

Glengowan Primary School and Nursery Class



Newsletter - November 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

November has been another busy month at Glengowan. It will probably seem calm when compared to the full calendar in December.

Family Bingo Night

I love putting on that gold waistcoat and calling the numbers. We are always so well supported on these evenings. My thanks to the organisers and all who attended. £523 was raised.

Community Cafe Update by Mrs Inglis

A huge thank you to everyone who came along to our very first Community Cafe. We are absolutely delighted with the fantastic support shown, and the positive feedback we've received has been wonderful to hear. We especially want to thank the Parent Group for all of their support in running the event and our excellent P7 helpers. Based on this brilliant response, we fully intend to run the cafe again in January. A date for our January event will be shared soon.





Learning is my superpower...





[www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/
attendance](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/attendance)

#EverySchoolDayMatters





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

Young Leaders of Learning

This week I met with our Young Leaders of Learning to chat about their role in school and what they're hoping to achieve this year. They were full of ideas, enthusiasm, and a real sense of responsibility about helping to make our school an even better place for everyone.

We're really looking forward to working with our partner schools, Wiston and Libberton Primary. We've already set up a Google Meet so the teams can get to know each other, and it was great to see how excited the pupils were to connect with others doing the same role.

Over the next few weeks, the young leaders will be creating a shared Book Creator project. This will include information about who they are, what makes our school special, and what they'd like to focus on improving. It will also help our partner schools learn more about us before we begin reciprocal visits later in the year.

The team will be using the How Good Is OUR School? guidance to help them think about what we do well and what we could do better. Their ideas will help shape real improvements, and they'll have the chance to lead small projects, gather feedback, and see the impact of their work.

It's a brilliant opportunity for pupils to build confidence, work in partnership with other schools, and have a genuine say in how our school grows and improves. I'm excited to see what they come up with!

Can you help?

Our Young Leaders of Learning would like to produce a short video about the school. They are keen to get some aerial footage of the building. If anyone has a drone with this capability and could maybe help them out, please contact Mrs Kilgallon via the main office.



Mrs Allison's Update

It's been a busy and exciting time for sport at our school!

- **Girls' Football** – Our girls' team is leading the way and remain unbeaten in their festivals – what an achievement!
- **Boys' Football** – The boys enjoyed a trip to Newton Farm Primary where they played against teams from Cambuslang.
- **Netball** – The netball team took part in the festival, showing off not only their skills but also fantastic sportsmanship.
- **Athletics** – Our athletics pupils attended another Sportshall Athletics event and made us very proud with their effort and attitude.
- **P3/4 Multisports Club** – The after-school club was a huge hit! It was so popular we couldn't fit everyone in, but don't worry – we'll run it again after Christmas so more children can join.
- **Mixed Martial Arts** – Rivals Gym visited to deliver a taster session for P3–7 pupils. Everyone had great fun trying something new!

We are proud of all our pupils for their energy, enthusiasm, and the way they represent our school in every sport.



Nursery Update

Our Nursery children have taken part in two Stay and Play sessions this term, both of which were extremely well attended. It was wonderful to see so many families engaging with the activities and sharing in their children's learning. The feedback from parents and carers has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are delighted that these sessions continue to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

We are also pleased to welcome Hannah Smith to the Nursery team on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Hannah is part of the peripatetic team for Early Years and will be working with us to review the tracking and monitoring processes in Nursery, as well as support our development work linked to the Quality Improvement Framework for the Early Learning and Childcare sector. Hannah has already settled in well and is very much part of our team.



People Who Help Us

We were delighted learn all about how the police help us in our community.



Attendance

At Glengowan Primary School we value excellent attendance and recognise the connection between regular attendance at school and the attainment and achievement of our children. A focus for all Scottish schools is to improve attendance. Therefore, attendance is a key priority within our schools. Our target being that pupils should attend for at least 95% of the session and should not be late for school. We understand that sometimes children cannot attend school due to ill health. However, we are keen to work in partnership with parents/carers to enable all children to attend school as much as possible.

Why is good school attendance so important?

- All children have a right to an education and the legal responsibility to provide children with an education lies with their parents/carers.
- When children are absent from school, whatever the cause, this disrupts their learning and can have a significant impact on their future life opportunities.
- Poor attendance can affect attainment levels, relationships with peers, wellbeing and emotional resilience.

Days off school add up to lost learning.					
190 days of education each year.	Up to 10 days absence (2 weeks) 180 days of education	Up to 20 days absence (4 weeks) 170 days of education	Up to 30 days absence (6 weeks) 160 days of education	Up to 38 days absence (7 ½ weeks). One day for every week at school. 152 days of education	More than 39 days absence
100%	95% - 99%	90% - 94%	85% - 89%	80% - 84%	Less than 80%
Excellent	Very Good	Slight Concern	Concerning	Risk of Underachievement	Severe Risk of Underachievement
All children have the 'Right to an Education' (UNCRC Article 28)					

Every school day counts. Even a few days off can quickly add up to weeks of lost learning, making it harder for children to keep up with their work, routines, and friendships.



*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.*

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

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

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

****Important update****

Due to an enthusiastic staff team, our 2nd priority has been completed by a small working group. This group has started development work on our Health and Wellbeing curriculum. Furthermore, we have started the mammoth task of reviewing and updating our planning for Numeracy and Mathematics. And finally, our improved approach to the teaching of writing, which many of you will remember from a few years ago, is being revamped to ensure high quality teaching in all classes from P1-7. Again, this is a huge task, but should increase pupil attainment further.



Our Vision



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

Junior Road Safety Officer (JRSO) Competition



Listen With your ear,



Keep the Bus Bay Clear!

BUSES ONLY

MAKE
NO FUSS
...



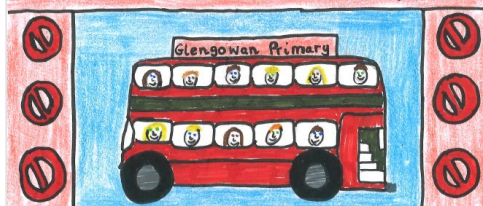
LEAVE SPACE FOR THE BUS!

Keep Clear the



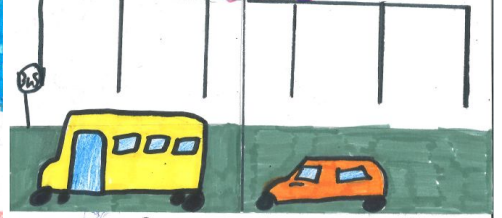
Bus Parks here

DONT BE A PAIN



STAY OUT THE BUS LANE

Bus ✓ Cars ✗
THERE ARE PARKING SPACES FOR A REASON!



Keep the bus bay clear!



DONT BLOCK THE Bus
LANE



Keep it clear so there
is no fear!



please do
Not park
Here!



Our Junior Road Safety Officers organised a competition recently. Children were asked to create a sign that reminds adults to keep our bus bay clear at busy times. The children who created these ten entries were awarded a certificate. It was very difficult for the JRSOs to get down to the final ten. I very much like my hairstyle in one of the entries.

WE KNOW YOUR IN A HURRY



BUT DONT UPSET MR MURRAY

JRSO



Primary 7 have been learning all about World War One. After seeing and hearing about Miss Richardson's Great-Grandfather's WW1 medals, some of the children were able to bring their own medals in.

The boys and girls brought medals and badges in from their family members who had fought in wars, ranging from Great-Great-Grandfathers to Dads!

Well done Primary 7.



Last week was Book Week Scotland! As part of this exciting week, children throughout the school celebrated their love for reading by taking part in Reading for Pleasure activities in class. Our Junior Librarians were the stars of the show, as they led engaging Book Bag gifting session with our infant classes. We hope everyone is enjoying their books at home.

Christmas Fayre 2025



Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fayre on Friday 28th November. I am so grateful to our Parent Group for their dedication and the many hours of preparation. So many of our staff team also give up their time to support the wider life of the school.



Dress Down Day - Friday 19th December

No need for uniform on the last day of term.

P7's Christmas Party is in the morning.

Please remember that the school closes earlier than usual (2.30pm) on the last day.

Important dates



<i>Wednesday 10th December</i>	<i>Christmas Lunch</i>
<i>Thursday 11th December</i>	<i>P1 Christmas Party (pm)</i>
<i>Friday 12th December</i>	<i>Nursery Christmas Sing along (9.30)</i>
<i>Friday 12th December</i>	<i>P2 Christmas Party (pm)</i>
<i>Monday 15th December</i>	<i>Pantomime (am)</i>
<i>Monday 15th December</i>	<i>P3 Party (pm)</i>
<i>Tuesday 16th December</i>	<i>Nativity Performance (am)</i>
<i>Tuesday 16th December</i>	<i>P4 Party (pm)</i>
<i>Wednesday 17th December</i>	<i>Nativity Performance (am)</i>
<i>Wednesday 17th December</i>	<i>P5 Party (pm)</i>
<i>Thursday 18th December</i>	<i>Nativity Performance (am)</i>
<i>Thursday 18th December</i>	<i>P6 Party (pm)</i>
<i>Thursday 18th December</i>	<i>Nursery Party (pm)</i>
<i>Friday 19th December</i>	<i>P7 Party (am)</i>
<i>Friday 19th December</i>	<i>2.30pm Close</i>

P1-7 Christmas Parties

Children who have a party in the afternoon can either go home to change into different clothes or bring these clothes in the morning. Time will be allocated at lunchtime for the children to get changed. If your child is going home, he/she can be collected at the main office at 12 noon.

Yours faithfully,
Graeme Murray
Head Teacher



www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/attendance

#EverySchoolDayMatters

