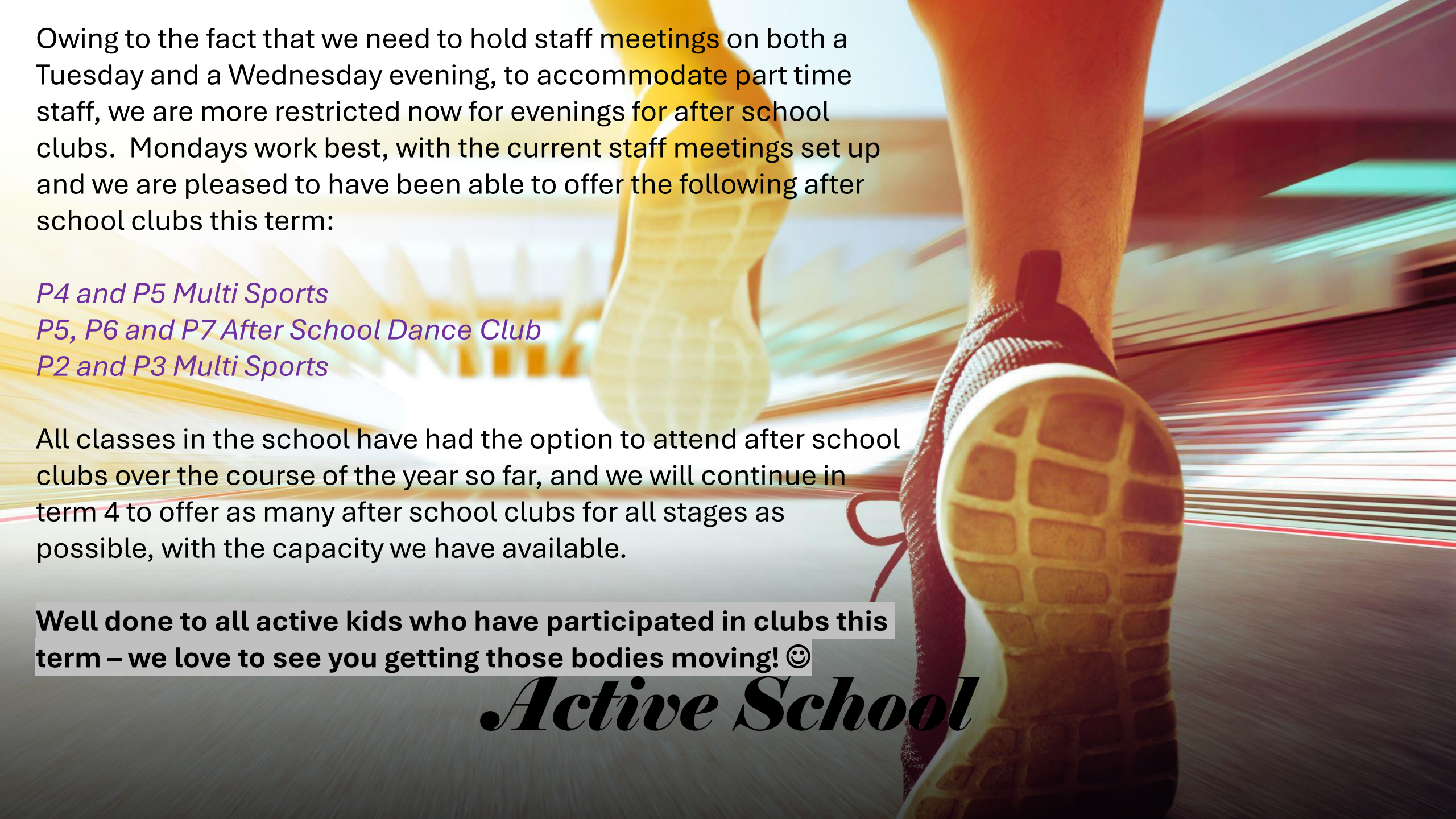


Team Carstairs

NEWSLETTER – TERM 3

JANUARY – APRIL, 2026





Owing to the fact that we need to hold staff meetings on both a Tuesday and a Wednesday evening, to accommodate part time staff, we are more restricted now for evenings for after school clubs. Mondays work best, with the current staff meetings set up and we are pleased to have been able to offer the following after school clubs this term:

P4 and P5 Multi Sports

P5, P6 and P7 After School Dance Club

P2 and P3 Multi Sports

All classes in the school have had the option to attend after school clubs over the course of the year so far, and we will continue in term 4 to offer as many after school clubs for all stages as possible, with the capacity we have available.

Well done to all active kids who have participated in clubs this term – we love to see you getting those bodies moving! 😊

Active School

Assemblies & Showcases

Thank you to all family members who have managed to come along to support our children's class showcases and assemblies this term.

P7 built Anderson shelters with a little help from their family members in January, P3 enjoyed helping their families get involved with some simple science experiments, P5/6 shared their learning about citizenship and democracy with their families and P1/2 did a great job when welcoming their families to share their learning about sustainability. Well done children.

Parents - Your engagement with these sessions gives a strong message to our children about the importance of school and their learning, and we are really grateful for your support – thank you.

The background features a complex network of glowing blue lines that intersect to form a grid-like pattern. Scattered throughout this network are numerous purple circles of varying sizes, some of which are connected to the lines, suggesting nodes in a network or data points. The overall aesthetic is digital and interconnected.

Carstairs Connect

In keeping with our strong desire to have you as engaged as possible in your child's learning, we continue to run our Carstairs Connect sessions – your opportunity to work 1:1 with your child on an aspect of his / her class based learning.

**Carstairs Connect
2025/26**

Further to our pre-Christmas Carstairs Connect sessions, this term we have welcomed P1 and P2 families to work on developing aspects of children's literacy. All classes have now completed their sessions. Thank you to all families who managed to come along – we hope you found them helpful.

The point of these sessions is to keep you informed and to support you to support your child – however, you don't need to wait to meet us at these times, or Parents' Evenings! If you need any help or advice around support with any aspect of your child's learning, please don't hesitate to get in touch – we are here to help! Remember the homework diaries can be used as a communication tool with your child's teacher at any time too.



STAFF TRAINING

In-service Day – Trauma Training

On our in-service day in February, our whole staff team undertook a full morning of training based on recognising and supporting trauma responses.

Staff engaged wholeheartedly in this training, with all clearly committed to doing the best we can to support and nurture one and all to the very best of our ability.

This training took time away from time developing targets identified in this year's school improvement plan, but we felt it was necessary and a really good use of time. 😊

This training further complements training completed over the last two school sessions linked to nurturing our children – specifically work we have done on *Barnardos Invisible Backpack* and Education Scotland's *Circle Framework*.



*Anti
Discrimination*

As part of our school improvement plan developments this session, we have continued to work on further enhancing our anti-discrimination curriculum.

In February, we had a particular focus on Black History and anti-racism. We welcomed staff from the charity Show Racism the Red Card to work with our younger learners and they were met with high praise from Kayla, our visitor. We hope that lots of you had the chance to view our children's anti-racism focused work displayed in our open area when you visited for parents' evening.

We have invested in a variety of new storybooks and texts that strongly support our anti-discrimination drive and help staff to teach these themes, year round. Some of these were also on display for you at parents' evening – but we have left this available in our foyer for anyone who may have missed it, so it can be perused at other times too.

We also continue to display our health and wellbeing curricular updates in the school foyer for your perusal, in case you missed it at parents' evening.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT



Assembly – Anti Discrimination Focus

Many of our assembly times this term have also helped us to further extend our anti-discrimination agenda. Themes children have learned about include:

Standing up against bullying of any kind

International Women's Day

Famous and inspirational civil rights activists

Our children's responses in these assemblies have been most encouraging. We ask our families to keep reinforcing anti-discrimination messages within the community. Our children know the answers in theory – and we need your help to ensure that they implement the answers in real life too. 😊

An aerial, top-down view of a swimming pool. The pool is divided into several lanes by dark blue lane lines. A swimmer is visible in the top lane, moving towards the right. The water is a clear, bright blue, and the lane lines are marked with small, colorful floats. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

Swimming

Swimming



We are absolutely THRILLED to announce that after worrying about how we were going to fund our P6 children's swimming this year (*we normally fully fund this and couldn't afford to this year*), we spoke with our Parent Partnership about this and lots of community support ideas were generated. Our worry was needless, because as soon as our community knew some help was needed, they dug deep and were able to subsidise our funds, to help us cover the whole amount! We have not needed to charge P6 a penny for their block of swimming lessons that commenced this term. 😊

Thank you – P6 Swim for FREE 😊

We are so grateful to the Community Council, to Lodge Mauldslie, to a very generous, supportive family in our community and to our local church for the extra help that we received to top up our own school pots, to get this block of learning over the line for free for P6.

It is so humbling to have our community so willingly help us in this way. Thank you to all Parent Partnership members who were ‘in the know’ with local ideas and to all sources who have offered us this hugely appreciated financial support. Your kindness really matters to us. Thank you.

Please watch out for our Parent Partnership’s latest fundraising venture commencing in Tesco Lanark – please add your blue tokens to our cause when you see it appear!





HT Honour Roll



Term 3 Winners



Drum roll,
please.....

HT Honour Roll

Congratulations to:

Ailie (P2), **Isla** (P3), **Bella** (P5),
Ella (P6) and **Luca** (P7)

All were recognised for their excellent and consistent demonstration of our school values this term. Well done to all!

Educational Excursions in March Base 1

We were so proud of P1/2 when they visited a local farm, through a partnership link with RHET (Royal Highland Education Trust). Our children were enthralled while they learned about all that goes on at Grangehall Farm, with impeccable listening and manners – they did us all proud. Very well done to all children and thank you to all staff from RHET and from our staff team, who made sure the children had a wonderful time.

We hope you enjoy the action shots that follow here. 😊







Educational Excursions in March Base 5

P5/6 also excelled during their recent educational excursion to Edinburgh.

Following on from a series of learning about democracy, citizenship and persuasive dialogue, they visited the Scottish Parliament and even had a go at debating with a real-life MSP in the chamber! A special well done to Ralph, who rose to this debating occasion very well indeed! Following a very interesting morning, P5/6 went on to enjoy some a science workshop at Dynamic Earth, which was very well received.

Our children took our school values on their travels with them, and demonstrated effort, respect, confidence and kindness, as they learned throughout the day. Very well done, P5/6. A great way to end this block of learning – you proved yourselves to be very respectful citizens and we are proud of you.



Very well done, P5/6 – you aced your class assembly in March and then excelled during your excursion too. Well done and keep up the high standards. Super work. 😊 (The image below shows the children dining at Dynamic Earth before their workshop!)



P6 and P7 Cross Country

Unfortunately, we did not have the capacity within our team to offer after school training this year in preparation for participation in our annual cross country event.

However, we were very pleased to have so many children demonstrate their can-do attitudes and want to try their hand at cross country running when the opportunity was offered to participate in the Lanark Schools Cross Country Race at Lanark Racecourse.

We are very proud of all children who took the plunge and had a go – showing great effort and resilience as they did so.



255

130

402

129

3

394

125

2

4

3

1

255

252



We are delighted to let you know that **Olivia Taylor (P7)** came FIRST in her cross country race against many other P7 girls in Lanark.

She very comfortably took the GOLD – excelling in this field.

We say a **HUGE congratulations to Olivia**. This win led Olivia to her next level challenge.....

Olivia went on to represent our school again, in the SLC championship, racing against the cream of the crop from across the council – AND WON THE GOLD AGAIN – SO COMORTABLY! We are SO VERY PROUD of you, Olivia – keep up the excellence! What a shining STAR! 😊



P7 Enterprise Challenge

Work to set off P7 transition to Lanark Grammar for August 2026 has begun. P7 attended Lanark Grammar on Wednesday 18 March, working in groups with children from other schools in the catchment and successfully commencing their transition journey.

Work is ongoing in class, with Transition Missions (online lessons delivered by LGS staff) having also well underway.

P7 have made a very positive start to their engagement with LGS staff – keep this up as we work through the process over the coming months, P7! 😊

School Values Refresh

Our school vision statement:

Be safe, be happy, be all you can be

And our school values:

EFFORT RESPECT CONFIDENCE KINDNESS

.....are all very well established. These were originally formed in consultation with our school community in 2015 and again in refresh consultation, in more recent years. This work indicated that these remained appropriate, and we continue to stand by these as extremely important goals for all, at all times.

School Values Refresh

When I was interviewing children from P4 to P7 for Class Representative roles in January, their answers were wonderful and very clearly demonstrated the extent to which children hold these vision and values dear. When I asked children about what they would tell a visitor or new person to our school if they were to describe what Team Carstairs is all about, children very quickly touched on our school vision and values and this was great to hear!



This proof of how well established these are prompted me to recognise that it was time to add a fifth value – to make sure our core business of LEARNING – is given the high value that it too deserves. I discussed this with children in assembly and in a meeting with our class representatives, and it was agreed that we would have a re-vamp to launch our new High Five Values! Class Representatives suggested a logo competition to help us get the message out – this has taken place over the last few weeks. Well done to all children who entered.



School Values Refresh

Our vision statement remains the same:

- **Be safe, be happy, be all you can be**

As of March, Our High Five Values are:

- **LEARNING**
- **EFFORT**
- **RESPECT**
- **CONFIDENCE**
- **KINDNESS**

School Values Refresh – Competition

Georgia Lewis (P6) was our runner up, with this awesome school values logo design:



School Values Refresh – Competition

And **Elsie Abernethy** became our overall winner, with her fabulous school values logo design (see overleaf).

Elsie's design will be made into professionally printed posters and displayed around our school and community as a daily reminder of our all important HIGH FIVE VALUES.

Elsie's design including balloons helps us to also promote the message that adhering to and demonstrating these five values creates UPLIFT for everyone and helps them to FLY HIGH in their education.

School Values Refresh – Competition

ELSIE ABERNETHY (P5) was our WINNER, with this awesome school values logo design:





*Dance Festival – Lanark Memorial
Hall*

We are so proud of all P5, P6 and P7 learners who, following their high commitment to Mrs Casserly's after school dance club, performed with gusto at Lanark Memorial Hall at the Active Schools Dance Festival in March. THEY WERE AWESOME.

They went on to dazzle us again with their dance, when they opened our Art Gallery this week too – with their exploration of diversity through dance.

What a joyful routine, children! Very well done!

And a HUGE well done and thank you to Mrs Casserly for all of her brilliant choreography and teaching of the routine – just wonderful.





Very well done to all of our readers who guided us through the Easter Story in Carstairs Parish Church yesterday. All did an excellent job. Thank you to all who came along to support our Easter service, and to hear our children's wonderful singing in church. We are so proud of all of our children and we hope that those in attendance enjoyed the service.

Easter Service

Art Gallery

It was a pleasure to welcome our church service attendees, and a few others, back to school following our visit to church. We loved showing off our dancers again – and giving the children the chance to share ‘Everyday People’ with you – one of our favourite assembly songs, as well as our children’s wonderful PEOPLE themed art work. We hope you agree that our ‘celebrate diversity’ drive has been shared with you in a vibrant way over these last few weeks. We are proud of all of our children’s efforts and we are grateful for your support.





This Is Me





Upcoming Events & Diary Dates

- Spring Break – School CLOSED Friday 3 April and RE-OPENS 9am, Monday 20 April.
- P6 Swimming resumes Thursday 23 April.
- Dates for April to June 2026 will be issued in week 1 of term 4.

***Spring Break now begins! See you on
Monday 20 April – until then, have a great
break! 😊***

