



Education Resources

Interim Executive Director – **Anne Donaldson**

Spittal Primary School and Nursery Class

Acting Head Teacher – **Miss Fiona McPherson**

Wednesday 22nd January 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted to see our pupils settling into the new term, it certainly started with a chill! Thank you for your patience during the first week when we had to close the playground due to icy conditions. We appreciate your understanding as the children navigated through different doors at the beginning and end of the day. Please know that these changes were made with the safety of all our children and families in mind, especially during pick-up and drop-off times.

This newsletter contains important information, key reminders, and a calendar of upcoming events. We encourage you to read through it carefully, as it includes crucial details that will help keep you informed and involved in school life.

We are deeply grateful for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. It is your contribution that makes Spittal a wonderful place for all of our children to learn and thrive.

Head Teacher Update

I am delighted to share that Mr. Miller will be returning to Spittal during the week beginning 27th January. His return will be on a phased basis to ensure a smooth handover. I will continue as Acting Head Teacher at Spittal until Thursday, 6th February. I am confident we will warmly welcome Mr. Miller back in Spittal style with care and kindness—we have truly missed him!

Updates:

- We are delighted to kick off the new term with so many clubs and wider curricular opportunities for our children. Here are some highlights of the action:
 - Gardening Club with Grow73 for P1-P7 every Tuesday at lunchtime
 - P5-7 girls drop in group on Wednesday at lunchtime with Theresa our Barnardo's worker
 - Scripture Union on Thursday at lunchtime for P6/7
 - Dance club for P4-5 and P6-7 with Dance Leaders on Wednesday 3pm – 4.15pm
 - Singing and Percussion for P1-3 Thursday afterschool (Thank you to Friends of Spittal for funding this club)
 - Room 5 have started a block of Neon Nature with South Lanarkshire Leisure and Culture on Tuesdays during class time
 - Miss Caldwell from the Youth Music Initiative is starting a block of 'FUNdamentals of Music' with Primary 5 this week.
- Our P7 pupils have received their hoodies and are proudly wearing them. A heartfelt thank you to 'Friends of Spittal' for generously providing these for our P7s.
- We are looking forward to Helen from the Dog's Trust visiting us on 31st January to talk to classes
- We are incredibly proud of the progress our athletics team, led by Miss Jack, has made. They have been steadily climbing the leaderboard and demonstrating great resilience along the way. A big thank you to 'Friends of Spittal' for funding the purchase of additional athletics equipment which can be used by all classes
- We are delighted to welcome Miss Bruce and Miss Kelly to Spittal. Miss Bruce is working in P6/7, and Miss Kelly is working in P1/2. Both are currently completing their teaching degrees at Strathclyde University.
- We had a wonderful festive season, filled with highlights such as the visiting pantomime, Spittal's Got Talent, the Nativity, Christmas parties, House Treat Day, and our Christmas lunch.
- Our P1 enrolments for the 2025–2026 session are now open, and we are thrilled to see so many parents choosing Spittal as their child's school. This reflects the strong sense of community and the excellent reputation Spittal Primary School and Nursery Class have both locally and beyond.

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School Communication

Our primary source of providing information and updates is through the 'School App for Parents' available on Android or IOS. Class teachers upload photos of learning, notify parents of gym days, class newsletters and we use the App for all urgent/essential reminders. It has an up-to-date Calendar showing upcoming events. **If you have not downloaded the App yet, please do so or you will miss lots of useful information for you and your child.** Please come to our school office to request the username and password.

Important Dates (subject to change)

| Date | Overview | Who |
|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Wednesday 22 nd January | Friends of Spittal Meeting 6.30pm – 7.30pm | All welcome |
| Wednesday 5 th February | Nursery Stay and Play 1.30pm – 2.30pm | Nursery Parents/Carers |
| Friday 7 th February | Dress Down Day £1 donation | All children |
| Friday 7 th February | Room 1 Assembly (Mrs Houston's class) 9.30am | Room 1 parents/carers only |
| Tuesday 11 th February | P7 Residential Information Meeting (Virtual) Time to be confirmed - this will be held in the evening | P7 parents/carers only |
| Monday 17 th February, Tuesday 18 th February, Wednesday 19 th February | School Closed - February Holiday for pupils | Pupils |
| Thursday 20 th February | School reopens after February break | All pupils |
| Friday 21 st February | Room 2 Assembly (Miss Dowling's class) 9.30am | Room 2 parents/carers only |

Breakfast Club

We have a Breakfast Club which provides a **free** breakfast of toast, cereal and juice in our dinner hall between 8.15 and 8.45am every morning. This is available to **all** children in school and there is no need to register. The children are supervised by school staff in the Breakfast Club. The children go into the playground at 8.45am for a short play before the bell rings at 9am. This is supervised by one or two members of support staff. We ask that children are not dropped off before 8.15am.

Attendance and Time Keeping

Attendance and Time Keeping letters are sent regularly (we are required to send regular updates to parents). Good attendance at school is vital for your child to reach their full potential. If they are not at school, they are missing valuable learning experiences. Punctuality is also crucial as every minute in school is "Learning Time." Please try to get your child here on time to come into school with their line at 9.00a.m. If your child is late, they will be able to come into the school via their class door up until 9.05am. After this time, they will have to sign in at the School Office and will be marked late. We appreciate your support with this. ***A wee five minutes late every day adds up to over 16 hours of missed learning over a school year!***

Parent Council – 'Friends of Spittal'

Our active and busy Parent Council group 'Friends of Spittal' will meet again on **Wednesday 22nd January 6.30pm-7.30pm**. We welcome new members with open arms. Our Parent Council discuss the life of the school, its impact on the community and are involved in fundraising activities, enriching experiences for our Spittal children plus lots, lots more... we are incredibly grateful for the work and support they give to improve our school. Please email: friendsofspittal@gmail.com to show your interest or ask for more information.

& Finally

I wanted to conclude my final Spittal newsletter with a heartfelt thank you to each of you. It has been an absolute joy getting to know the children and families of Spittal. Please know that Spittal is a truly exceptional school, filled with dedicated staff who genuinely care for your children and work tirelessly to ensure the best for them. Your continued support of the school and the staff will ensure that it continues to thrive.

Being part of the Spittal community has been the greatest joy of my career so far. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly- I look forward to returning for visits in the future!

Yours sincerely

F McPherson

Fiona McPherson
Acting Head Teacher