voted as well as parents/ guardians during our Parents' Evening in October. The results overwhelmingly stated that all stakeholders wanted us to spend the money on School Trips.

As our Cost of the School Day policy states, we will offer school trips every 2 years, thus reducing the cost to families for such an expensive activity. Last year, we arranged for activities to come into school, at zero cost to children and families.

Following discussions with the Parent Council last week, they have offered to contribute £10 per pupil to the cost of a school trip. This is an amazing offer, and we cannot thank them enough! Along with the PB funds, we now plan to offer school trips **free of charge** to all our learners. Trips will take place in Term 3.

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* **SPOTLIGHT ON IMPROVEMENT** *

Gathering your Views – Parent Questionnaire – Learning + Teaching



During our most recent Thinking Circles, we gathered the pupils' views about Learning and Teaching in our school. We will share the results with you soon, but first we also wanted to gather your thoughts!

We have created a very short google form and would love as many of you as possible to complete this. All feedback is used to drive forward improvements in our school, which is why it is so important to us.

The form has 13 questions, and you only need to tick 'Agree', 'Disagree', or 'Not Sure'. The closing date for responses is Friday 5th December. The link can be found below, and we will also send it out on our App.

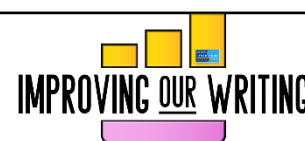
[**Parent Questionnaire – Learning + Teaching – November 2025**](#)

Young Leaders of Learning



On Thursday 6th November, Mrs Moffat and our Ambassadors visited Law Primary School to participate in training for Young Leaders of Learning. This is a program that allows pupils across schools to come together to evaluate the learning and teaching going on in their own classrooms. We have been partnered with High Mill Primary School, and the pupils will now be given the opportunity to take part in learning walks, consultations and celebrations. The pupils will develop many new skills, including teamwork, communication and self-confidence. Thanks to Mrs Moffat for taking the lead on this very exciting opportunity!

Improving our Writing



As part of our School Improvement Plan, we are continuing to focus on Writing across all classes. This has included the implementation of Talk for Writing. This session, we are also trialling a new SLC program called 'Improving our Writing' (IOW), which focuses on the core skills of writing through the delivery of 'Sprints'. The Sprints involve daily writing activities, lasting around 10-15 minutes, and last for 3 weeks. This month, our Sprint focuses on the skill of *sentence expansion*.

Sharing Learning



We make regular use of our Google Classrooms to share learning going on in our classrooms every day and we hope that you enjoy seeing the photos and reading the updates! By the end of this term, we will also create a *Learning and Teaching Sway*, that will give you the chance to see what your child's class has been up to over the last few weeks! Look out for the link in the next Newsletter!

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It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!



As ever, we are extremely excited about Christmas in Crawforddyke! We have so much planned for the festive season, and we are looking forward to sharing this with you!

Christmas Jumper Month!

This is a charity we support every year! We will be celebrating **Christmas Jumper Day** throughout the whole of December, meaning children and staff can wear their festive jumpers every day from Monday 1st December. You can donate to this amazing charity by using our [Just Giving Page](#) (please don't send any money in!) Just follow the link!

Thank you for your support.



Christmas Jumper Donations

A Christmas Jumper is for life, not just for one day! That's why we choose to wear them throughout the month, so that you get the full value of them!

We know that children grow every year, and last year's jumpers may no longer fit them.

Can we ask that if you have any jumpers you no longer need, please send them in for our pop-up shop any time now!



Christmas Fair – Thursday 27th November – 6-8.30pm

We are really looking forward to our annual Christmas Fair on Thursday 27th November. We hope that you can come along to support this event. It will certainly help you get into the festive spirit!

There will be lots of lovely items to browse, with the chance to get your Christmas shopping well and truly underway! Bring a friend (or 2!)

Raffle books will be coming home soon, so please look out for these. They can be returned if you do not wish to take part. We are also looking for items for our tombola. Donations can be sent in at any time.

Christmas Post Box

Our Christmas Post Box will be up and running again this year, overseen by Room 11. Pupils are invited to 'post' their Christmas cards and the pupils in Room 11 (P6) will make sure these are delivered!



Praise the Lord Concert

St. John's Church – Sunday 30th November 6.30pm

Our choir will be performing at St. John's concert once again this year. They are already practising hard! Anyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the service. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards.

Letters came home to choir members this week, so please keep an eye out for these!

Christmas Choir

Our school choir will be performing at Tesco on Monday 8th December, from 9.30am to 10.30am.

We have already been practising some of our favourite Christmas tunes, so we hope to impress the shoppers on their way into the store!

If you can spare 5 minutes, please come and cheer us on!





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SANTA DASH EVENT – FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER

Come and join Crawforddyke Primary for their second Santa Dash! Walk, jog, or run our 1-mile course on 5th December 2025 and help to raise funds for our local food bank.

All participants should wear something Christmassy for the event - maybe a Santa hat, Christmas jumper, or even some head-boppers! Parents, Carers and Grandparents can also join in! All you need to do is show up on the day, with suitable festive attire, and bring along £1! Your donation will be given to the local foodbank. Pupils do not have to bring any money.

1.15pm - P1-2 will complete 1 lap of the course.

1.40pm - P3-4 will complete 2 laps of the course.

2.10pm - P5-7 will complete 3 laps of the course.

While we are not asking for any monetary donations from pupils, it would be greatly appreciated if children could bring in a small food donation for the food bank. We have liaised with the Food Bank, and they have sent a suggested list of items, that will help with Christmas. As well as these, pasta packets, beans and a wee bar of chocolate always go down well too!

- ❖ Tinned veg
- ❖ Tins of tomatoes
- ❖ Tinned potatoes
- ❖ Tins of custard
- ❖ Tins of fruit
- ❖ Individual sponge puddings/Christmas puddings



The £1 entry fee for adults will also be gifted to the food bank, which will help with costs such as delivery and storage. More information will be posted on our Google Classrooms! We hope you can come and support the school and our local community.

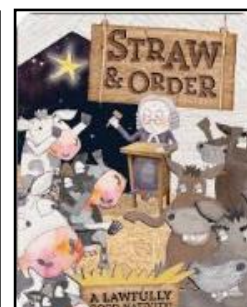
Christmas Lunch



Our annual Christmas Lunch will take place on Wednesday 10th December. Information will be sent home soon via Parents' Portal, where lunch orders can be placed. Packed lunches can also be brought in for those who choose to do so!

Straw and Order – Christmas Nativity

We are very busy rehearsing for our whole school Nativity – Straw and Order. Slips went home for ordering tickets this week, so please check your child's bag if you have not seen this. Our show takes place on Tuesday 2nd, Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th from 1.30pm. Unless otherwise told, all children should wear their usual uniform, but with their Christmas jumper or something festive!



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Christmas Competitions

Back by popular demand, we have a few Christmas Competitions for children to participate in. These will also be at our Christmas Fair next week, but will be taken around the classes each day, from Monday 24th November until Friday 12th December, when winners will be announced!



Guess the Elves Birthday!

50p a guess

Win this life-size elf by guessing his birthday! He fills up a whole car seat!

Who owns the Christmas Stocking?

50p a guess

One of the elves has lost their stocking, full of Christmas treats! Can you guess who?



Where's the Party?

50p a guess

Baby Yoda, Baby Groot and Groot are all out at their Christmas parties! Can you guess where in the universe they are? 3 chances to win!

Christmas Kindness Day



On Thursday 11th December, we will be helping our pupils to think about one of our most important school values: kindness. Each class will be watching the beautiful animation, 'The Boy, the mole, the fox and the horse', then completing some activities all about being kind. Remember to ask them what they learned about at the end of the day!

Christmas Church Service – Thursday 18th December – 1.15pm



I am delighted to tell you that we will be able to visit St. John's Church (Forest Kirk) again this year for our annual Christmas Service. Parents, Carers and friends are more than welcome to join us!

The Service will begin at 1.15pm. Children can be collected from the church after the service, but please let us know in advance if you are wishing to do so. Thank you to Rev. Obinna for welcoming us once again!

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Christmas Parties

We are super-excited about our parties this year, as we will be able to have our children together in their stages to celebrate. The dates for the parties are as follows:

- Monday 8th December – P2 Party
- Tuesday 9th December – P3 Party
- Thursday 11th December – P4 Party
- Friday 12th December – Primary 1 Party
- Monday 15th December – Primary 6 Party
- Tuesday 16th December – Primary 7 Party
- Wednesday 17th December – Primary 5 Party

All Parties will take place in the afternoon!

1pm – 3pm



Children are welcome to come to school in their party clothes, bring them to change into, or go home at lunch time to be changed. Anyone going home for lunch can be **collected at 12pm** on the day of their party, from the front door.

There will be a special visitor to the P1 Party! Parents are welcome to come along at 2.30pm to watch!

Inter-House Christmas Quiz



Our House Captains will go head-to-head in our annual Inter-House Quiz! With 5 rounds, on a variety of topics that include music, movies and general knowledge, they will compete for House Points and a special treat!

Christmas Craft Items

A wee reminder that our classes are busy making their Christmas crafts, to sell at upcoming Christmas Fair. If you are unable to make it along to our Fair on Thursday 27th, just let us know and we will make sure your items are sent home to you. Your child's google classroom will have all the details about the items and their price.



Carlisle High School Winter Concert

Wednesday 17th December – 7pm

Some of our P6/7 pupils participate in music tuition with Mr. Pollock. They have been invited to participate in CHS's Winter Concert. They will attend CHS on Tuesday 9th December for a rehearsal, and information will be sent home to them about this soon! Anyone is welcome to attend the event.

Christmas Movie Magic Day and Dress Down – Friday 20th December

To make our last day extra-special, we are planning a 'Movie Magic Day'! Children can come to school "dressed down" and we will provide popcorn and juice so they can get cosy with a movie of their choice. There will also be games and activities to keep them busy.

*A wee reminder that we close at **2.30pm** on the last day*

Crawforddyke Primary School

P1 Enrolment 2026

If your child is due to start school in August 2025, further information about the enrolment process will be made available via social media throughout December 2025 and January 2026. It is too early to complete the enrolment form now. You can do this from Monday 5th January 2026.

You will need to upload the following documentation:

- Your child's FULL birth certificate.
- 2 x proofs of address ie council tax bill, bank statement, utility bill etc. **NO mobile phone bills.**

Scan the QR Code to
access SLC's enrolment
page.



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