

Glengowan Primary School and Nursery Class



Newsletter - August 2026

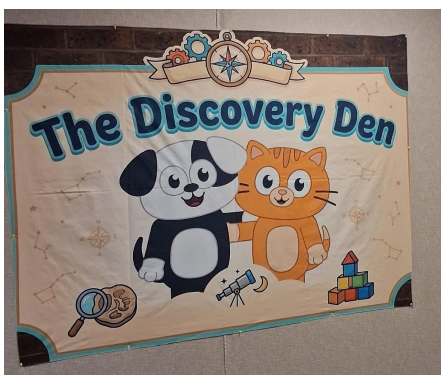
Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the first term of 2026-27. A special welcome is extended to new children and families to the school, both in the primary stages and our Nursery Class. It would be fair to say that it hasn't been the smoothest of starts to a new school year. Many new members of our staff team, both permanent and temporary, joined us, some with very little notice. These initial challenges are now easing and routines are being established. Bringing 7 new teachers to the school has highlighted the unique ways Glengowan operates. These include staggered entry/exit, managing 300 plus children at lunchtime, homework routines and the various curriculum resources we use. I ask that you are patient. This will all settle in the weeks ahead.

Relationships and behaviour

It is important that your child understands that instructions must be followed. For example, responding to a fire alarm is not optional or a discussion point. There are many examples of situations where children's views are sought at Glengowan. A current example would be the maths group I work with one morning per week. Our focus will be addressing concerns the children have about difficult mathematical concepts. Their views will inform our shared action plan. However, there has to be an understanding that throughout the day, the adults make decisions that aim to keep everyone safe and learning.

To end this section on a positive note, I must highlight that the number of children who say 'thank you', hold open doors for others and ask me how my day is going is very high. I never take for granted the positive interactions in the corridors, in the canteen or at the school gate.



Coming soon

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Glengowan Parent Group and the support of our school community, a new learning area is under construction.



Busy summer

Our janitor, Tom rarely seems to take a rest. During the summer holiday, while also covering janitorial duties in other buildings, he managed to shampoo every classroom carpet. On top of that, many of the walls were repaired and painted. We are all very grateful for his commitment to Glengowan. He even manages to fit in two after-school football training sessions for P6 and P7 children.

Curriculum changes

The terms 'History' and 'Geography' are not widely used in Scottish primary schools. Although the children learn about people, past events, places & environment, the subject names are rarely referred to. This is about to change. I have made the decision that we will be clearer about what subject heading a particular topic comes under. My hope is that the children will be able to talk about and have a better understanding of the terms history and geography. Furthermore, I have instructed our teaching staff to be bold with the selection of topics and projects. In essence, I want all children to learn a lot of new information and about topics we may never have taught before at Glengowan. Our main focus will be increasing the children's subject knowledge and vocabulary. Apologies in advance if you are bombarded with information about The Titanic, The Tudors or the 1980s.

Label Everything!

Please label all items belonging to your child. It is much easier to reunite missing items with your child if a name is present.

This includes:

- *Sweatshirts/Cardigans*
- *Packed Lunch Boxes*
- *Water bottles*

Unless previously agreed, there should be no dogs on school grounds. Unfortunately, we have had a few incidents recently where adults have been asked to leave our grounds. To avoid any embarrassment, please let anyone who collects your child know about this.

Mrs Kilgallon's Update

Welcome to the new school year! Our primary 1 pupils have had an outstanding start, settling into school life with remarkable confidence, enthusiasm, and big smiles.

It is always a significant milestone to step into primary school, but our newest learners have taken it entirely in their stride. They are already thriving within their new routines, exploring their classrooms with curiosity, and building wonderful new friendships. From navigating the school building to engaging brilliantly in their first group activities, their energy and positive attitudes have brought a fantastic warmth to our whole school community.

Key Highlights from Their First Few Weeks:

- **Mastering New Routines:** The children have adapted quickly to the rhythm of the school day, showing great independence during morning drop-offs, line-ups, and lunchtime routines.
- **Making Friends & Play:** Playground time has been full of energy, with pupils actively encouraging one another, sharing toys, and creating new games together.
- **Eager Explorers:** Classroom activities are already in full swing, with our P1s demonstrating impressive focus during storytime, creative arts, and hands-on learning tasks.

A heartfelt thank you goes to our wonderful P1 parents and carers for supporting such a smooth transition.

We extend a huge, special thank you to our fantastic nursery team, who spent the first few weeks working alongside our primary staff to support the children as they settled into their new classrooms. Their familiar faces provided invaluable comfort and continuity during those important early days. Now that our P1s are feeling secure and independent, the nursery team has returned to the nursery to guide our newest intake through their own transition!

We are incredibly proud of our Primary 1 pupils and look forward to watching them grow, learn, and succeed throughout the rest of the year.





Mrs Allison's Update

It is absolutely lovely to be back and to see all of our children again! I am so excited to get started and to see all of the amazing adventures and sporting opportunities we have planned for this year.

We have already got off to a fantastic start with our Football Clubs, which are being run by the wonderful Tom. A huge thank you to Tom for giving up his time to provide these opportunities for our children two evenings a week. We really appreciate your time, enthusiasm and commitment!

Our P3 Multisports programme will begin this month and will run for four weeks. We are looking forward to getting our P3 children involved, trying lots of different sports and developing their skills along the way.

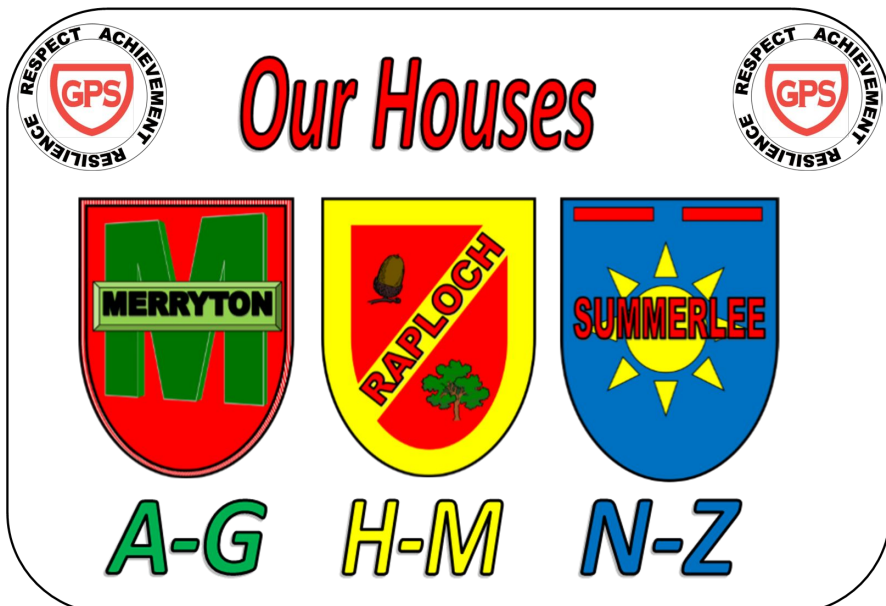
Our Netball Club will also be starting shortly, and we have some very exciting news regarding this to look forward to — watch this space!

Throughout the session, we have planned for our children to take part in lots of exciting sporting events and competitions. We are incredibly grateful to our Parent Group for providing us with the funds to make these opportunities possible. Your support allows our children to experience new activities, represent our school and, most importantly, have lots of fun!

It is shaping up to be an amazing session, and I cannot wait to get started. Here's to a year filled with teamwork, fun, new experiences and lots of sporting success!

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.



House System

All P1-7 children are placed in a House according to their surname. Children gain house points through curriculum certificates, competitions and our Sports Day.



We have 3 priorities for the coming session.

1. *Developing a coherent, whole-school approach to Health, Wellbeing, and RSHP.*
2. *Improving the teaching of numeracy and mathematics.*
3. *Further improve learning & teaching in P1-7 through consistent use of 'Effective Questioning'.*

Updates on our progress will be shared throughout the 2026/27 session.

Important dates



<i>10th and 11th September</i>	<i>Photographer</i>
<i>17th September</i>	<i>Family Bingo Night</i>
<i>24th September</i>	<i>P1-7 Open Morning</i>
<i>25th September</i>	<i>HOLIDAY</i>
<i>28th September</i>	<i>HOLIDAY</i>
<i>6th October</i>	<i>Nursery Parents' Evening</i>
<i>7th October</i>	<i>P1-7 Parents' Evening</i>
<i>8th October</i>	<i>P1-7 Parents' Evening</i>
<i>9th October</i>	<i>P4 Harvest Assembly</i>

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.

*Yours faithfully,
Graeme Murray
Head Teacher*

