



Canberra Primary and Nursery Class
Newsletter no.6

January 2025

Message from Mrs Heasman



Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year from everyone at Canberra! We hope that everyone enjoyed Christmas and had a relaxing break.

We are excited to begin what we consider the 'big learning' term! There are minimal interruptions and the children are confident and well settled into their routines and classwork. This means that they are most receptive to making progress in their learning! We look forward to sharing this progress at Parent/Carer consultations at the end of February.

In January we have a whole school focus on Scotland and Scots with the children having opportunities to hear and read poems, songs and other texts by Scottish writers/about Scotland. We also look forward to welcoming families to our Burns Show (P1-7) on Thursday 23rd January. More information about this will be sent home very soon. Nursery will join in the fun by enjoy their own celebration, tasting foods and learning about everything Scottish!

January is often seen as a dark and depressing month but we are taking a positive approach with a focus on moving from the dark of the Winter into the light of the Spring, as we gain 2 minutes of light every day since the shortest day on 21st December! We hope that January will be a positive and fruitful month for all of our families!

Best wishes

Angela Heasman

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Dates for your diary



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- 13.1.25 *Parent Council meeting 6.30pm (all welcome)*
 - 23.1.25 *Burns Show 6pm*
 - 3.2.25 *Parent Council meeting 6.30pm (all welcome)*
 - 27.2.25 *Parent/Carer Consultations*
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August 2025 Primary 1 enrolment



Children who are aged 5 between 1st March 2025 and the end of February 2026 are required to be registered for starting school in August 2025, by completing an online registration form

which will be available from Monday 6th January. The form can be accessed by pasting the link below into a search engine, or by visiting South Lanarkshire Council's website. All children should be enrolled with their catchment school in the first instance, even if the child is to be deferred or a placing request is sought.

southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/392/enrolling_your_child_for_school

A catchment checker and information on how to request a deferral or placing request, along with associated forms can be found by following the link or visiting the website.

The catchment school will contact families week beginning 13th January to check the details of the enrolment and the documents provided to support the enrolment.

Please note that the documents accepted are:

Full birth certificate (this can be purchased from the registry office if parents/carers don't have the original)

2 official proofs of residence (preferably no older than 6 months) e.g. bank statement which show the address being in the school catchment area (this must be in the name of the person enrolling the child).

Enrolment will only be completed once these documents have been checked.

Attendance

Good attendance at school is crucial if children are to attain and achieve. Absence, no matter the reason, can impact negatively on wellbeing, feelings of belonging, learning and progress. Poor attendance has been linked to lower levels of attainment, difficulties with friendships, emotional and behavioural needs and poorer post school opportunities including employment.

At Canberra we follow South Lanarkshire Council's policy on ensuring good attendance at school.

Mrs Gourlay implements the attendance policy and will inform parents/carers if their child's attendance has fallen below the acceptable levels set by the Council. We aim for a proactive

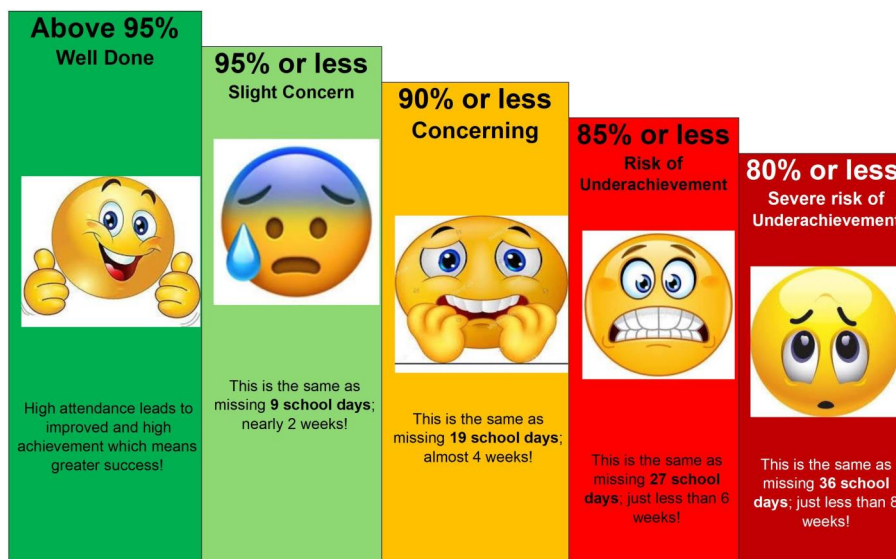
and supportive approach and Mrs Gourlay works with families to support their child's attendance where this is causing difficulty.

Holidays should not be taken during term time and will be marked as unauthorised (except in very exceptional circumstances). Teaching and learning progresses' quickly in school and your child is likely to miss key concepts and skills which they then have to catch up. This can be challenging for them as they strive to learn the current learning as well as that which they have missed, often with reduced input from the teacher who is engaged in delivering current learning experiences. This can negatively impact confidence, self-esteem and self belief and hinders progress.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have an concerns about your child's attendance or would like our support in helping them come consistently to nursery or school.

Please see the infographic below from South Lanarkshire Council, which illustrates the impact of low attendance (school only).

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Parent Council

The Parent Council supports the school by helping with decision making and raising funds.

They meet regularly and are an important part of school life. All parents/carers from Nursery-P7 are eligible to join the Parent Council. If you would like to find out more about the Parent Council and the work that it does please come along to a meeting, in the school, on the first Monday of the month, attending won't commit you to joining, but will hopefully provide you with the information that you need to make a decision about whether participating is for you!

Remaining Parent Council meeting dates for 2024-25 are as follows:

13.1.25 Meeting 6.30-8.00pm

3.2.25 Meeting 6.30-8.00pm

3.3.25 Meeting 6.30-8.00pm

6.5.25 Meeting 6.30-8.00pm

tbc Summer Fair

2.6.25 Meeting 6.30-8.00pm
