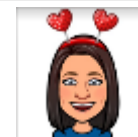


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February 2026 Newsletter

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends.



What a start to the year! We have so much to tell you, and to celebrate with you. I am excited to share all the amazing news about our school, and hope that you will feel as proud as we all do with all we have achieved together!

Crawforddyke Primary holds a special place in many people's hearts, and ours are full thanks to the work and commitment shown by pupils, staff and parents! This truly is a month to share the love!

Mrs A Gibson, Head Teacher



HMIE OUTCOMES AND SCHOOL INSPECTION FINDINGS

As you know, we were visited by His Majesty's Inspectors in January. I am delighted to say that, from Tuesday 10th February, our report will be published on the Education Scotland website, which means I am able to share this with you. A summary is included on the next page. You can also access 3 key documents by following the link below.

- School Inspection Report
- Summarised Inspection Findings
- Additional Inspection Evidence

[Crawforddyke Primary School](#)
[HMIE Inspection Documents](#)

As this was a short-model inspection, the inspection focused on 2 Quality Indicators. These were graded using the 6-point scale from 'How Good is our School?'.

The Six-Point Scale

Excellent	Means	Outstanding, sector-leading
Very Good	Means	Major strengths
Good	Means	Important strengths with some areas for improvement
Satisfactory	Means	Strengths just outweigh weaknesses
Weak	Means	Important weaknesses
Unsatisfactory	Means	Major weaknesses

Throughout the report, evaluative language is used to indicate numbers and proportions.

Almost all	Means	Over 90%
Most	Means	75% to 90%
Majority	Means	50% to 74%
Less than half	Means	15% to 49%
Few	Means	Up to 15%

HMIE OUTCOMES AND SCHOOL INSPECTION FINDINGS

Below is a summary of the inspection outcomes, a description of the Quality Indicator, and the strengths/areas for improvement for our school.

2.3 – Learning, Teaching and Assessment – **VERY GOOD**



This indicator focuses on ensuring high-quality learning experiences for all children and young people. It highlights the importance of highly skilled staff who work with children, young people and others to ensure learning is motivating and meaningful. Effective use of assessment by staff and learners ensures children and young people maximise their successes and achievements.

3.2 – Raising attainment and achievement – **GOOD**

This indicator focuses on the school's success in achieving the best possible outcomes for all learners. Success is measured in attainment across all areas of the curriculum and through the school's ability to demonstrate learners' achievements in relation to skills and attributes. Continuous improvement or sustained high standards over time is a key feature of this indicator.

HMIE Outcomes – Our Strengths

STRENGTH 1	STRENGTH 2	STRENGTH 3
Led ably by the headteacher, all staff have created a warm, welcoming ethos and culture across the school based firmly on children's rights and the school values. All staff and children are fully included in the life and work of the school.	Children are enthusiastic learners, are proud of their school and behave well. They demonstrate the values of kindness, caring, self-confidence, determination, courage and respect in their behaviour and interactions with adults and with each other. They are highly-motivated and making good progress in their learning.	Teachers have developed highly-inclusive learning spaces. They provide children with learning which meets their needs well. As a result, children engage well in consistently high-quality, meaningful and relevant learning.

HMIE Outcomes – Areas for Improvement

Improvement Area 1	Improvement Area 2
All staff should continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy across the school. They should continue to focus on improving children's writing skills in all genres.	Teachers should now have a clearer focus on supporting children to identify, recognise and track the skills they are developing across the curriculum. This should help children understand how they are developing skills for learning life and work.

It is impossible to describe the amount of work, effort and dedication given by our school team on the lead-up to the inspection, with Christmas Holidays sacrificed and time with families lost. However, when the time came, our pupils and staff shone (just as we knew they would!) The inspection team were full of praise for our school, our pupils and our staff and we could not be prouder of the outcomes! Thank you to all our parents/carers who took time to speak to the team or completed the questionnaire. In this newsletter, we have included a poster that we created about our school profile. What we can be certain of is that Crawforddyke is a 'school in motion' and we will continue to work as hard as we can to ensure we keep on improving, focusing on our aim to grow minds and nurture hearts.

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Congratulations!



SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS - SLC CHAMPIONS!

On Friday 6th February, our Sports Hall Team went along to the SLC Finals at the John Wrights Sports Centre in East Kilbride. We have attended this many times, missing out on the top spot last year by just 1 point!

We are delighted to say that this year, we gained FIRST PLACE, becoming the first Clydesdale school to achieve a place on the shield!

A huge 'well done' to all our athletes, who give up their lunchtimes and Golden Time to practise. And of course, to Mr A, who has been aiming for this victory as long as I have known him! His commitment to and faith in our young people knows know limits!

WE'RE THE LAND OF SCOTS!

We have had a fantastic start to our topics this term, with every class focusing on aspects of Scotland.

We finished our celebrations with our annual Scottish Assembly. 'Well done' to all our pupils who recited their Scottish poem, and to every class for their performances! We also enjoyed some amazing Highland Dancing!

To find out more, please visit our [Scottish Sway](#) and your child's google classroom.



BUD VISIT

On Thursday 12th February, P7 will be visited by the Bud Bus, a travelling truck that shares veteran's stories, and the poppy's heritage. It will be here all day and will mean we will have to close our car park. We will open this for Room 7/8 parents at 1pm for their event.

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Friday 13th February

Share the Love

Wear Red or Pink!

SHARING THE LOVE

To help celebrate all that is wonderful about our school, and to coincide with Valentine's Day, Friday 13th February will be a day to 'share the love'!

Pupils and staff are invited to come in **wearing something red or pink**. If they don't have anything, dress down is also fine!

During our assembly, we will be focusing on what we love about our school, and our House Captains will be helping me to recognise some special achievements too.

Spotlight on Improvement

GROWTH MINDSET MANTRA: A GOAL WITHOUT A PLAN IS JUST A WISH!

I can.
I will.
End of story.

Setting a goal allows you to form a concrete idea of what you want and a vision of how you're going to get there!

'Grit' can be defined as the decision to put in enough practice and dedication to a task until you reach that goal! K. Anders Ericsson argues that there should be no ceiling placed on a student's potential – potential is something that is influenced by the dedication to the task.

Our pupils need to start thinking about how practise, perseverance and patience will lead to learning and growing (sound familiar?) Michael Jordan once said:

"I've missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost more than 300 games. Twenty-six times I've been trusted to take the winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life, (Nike Commercial "Failure" – available on You Tube)

Talk to your children about the goals they have in their learning, whether in school or clubs. Reassure them that they cannot get it right all the time, that it is about setting a goal and persevering until they do! Talk to them about some of the famous people, such as J K Rowling, Walt Disney and Steven Spielberg who all had to work extremely hard to get to the top of their field. This will help them to understand what true grit and determination is!

MASTER CLASSES

This term, every child in P2-P7 will have the opportunity to participate in 4 Master Classes. These will be activities planned by the teachers to develop skills for life, learning and work. We will let you know what these are soon! The classes will visit a different teacher every week on a Friday, and during their activity, they will discuss what skills they are developing. More information will follow about these soon!



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READING SCHOOLS PROJECT

This month, we took part in Reading Schools Week, enjoying a range of exciting reading activities to inspire a love of books across the school.

Our Reading Leadership Team worked with Mrs Buchanan to select 20 of their favourite books and helped deliver the 'Books Around Town – Read Along with Crawforddyke' posters. QR codes are hidden in 20 local shops around Carlisle, and pupils are invited to collect all 20 to unlock each story.

Please do take part in this exciting activity – what a great reason to get out into our community!

Pupils are encouraged to share their 'finds' with their classrooms.



GARDEN GANG UPDATE



Following the success of our Garden Gang project last term, we are again looking for some help to continue our maintenance work on our Natural Play Areas. Mrs Cullen is working hard on future plans, which also include the path in our large area to be re-laid. This work will be completed by Mr Gundy, who is donating a lot of his time and resources to help us do this! We cannot thank him enough!

Thanks also to our Parent Council, who has agreed to find items such as benches for our fire pit, and stone paving circles.

We will be hosting a Garden Working Party on **Saturday 7th March, from 10am to 3pm**, for anyone who would like to come along and help with activities such as laying the path, planting trees, some art projects and general clearing out/tidying. New dates will also be coming soon for anyone who can come along on a Tuesday (1-3pm) or a Thursday (3-4pm) – watch this space!

CRAWFORDDYKE'S SPORTS ROUND UP

JANUARY 2026

Sportshall Athletics

CLYDESDALE SPORTSHALL SCORING FINAL

28th January 2026

Our Sportshall Athletics Team have represented the school impeccably over the past few months at the 3 Clydesdale Sportshall Festivals. The Clydesdale scoring final took place at Carluke Leisure Centre on 28th January.

So many of our pupils have trained so hard it is making team selection incredibly difficult for Mr Allan, Mrs Butler and Mrs Williamson but we are so proud to have taken so many different pupils to each festival!

It is incredible that this trophy is back in our trophy cabinet for a record 14th year in a row!!!



We are now looking forward to competing in the South Lanarkshire final on the 6th of February. Thank you, as ever, to our coach and hero - Mr Allan!

P1-3 Multi Sports

MULTI SPORTS

Primary 1, 2 and 3 pupils will be given the opportunity to take part in multi sports activities on a Tuesday playtime between now and the Spring Break.

Thank you to Calum Taylor, our Active Schools Coordinator and his CHS Play Leaders for offering us these fun sessions!

Rugby Taster Sessions

RUGBY

A big 'Thank you!' to Rory from Biggar Rugby Club for offering our P5-7 pupils 2 taster rugby session.



During these sessions, pupils developed teamwork, communication and hand eye coordination, all while showing determination and increasing their stamina - well done everyone!

Dance

LUNCHTIME DANCE

Our annual p5-7 'Dance' group will start on Monday 9th February at lunchtime with Erin Prudon of Carluke High School.

All participants will be given the opportunity to take part in the Clydesdale Dance festival in March, date to be confirmed.

Coming up...

Look out for...

- Sportshall Final - Friday 6th February 2026
- P5-7 Lunchtime Dance Club begins on Monday 9th February - see Mrs Williamson to sign up.
- P5-7 Cross Country after school sessions begin Monday 9th February - sign up slips have been sent home.
- Clydesdale Cross Country, Wednesday 18th March, Lanark Racecourse - selected pupils.

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SCHOOL INFORMATION AND UPDATES

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY



A wee reminder that school is closed for pupils on Monday 16th, Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th February for our mid-term break. Wednesday 18th is an Inservice day for staff, who will be in school to work on activities such as moderation, writing and

STAFFING UPDATE

On Friday 13th February, we welcome back Mrs McWhirter from her maternity leave. She will be returning on a part-time basis, working Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. At the moment, the plans for Room 4 (P2) are as follows:

- Monday and Tuesday – Mrs. Lynn Williamson
- Wednesday – Friday – Mrs. Kirsty McWhirter

This may change depending on staff absence, we will let you know if this is the case as soon as possible. In the meantime, we would like to thank Miss Smith for her dedication to Primary 2 (Room 4). I know the class will miss her a lot!

BRING A TIN – STAY FOR SOUP – PRIMARY 4



On Thursday 12th February, in the afternoon, our Primary 4 pupils are hosting their annual 'Bring a Tin, Stay for Soup' event.

They are very excited to welcome their parents/carers in for this; to showcase all they have learned during their local study of Carlisle.

SNACKS AND TREATS

We have been more aware recently of snacks being brought to school that either contain nuts, or do not align with our health promoting school status.

When providing a snack for your child, please remember that they only have a small amount of time to eat these. Large sharing bags of sweets or crisps are not ideal and are potentially packed full of sugar and additives that can have a negative impact on your child's health.

Due to allergies and food intolerance, we cannot accept treats for birthdays (including boxes of sweets or cakes).

MOBILE PHONE POLICY

We know that many of our pupils have a mobile phone, even from a young age.

Our policy is that these are not required at school and should be left at home.

If you do allow your child to bring their phone to school for any reason, these must be kept in their bags, switched off. They should not be brought out on school premises, including the school playground.

In the event of these procedures not being followed, and if we believe the phone has been used on the premises, we will contact parents to come and collect them.

Thank you for your cooperation, as we work towards keeping all pupils safe and secure.

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PARENTS' NIGHT - 1st APRIL 2026

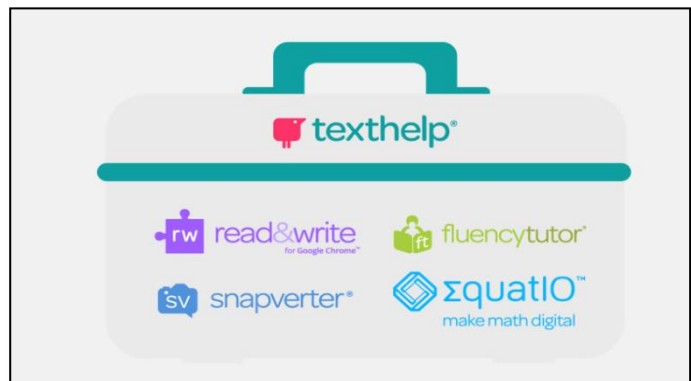
This term our Parents' Evenings take place on Wednesday 1st April, between 3.30pm and 8.30pm.

Appointments should be booked through our online booking system. This is hosted through Parent's Portal, something you should all have signed up for. The online booking system will be open from Monday 9th March until Friday 27th March.

Please note that, due to time restrictions we can only offer one appointment per pupil. If this causes you difficulty, you should ask to speak to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

We have lots of things planned for the evening, so we hope that you can make it along. If you are on holiday and unable to attend, I'm afraid we will not be able to offer an alternative date.

PARENTS' EVENING ACTIVITIES



With appointments taking place in our gym hall, you will also have the opportunity to visit your child's classroom, look at their work and admire the lovely classroom walls (which are full of learning evidence!)

The Senior Leadership Team will be available throughout the evening if you need any extra help!



Come and find out more about Park and Stride from our JRSOs and how you can promote safe parking around our school!

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WORLD BOOK DAY – THURSDAY 5TH MARCH 2026

To help us celebrate World Book Day this year, we are inviting pupils to decorate a wooden spoon as their favourite character from a book!

Wooden Spoons will be sent home next week with all children, though there is no requirement to take part. If you need any resources to help you complete the activity, please let us know. And if you need any inspiration, just do a quick google search for lots of ideas!



World Book Day Themed Lunch – Thursday 5th March 2026

Blue Meal	Red Meal	Green Meal	Dessert
Cloudy with a chance of chicken (Breaded chicken grill with chips)	The Day my Fajitas got Famous (Veg Fajitas)	The Wild Tuna Pasta Salad (Tuna Pasta Salad)	Marble Cake in Space (Chocolate and plain marble sponge cake)
All served with a Neverending selection of vegetables, sweetcorn and salad bar			Cheese and Tuna sandwiches available



JUMP START JONNY

We are so excited to announce that Jump Start Jonny will be with us on Tuesday 17th March! He is a massive favourite for all our pupils and his energy is infectious! He gives dance, exercise and energetic workouts a whole new meaning!

Before he comes, children are invited to practise their dances! We will be doing this in school, but it can also be done at home by following this link: <https://jumpstartjonny.co.uk/visit-videos/>

This visit is free for all children to take part in, thanks to the money raised through the Christmas shows. Pupils should come to school prepared for P.E that day, even if it is not their usual day.



OUR WEBSITE

Just a wee reminder to keep checking our website for key documents and updates.

While we don't have a calendar function on this, we will keep adding dates to our school app, so keep checking this too!



Health
Promoting
School



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Growing Minds, Nurturing Hearts: The Crawforddyke Primary Story

Our Profile: A Growing & Nurturing Community

28% Growth in
Pupil Numbers



Our school has grown from 314 pupils in 2018 to 402 pupils today.

43.3% of Pupils Have
Additional Support Needs



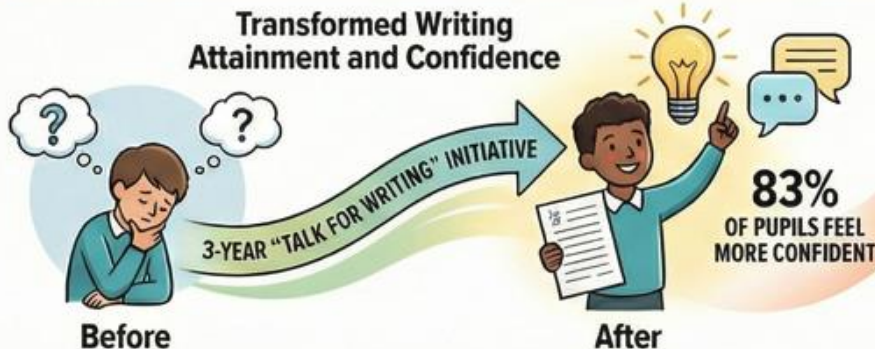
We have a substantial and growing complexity of diverse learner needs.

A Culture Built on
Positive Relationships



Our Journey: Strategic Action & Key Achievements

Transformed Writing
Attainment and Confidence



Excellence in Wider Achievement

We celebrate success in all areas,
earning multiple major awards.

