

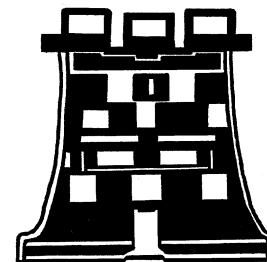


#TeamCarstairs

[Lessons from the Geese.....click here to find out the reasoning behind our alternative school logo](#)

# Carstairs Primary School Newsletter

September 2025



# Outdoor Learning – Lime Walk Woods

On 3<sup>rd</sup> September we began this term's block of visits to Lime Walk Woods. All classes, with the exception of P7 (who visit 01 October) have now had their visit for the term and have appeared to hugely enjoy the experience. We love getting the children out in the fresh air, bathing in the green of the woods and giving them opportunities to apply their growing skills in new environments and risk taking contexts. All classes have excelled, so far, showing great progress and ongoing improvements in confidence in their forest school skills.

Keep up the great work, children and very well done to Mrs Whitehead for her excellent organisation and delivery of these fun sessions. Well done and thank you to all support assistants who have accompanied this term's visits. Team work really does make the dream work!













# Masterclasses Resume

In term four of session 2024/25 we introduced Masterclasses, for use on a Friday afternoon as part of children's reward time (replacing 'Golden Time') for great work throughout the week.

Children's responses were extremely positive, indicating it was appropriate to continue and as a result, we are now continuing with Masterclasses on a termly basis.

These began on Friday 12 September and it has been great to see high levels of enjoyment in the sessions delivered so far.



Masterclasses on offer this term are:

- ✓ *Mrs Hardie – Mindfulness*
- ✓ *Mrs Hodge – Line Dancing*
- ✓ *Mrs Guthrie – No Bake Baking*
- ✓ *Mrs Allan – Music (Sky Full of Stars)*
- ✓ *Mrs Whitehead – Sewing*
- ✓ *Miss Colligan - Origami*

Children chose their preferred options and work in mixed stage groups, with the teacher delivering their chosen Masterclass. Keep up the great work.

***Masterclass subjects will change each term, and children have the choice in each block.***

# School Clubs

Our strong partnership with Active Schools has re-started in the month of September, with P6 and P7 first up to get involved with Alan and his after school Multi Sports. P6 and P7's block for this term has now come to an end and next up, we **invite P4 and P5** to get involved on the following dates:

**Monday 6th, 20th and 27th October 2025,  
from 3.00 – 3.50pm.**

Letters / permissions will be distributed via Parents Portal tomorrow – P4 and P5 parents, please watch out for these arriving.



# Pupil Led Clubs

It has been really heartening in the month of September to have so many of our middle to upper school **learners volunteer** their services **to lead** school clubs for younger children over break times.

Well done to **Ella Hoey, Maisie Wilson** and **Thea Thompson** – P5 and P6 learners all doing a great job of leading a drama club.

Well done to **Josh Gardiner** and **Logan Chambers**, P6, who successfully led some lunchtime multi sports for our wee ones.

Well done to **David Corrigan** and **Callum Rafferty**, P6 boys who are doing a lively job of leading a break time golf club for P1s who have shown interest.

Well done to **Georgia Lewis, Lucy Booth** and **Emily Kelly**, P5 and P6 pupils, who kindly volunteered to run a dance club for P1 and P2, teaching them a dance to 'How Far I'll Go' from Moana.

And well done to **Ada Abernethy** and **Olivia Taylor**, P7, who are doing a lovely job of leading a drama club, involving infants right through to P5 pupils. It is just lovely to see how kind and gentle our children are in their leadership of others.





# Kids Kitchen – P7 Health and Wellbeing Project

We are delighted to have partnered up with colleagues from South Lanarkshire Council Facilities Services to run a four week Kids Kitchen project for P7. For the past three Tuesdays in September, our P7s have worked with SLC's Chef Robert to learn about health and safety in the kitchen and to implement a variety of food handling skills. Next week, P7 parents will have the opportunity to work with their child 1:1 to complete some food handling together, under the watchful eye of Chef Robert, to complete this fun block of learning.

A gentle reminder for P7 parents that the session will take place on **Tuesday 07 October** – we hope an adult representative from your family can come long to support your P7 child.

*Please note, we are sorry to say there is a possibility of a timing change – we may need to ask you to come earlier that morning than originally planned. We know this is not ideal and will confirm as soon as we possibly can.*











# Partnership with Lanarkshire Climate Hub – Taste and Grow Project

We were delighted to discover during the summer holidays that we were successful in a bid to work with Lanarkshire Climate Hub in a 'Taste and Grow' project.

So far, this learning has entailed a representative from the Climate Hub coming to work with our P5/6 class to support their learning about locally grown produce and P5/6 have also been treated to a free excursion to Castlebank Horticultural Centre to learn more about this theme, and to gain hands on experiences, including planting their own potatoes which will have grown in time to eat with this year's Christmas dinner!



# Making the most of the trip to Castlebank Area

While we had our children out at the Horticultural Centre, we took the opportunity to take advantage of the beautiful local surroundings to extend the children's health and wellbeing, along with their outdoor learning skills.

P5/6 enjoyed having their lunch in the Fairy Dell area close by to the Horticultural Centre, before taking the long walk down by the Falls of Clyde, and taking advantage of the beautiful surroundings to learn more about nature and to apply the skills that they have learned more locally in Lime Walk Woods.















**Well done, P5/6 – we are extremely proud of you. 😊**



# Assembly Action



Every week in assembly, we continue to award **Stars of the Week** on a weekly basis, and each week this year our rolling programme, awards for:

**Kind Kids** – for demonstrations of kindness in and / or out of class

**Marvellous Mathematicians** – for achievements in numeracy & maths

**Remarkable Readers** – for achievements in reading

**Wellbeing Whizzkids** – for physical or mental wellbeing

**Heroic Handwriting** or **Sensational Spelling** - for performing well in one or other in these aspects of writing

**Magnificent Me** – for out of school achievements (*we will ask for your help to take note of these, when this comes around*)

***HT HONOUR ROLL – HT Awards for those who have been observed to go above and beyond in any aspect of school life. The first of these is due next week! Who will be first to win these special awards? Watch this space! 😊***

Some of the topics considered so far in assembly are shown below:

- ✓ **Our school values and rainbow wall** – making sure we make these things happen
- ✓ **How we can keep improving our school** - children's version of our School Improvement Plan
- ✓ **Anti-Bullying**
- ✓ **Anti-Discrimination**
- ✓ **Happiness**
- ✓ **Mental Wellbeing**
- ✓ **Kindness**

We told you in our August newsletter that we ran a competition to encourage our children to promote the message:

**COLOUR THE WORLD WITH KINDNESS**

*This competition was concluded in September – see overleaf for details of our winning entry..... 😊*





CONGRATULATIONS  
DARRAGH!

We ran this competition to support our eager promotion of KINDNESS, within our school and playground, within the community, and within our children's lives in the widest sense.

Children were asked to design a poster, which would promote this message, knowing that their winning design would be sent to SLC print shop to be made into a real poster, to be proudly displayed throughout our school and community.

**Darragh Boyle** was our proud winner, with his wonderful design – which tells us all:

***‘Kindness looks good on you.’***

***“We are all made of stardust but yours is extra sparkly!” 😊***

Keep your eyes peeled for Darragh's masterpiece in local shops, organisations and community news boards.

Watch out for Darragh's poster, and all other entries in our school, upon your next visit. They are all magnificent, and most uplifting!



# Parental Involvement & Engagement

We were so pleased to have such a good turn out for our **Parent Partnership** (Parent Council) AGM, in mid September. We were very grateful to hear the news that our school will be given a **cheque for £2500** in the near future, thanks to Parent Partnership fundraising in session 2025/26. This money will go a long way to helping us keep all of our 'extras' going for our children, including our Christmas panto, Christmas parties and supporting a range of extra curricular activities. Thank you to all involved – this fully includes you, our Parent Forum. **Your involvement with and contributions to fundraisers run by our Parent Partnership, really help to build the pot and we are so grateful.**



**Office Bearers for session 2025/26** are as follows -

- **Chairpersons:** Mrs S Notman & Miss R Stewart
- **Treasurer:** Mrs M Gardiner
- **Secretary:** Mrs S Lewis

*Thank you to our outgoing and incoming office bearers –  
your support is so warmly appreciated.*





# Fundraise for our school with minimal effort! 😊

## EASYFUNDRAISING

Our Parent Partnership, for a very long time, have had us signed up with:

[Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easypundraising.org.uk)

By getting involved with this, you can gain donations for our school from companies that you are already shopping with, at no cost to yourself, from the comfort of your own home!

Simply visit the [Easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easypundraising.org.uk) site, go to 'Find a Cause' and search for Carstairs Village Primary School. You can hook in from there and earn us money, while you shop online.

Involvement with this site has earned us nearly £2000 in 11 years – let's see if 2025/26 can be the year we really give our funds a boost in this way.

## RAGBAG

We have a clothes recycling bin at the foot of our school car park. The following items can be bagged and put in this bin:

- ❖ Clothing
- ❖ Shoes (must be paired)
- ❖ Belts

For every kg of recycling collected, our school receives money from this textile recycling organisation. It's a win, win – you get to clear out and we get the cash! Please consider making use of our Rag Bag bin.



**Becoming involved with our Parent Partnership group is just one way of being involved and engaged in school life. We welcome the attendance, support and input of as many families as possible, in whatever ways are best for you.**

**Parental engagement and involvement is such an important key to our children's learning potential at school being maximised** and we wish to highlight the many different ways that you can ensure that you (and your child/ren) are as engaged and involved in their education, as possible:

- ✓ **Check your child's homework diary frequently – as an absolute minimum – once a week. Please don't forget to sign it.**
- ✓ **Use the homework diary as a two-way communication tool. Acknowledge teachers' comments and share good news stories about your child's learning / homework, as well as any other information you might like us to know.**
- ✓ **Ensure your child completes the homework that they are set in a timely fashion.**
- ✓ **Ensure you have read and signed the targets (in the diary) that your child is working on this term – take time to talk to them about their ongoing progress.**
- ✓ **Attend the parent / child events that we organise – Carstairs Connect / Assemblies / Showcases.**
- ✓ **Take the time to look over your child's work at Parents' Evening.**
- ✓ **Participate in the surveys we issue – your views matter to us.**
- ✓ **Get in touch if you have any questions or queries – we are here to help maximise your child's potential.**
- ✓ **Consistently encourage strong attendance.**
- ✓ **Consistently encourage excellent levels of punctuality.**





# Carstairs Connect



## P5/6 – Improving Writing

Thank you very much to all family members who attended to support P5/6 to keep improving their writing on **Thursday 25 Sept.**

We hope you found the session worthwhile. The proof of the pudding will ultimately be in children's homework jotters and in their class writing jotters! 😊

Please let us know how you found the session by dropping us a wee note in your child's diary. Was it enjoyable? Helpful? If you have suggestions for improvement in the session, we welcome these comments too. Drop us a line! 😊

## P3 – Improving Reading

Our next Carstairs Connect session of the term will take place on **Wednesday 08 October.**

This time it will be the turn of P3, with Mrs Hodge and a chance to learn more about supporting the development of your child's reading.

We ask P3 parents to watch up for the sign up for this, which will arrive soon, via Parents Portal. Please remember that Grandparents / Relatives are most welcome, when working parents cannot manage.

Thank you. 😊



**YOUNGMINDS**

# **Hello Yellow**

## **FRIDAY 10 OCT**

**World Mental Health Day,  
Friday 10 October 2025 –  
Supporting ‘Young Minds’  
Charity**

We have signed up to participate in ‘HELLO YELLOW’ day, with the charity Young Minds, on Friday 10 October 2025, undertaking the challenge to TURN YOUR SCHOOL YELLOW.

This is our school’s non-uniform day. Children should come to school dressed in their own, casual clothes. If possible, it would be great if everyone can wear a touch of yellow somewhere on the day! We don’t want anyone buying new things – but hope you can be thoughtful and maybe, a little creative, if needed!

Our goal in being involved is to promote positive mental health amongst all learners and activities on the day will embrace this. We ask those who are able / willing for a 50p donation to Young Minds (brought to school with children on the day). This is not compulsory for participation.



# October 2025 - Dates Reminders

- **Thursday 02 October 2025 – Parents' Evening.** Please be punctual for your selected appointments. If you cannot come, please email the office to confirm this. Please remember that we do not have childcare facilities. For safety, children should remain with their parents at all times, with the exception of the appointment, at which time children should wait calmly in the designated areas.
- **Monday 06 October 2025, 3.00 – 3.50pm – P4 and P5 Multi Sports** with Active Alan (permissions to follow).
- **Wednesday 08 October 2025, 9.30 – 10.30pm – P3 Carstairs Connect.** Opportunity for P3 Parents / Carers to learn alongside P3 children 1:1 and gain tips on how to help your child's learning. We hope you can come. Attendance confirmation to follow.
- **Friday 10 October 2025 – Dress Down Day / Hello Yellow** Participation (50p donations welcome)
- **Friday 10 October 2025, 3pm – School Closes for October Break**
- **Monday 20 October 2025, 9am sharp – School resumes for Term 2**