



# ***Carstairs Primary School***

November / December 2025 Newsletter



Eco-Schools



## ***Eco Flag 8*** 😊

We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded our 8th Eco Flag! Well done children and thank you to Mrs Allan for submitting our action plans and supporting evidence. The introduction of our polytunnel has supported this achievement too. Well done to all!

# ***School Improvement Plan Update***

We continue to make progress with the targets set in this year's [School Improvement Plan \(click here for a reminder of all priorities\)](#).

During our November in-service, teaching staff undertook training around **digital technologies** (in support of our latest **digital award** quest) and support staff looked at **interventions** to support **numeracy and literacy** difficulties. Teaching staff also collaborated to **plan for projects** that allow children to transfer learning into new, unfamiliar contexts.

**Moderation** with other schools in our Learning Community is well underway, as are all of our plans around **practitioner enquiry, health and wellbeing** and **rights, respect and anti-discrimination**. We expect to be able to fully overtake the targets we have set ourselves for the year.

In August, we asked for parental volunteers for a **short life working group**, in support of behaviour and health and wellbeing. We were contacted by one volunteer and this meeting will go ahead at *1pm on Wednesday 17 December*, involving staff, our parental volunteer and some class representatives. *If you would like to participate, please make contact via our school office and we will welcome you onboard.*

In June, when we surveyed parents, two selected 'disagree' and three parents selected 'don't know' in response to being asked if their views are taken into account when changes are made in school. *Invites such as this give a very clear opportunity for parental views to be taken into account, as do the various surveys that we issue at different points throughout the year, for different reasons.* Parents are always warmly encouraged to get involved in these opportunities. Involvement with our Parent Partnership is always encouraged and this offers another avenue for parents to have their views taken into account. Your views are always fully considered and taken into account, whatever the format – formal or informal.

**We continue to operate an open door policy and welcome your input, throughout the school year, day to day. Thank you.**



*Thank you to Reverend Harrison for inviting us along to this poignant service and also for his time and input at assembly on Friday 28 November, discussing advent and the gifts that are most important.*

## ***Carstairs Parish Church – Remembrance Service 11/11/2025***

- We were very proud to have our Primary 7 House Captains represent our school at Carstairs Parish Church Remembrance Service at Carstairs Junction War Memorial on November 11th. Our Captains recited the poem Flanders Fields, by John McRae beautifully and we could not have asked for better representation of our school. Very well done, Captains.
- During the week that the service took place, our Vice Captains rotated classes each day to give pupils the opportunity to buy a poppy and support the good work of this charity. Thank you, Vice Captains for your efforts and thank you to Mrs Wilson, community member, for helping our children to get involved by including us in your work around this. We are delighted to note that our school's involvement led to an approximate total of £60 being raised for Poppy Scotland. Well done to all!

# ***School Clubs***

## **Active Schools Involvement**

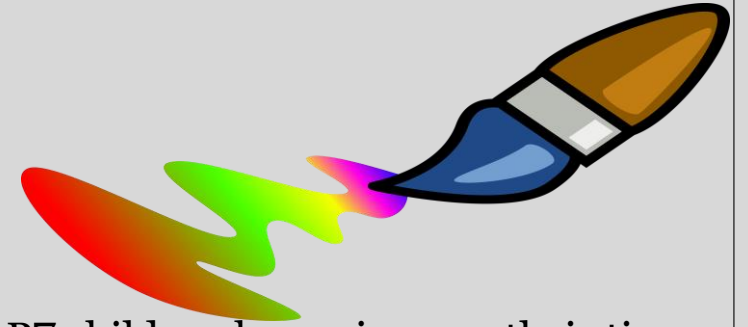
We were delighted to have so many P1, P2 and P3 pupils take up the opportunity to participate in after school multi sports throughout the month of November. A grand total of 25 kids participated.

Thank you to Matthew and Megan from Active Schools for their fun input and patience for and with our youngest learners.

We look forward to welcoming Active Schools colleagues back to our school in January 2026.



## **In House Clubs**



This month, many of our P7 children have given up their time after school on a Thursday to create sets and props for our upcoming P4-P7 show, Cinderella Rockerfella. Very well to all who did so. We look forward to showing off the fruits of their labour on the big day, next week! ☺ Thank you to Mrs Allan for giving up her own time too, to run this art club.

We are delighted that Mrs Leah Campbell, P2 parent has offered her skills as an Active Schools Coach to our school, volunteering to run a number of sporty lunchtime clubs for us.

These commenced on 03 December, with P7 and P3 having their first sessions with Mrs Campbell. She will give of her time on Wednesday lunchtimes in the month of December and we aim to give as many classes the opportunity to participate as possible.

# Magnificent Me Awards

Thank you to all parents who got in touch last week to support us in our quest to celebrate children's out of school achievements, providing wide and varied nominations.

The reasons this time around were really mixed, and while we truly love celebrating children's sporting and out of school club achievements, it's also just wonderful to receive nominations for children who are going the extra mile to help family members, in so many different ways.

We received a grand total of 20 nominations for Magnificent Me this time around – it would be great to up this even further next time around! Well done to one and all.







## ***Health & Safety Audit***

We were visited by Mr T Gowans last week, for our bi-annual **Health and Safety Inspection**.

We are delighted with the outcomes and feedback, which included the words ‘**wonderful**’ and ‘**excellent**’ – music to our ears!

**Very well done to Mr Derbyshire for his huge role in this.**

Our outdoor **planters** are needing some **TLC – or ideally, taken down and replaced**. If you, or anyone you know can **help us** with this (**cheaply!**) – we’d love to hear from you.

# ***Imminent Staffing Changes***



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## ***Maternity Leaves & P4/5 Cover***

We are pleased to let you know that Mrs Hunter will return to work from her year of maternity leave, on Monday 08 December. From now until June 2026, Mrs Hunter will not work her full-time contract – she will return three days per week, for the time being.

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On Monday 05 January 2026, Mrs Guthrie's maternity leave begins. Mrs Guthrie continues to work hard this term, but we know she will be delighted to get her feet up come January (for a short time at least). We thank her for her consistent hard work, determination and resilience throughout the school session so far and wish her all the very best for her exciting new adventures ahead.

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We confirm today, that as of week beginning 05 January 2026, Mrs Hunter and Miss Colligan will share responsibility for the remainder of the school session for P4/5, with Miss Colligan responsible on the days that she is not committed to P7 (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) and Mrs Hunter responsible on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Continuity and consistency in the children's learning will continue to be given top priority, and time for collaboration and handover factored in this side of Christmas.



# Christmas Extravaganza (Thursday 11 December 2025) – Reminders



- We would be grateful to receive **raffle, tombola and hamper donations by Friday 05 December** at the latest, please. *(Original date was 04 Dec but we can still accept tomorrow!)*
- **Second deadline for ticket requests is Friday 05 December at 9AM.** This may need to close earlier if tickets sell out on 'first come, first served' option for extra tickets. Maximum request is for 2 tickets. **Payment must be made by the deadline (includes any amended deadline that we need to announce).** Raffle orders can be accepted in line with this too.
- As of **Monday 08 December, we are looking for home baking donations.** Items will be carefully and safely bagged in school ready for home consumption, and carefully labelled, to highlight that the items are home-made, not shop bought. If you are a home-baker, please bear in mind that we are a nut free school.
- **Doors will open on the day (11 Dec) at 9.15am** and pupils will begin their **performance at 9.30am**, sharp. Please be sure to be here on time. Buggies will not be permitted in the hall or foyer – sorry, we won't have the space.

# ***December Dates***



- **Thursday 04 December** – Christmas Lunch (as per orders placed)
- **Friday 05 December, 9am** - Ticket & Payment Deadlines (*may need to be brought forward*)
- **Thursday 11 December, 9.30am** – Christmas Extravaganza
- **Monday 15 December, 1.00pm** – P1 to P3 Christmas Party
- **Tuesday 16 December, 1.00pm** – P4 to P7 Christmas Party
- **Wednesday 17 December, 9.30am** – Whole School Panto in hall (treat for all children – Hopscotch Theatre perform Wizard of Oz)
- **Thursday 18 December, 9.30am** – Christmas Carols Coffee Morning – All welcome. Free entry, refreshments and some festive cheer with our children singing
- **Friday 19 December** – Non Uniform Day (children are welcome to wear Christmas jumpers, if desired, but not requested as part of non uniform day)
- **Friday 19 December** – School closes at 2.30pm for Festive Break (and re-opens at 9am 05 January 26)

***Merry Christmas, One and All*** 💙 🎄 ⭐ 🎄 💙