

Glengowan Primary School and Nursery Class



Newsletter - October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Term 2 at Glengowan. My next request may seem early. Children should not wear any festive items such as hair bands, santa hats or jewellery until after the Christmas Fayre. As we approach December, I know that many children get very excited and this is not about stopping anyone having fun. Your support is appreciated.

Parents Portal

The parents/carers of new children should have received information about Parents Portal. If your child came from another school that uses this system, the log in should have transferred over. Please note that Parents Portal is the main method of communication between school and home. If you have any problems, our office staff can assist you.

Pupil voice - Budget

Each of our houses now have a captain and two vice captains. One of their first tasks was to discuss how to support families affected by poverty as 5% (£2538) of our pupil equity funding has to be part of a consultation. I am really proud of their level of maturity during this discussion. Most of the suggestions involved having enough adults and technology in school to support children with learning. They agreed to putting the following two ideas out for a vote:

- 1. Have additional staff to support children's learning in small groups or one-to one.*
- 2. Increase the number of Chromebooks we have, so that they can be borrowed by children who don't have computer access at home.*



Parents/carers are asked to vote on these ideas via the link.
[Pupil Equity Funding \(£2538\) - Parental Questionnaire – Fill in form](#)



Hello! This is Sumdog, and our school will be using it to help your child with their learning.

What is Sumdog?

Sumdog is an online learning tool which provides personalised maths and spelling practice that children love. It adapts questions to each child, using engaging games to build their confidence, and it's been shown to accelerate progress.



Making learning fun

Sumdog helps children to practise regularly, combining questions from the curriculum with fun mini games. The games are non-violent, child friendly and highly engaging - children don't even realise they are learning! For every correct answer, children are rewarded with coins to spend on their avatar or Sumdog house. And every time a child masters a new skill, their pet learns a new trick!

The work is ready - your child just needs to log in

Your child's teacher may set focused work on topics they've learned, which will pop up when they log in or you can check their 'task list'. If the teacher hasn't set any work - no problem! Sumdog automatically chooses the topic for your child, based on an initial diagnostic test.



Shown to accelerate progress

Sumdog has been developed with the help of teachers and educational experts around the world and has shown additional progress and increased confidence in children. Focus groups and questionnaires guide our pedagogy and consultations from independent experts and data analysis help refine our educational algorithms.

Parents can join in too

You can play games with them, encourage them and even choose your own topics to focus on. Parent subscription information can be found on our website.



Get started now

Sumdog can be accessed on a computer, mobile or tablet. Go to www.sumdog.com or download the free Sumdog app which is available on Apple, Android or Amazon.

Your child's username and password will be sent home by the class teacher.



Keeping your child safe

Sumdog follows best practices in GDPR and data security, and does not support communication between pupils.



Mrs Kilgallon's Update

Introducing Our Young Leaders of Learning Programme

*We are excited to share that this term we will be launching a **Young Leaders of Learning** team. A small group of pupils (5 in total) have applied, and this week we will confirm who they are. These students will take on a special role in helping shape the learning experience for all.*

What is the Young Leaders of Learning Programme?

The Young Leaders of Learning (YLL) Programme was originally developed by Education Scotland to give children and young people a real voice in their education and to involve them in school improvement in a meaningful way.

Rather than being passive recipients of decisions, pupils selected as Young Leaders:

- *conduct reciprocal visits to other schools to observe what works well and bring back ideas for improvement*
- *work collaboratively with staff and fellow learners to identify priorities and lead small-scale improvement projects*

Why is this important?

Introducing student voice in this structured way brings many benefits:

- *It develops confidence, communication skills, responsibility, and organisational abilities in the young leaders themselves*
- *It helps the school become more inclusive and responsive, because improvements originate from within the school community, not just from adults*
- *It aligns with the principles of respecting children's views: giving pupils the opportunity to express ideas, listen to others, and take part in decision-making*
- *It builds a culture of continuous reflection and improvement, in which staff and pupils work in partnership toward shared goals*

We see this as an exciting opportunity for the pupils — and for the school as a whole — to grow together. We will support our Young Leaders with training, mentorship, and regular time to reflect on their progress and plans.

If you'd like to learn more about how it's been run elsewhere, you can visit the Education Scotland Parent Zone page:

[Young Leaders of Learning – Information for Parents and Carers](#)

Mrs Allison's Update

Our children have had lots of opportunities to take part in sporting festivals this term. Both our boys' and girls' football teams have been on fire this season — bagging countless goals and showing off some seriously slick passing and defending. Our netballers delivered amazing performances in recent matches and festivals. With sharp shooting, quick footwork, and clever interceptions, we are also the unbeaten champions of the shooting competitions. Speed, strength, and stamina were on full display at the recent Sports Hall Athletics event. Our pupils showed super athleticism in sprint races, obstacle relays, and field events. From long jumps to chest pushes, they gave it their all. We're looking forward to continuing this fantastic sporting spirit and success throughout the rest of the session!



Sports Hall Athletics



Football



Netball

The last Friday Athletics club is on 21st November. This club will resume in January. Thank you to the volunteers from Larkhall YMCA.

Community Cafe Announcement from Mrs Inglis

We're thrilled to announce the upcoming launch of our **Glengowan Community Cafe**, a welcoming space for parents, carers and friends of the school. Join us on a **Friday 21st of November from 2:15 pm to 2:45 pm** in the **school canteen**. It's the perfect opportunity to take a few minutes for yourself, grab a **cuppa and a chat**, meet other parents, share experiences, and connect with the school in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere before the end of the school day. We can't wait to welcome you!



Tombola Donations



In preparation for our Christmas Fayre, we will be having a dress down/non-uniform day on Friday the 14th of November. There is no charge or monetary donation for taking part. However, please consider donating a tombola prize on that day. These can be handed, by your child, to the class teacher or dropped off at the main office. These donations will be used at our Christmas Fayre at the end of November. Thank you for your support.

As I left my office one day this week, I met a very enthusiastic group from our Nursery Class. They were on their Halloween Treasure Hunt.



A large red arrow pointing upwards and to the right.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

*Every session, we have to set our school improvement priorities for the coming year. These are selected as a result of self-evaluation.
Our priorities for 2025/26 are as follows:*

Strategic Priority 1: *Implement the Verbal-Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract (VCPA) approach from Nursery to P7.*

- *This priority is about improving the teaching of Numeracy and Mathematics.*

Strategic Priority 2: *Develop our curriculum with a focus on Dance and Drama.*

- *This priority was selected as part of our cycle of curriculum refreshment.*

Strategic Priority 3: *Work towards creating an Attachment-Informed, Trauma Sensitive Establishment. Pledge Awards :- See the whole person.*

- *We achieved our first award last session and are continuing on this journey.*

Strategic Priority 4: *Create a strategy to ensure that children exceeding age-related expectations are challenged further.*

- *We will address the need to challenge many of our children further in literacy and numeracy.*

*Teaching staff have been assigned professional reading for Priority 1.
Development work for priorities 2-4 started a few weeks ago. Parents/carers will be kept updated about our school improvement.*

Our Vision

*At Glengowan, we want our pupils to become independent learners
who reach their full potential.*

P1/7 Buddying

Our P1 and P7 children have started buddying together. They have been enjoying getting to know each other through play, arts and crafts. This week, the Primary 1s made wicked witches for Halloween, with the help of their P7 buddies. Great work everyone!



Bus Bay

School buses, including after school care, must get access to the bus bay. Please do not block entry and please pass this information on to anyone who collects your child from school.

Important dates

<i>Tuesday 4th November (am)</i>	<i>Nursery Stay and Play</i>
<i>Thursday 6th November (pm)</i>	<i>Nursery Stay and Play</i>
<i>Monday 10th November</i>	<i>In-service Day. School and Nursery Class closed to children.</i>
<i>Thursday 13th November</i>	<i>7pm Family Bingo Night</i>
<i>Friday 14th November</i>	<i>Dress Down Day - Tombola Prizes</i>
<i>Friday 21st November</i>	<i>Community Cafe at 2.15pm. Parents/carers and wider family members welcome.</i>
<i>Friday 28th November</i>	<i>Christmas Fayre (evening)</i>

*Yours faithfully,
Graeme Murray
Head Teacher*