



Carstairs Primary School

Newsletter

May 2025



Enterprise Morning – Our First Art Gallery

Thank you to all who came along at the end of term 3 to join our Easter celebrations at Carstairs Parish Church. We hope you agree that our readers did a marvellous job sharing the Easter Story and that our children's lovely singing was music to your ears! We were very happy to see plenty in attendance at the service.

Upon return to school, we hope that those who managed to attend our coffee morning and art gallery agree that our children's art work, proudly displayed in our school hall, was of a very high standard. All children and staff put a huge effort into the work that was on display, and we are very proud of the results achieved. See overleaf for a few of the masterpieces shared – these include use of a wide range of media, including clay photography. These works of art are now on display in our foyer and open area – check them out at our Summer Celebration in a few weeks, if you haven't already had a nosey!







Financial Education – Partnership with RBS



For several years now, we have partnered with Royal Bank of Scotland in support of helping our children's financial education. Pre-Covid, representatives used to visit us in school to deliver workshops. Nowadays, we benefit from their services online and earlier this term, our classes engaged brilliantly with the following interactive online workshops, ably led by our RBS colleagues:

P3 – Introduction to Money

P4/5 - Digital Money, Budgeting and Scams

P5/6 – Shopping Offers

P6/7 – Budgeting for a Birthday Party

These workshops were engaging and well received. Thank you to RBS for their ongoing partnership with us and well done to our learners for their strong engagement. We plan to continue this partnership, to complement our drive to help our children grow a sound understanding of effective and safe money management!

Lockerbie Manor 2025 - P6 and P7



For LOTS more Lockerbie photos and videos, check out our X feed @CarstairsPS



A HUGE well done to ALL who attended Lockerbie

Our attentions at the beginning of this term turned immediately to all things Lockerbie, as we prepared to take P6 and P7 on a big adventure week – away from their families from Monday morning right through to the afternoon of Friday 02 May. The preparation and organisation of this is a huge undertaking (including for families packing for the event!) – but very well worth the effort.

All children who attended achieved SO much – not just in terms of their superb success on the activities offered, but also in the sense of having the strength and resilience to be away from all that they know at home, sharing a dorm with others, building their independence AND having zero technology in their lives for a week! Our children overcame so many fears and challenges throughout the trip, and we could not possibly be more proud of each and every one who attended. Very, very well done to all.

Experiencing the full Monday to Friday away was also a new adventure for Mrs Guthrie and Mrs Leyden – they were both a marvellous support to our learners throughout. HUGE thanks go to both for giving up their own personal time for no personal gain, to help ensure that our learners had an adventure week to remember. Thank you both.



After School Clubs

We have continued to benefit from input from Alan from Active Schools over the course of this term, with all children from P1 – P7 being offered multi sports opportunities. Alan has made sure that all children participating have had lots of fun and it is always a pleasure to have him join us.

Well done to all children who have stayed on after school to join in – we are proud of you all for taking up these opportunities and enhancing your fitness, stamina and team work skills as you have fun!

We will continue to welcome Alan into our school for as long as possible, this term and beyond – he is a great enhancement to our team! Thank you, Alan!

Huge thanks also go to Mrs Whitehead and Ms McKay (Parent), for their brilliant Bikeability input this term and last. Our children's safety is always high priority, and we are very grateful to you both for flying this flag and making sure that not only do children involved get excellent lessons in bike safety but also have lots of fun in the process. Well done and thank you both very much indeed for all of your hard work and support.

Achievements



Earlier this term, during May's Magnificent Me Achievements assembly, we awarded a grand total of 35 certificates for out of school achievements – a great BIG well done to all children involved for the wide range of out of school achievements they shared. These achievements ranged from swimming and winning lots of sports medals, to helping family members - and we are so proud of one and all!

At the weekend, Conor (P7) captained his football team to victory in their cup final and was also awarded Man of the Match. Conor will be at Lanark Grammar by the next time our Magnificent Me awards come around, so we take this opportunity today to say a big congratulations and well done to Conor! Keep up the great work!

Athletic Excellence

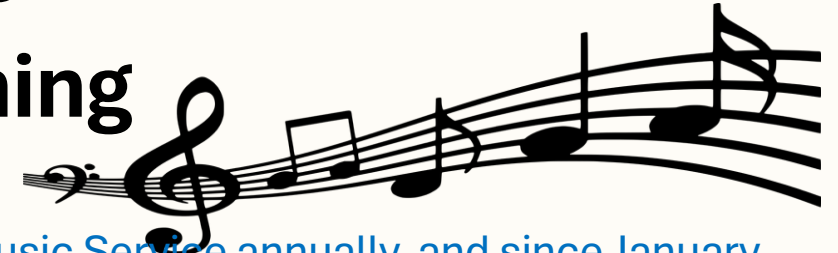


A special mention must be given to Olivia Taylor for the athletic excellence she has shown over the last few months. Following on from her Cross Country success at Learning Community level and then South Lanarkshire level, Olivia went on to do this.....

We celebrate Olivia Taylor – for excellence in running, achieving BRONZE at the Scottish Schools Cross Country Championship, in Kirkaldy. THIRD in the whole of SCOTLAND! What an absolutely OUTSTANDING achievement. We are completely blown away by your talent, Olivia. Keep up the excellence.

Most recently (May 16th), Olivia represented our school at the Clydesdale Track and Field event, won her heat and went on to take the silver medal for 600m distance! This means she has qualified **again** to compete at South Lanarkshire level and she will compete again on Wednesday 11th of June. Keep soaring, Olivia! We could not possibly be any more proud of you.

Linking with others to support children's learning



MUSIC

We continue to work in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council's Instrumental Music Service annually, and since January we have been welcoming Mr Johnstone into our school on a weekly basis, to support the music education of all P5 learners. This continues right up until the last week of school and we thank Mr Steven Johnstone for his ongoing percussion input. We are delighted to share that this year, specialist input from the service has also been extended to our P4 learners, and all P4 children are now working on a weekly basis with Mr Bryce, exploring the FUNdamentals of music. We look forward to seeing our budding musicians blossom in this area.


P6 SWIMMING

Our P6 learners have been attending swimming at Lanark Lifestyles weekly, since mid March. This continues right up until Thursday 19 June. We are delighted with the way that our children have approached these lessons and to have been able to afford them this opportunity.



The bus costs £108 every week to get the children back and forward to the pool. Each weekly lesson costs £41. Unfortunately, with school budgets as tight as they are, this is sadly not sustainable, going forward. While we have no wish for our upcoming P6s of the future to miss out on this annual special learning experience in the P6 year, we cannot keep this going without help of some kind. We will be in touch soon to consult with you about how best to move forward with this. Please keep an eye out for the consultation and get involved when it arrives.

Our Parent Partnership (Parent Council) is a very important part of our whole school community. Without the superb support that our Parent Partnership have provided us with over the years, our children would not have been able to benefit from such a range of extra curricular activities, both during the school day and out with. We continue to need, and very strongly desire, the strong support that we need from our school's Parent Partnership.



This term marks the final one with us, for our current Parent Partnership Chairperson – Mrs Jill McQuigg. Both of Mrs McQuigg's children have spent their P1 – P7 years here with us and throughout that time she has shown huge commitment and dedication to our school. Her active involvement with our Parent Partnership has been non-stop since her family joined our school and she has excelled in the role of Chairperson for many years. No words can fully express the gratitude that I feel for the immense support that Mrs McQuigg has so consistently provided. It has been an absolute joy and pleasure to work with you over the years, as Parent Partnership Chairperson, Mrs McQuigg. Your support has been invaluable to our school and to me, personally. Most sincere and warm thanks for all that you have done – and continue to do!

We would like to take this opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of our Parent Partnership group's continuation and warmly encourage representation from all classes. Please consider getting involved – it's for a great cause – our KIDS!



Pupil Leadership



What a joy it has been to see children lead a variety of clubs for other children, over the course of this term, so far. We have had children from P5 and P6 run clubs for football, golf, dance and drama – and what an immense job our pupil leaders have done! It is so inspiring to see children offer to give up their own free time over breaks and lunch to contribute to the learning and enjoyment of other pupils. Upper school children's pupil leadership is inspiring our younger children, with learners as young as P2 asking to run clubs and spending their own time planning how and what they will do in these, to make them fun for others. Very well done to all club volunteers – and participants!





Team Carstairs Play Station – School Improvement 24/25

We are delighted to be able to confirm that the £1200 Participatory Budget that was allocated for new materials to allow us to create our new Play Station has borne fruit for us this term, with all upper school classes benefiting from time in our spare classroom – now to be known as the Play Station – making use of our new technology kits. The new materials are aimed at supporting children to learn through investigation and inquiry and we are delighted to have the new materials in action. My observations this term have indicated plenty of enjoyment from our learners, and we look forward to extending this further, over time. An unexpected allocation of funding from additional roles that I take on has allowed us to purchase three new ‘Marty the Robot’ sets this year and our children are making great friends with Marty in our Play Station and Open Area. Keep up the great work, Team!



Team Carstairs Masterclasses School Improvement 24/25

We are thrilled to have our all-new Masterclasses up and running. These take place now on a Friday afternoon, with children given the opportunity to participate in Friday afternoon learning that they have chosen to opt in to as a reward for their working week! The Masterclasses formed are made up of learners from P1 right through to P7 and allow children the opportunity to learn with and from others from throughout the school. These have been very well received so far, and we look forward to continuing to grow this approach in the coming weeks and months.

Masterclasses delivered so far:

Kite Making Class Recorder Class

Art Class

STEM Class

Fitness Class

Gardening Class

WELL DONE EVERYONE – KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK

Remaining Dates

- Wednesday 04 June - New P1s to visit class from 1.15 - 2.15 (we can't wait to welcome them!)
 - Friday 06 June - AM - Whole school to John Cumming Stadium, Carlisle for Sports Day - all welcome. Children cannot attend without your permission - please see letter and permissions shared with you via Parents Portal
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- Monday 09 June - 3.00 - 3.50pm - P5,6&7 after school multi-sports
 - Tuesday 10 & Wednesday 11 June - P7 Transition Days at LGS
 - Wednesday 11 June - New P1s to visit class from 9.15 - 10.15
 - Thursday 12 June & Friday 13 June - HOLIDAY - School closed both days
 - Monday 16 June & Tuesday 17 June after school - New P1 families - individual transition tours 4.00 - 6.00pm (these are revised dates, no longer on 9th and 10th June)
 - Monday 16 June - 3.00 - 3.50pm - P5,6&7 after school multi-sports
 - Tuesday 17 June - this is a NEW diary date - Whole School Outdoor Learning Day / Health and Wellbeing Day
 - Thursday 19 June - 6.00 - 7.15pm - P7 Leavers' Evening in school
 - Monday 23 June - 9.30am - Whole School Summer Celebration, school hall - all welcome
 - Wednesday 25 June - 1pm - School closes for summer holidays (Non uniform day)