









August 2025 Newsletter

Dear Parents. Carers and Friends

It has been a very busy start to the term! Our pupils have come back ready to go, and the staff have been working hard to get things up and running! This is not always an easy task, and we appreciate your patience as we work through everything, while also managing the day itself! We always wish there were more hours in the day! We have aimed to provide a lot of information in this first newsletter, including key dates. At the moment, our website remains down, and this is being investigated by our provider. We will continue to use our APP and Google Classrooms to communicate with you, as well as Parent's Portal. I look forward to seeing you at some of our upcoming events and hope you have all managed to settle back into early morning routines!

Mrs Angela Gibson, Head Teacher

Crawforddyke Primary School Improvement Plan (SIP) - 2025/2026

Each year, we are asked to identify key priorities in our school to develop teaching and learning, forming our "SIP" or School Improvement Plan. Our priorities are led by our evaluation of where we feel our school is and what we need to do to improve. This information comes from a variety of sources, including your feedback and the opinions we have gathered from our pupils.

Our priorities are also influenced by the National Improvement Framework (Scottish Government) and SLC Priorities. We have identified 4 main priorities to work on this session:

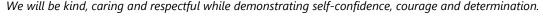
- 1. To continue to implement Talk for Writing and so participate in 'Improving our Writing' to focus on high-quality self-evaluation at classroom level, improving learning and teaching and making use of data to improve attainment and achievement.
- 2. To increase teacher knowledge of Inquiry-Based Learning and so develop learner's skills for life, learning and work by implementing SLC's Skills Framework for STEM.
- 3. A Learning Community focus on the moderation of writing.
- 4. To embed our Family Engagement Strategy.

An abbreviated version of our SIP is included at the back of this Newsletter. The full version can also be viewed by following this link: School Improvement Plan 2025/2026

Pupil Equity Funding and Participatory Budget

Pupil Equity Funding is additional funding allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. The Scottish Government has committed to this funding as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge programme. Crawforddyke Primary School has been awarded £101,675.00 for 2025/2026.

All schools are asked to plan on giving at least 5% of their PEF allocation to Participatory Budgeting, involving their pupils, parents and staff on how the money should be spent. In previous years, we have used this money to fund school trips or in-school events. We will soon meet with our ambassadors to gather suggestions, and then we will send out a short survey to collect your views on how the PB budget should be spent.















Religious Observance

Our School Chaplain is Rev. Elijah Obinna, and we would like to thank him for taking on this role. Reverend Obinna is a constant source of support to our school, and we are very grateful for this.

We plan to celebrate Harvest, Christmas and Easter within our calendar.

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents / carers have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from religious observance and / or religious and moral education. If a pupil is withdrawn, we will make suitable arrangements for the pupil to participate in a worthwhile activity, in consultation with parents. If parents have any concerns about religious observance, they should approach the head teacher to discuss their concerns.

School Website + School App

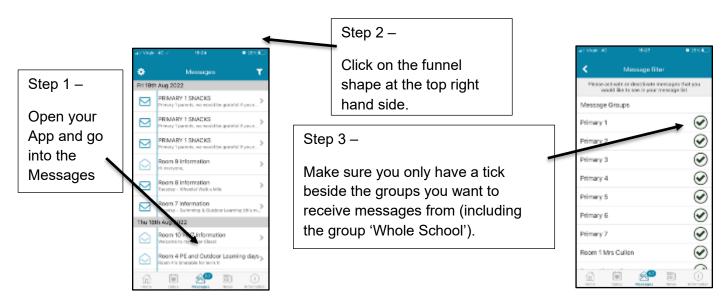
Our website (once fixed) and our school app are updated regularly with our news, important information and notices. Please check this, and the calendar, on a regular basis, especially if you are unsure about anything coming up. We make regular use of our app to send you messages!

We do not issue hard copies of the Newsletter as part of our efforts to 'save the rainforests'! We will inform you via the school app when it has been published. If you do not have access to the internet, you should let us know and we will send home a copy. We will continue to email to those who have given us an email address. We have a <u>Parent Guide to using the School App</u> on our website (follow the link!)



Our App is very easy to download, and it's free! Simply visit the App/Google Play store and search, 'Primary School App'. You will see the green icon called, 'School App for Parents'. When it asks for permission to send push notifications, please allow this so that you get our messages quickly!

Information regarding managing your groups on the app has recently been sent out on our App. When groups are set up, all users are automatically included in them, so to avoid getting multiple messages that do not apply to you, it's worth filtering your groups. This is very easy to do!













Facebook

There is a Parent/Carer Facebook page, which we often drop into, to respond to any questions or share some news.

We also post information about upcoming events and activities, but this information will always be included on our App, so don't worry if you are not a Facebook user!

Please do not post anything negative about the school, or message school staff privately. You should not name other children or post any pictures without the other parent's permission.

School Uniform

It is lovely to see so many of our children looking incredibly smart in their new school uniforms. We will continue to enforce our uniform policy over the session and would like to remind you that "hoodies" should not be worn.

Children have the option of shirt and tie or polo shirts (you can wear a tie with these too!) P7s have their own tie. We would *encourage* these to be worn each day, either with a shirt or polo shirt.

Children can bring in wellington boots and waterproofs for outdoor learning to keep at school.

Please write your child's name on ALL items.

VERY IMPORTANT – ALLERGIES

In Crawforddyke, we have pupils and staff who are seriously allergic to various nuts and seeds.

No pupil or adult should bring nuts into the school, even if it is their own packed lunch or snack!



This includes Nutella and Kinder Bueno Bars.

Water and Snacks

SLC policy specifies that children should only bring water to school, to drink during class time. We can provide 'top-up' water throughout the day. Water is also available for all children at lunchtime.

For lunch, children can bring their own drink, such as a carton of juice. Please note, we do not allow fizzy juice, sports drinks or energy drinks (including Prime).

P.E Kit

All children will receive 2 sessions of PE each week. You have all been sent an App message to tell you your child's PE days.

Due to the number of classes we have, one block of PE will take place outside. This may be in the rain, or when it turns a bit colder. A PE kit should include:

- Shorts, leggings or jogging trousers (plain coloured only).
- T-shirt
- Jumper/sweatshirt
- Trainers
- Waterproof coat (this can be the one they wear to school, or a lightweight one in their bag).

No football strips or football studs are permitted.

For indoor PE sessions, a different pair of gym shoes/trainers is required. We would prefer these not to be 'fashion' shoes such as converse, which do not protect ankles very well! Children wearing outdoor shoes will not be able to take part in indoor PE, but may be asked to help set up equipment etc.

We know that for some children, PE participation can be a challenge, but it is a compulsory part of our curriculum, so please talk to your child about how important (and fun) PE can be!

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School Values and Developing a Culture of Respect - Supporting our Pupils

As a school, we work very hard to reinforce our school values of **kindness**, **caring**, **respect**, **self-confidence**, **courage** and **determination** for all our pupils, staff and parents.

Children can be awarded personal points for demonstrating these values and we talk about them often in the school and in our classrooms.

These values are for everyone, so we would ask that parents also speak to their children about how they can show kindness and care to others, demonstrate respect for their friends and staff and be confident in their learning.

Please encourage your child to seek help from a member of staff if they are upset or worried: we are here to help. It is never okay to tell them to 'hit back'. We know this is tempting at times, but if this is how they learn to deal with things, it will be a very hard habit to break when they are older, bigger and stronger and can face much more serious consequences from much more serious people!

Children are not perfect (nor should we expect them to be). Children make mistakes. Our job is to help them learn from those mistakes and make better choices the next time around. Children do not have the social understanding that adults do. They are only just learning how to deal with conflict and upset and all the complications that come with making friends. Our job is to teach them, then teach them again because they won't get it right first, or even second time!

Making it Right – our approach to supporting positive behaviour in our school

We have a whole school approach called 'Making it Right', based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which will ensure dignity for all our pupils as they learn to make good choices to help them access their right to learn and play, be safe and be healthy. Pupils will be encouraged to think about these rights when reflecting on choices they have made that stop them from accessing these rights. Our class charters will teach children about these rights, and what they mean.



Ask your child about their class charter and 'Making it Right'! Each child will have a 'logbook' that will help you to see how they have managed each day.











Parent and Staff Relationships

As a staff, we will always endeavour to show respect to our parents and visitors to the school. In return, we would expect the same from anyone contacting or visiting us. We are very lucky at Crawforddyke, to have such a supportive parent forum. The encouragement and thanks we receive from you is often overwhelming, but very much appreciated.

We understand that issues can arise throughout your child's time at school that can sometimes cause worry, upset or even anger and we are here to help. If you have any worries or concerns, please get in touch to share these with us (within business hours). Please do this before posting anything negative on social media or sending an angry email. This does not help to solve the situation and can often make your concern or worry more difficult to deal with. Your school is here to help you, but that does not mean we should be subject to being shouted at, or to abusive or angry comments, emails or phone calls. I want to be clear that this will not be tolerated. Please think how you would expect to be spoken to and understand that I expect the same for my staff.

When contacting the school or a staff member, please keep in mind that they are human, and quite possibly managing personal circumstances of their own. An angry email or phone call could have consequences for that person that you may not have intended but cannot then be taken back.

All the staff in our school work extremely hard. We genuinely do care for each and every one of our pupils. We don't get it right every time, but we do try to make decisions that are fair and proportionate. Please remember that there are 2 sides to every story, and often what your child tells you is from their own perspective and relayed out of context. Give us a chance to investigate and explain.

I am proud of my staff: they deal with demanding jobs, always sacrificing their own personal time, but they do so because they truly want the best for you and your child. We are your partners. We are working together to raise confident, responsible young people and we look forward to sharing this journey with you.



Getting in touch with us

The best way to reach us is by **calling or emailing our school office**. Please avoid contacting teachers after 5pm. Much like your child, they need to time to 'switch off' too! The office can be emailed at any time, though please note it will only be monitored 8.30-5pm. Teachers/SLT should not be emailed at the weekend, and certainly not late at night (as tends to happen). We aim to respond to any queries or concerns within 48 hours.

Absence Notification

Just a wee reminder that if you know your child is going to be absent from school, you must let us know by telephoning the office as soon as you can. We have an answering machine to take this message if you call very early.

If we have not heard from you by 9.30am, we will send you a text to alert you to the fact that your child is not in school. If your child has an appointment, let us know also so that we can mark this in our diary.

Late Arrivals

We are hoping to see an improvement in the number of children arriving late to school each day. Late arrivals place extra pressure on an already busy office, and the pupils themselves can miss out on vital information at the start of a learning day.

If we feel your child is late on several occasions, we will be in touch with you to discuss this.













Google Classroom

Over the next couple of weeks, all children in P2-P7 will be invited to join their Google Classroom. All they need to know is their glow username and password to access this. Google Classrooms from last year have been archived, so can no longer be accessed. New passwords have also been created, so old ones will not work.

We have provided several help sheets for using Google Classroom, and these can be found by following the links below. We recommend the Google Classroom App! You should not be asked for a code to join: if this is happening it is because your device is linking to another google account – there is a help sheet to talk you through how to add another account.

- Parent and Pupil Guide for Google Classroom <u>click here</u>
- Uploading Work on Google Classroom click here
- Adding a Google Profile <u>click here</u>

Home Learning and Homework Procedures

We will continue with the revised Homework procedures we introduced last session.

Homework can often become a strain, for pupils and parents. Furthermore, evidence suggests that the impact of traditional homework exercises, such as writing sentences or completing worksheets, is extremely low. In short, it does more harm than good!

More recent research suggests home learning should be fun, which will increase engagement, motivation and academic success! Our aim is to reduce traditional homework tasks and focus on quality over quantity!

Mrs Buchanan has prepared a <u>home learning guide</u> (just follow the link). This will explain our approach. We have also streamlined home learning tasks, so that they look the same across each stage. Activities will include:

- Active Spelling Strategies (no sentences)
- Reading
- Optional 'skills' tasks (that may even help you at home!)

Our Home Learning Grids are designed to provide tasks that will develop life-long skills and are linked to the 4 capacities. These have all been uploaded to your child's google classroom. You can also follow the link below to access our Home Learning folder.

Home Learning Materials

There is no requirement to submit home learning tasks, as many of them are practical or can be completed orally. This means that teachers will not 'mark' homework in the traditional sense but will be able to identify if spelling or reading has been practised through daily/weekly class activities.

Reading books will still come home, and all children will be provided with a jotter to complete tasks. They can also choose to create a document on google classroom instead.









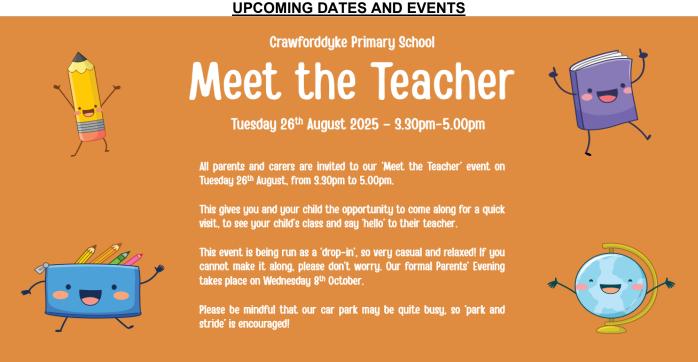


Starting and Finishing School

All children start at 9am and finish at 3pm. This puts quite a strain on our exit gates at the end of the day, and there is also a possibility that the car park will be much busier than normal. We have tried to put arrangements in place to ensure increased safety for all pupils and ask you to always adhere to these.

- Only P1 parents/carers should enter the P1 playground (via the gate on Eastfield Road) and wait at their child's class door (9am and 3pm). Older siblings can also come in this gate and walk round to their playground from there. Please only send 1 adult per child to reduce numbers waiting.
- P2-P7 pupils should enter their playground using the side or MUGA gates, from around 8.45am and go straight to their lines. Please do not send children too early. They should come in once a member of staff is on the gate.
- At 2.55pm, a bell will ring to allow all pupils in P1-3 who have an older sibling to go to the canteen.
- At 3pm, all children will be dismissed. Older siblings in P4-7 are asked to go to the canteen and collect younger brothers and sisters, then walk them to their gate. Please encourage them to do this!
- Pupils who have siblings in P1 can walk around to the P1 playground to meet their parent/carer, who should wait for them to arrive.

Once again, we encourage you to 'park and stride' rather than use our car park. Use will be prioritised for school transport. Do not park in the disabled bays unless you have permission to do so. You should not use the centre area, which is allocated as staff parking. Last session, 2 staff cars were damaged and we want to avoid this again. Please also drive around our car park at the correct speed limit.













Ford Castle -P7 Residential

Our current Primary 7 pupils will be making their way to Ford Castle in Northumberland on Monday 15th September for their 2-night residential experience.

To hear more about it and to be provided with all the information needed, an information night has been arranged for **Tuesday 26**th **August at 5.30pm**.

A google classroom will also be created, where all information will be uploaded. We will also be able to share photos and updates on this too.

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations give you the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and visit their classroom. This session, the dates for these will be:

- Wednesday 8th October 3.30-8.30pm
- Wednesday 1st April 3.30-8.30pm

Appointments are booked using Parents Portal. More information about how to do this will be sent to you in due course.

Primary 1 Curriculum Workshop Tuesday 9th September at 6pm

All Primary 1 Parents/Carers are invited along to this event to hear all about what goes on in our Primary 1 classrooms, and how they can support learning at home. This will be an evening packed full of information, so we hope you can make it!



Parent Council AGM Tuesday 9th September at 7.15pm

Our Parent Council is hugely important to us and the work that we carry out. New members are always welcome! Last year, our PC was part of vital work going on around fund-raising, marketing our school and working with our pupils.

The Annual General Meeting takes place on Tuesday 9th September at 7.15pm, in the school.

Information about this will be posted on the Parent/Carer Facebook page. Everyone will be made very welcome!

Sharing your Child's Learning in the Classroom

We will continue to share information about what your child is learning in a variety of ways.

- A Learning Grid will be posted on google classroom on Monday 8th September, giving details about what topics your child is covering this term.
- Google Classroom will be used to showcase learning going on in the classroom.
- A Learning Portfolio (Snapshot) will be sent home on Friday 28th November with key pieces of work in Writing, Numeracy and Inter-Disciplinary Learning. It will also contain your child's Personal Learning Plan.
- You will be able to visit your child's class during our Parent Consultations.













parentsportal.scot

All parents are being encouraged to sign up to Parents Portal, which means we will no longer have to send home lots of paper or permission slips as these can be completed online.

Annual Data check forms

These are now available for updating on Parentsportal. If you have not yet signed up to Parentsportal, these will be issued in paper format. Please ensure you sign the appropriate places and give the full details requested, especially emergency contact details.

Internet Permission

Again, this is available on Parentsportal to give consent. It is essential this is <u>signed</u> by both parent and pupil and returned as soon as possible in order that pupils can take part in this important part of the curriculum. Paper copies will be issued to those not already signed up.

Photograph Permission

As you are aware we like to take lots of photographs of the children to highlight their enjoyment of tasks and achievements. We require your permission for us to do this. Please note that some group pictures may appear on our website and in the local newspaper. This is available on Parentsportal, and paper copies will be issued to those not yet signed up.

Medical Information Sheet

It is very important that we have up to date information on your child's health. The information you gave us last year has been returned. Please check this and make any adjustments, sign and return with all other documents. P1 pupils have been issued with new forms for completion.

Wet Weather/Adverse Entry



If the weather is particularly wet in the morning before school starts, we will action our adverse weather entry system.

Pupils should try not to arrive before 8.45am. P1 pupils will be collected at their class door and taken in early. P2-4 pupils will be brought into the canteen. P5-P7 pupils will be sent into the gym hall.

If it is only light rain, we will expect them to wait outside as normal. A message will be sent out on the App if our Adverse Weather Plan is in place.

Higher Play



Our pupils have been invited to support a group of young people who are training to be Sports Coaches and Trainers. This is being organised by Calum Taylor, our Active Schools Coordinator.

The project involves groups of our pupils going to the pitches at John Cumming, to participate in some group sports, led by the young people in training.

The first group to attend will be P3/4, on Wednesday 10th September. More information will follow soon.







HOUSE CAPTAINS 2025/2026

All our Primary 7s have been given the opportunity to apply for the position of House Captain. It is amazing to see how many are keen to take on this role, with applications being extremely well presented and impressive!

As part of the selection process, the applications will be read to the members of each house, who will then vote for the one they felt would do the best job. All staff will be given the opportunity to review all application forms and will also cast a vote. Applications are due in by Monday 25th August.

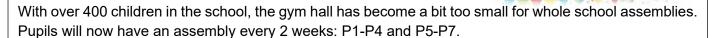
Roles of Responsibility

In addition to our House Captain roles, we have many opportunities for pupils to take on roles of responsibility, both in their classrooms and across the school. More information will follow about these roles soon!

Ambassadors
Digital Leaders
Sports Leaders
Classroom Helpers
Play Leaders

Eco Warriors
Reading Leaders
Junior Road Safety Officers
P7 Buddies
Wet Weather Monitors

Assembly and Special Achievements



At each assembly, we celebrate birthdays, Star Writers, and Stars of the Week. We learn about topics such as our Growth Mindset Mantras.

We also like to celebrate any achievements outside of school. Now that clubs have started up again, if your child does receive a certificate or award, please allow them to bring them into school so we can congratulate them and share in their success!

A final plea!

We are working towards being a phone-free school, particularly following several issues that were raised last session. Please do not send your child to school with their mobile phone. This includes watches that can send/receive phone calls or text message, or that have a camera. These should not be worn to school.

We would also ask that false nails/acrylics are not worn. We have had frequent accidents with nails being caught or ripped off while children are playing, which can be very distressing to manage.

And finally, children do not bring toys/games to school. We have plenty to entertain them. This avoids us having children upset over lost or broken items, which can take up a significant amount of teacher time. Thank you for your cooperation.



Crawforddyke Primary School Improvement Plan

2025-2026



SLC Priorities

LANARKSHIRI

Improve health and wellbeing to enable children and families to flourish.

Support children and young people to develop their skills for learning, life and work.

Ensure inclusion, equity and equality are at the heart of what we do

Provide a rich and stimulating curriculum that helps raise standards in Literacy and Numeracy.

Empower learners to shape and influence actions on sustainability and climate change

Strategic Equity Fund

Pedagogy – targeted support in literacy
and numeracy, digital skills
Learner Engagement – Attendance, Young
Leaders of Learning, Reading Schools
Cost of the School Day
Equity and Equality – Nurture
Participatory Budget

Literacy - Writing

1.3 – Leadership of Change 2.3 – Learning, Teaching and Assessment 3.2 – Raising attainment and achievement

Rationale

We need to decrease our attainment gap in writing, while increasing pupil engagement at all stages.

What we need to do

Continue to develop our skills, knowledge and confidence to implement Talk for Writing.

Develop opportunities for short-burst writing that will focus on core skills (tools for writing).

What we hope will happen

Our attainment in writing across P1/4/7 will increase by at least 1.0% and our attainment gap will close by at least 1.0%.
Engagement in writing will increase across all cohorts



Nurture and Attachment

1.1 - Self-Evaluation for Self-Improvement 1.3 - Leadership of Change 2.2 - Curriculum

Rationale

To increase opportunities for pupil voice, challenge and enjoyment and raise awareness of skills development.

What we need to do

Explore and implement an inquiry-based approach to learning through STEM and Outdoor Learning.

What we hope will happen

By June, pupils will have participated in an inquirybased project and have an increased knowledge of the skills related to the four capacities.



Moderation and Assessment

1.1 Self-evaluation for self-improvement 2.3 – Learning, Teaching and Assessment 3.2 – Raising attainment and

achievement

Rationale

To provide teachers with the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and confidence when moderating Writing.

What we need to do

Participate in moderation across the Learning Community.

Provide opportunities for teachers across the learning community to discuss achievement of a level in writing.

What we hope will happen

Attainment in Writing will increase by at least 1% across the LC. Teacher evaluations will

Teacher evaluations will reflect increased confidence in moderation and making professional judgements.



Our vision is for all our learners to be safe and happy while believing that with practise, perseverance and effort, they can achieve, learn and grow.



Parental Engagement

2.5 – Family Learning 2.7 - Partnerships

Rationale

Continue to strengthen family learning, partnerships and relationships across our school community.

What we need to do

Facilitate workshops that allow parents to connect.

Use digital platforms to enhance home learning.

Work alongside partners in NHS and Education to deliver Parent workshops.

What we hope will happen

An increased number of parents will be more confident when supporting their child at home.

Almost all stakeholders will report a strong sense of community and school.

National Priorities (NIF)

- 1. Placing the human rights and needs of every child and young person at the centre of education
- Improvement in children and young people's health and wellbeing
- 3. Closing the attainment gap between the most and least disadvantaged children and young people
- Improvement in skills and sustained, positive school-leaver destinations for all young people
- Improvement in attainment, particularly in literacy and numeracy

National Improvement Framework Drivers

- -School and ELC Leadership
- -Teacher and Practitioner professionalism
- -Parent/Carer involvement and engagement
- -Curriculum and Assessment
- -School and ELC Improvement Performance Information



Ethos and Life of the School

Crawforddyke School promotes a culture of respect, trust, and inclusivity, focusing on *children's rights, wellbeing, and growth mindset. Pupils are encouraged to take on leadership roles and participate in extracurricular activities to help shape the school community. The school fosters a strong *sense of identity and belonging, with pupils actively engaging in local events and traditions. A love of reading is emphasised, with pupils sharing their passion and achievements both within the school and the wider community. Partnerships and outreach efforts support literacy and reinforce the school's role as a hub of learning and inspiration.

Interdisciplinary Learning

Our curriculum emphasises Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL), providing pupils with meaningful opportunities to connect different subject areas through a structured rolling programme. This approach is aligned with local and national contexts and includes events like P7 Transition activities and a whole-school sustainability topic. We've recently audited our IDL programme to ensure it covers all Experiences and Outcomes from Curriculum for Excellence, ensuring consistency and progression. Staff collaborate to plan high-quality, challenging, and enriching IDL experiences, allowing pupils to apply their learning creatively. The "say, write, make, do" approach encourages diverse methods of demonstrating understanding, fostering deeper engagement and critical thinking skills.

Crawforddyke Primary

Our Curriculum



'We want out learners to be safe and happy while believing that with practice, perseverance and effort they can achieve, learn and grow.'



Curriculum

At Crawforddyke, all learners receive a broad * general education across eight curricular areas, designed to build on prior knowledge and deepen understanding. The school focuses on raising attainment in literacy and numeracy, providing targeted support and integrating these skills throughout learning. The eight key areas are: Language and Literacy, Numeracy and Mathematics, Health and Wellbeing, Social Studies, Expressive Arts, Religious and Moral Education, ICT and Technology, and Science. Staff prioritise closing the attainment gap by embedding literacy and numeracy in both individual subjects and interdisciplinary learning. A progressive, inclusive approach ensures all pupils gain confidence, skills, and success across their education.

Opportunities for Personal Achievement

At Crawforddyke, every pupil has a Learning Journey profile that includes a Personal Learning Plan to track progress in literacy, numeracy, and health and wellbeing. Pupils reflect on their personal achievements, linking them to the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence. Our approach focuses on equity and inclusion, offering targeted support through Nurture and PEF-funded interventions, along with a multi-agency approach to meet additional needs. Personal achievement is celebrated within the school culture, with regular opportunities for pupils to share their successes. Daily recognition and assemblies highlight achievements like Star Writer, Star Reader, and the Four Capacities, ensuring that all efforts are acknowledged.

Kind Caring Respectful

-Confidence

Courage

Determination