



Website: [Crawforddyke Primary School](http://CrawforddykePrimarySchool)
Email: gw14crawdykepsoffice@glow.sch.uk

August 2026 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. 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) – 2026/2027

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 3 main priorities to work on this session:

1. To ensure a continued focus on maintaining high-quality learning and teaching through the development of effective questioning, supported by the Pedagogy Palette.
2. To continue our journey of developing a skills-based curriculum, including aspects of inquiry-based learning, ensuring learners have a good understanding of the skills they need for life, learning and work.
3. To strengthen Learning, Teaching, Assessment and moderation of communication and engagement across all establishments in Carluke Learning Community.

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 2026/2027](#). You will also find a copy of our Standards and Quality Report for 2025/2026, which identifies our key outcomes from last year's Improvement Plan.

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 2026/2027.

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.

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



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.

Communication

As intimated in our August Bulletin, please see below all the ways we will use to communicate key messages and information with you.

- Newsletters – Our School Newsletters are packed full of information and the best place to go if you are unsure about a date or need to find a link to something! Please do take time to read these – they are a vital part of sharing information with you!
- Parents' Portal – This will be our most important resource, and it is therefore vital that all parents are signed up to use this. More information will follow about this in our first newsletter. The Portal is where all letters will be sent from, as well as our newsletters and announcements, end of year reports and permission forms.
- School Website – We launched our new school website in January 2026, and this has been updated over the holidays with key information, such as staff, school procedures and upcoming dates. Please consider saving this as a 'favourite' in your browser! The link is provided for you below.
- Google Classroom – Every class will have its own Google Classroom, though it will take us a few weeks to set these up. This is a great resource for you to see what is going on in your child's classroom, as well as allowing you to share special achievements, access and upload homework and ask any questions about class activities.
- Parent + Carer Facebook Page – While we will not use this as an official means of communicating, we do like to share information on it (it will always be shared in our newsletters, letters or through our website first!) If you don't use Facebook, that's okay – you won't miss anything! We have updated the page to make it more secure, so you will need to ask to be a member again.



Our website contains lots of information, which can be accessed by using the top of side menus. To find us, just click on this link – [Crawforddyke Primary School Website](#)

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Welcome

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Welcome

Staff Update

We have been joined this year by 3 new/returning members of staff. We welcome back Miss Hannah, who is covering Primary 3 (Room 5). We also welcome Mrs Fiona Dougall, who is supporting learning in our P1/2 and P1 classes. Mrs Dougall works on a Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday, and we are delighted to have her with us! We also welcome Miss Niamh Thomson, a provisionally registered teacher who will be with us until mid-November. Miss Thomson will be supporting learning in Room 7 (Primary 4).

School Attendance

EVERY SCHOOL DAY MATTERS

Did you know that a pupil with an average of 90% attendance from P1 onwards could miss the equivalent of an entire school year by the time they reach S3?

We want to make sure that no child misses out on the opportunities we can offer them.

That is why SLC have launched a campaign to reinforce the message that **every school day matters**.

- What might seem to be just a few days of absence a year can quickly add up, and that cumulative effect makes a difference.
- Coming to school is about so much more than books and numbers.
- School helps to nurture and support social skills, friendships, support networks, and the ability to learn, change and adapt.
- Every pupil can find their superpower in the classroom, art studio, music hall, playground, science lab and playing field.
- The SLC campaign highlights this and provides practical, up-to-date support, advice and guidance for parents and carers.
- Being in school is the foundation upon which happy, successful and resilient young people are built.

As a school, we are targeting school attendance and time-keeping this year. We would like to hear your views on attendance at our school. Your feedback will help us to understand the experiences of our families, identify any barriers to regular attendance and ensure that our attendance approaches and policy are supportive, fair and effective.

To help with this, we would like as many people as possible to complete our [Attendance Survey](#). Just follow this link. The survey will close on **Friday 4th September**. Thank you in advance for your support!



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Facebook Request

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 website, 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 Lucozade).**



P.E Kit

All children will receive 2 sessions of PE each week. Your child's teacher will let you know when these will take place.

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. **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 8.30-4.30pm. 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.

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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. P4-7 Pupils have created their own passwords, as directed by SLC.

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 – [click here](#)
- Uploading Work on Google Classroom – [click here](#)
- Adding a Google Profile – [click here](#)

Please note, teachers should not be emailed directly from Google Classroom. All communication should go through our school office.

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!

We have prepared a [home learning guide](#) (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.

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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 P2-3 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.



Crawforddyke Primary School

Meet the Teacher

Wednesday 26th August 2026 – 3.15–4.45pm
Primary 2–7 Classes

All P2–7 parents and carers are invited to our 'Meet the Teacher' event on Wednesday 26th August, from 3.15pm to 4.45pm. This includes Room 4/Primary 2.

This gives you and your child the opportunity to come along for a quick visit, to see your child's class and say 'hello' to their teacher.

This event is being run as a 'drop-in', so very casual and relaxed! If you cannot make it along, please don't worry. Our formal Parents' Evening takes place on Thursday 8th October.

Please be mindful that our car park may be quite busy, so 'park and stride' is encouraged!

Our Primary 1 parents/carers will have their opportunity to visit on Tuesday 8th September at our P1 Curriculum Evening.

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Lockerbie Manor - P7 Residential



Our current Primary 7 pupils will be making their way to Lockerbie Manor on Wednesday 21st October 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 22nd September at 6.00pm.**

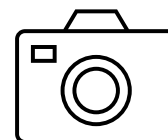
A google classroom will also be created, where all information will be uploaded. We will also be able to share photos and updates on this too.

Primary 1 Curriculum Workshop Tuesday 8th 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 is an event for adults.

This will be an evening packed full of information, so we hope you can make it!

Instant Images will be with us on Tuesday 1st September to take individual and family photos. More information about this will follow soon!



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:

- Thursday 8th October – 3.30-8.30pm
- Wednesday 31st March – 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.

Please note, we cannot offer alternative dates if you are unable to attend due to holidays, nor will we be able to offer more than one appointment per pupil.

Parent Council AGM Tuesday 9th September at 7.00pm

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 8th September at 7.00pm, 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 7th 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.
- You will be able to visit your child's class during our Parent Consultations.



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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 signed 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, so please make sure they come appropriately dressed for the weather.

Higher Play

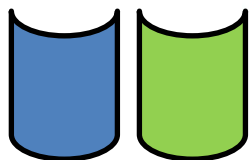


Our pupils have been invited to support a group of young people who are training to be Sports Coaches and Trainers. This is being organised by Calum Taylor, our Active Schools Coordinator.

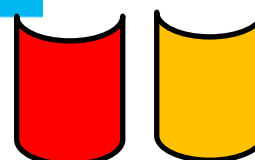
The project involves groups of our pupils accessing our playing fields, to participate in some group sports, led by the young people in training.

The first group to attend will be P3, on Wednesday 8th September. Pupils should come dressed for outdoor PE.

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HOUSE CAPTAINS 2026/2027

All our Primary 7s will be given the opportunity to apply for the position of House Captain. It is always 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 24th 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

We have now returned to having whole school assemblies every week.

At each assembly, we celebrate lots of things, including our 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 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.

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

Crawforddyke Primary School: Strategic Roadmap (Year 1)

2026–2027 Academic Year: Growing Minds, Nurturing Hearts

CORE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES



MASTERING EFFECTIVE QUESTIONING

Staff will utilize the Pedagogy Palette and Blooms Taxonomy to deepen pupils' higher-order thinking.



IMPLEMENTING A SKILLS-BASED CURRICULUM

Integrating the Skills Framework and Inquiry-Based Learning (IBL) into all classrooms.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION

Moderating communication and engagement standards across all establishments in the Carluke Learning Community.

YEAR 1 MILESTONES & MAINTENANCE



PROFESSIONAL PRACTITIONER ENQUIRY

By April 2027, staff will evaluate the impact of questioning techniques on pupil attainment.



PUPIL SKILLS SHOWCASES

Term 3 will feature sustainability-focused IBL projects and skills showcases for parents.



MAINTENANCE AGENDA SUCCESS

Achieving the Digital Schools Award and the 10th Eco Flag.

KEY DEADLINES FOR SCHOOL-WIDE DELIVERABLES



OCTOBER 2026

Complete staff audit of questioning and Skills Framework understanding.



DECEMBER 2026

Agreement on new planning formats for the 4 capacities and skills.



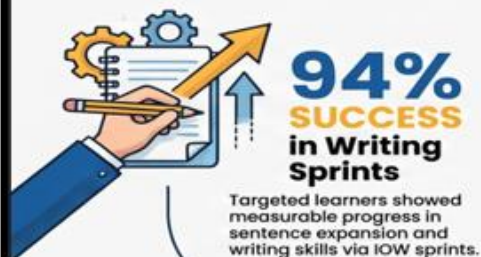
JUNE 2027

Final teacher confidence surveys and tracking of Literacy/Numeracy attainment.

Crawforddyke Primary: 2025-2026 Progress & Impact Report

Growing Minds, Nurturing Hearts

Academic Excellence & Skill Development



Regional STEM Award Winners

Primary 7 pupils secured the Regional STEM Showcase Award during their visit to Heriot Watt University.

STUDENT SENTIMENT: IBL Master Classes



Community Engagement & School Culture



79% PARENT PARTICIPATION

The "Meet the Teacher" initiative saw massive turnout, strengthening the vital home-school connection.



Enhanced Staff Collaboration

90% of teachers reported that collaborative moderation across the learning community improved assessment accuracy.



Attendance Above National Average

Robust monitoring and targeted support kept school attendance steadily rising, exceeding the 93% benchmark.

NotebookLM

STRENGTHS IDENTIFIED BY HMIE – JANUARY 2026

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.

