



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



September 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

It is hard to believe September is coming to an end, and we are now entering the last 3 weeks before the October Break. It has been a very busy start to the session, and I would like to thank you for engaging with us so enthusiastically through Google Classrooms, Meet the Teacher event and P1 Curriculum Workshop. No wonder we already need a holiday! With our October break just around the corner, we still have several events coming up. It's all detailed in this newsletter, so please enjoy with a wee cup of tea!

Mrs Angela Gibson
Head Teacher

Parents' Evening

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Staffing Update

You will be aware that we currently have a vacancy for a Principal Teacher, following Mrs Bone successfully gaining the DHT post. This has recently been advertised, and application forms are now being considered. We will then schedule interviews, with the hope of offering the post to the successful candidate. More news will follow on this soon.

Parent Council Update

We had a super turn out at our recent Parent Council AGM. Thank you to all those who came along for the first time. We hope this is the start of something very special (and busy!)



I am also delighted to say that we have a new committee, following in the footsteps of their very successful predecessors!

Chairperson – Andrea MacDonald

Vice Chairperson – Lyndsey Davidson

Secretary – Shelley Pithie

Treasurer – Carolyn Cowan

Fund-raising Team – Rochelle Tervit, Chloe Morgan, Lisa Smith

A huge 'thank you' has to go to our previous post-holders – Christine Gracie, Paula Carlyle and Caroline Porter.

A special 'thank you' also to Amy Allison and Cat Hamilton, who have put a power of work into our new Uniform Hub!

Our next meeting will take place on Wednesday 30th September at 7pm and everyone is welcome to come along to support the work of this wonderful group of people!

Friday 9th October – Dress Down Day



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

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



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Halloween Fun

We are looking forward to celebrating Halloween on Friday 30th October. All pupils are invited to dress up in their costumes, with only a few wee 'rules' to follow!



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

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

Halloween Discos

Thursday 29th October

Our Parent Council is organising Halloween Discos for pupils in P3-5 and P6-7, on the evening of 29th October. P1/2s will have a separate celebration in school on the Friday. More details will follow soon!



Lockerbie Manor – P7 Residential

Our Primary 7 pupils will be heading to Lockerbie Manor straight after the October Break.

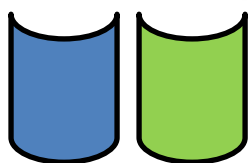
They will leave on Wednesday 21st October and return Friday 23rd October.

41 pupils will be accompanied by Mrs Gibson, Mrs Waters, Mrs Stewart and Mrs Whyte and will be offered opportunities to take part in a wide range of activities, such as abseiling, archery and high ropes!

This is always a wonderful trip to go on, but for those who cannot attend, we will organise some fun activities too!

A google classroom has been created for Lockerbie, where we will share lots of photos and videos of our adventures.





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Leadership Roles 2026/2027

We are delighted to announce several leadership positions across our school. The pupils were chosen by their peers, with some being interviewed by previous post holders. Congratulations to everyone who prepared an application, it was a very hard choice!

HOUSE CAPTAINS

ANGUS	CALDWELL	CAMERON	RAMAGE
Chloe McNeill Caroline Orr Jennifer Orr Sam Owolade	Rory Allison Olly Grey Daisy Lees Ella Wolohan	Lucas Kelly Isla Land Alfie Porter Avani Santapur	Callum Boyle Kaidynn Bunyan Paige Graham Larisa Nelson

CLASS AMBASSADORS

Room 7 Ruaridh Cruickshank	Room 8 Abi Morton	Room 9 Finlay Muir	Room 10 Abbie McLetchie
Room 11 Poppy Barton	Room 12 Ollie Reardon	Room 14 Max Ransay	Room 15 Ewan Harvie

JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS

Lewis Bulloch	Poppy Darby	Amy Cameron	Oscar Cowan
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READING AMBASSADORS

Alfie McPhee Stark	Amelia Hunter	Theo Johnstone	Rhys Cater	Isla McNab
Beth Allison	Harper Findlay	Daisy Lees	Harrison Cruickshank	Kodie Cossar

DIGITAL LEADERS

Orlagh McIntyre	Isla McNab	Cara Rigby	Jorgia Robertson
Kurt Russell	Ava McNab	Amelia Somerville	

SPORTS CAPTAINS

Blake Quigley	Callum Boyle	Nichole Flannigan	Kaidynn Bunyan
Avani Santapur	Alfie Porter	Ella Wolohan	Larisa Nelson
Paige Graham	Macy Lynch	Lucas Kelly	Sam Owolade

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

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

Carol Dweck



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

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

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

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

School Uniform - We have a pop-up shop available in our side foyer area. This is open daily. All items are free. - Our uniform can be purchased from local suppliers in Lanark and Wishaw. - While badged items are available, these are not compulsory.	Travelling and Transport - We will access local facilities where possible, to avoid the need for transport. - All transport costs are subsidised by the school using PEF/School Fund. - We encourage all families to apply for their Under 22 free bus pass.	Learning - We will never charge for any core curricular activities, including swimming and cooking. - All stationery items will be provided by the school. - If extra resources are required for home learning, parents are encouraged to contact the school to request these.	Friendships - Poverty Awareness will be taught as part of our HWB program. - We will reduce non-uniform days to avoid stigma and the pressure for families to purchase new items. - Poverty-related bullying will be treated seriously and logged appropriately.
School Excursions - We will cap the cost of school trips, subsidising these using PEF/School funds. - We will seek in-school activities to reduce the need for outings. - School trips will only take place every 2 years. - We will seek grants and subsidies to reduce the cost of trips further.	  THE COST OF THE SCHOOL DAY Crawforddyke Primary School Our proposals to reduce the cost of the school day.  		Eating - We have a free breakfast club every morning, open to all pupils. - We will ensure no child starts the day without breakfast. - We will offer surplus fruit and snacks to pupils daily. - In the event of surplus menu items, we will offer 'seconds' at the end of each lunch setting.
Fun Events - We will plan our annual calendar to spread the cost of any fun events. - There will be at least 2 free events each session for every pupil. - Our pop-up shop will include items such as Christmas Jumpers and Halloween costumes.	School Clubs - There will be no cost to any extra-curricular club. - Every pupil will have the opportunity to take part in one free extra-curricular club. - For any trips linked to school clubs (sports events, JRSOs etc) there will be no charge for transport.	Learning at Home - We will provide pupils with the resources they need to learn at home. - Google Classroom will be optional to reduce the pressure of access to wi-fi or digital devices. - We will host a free homework club for pupils in P5-7 weekly.	Attitudes to Poverty - We will review our Cost of the School Day procedures and policy on an annual basis. - Our COSO policy will be reviewed with all stakeholders. - Our COSO practices will be included in the Equity section of our Improvement Plan.

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School Football Strip

Before summer, 2 of our football coaches were able to secure funding from Tesco for new football strips. Thanks to the work of Craig Ramsay and Andi Laird, we are now the proud owners of these amazing strips! Not only do they represent our school and our nation, but they also acknowledge our very own Mr Allan. Pupils are now able to 'wear their heart on their sleeve' with 'Mr. A' taking pride of place! Our strips have already been worn at the first football tournament and look absolutely perfect!



Sidekicks Training – Primary 7

On Tuesday 22nd September, P7 pupils will have the opportunity to participate in 'Sidekicks' training with our active schools' team. This will allow them to deliver lunchtime clubs for younger pupils and will help them to develop their skills in leadership and management!

Many thanks to Calum Taylor and Mrs Williamson for organising this.

Inter-House Cross Country

Our Inter-House Cross Country will take place on **Friday 2nd October**. All pupils in P5-7 will be invited to take part in this, earning valuable points for their House.

Pupils should come to school dressed in their sports gear, but with a clean set of clothes (especially shoes) to change into (as it can be muddy).

We have moved this event to coincide with the new arrangements by SLC Leisure, with a number of our children representing the school at the Lanark Cross Country event on Wednesday 7th October.

CRAWFORDDYKE PRIMARY SCHOOL TERM PLANNER – OCTOBER to DECEMBER 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<u>19th October</u> All pupils return	<u>20th October</u>	<u>21st October</u> P7s to Lockerbie (Leaving 1pm)	<u>22nd October</u> P7s to Lockerbie Room 9 Swimming 1-3pm	<u>23rd October</u> P7s to Lockerbie (Home 3pm) Assembly - 9.30am Room 10 Swimming 1-3pm
<u>26th October</u>	<u>27th October</u> Love Autism Parents/Carers Session 6-8pm	<u>28th October</u>	<u>29th October</u> Room 9 Swimming 1-3pm Halloween Discos P3-5 and P6-7 (evening)	<u>30th October</u> Assembly - 9.30am Halloween Dress Down P1/2 Halloween Party Room 10 Swimming 1-3pm
<u>2nd November</u> Carlisle Historical Society to visit P7 Pupils	<u>3rd November</u>	<u>4th November</u>	<u>5th November</u> Room 9 Swimming 1-3pm	<u>6th November</u> Assembly - 9.30am Room 10 Swimming 1-3pm
<u>9th November</u> Inservice Day School Closed for all pupils	<u>10th November</u>	<u>11th November</u>	<u>12th November</u> Room 9 Swimming 1-3pm	<u>13th November</u> Assembly - 9.30am Room 10 Swimming 1-3pm
<u>16th November</u>	<u>17th November</u>	<u>18th November</u>	<u>19th November</u>	<u>20th November</u> Assembly - 9.30am
<u>23rd November</u>	<u>24th November</u>	<u>25th November</u>	<u>26th November</u> Christmas Fair 6.00-8.30pm	<u>27th November</u> Assembly - 9.30am
<u>30th November</u> Final week of homework	<u>1st December</u> Christmas Jumper Month Begins	<u>2nd December</u>	<u>3rd December</u>	<u>4th December</u>
<u>7th December</u>	<u>8th December</u> Christmas Show 1 1.30-2.30pm	<u>9th December</u> Christmas Lunch	<u>10th December</u> Christmas Show 2 1.30-2.30pm	<u>11th December</u> Christmas Show 3 1.30-2.30pm
<u>14th December</u> P2/3 Christmas Party 1-3pm	<u>15th December</u>	<u>16th December</u> P4/5 Christmas Party 1-3pm	<u>17th December</u> P6/7 Christmas Party 1-3pm	<u>18th December</u> Assembly – 9.30am P1 Christmas Party + Santa 1-3pm
<u>21st December</u>	<u>22nd December</u> School Closes 2.30pm			

SCHOOL CLOSED – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – WEDNESDAY 23RD DECEMBER to TUESDAY 5TH JANUARY 2027