



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



September 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

It is hard to believe September is coming to an end, and we are now entering the last 2 weeks before the October Break. It has been a very busy start to the 25/26 session, and I would like to thank you for engaging with us so enthusiastically through Google Classrooms, Meet the Teacher event and P1 Curriculum Workshop. No wonder we already need a holiday! With our October break just around the corner, we still have several events coming up. It's all detailed in this newsletter, so please enjoy with a wee cup of tea!

Mrs Angela Gibson
Head Teacher

Parents' Evening

Our Parents' Evening takes place on Wednesday 8th October, from 3.30pm to 8.30pm. Appointments can be booked through Parents' Portal. Each appointment is scheduled to last for 7 minutes. You will receive an update on your child's learning and progress and can ask questions or raise concerns. All members of the Senior Leadership Team will be available too.



As usual, our evening will offer you lots of opportunities to get involved in our school too!

- Travelling Book Fair – always popular, and the funds we raise from this help to buy reading books for our classes and libraries.
- Class Visits – take a chance to look around your child's classroom and get to see what they have been learning about in literacy, maths and topic!
- Parent/Carer Feedback – take the chance to tell us what you think of the work we do and make suggestions for moving forward.
- Pop-Up Shop – we have an abundance of new and excellent-condition items in our pop-up shop. This will be open in the old Nursery foyer, so please go in and have a browse! All items are free!
- Lost property – please check our huge pile of lost property, which will be located under the main stairs! This seems to be taking over the school!

To allow you the chance to look around classes, appointments will take place in the gym hall. This can make the area very busy, but we will do our best to keep everyone on time!

If children do attend with you, please ensure they are not visiting classrooms or class areas without you.

We have received many requests for alternative appointments or phone calls due to holidays. This is not something we can facilitate at this time. If you have concerns or something that needs to be discussed, then please let us know. Vice-versa, if a teacher wishes to speak with you, they will make contact.



We will be kind, caring and respectful while demonstrating self-confidence, courage and determination.

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

Staffing Update

Mrs Buchanan has taken up the position of Acting Head Teacher at Quarter Primary School. At the moment, this is set to finish on Friday 10th October. In the meantime, Mrs Lynn Williamson (Acting PT) has been released from class to cover Mrs Buchanan's remit, and we are very grateful to her for doing so! Miss Sarah MacDonald is covering Room 3/Primary 2 and already fitting into our school team very well!

Website Update

Due to circumstances outwith our control, our website continues to be out of action. This is something we are in discussions with RM about. This also has an impact on our calendar, as the website fed the dates on our school app. We have entered as many dates as possible onto the App, so please keep checking this! We are also working towards the creation on a new website, as we are unsure whether RM can resolve the issue with our old one. Thank you for your patience as we work hard to get something in place.



Friday 10th October – Dress Down Day



Our last day before the October break will be a Dress Down Day. Children can come to school in their casual clothes, but please avoid football colours.

We also have our Talent Show on this day. Our House Captains are organising this event for us. Auditions will take place in classroom, and we are excited to watch the winning performances together! We will be sure to take lots of photographs!

Primary 3/4 – Higher Play

All Primary 3 and 4 pupils will be taking part in Higher Play with the Active Schools Coordinators on Wednesday 8th October, from 9.15am to 10.15am.

This will take place on our own pitches and will be weather-dependent. Children should wrap up warm in sports-clothing, as this is an outdoor activity.



Garden Gang!

As the cooler weather sets in, we are in desperate need to get our outside areas tidied up and trimmed back!

This is a significant undertaking, and we need your help.

Mrs Cullen and I are hoping that parents and children will be able to join us on a Thursday after school, to help us with jobs such as clearing weeds, cutting willow and getting rid of some rubbish/old resources.

A letter will be sent out soon with the dates, starting after the October break. Please do consider giving us a hand, even if it is only for one or two sessions.

We have grounds to be proud of, but they do take a lot of work!

We will be kind, caring and respectful while demonstrating self-confidence, courage and determination.



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



Halloween Fun

We are looking forward to celebrating Halloween on Friday 31st October. All pupils are invited to dress up in their costumes, with only a few wee 'rules' to follow!



- Costumes must be age appropriate. There should be no characters from adult horror movies, or from TV shows that have an age rating of 12+ (including Squid Games and Stranger Things). Whilst I fully understand that the shops may have these costumes for pupils of a primary-school age, we must consider our youngest pupils, or those who scare easily. We also have many pupils who find it difficult to separate fact from fiction, so please keep this in mind – kindness is key!
- Minimal face paint is fine, but remember they will have it on all day, and will get a bit hot and bothered!
- If pupils do not wish to dress up, they can wear their casual clothes instead.

The Parent Council have one small request, to help with their future fund-raising endeavours. Rather than donating for dress down or discos, pupils are asked to bring in some **chocolate** (bars, packets, selection boxes etc.). Donated items will be used to create a bumper chocolate raffle, which will be part of the tombola at the Christmas Fair. Please make sure any donations are within a good use-by-date (or they will end up in the staffroom!)

Halloween Discos

Thursday 30th October

The Parent Council are organising Halloween Discos for pupils in P2-4 and P5-7, on the evening of 30th October. P1s will have a separate celebration in school on the Friday. More details will follow soon!



Parent Council Donation

Many of you will know that the work of the Parent Council is vital to the things we can deliver in our school, for all pupils.

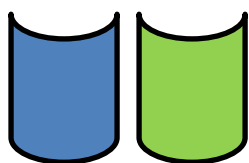
Over the years, the Parent Council has organised events to raise well over £40,000 for our school, which has also ensured our Gala Day entry is free to pupils who wish to take part.

At the recent AGM, we received a further donation that has allowed us to do the following things:

- Provide each class with £150 to spend on resources.
- Provide each class with £50 to create crafts for our Christmas Fair.

A huge 'thank you' to everyone who supports these events.





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



House Captains 2025/2026

Following a rigorous application process, we are delighted to present our new House Captains for this session.

The pupils were chosen by their peers, after they delivered their speeches to all P5/6. Congratulations to everyone who prepared an application, it was a very hard choice for the pupils in each house!

We have already had our first House Captain's Meeting, and they are bursting with ideas for activities this session – watch this space!

ANGUS	CALDWELL	CAMERON	RAMAGE
Anna Cashmore Abbie Fowler Lewis O'Connor Harvey Walker	Mikey Laird Freddie Butler Lyle Sutherland Isabella Storey	Rory Davidson Harry Brown Millie Young Keira Neil	Isla Dickson Amber Gray Sonny Sneddon Harry Brown

FORD CASTLE – SEPTEMBER 2025

We had an amazing time with 59 of our P7 pupils when we visited Ford Castle in Northumberland for 3 days. The weather was very kind to us, with sunshine in abundance! We enjoyed activities that ranged from trapeze to zip-wire, to raft building and bridge abseiling!

The castle was stunning – we really felt like we were staying at Hogwarts! What was even more remarkable was the bravery of our pupils! Many of them really had to face their fears and give so many new things a go (even the porridge!)

We are so incredibly proud of everything they achieved, even more so after they were praised for their behaviour, manners and enthusiasm!

A huge 'thanks' also to Mrs Waters, Miss Arnott and Mrs Whyte for joining me and giving up their time to attend!

And most especially to 2 of our P7 parents – Jenni Bennet and Barry Fisher, who really didn't know what they were letting themselves in for!

We have shared lots of photos on the Ford Castle Google Classroom but be on the lookout for an outstanding video made by Barry – it will bring a tear to your eye!



We will be kind, caring and respectful while demonstrating self-confidence, courage and determination.

Website: crawforddyke-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Email: gw14crawdykepsoffice@glow.sch.uk

OCTOBER GROWTH MINDSET MANTRA: MY BRAIN IS LIKE A MUSCLE THAT GROWS

"The brain can grow and change in incredible ways when pushed...with dedicated effort and practice (humans) are capable of making incredible, long-lasting changes to our brain throughout our lifetime."

Carol Dweck







Studies have shown that the brains of people who are born deaf are essentially 're-wired' to use the area of the brain typically used for processing sound to assist with touch and vision.

The brain of a London cab driver has been shown to grow as they memorize over 25,000 city streets to pass their licensing examination!

By teaching pupils about brain plasticity, we are reinforcing the message that they can learn anything, with practice, perseverance and effort. It is by taking on new challenges, pushing our comfort zones, that our brains make big changes!

This month, we are encouraging our pupils to 'grow their brains' by focusing on their learning, embracing new challenges and working hard to overcome anything they find tricky! They can do this at home too, perhaps by learning to ride their bike, reading a new book or joining a new club to learn a new skill!

School Uniform <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a pop-up shop available in our side foyer area. This is open daily. All items are free. Our uniform can be purchased from local suppliers in Lanark and Wishaw. While badged items are available, these are not compulsory. 	Travelling and Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will access local facilities where possible, to avoid the need for transport. All transport costs are subsidised by the school using PEF/School Fund. We encourage all families to apply for their Under 22 free bus pass. 	Learning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will never charge for any core curricular activities, including swimming and cooking. All stationery items will be provided by the school. If extra resources are required for home learning, parents are encouraged to contact the school to request these. 	Friendships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty Awareness will be taught as part of our HWB program. We will reduce non-uniform days to avoid stigma and the pressure for families to purchase new items. Poverty-related bullying will be treated seriously and logged appropriately.
School Excursions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will cap the cost of school trips, subsidising these using PEF/School funds. We will seek in-school activities to reduce the need for outings. School trips will only take place every 2 years. We will seek grants and subsidies to reduce the cost of trips further. 	<div style="text-align: center;">   <p>THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY</p> <p>Crawforddyke Primary School</p> <p>Our proposals to reduce the cost of the school day.</p>   </div>		Eating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a free breakfast club every morning, open to all pupils. We will ensure no child starts the day without breakfast. We will offer surplus fruit and snacks to pupils daily. In the event of surplus menu items, we will offer 'seconds' at the end of each lunch setting.
Fun Events <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will plan our annual calendar to spread the cost of any fun events. There will be at least 2 free events each session for every pupil. Our pop-up shop will include items such as Christmas Jumpers and Halloween costumes. 	School Clubs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will be no cost to any extra-curricular club. Every pupil will have the opportunity to take part in one free extra-curricular club. For any trips linked to school clubs (sports events, JRSOs etc) there will be no charge for transport. 	Learning at Home <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will provide pupils with the resources they need to learn at home. Google Classroom will be optional to reduce the pressure of access to wi-fi or digital devices. We will host a free homework club for pupils in P5-7 weekly. 	Attitudes to Poverty <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will review our Cost of the School Day procedures and policy on an annual basis. Our COSO policy will be reviewed with all stakeholders. Our COSO practices will be included in the Equity section of our Improvement Plan.

We will be kind, caring and respectful while demonstrating self-confidence, courage and determination.

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

School Football Teams

Most of you will know that Mr Allan is currently unable to coach our school football teams. He has asked me to reassure you that he is doing very well and feeling much better. It is taking all our effort to ensure he doesn't return too soon, though we do miss him very much!

We have been incredibly lucky to have Andi Laird step in to coach our Girls and Boys Football teams, very ably supported by our very own Mrs Butler! We cannot thank them enough, especially as we know what a relief this is for Mr A!

The teams attended their first tournament on 11th September and, in their usual way, won all their games! Go Team Crawforddyke! Their next tournament is on Thursday 2nd October, from 10am until 12pm at the John Cumming Stadium. Parents are welcome to attend and watch.



Sidekicks Training – Primary 7

On Thursday 23rd October, P7 pupils will have the opportunity to participate in 'Sidekicks' training with our active schools' team. This will allow them to deliver lunchtime clubs for younger pupils and will help them to develop their skills in leadership and management!

Blue Peter Book Club VT

In August, we were invited to audition some pupils for a special filming project for a new Book Club being set up by Blue Peter! Given how passionate we are about reading, we jumped at the chance, and we were delighted when 5 of our pupils were selected, following an online audition. A huge 'well done' to Daisy Lees, Kurt Russell, Lewis Bulloch, Jennifer and Caroline Orr! They each had to read "The Train of Dark Wonders" by Alex Bell and were then filmed at Clyde Valley Farm Park as they discussed the book! We are so proud of them but can't say much more until the show airs in October!

A special mention also to Paige Carlyle and Cara Rigby for being brave enough to audition too! ❤️



Upcoming Dates – October 2025

- 8/10/25 – Parents' Night
- 10/10/25 – Dress Down Day
- 13/10/25 – 17/10/25 – School Closed for October Break
- 30/10/25 – Halloween Discos
- 31/11/25 – Dress Down for Halloween (costumes optional)

We will be kind, caring and respectful while demonstrating self-confidence, courage and determination.