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# January 2026

## *Message from the Head Teacher*

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to 2026! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and enjoyed special times with family and friends.

As you know, the start of our term has been marked with the arrival for His Majesty's Inspectorate. The team were with us from Tuesday to Thursday, and focused on 2 quality indicators:

- QI 2.3 – Learning, Teaching and Assessment
- QI 3.2 – Raising Attainment and Achievement

As a school, we presented a vast amount of evidence. The Team visited classrooms, met with pupil focus groups and spoke at length with the Senior Leadership Team. They also met with all teaching and support staff, as well as a group of parents, including Mrs Gracie, the Chair of our Parent Council.

While I cannot share specific outcomes with you at this stage, what I can tell you is that it was a very positive experience, and we are left feeling overwhelmingly proud of our school, our pupils and staff. I am delighted with the recognition they have gained for all their hard work, not only related to learning and teaching, but in creating a school that is inclusive, nurturing and caring.

I would like to thank all the parents who came along to the speak with the team, and to all those who completed the questionnaire. Your feedback has been shared with us and will be used to continue to drive our school forward.

I would also like to thank our pupils, who were identified as a strength for our school (and quite rightly so!) HMIE commented on their positive engagement with learning, excellent behaviour and the pride they have in their school.

To my team, I can only say that they should feel very proud of what they have achieved, not just this week, but over the last 14 years since our last inspection visit! They have also been identified as a strength, with their commitment to all children and to creating a warm, positive, nurturing and caring ethos to meet the needs of all learners. There is no one else I would have gone through this with: they really are the very best team in the Shire!

Throughout this week, we have continued with the same mantra: we are a family. Our pupils, parents and staff are the heart of Crawforddyke, and I am bursting with pride for all of you.

Thanks to you all for your continued support and engagement. We will take this experience to keep on moving forward, always striving towards our motto of 'growing minds and nurturing hearts'.

*Mrs Angela Gibson, Head Teacher*

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## Scottish Week



We have started the year with our traditional focus on all things Scottish! Every classroom will be taking part in special activities and learning all about the Scot's Language. Each child has been given the opportunity to take part in a poetry recital competition, with winning performers showcasing their talents at our Scottish Assembly on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January. Every class is learning a Scottish Song, which they will perform at the assembly also.

Class performances and poetry recitals will be recorded during the assembly, and uploaded to Google Classroom, so that you can all enjoy them in the comfort of your own home!

The selection of pupils to recite their poems during assembly will be done by the children themselves. This will take place in their own classrooms the week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> January: please check your child's google classroom for the day this will happen.

As part of our celebrations on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January, pupils are also invited to wear something tartan/Scottish. This could be an item such as a scarf or hat, ribbon or socks, or Scottish rugby/football top! There is no requirement to do this, so please do not go out and buy something just for this occasion! If you don't have anything, school uniform is fine. *Please note, this is **not** a "dress down day" (i.e. - no casual clothes, unless Scottish/tartan of course!).*

## Learning Grids



From next week, your child's teacher will upload their 'Learning Grid' onto google classroom. This will give you details about what their class will be focusing on this term across all subject areas. If you cannot access this and would like a paper copy, please let the school office know.

## Baby News!

I am delighted to announce the safe arrival of Isla Marrie Harvie on 2<sup>nd</sup> January, weighing 7lbs and 6oz!

We are delighted for Mrs Harvie and her husband Robert and cannot wait for our first cuddles!



## **Staffing Update**

### **Room 9, Primary 5**

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Jennifer Hamilton, who will be in Room 9 on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Her job-share partner will be Mrs Lindsay Bowie, who will teach the class on a Monday and Tuesday. This will be the arrangement for the remainder of the session.

### **Room 3, Primary 2**

We are pleased to say that Miss Sarah MacDonald will remain with us for the moment, teaching Primary 2. Sarah is a super addition to our team, and we are delighted to have her with us.

### **Senior Leadership Team**

Mrs Hazel Buchanan has returned following her secondment at Quarter Primary School. Mrs Lynn Williamson will continue in her role as Acting Principal Teacher, with responsibility for our P1 interventions, Sports programs and supporting our students (among lots of other things!)

## **Spotlight on Improvement**



### **Growth Mindset Mantra – Feedback is a Gift – Accept it!**



Our Growth Mindset mantra for January is “Feedback is a Gift – Accept it!” We will be encouraging all of our children to think carefully about the learning targets in their PLPs and how they can use the feedback they receive on a daily basis to really challenge their learning.

Staff will also be thinking about different kinds of praise and feedback. To explain further, when praise focuses on a student's intelligence or another personal quality, it can make him or her feel insecure about tackling challenges or making mistakes in the future. However, tie praise to effort or action and it has nothing to do with being *smart* or *stupid* (words often used by pupils, rather than teachers) but everything to do with perseverance and learning. There is a difference between *person praise*, which focuses on who that person is and the qualities they have, and *product praise*, which focuses much more on the hard work and effort a learner put in to achieve success.

“You must be smart at this.” VERSUS “You must have worked really hard on this task!”

As parents, it is also very easy to focus our feedback on our children, rather than what they have done. Compare the feedback below:

“You are such a good boy!” VERSUS “You were a great help to me today, tidying your room.”

While it is absolutely okay to allow you children to know they are “good” they need to know what is good, so they can keep doing it! (Result? Very possibly a tidier bedroom!) Try it and see!

## **Tesco Tokens**

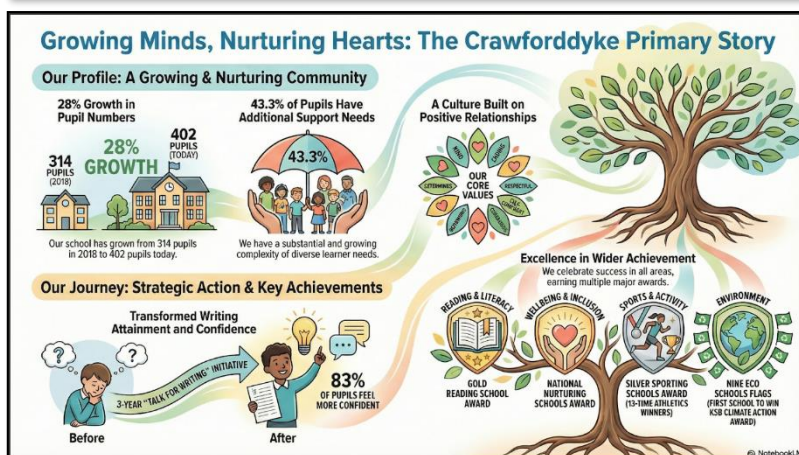
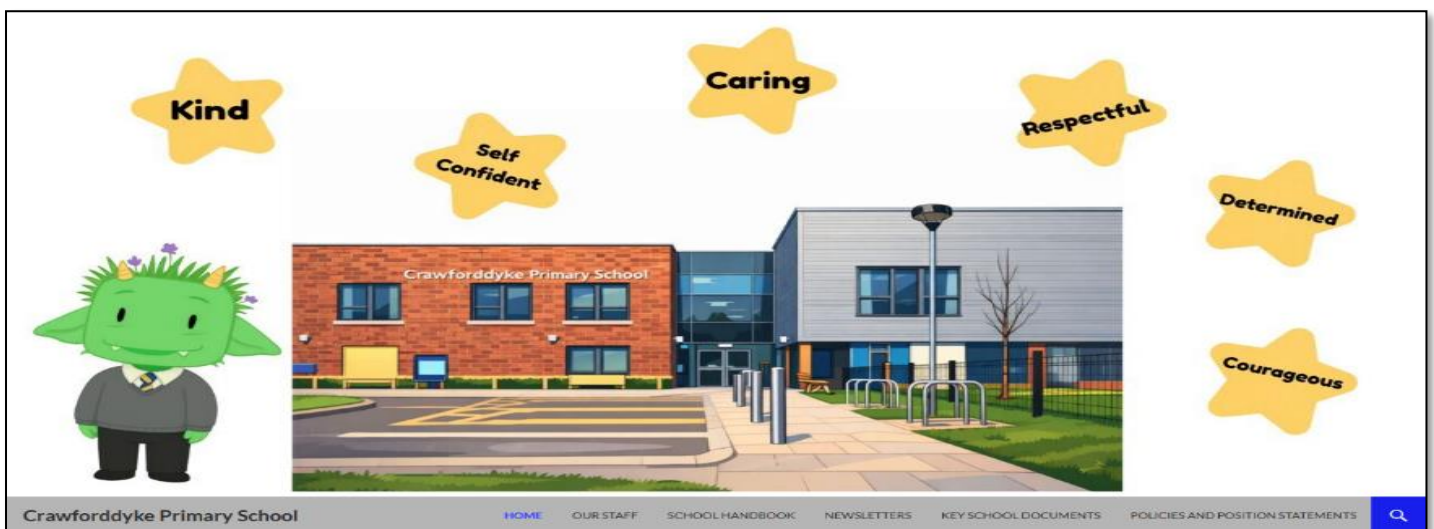
If you are shopping in Tesco and receive a blue token, please pop it into the box for Crawforddyke Football Kits! Thanks to Andi Laird for organising this- another great example of our team spirit!



## New Website

Thanks to Mrs Williamson, we have a fantastic new website! This really has been a labour of love, and it looks amazing! On this, you will find copies of our most up to date policies and procedures, as well as our newsletters and other key documents. We will keep on populating this to make it as informative as possible.

[Crawforddyke Primary School Website](#)



## Learning + Teaching Film

One of the ways we shared our learning and teaching experiences with HMIE was by using a short video. We thought you might like to watch it too!

Although it is an American accent, I promise it is solely based on our Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policy statement!

[Growing Minds and Nurturing Hearts at Crawforddyke Primary](#)

## Bear with us...

I am aware this is quite a brief newsletter, but that isn't to say it is going to be a quiet term! We have lots of things planned and we will get information out to you about this soon.

However, it has been a very busy start to the year, with staff working through their Christmas holidays to prepare for HMIE. If you could please be patient and give us a few days to recover, we will be back in full swing by next week!

