Glengowan Primary School and Nursery Class

Newsletter - September & October 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

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.

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*

I am delighted to announce the opening of our new play area, The Discovery Den. After weeks planning, Primary One children now have access to this area. Mrs McBride has spent many hours moving furniture and setting up individual zones for the children. Once again, my thanks to the fundraising efforts of our Parent Group and our wider school community for providing the means to create such a great space. Many compliments were received from teachers who visited from the other schools in Larkhall last week.

Mrs Kilgallon's Update

At Glengowan Primary School, we believe that listening to our pupils is key to driving positive school development. Empowering children to take ownership of their learning, wellbeing, and environment builds confidence, responsibility, and a vibrant school community.

We are thrilled to share that our Pupil Leadership groups for Primary 4 to Primary 7 have now been chosen for the year ahead! The staff leading each group spent ages carefully reading through a huge volume of applications, and we only wish we could have selected everyone who applied—the level of enthusiasm and thought put into every single application was truly inspiring.

Here are the exciting groups and initiatives our young leaders will be heading up:

- ***Young Leaders of Learning:*** *Building on the brilliant success of last year's group, these pupils will continue to work alongside staff and peers to explore how we learn, visit classrooms, share good practice, and help make our learning experiences the very best they can be.*
- ***Wellbeing Ambassadors:*** *As we strive toward becoming an Attachment-Informed, Trauma-Sensitive school within South Lanarkshire, our Wellbeing Ambassadors play a crucial role. This team will focus on our next "Attachment Pledge," helping to create a welcoming, safe, and nurturing environment where every child feels valued, supported, and understood.*
- ***Rights Respecting School Group:*** *A brand-new group launching this year, these ambassadors will lead our journey toward the UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Award. They will help ensure that children's rights—as outlined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child—are understood, celebrated, and embedded throughout our everyday school life.*
- ***Reading Leadership Group:*** *Following a fantastic start to our reading initiatives, this group will be working hard to achieve the prestigious Silver Award with the Scottish Book Trust. They will promote a love of reading across all year groups by organizing book events, making recommendations, and keeping our school reading spaces fresh and inspiring.*
- ***P7 SideKicks:*** *Our Primary 7 pupils are stepping up to support our younger learners during break times! Having completed dedicated training with our Active Schools Coordinator, the SideKicks will be out in the playground leading fun games, encouraging teamwork, and ensuring the outdoor space is inclusive and active for everyone.*

Congratulations once again to all our newly appointed Pupil Leaders, and a huge thank you to every pupil who took the time to apply. We can't wait to see the amazing impact our young leaders will make across our school community this year!

Reading Schools

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RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

Mrs Allison's Update

It has been another busy time for sporting activities at Glengowan!

*Our **Primary 3 pupils loved taking part in our Multi-Sports Club**, enjoying the opportunity to try lots of different activities and develop their skills. Our **Primary 4 Multi-Sports Club** has also got off to a flying start, with a fantastic uptake from our enthusiastic P4s! It is wonderful to see so many children keen to get involved, try new activities and develop their sporting skills.*

*Our **Netball Club** has also been a huge success! The children have been working hard, developing their skills and, most importantly, having lots of fun.* 🏐

*Our **Primary 7 pupils have now completed their Sidekicks training**, and cannot wait to put their skills into action. We have started our P1 Lunchtime Club which has been a huge success.*

*Our footballers have also been busy! **Tom has been putting our football teams through their paces**, helping them develop their skills and prepare to represent Glengowan at festivals. Our boys' football team recently attended a festival and had a fantastic time, winning **three games and drawing two!** The boys showed amazing teamwork, determination and good sportsmanship throughout the festival. We are incredibly proud of how they represented Glengowan!*

Once again, we would like to thank Tom for so willingly giving up his time to support our pupils and provide them with these fantastic opportunities.

*Our **Athletics Club** is also in full swing, and the uptake has been incredible! We would also like to thank **Larkhall Harriers** for once again giving up their time so generously to provide our pupils with this fantastic opportunity.*

*Our cross-country runners have also been out competing and have achieved **several gold medals** – a fantastic accomplishment! We hope to see even more of our talented runners qualifying for the finals at **Chatelherault Country Park**. Well done to everyone who took part and gave it their all!*

*We have been delighted to welcome **Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club** to work with some of our pupils, helping them develop their tennis skills and build confidence as they try out new techniques. It has been fantastic to see the children getting involved, learning new skills and enjoying the opportunity to take part in a different sport. A huge thank you to Hamilton Lawn Tennis Club for giving our pupils this wonderful opportunity!*

*We have also been delighted to welcome **Larkhall Thistle** to Glengowan to work with our pupils in Rooms 3 and 4, developing their football skills and encouraging a love of the game. In addition, they have been running a lunchtime football club for our **Primary 5–7 girls**, providing a fantastic opportunity for them to develop their skills, build confidence and enjoy playing football together. We would like to say a massive thank you to Larkhall Thistle for giving our children these valuable opportunities and helping to inspire the next generation of footballers*

A huge well done to all our pupils for their enthusiasm, effort and positive attitudes towards sport. We would also like to thank everyone who volunteers their time to ensure our children have these wonderful opportunities to participate, develop their skills and enjoy being active. Keep up the fantastic work, Glengowan!

Nursery Class Update

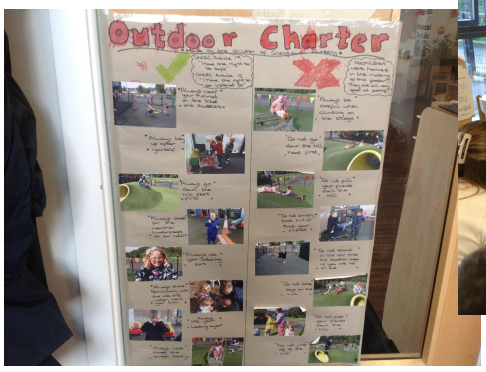
We have been expanding quickly in numbers with all the new children starting in the nursery. They have all had a warm welcome and are quickly finding new friends.

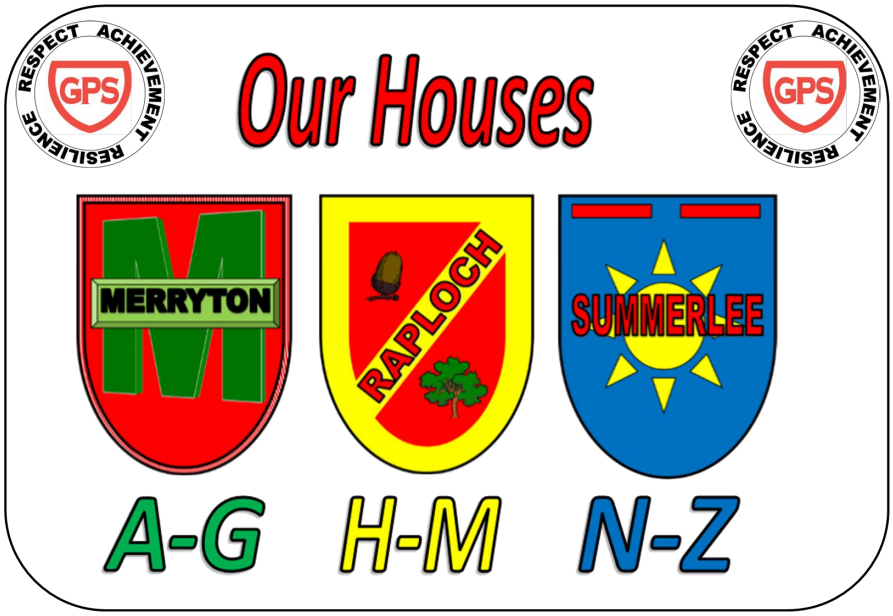
This month we have started to look at the UNCRC and talked about our rights. We have focused on being safe and introduced SIMOA the elephant. This is a Child Safety Framework (Safe, Inspect, Monitor, Observe, Act) created by the Care Inspectorate.

- ***Safe:*** *Stay alert to all risks.*
- ***Inspect:*** *Check the environment so children stay secure.*
- ***Monitor:*** *Regularly count and track children.*
- ***Observe:*** *Watch children and understand their emotional needs.*
- ***Act:*** *Take steps to prevent accident*

This framework is the responsibility of all who attend and visit the nursery.

The children have agreed with a handprint promise to follow the outdoor and indoor charter of the rules in these areas to keep ourselves and our friends safe.





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.

Bingo

Our first Family Bingo Night of the session took place on Thursday 17th September. It was great to see so many new faces and so many of our former pupils. Thanks to the organisation of the Parent Group, £700.17 was raised. The next morning, we were given £145 due to your donations for the clothing recycling.

Open morning and parents' evenings

We had a very busy P1-7 Open Morning on the 24th of September. Thank you for coming along. Attendance at our parents' evenings for both our Nursery Class and P1-7 was excellent. Our P7 helpers carried out their welcoming and timekeeper duties very well.

Harvest Assembly

My thanks to Mrs McLean, Miss Duff, Mrs Allison and Miss Corr for all their work with our Primary 4 children in preparation for the annual Harvest Assembly. Well done, Primary 4!

Halloween Disco

These discos were very well attended, with many incredible costumes on display. The volunteers, both parents and staff, made the evening a big success. It turns out that these had the highest attendance of any discos on record.

We had a visit before the October Week from the council's Curriculum and Quality Improvement Service to evaluate our provision for literacy in Primary One. We were given suggestions about how to improve the use of our new Discovery Den. The key strengths are listed below.

- *Strong leadership of learning.*
- *Positive relationships across the learning environment.*
- *Well-established routines and structures that enhance learning.*
- *Independent learners who are engaged and recognise established literacy-focused routines.*
- *Consistent use of literacy-focused routines across lessons.*
- *Repeated use of rhyme, stories and songs within each literacy lesson to reinforce learning.*
- *Literacy-rich environments, with access to engaging literacy resources in the Discovery Den.*

Important dates

Thursday 5th November	*Bonfire Lunch Menu*
Monday 9th November	*In-Service Day (School closed to children)*
Friday 13th November	*Dress Down Day - Tombola Donations*
Friday 27th November	*Glengowan's Christmas Fayre*

Yours faithfully,
Graeme Murray
Head Teacher