



Education Resources

Executive Director – **Lyndsay McRoberts**

Spittal Primary School and Nursery Class

Head Teacher - **Mr Stephen Miller**

Thursday 20th August 2026

Subject: Term 1 Newsletter 2026 – welcome back!

Dear Parent/Carer,

A very warm welcome back to Spittal Primary and Nursery Class as we begin another school year – I hope you all had a lovely summer; the weather certainly did not disappoint for once. We would particularly like to welcome all the children and families who are joining our Spittal community for the first time. Our new Primary One pupils, children who have joined us across the school and our new Nursery starters have settled very well and are already becoming familiar with school and nursery life. We look forward to continuing to welcome our nursery new starts throughout the session. Thank you to parents and carers for your support and patience as everyone gets used to the routines of a new session.

As you might expect, our first newsletter (welcome back letter) is a particularly busy one! There is lots of useful information to share, along with a few familiar reminders, so apologies in advance for the lengthy read.

Staffing News!

As already communicated staffing is out-with our control (SLC direct teacher staffing to schools) and this can change last minute, which happened this year unfortunately. We are delighted to welcome all new members of staff to the school and their contact details can be found at the bottom of this newsletter. I would also like to congratulate the following staff members on the safe arrivals of their babies: Miss Thomson – baby Charlie; Miss Rennie – baby Brody; Mrs Lyon – baby Alexander; Miss Carroll – baby Harry and Mr Rashid's wife also welcomed baby Romeesa, only last week!

School Uniform

It has been lovely to see our children returning looking so smart in their school uniforms. Thank you for continuing to support us in encouraging the children to wear their Spittal uniform with pride. Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing **FULL school uniform**. We recognise that children grow quickly and that replacing uniform can be expensive, so if you are missing any items, please remember that our **FREE uniform rack** is available within the school office 'bubble.' Items can also be requested discreetly through the school office.

Our **Swap Shop** events are another great opportunity to pick up additional uniform completely free of charge – and you might even spot something for yourself or your partner while you are there! Details of our next Swap Shop will be shared with families shortly.

Attendance and Time Keeping

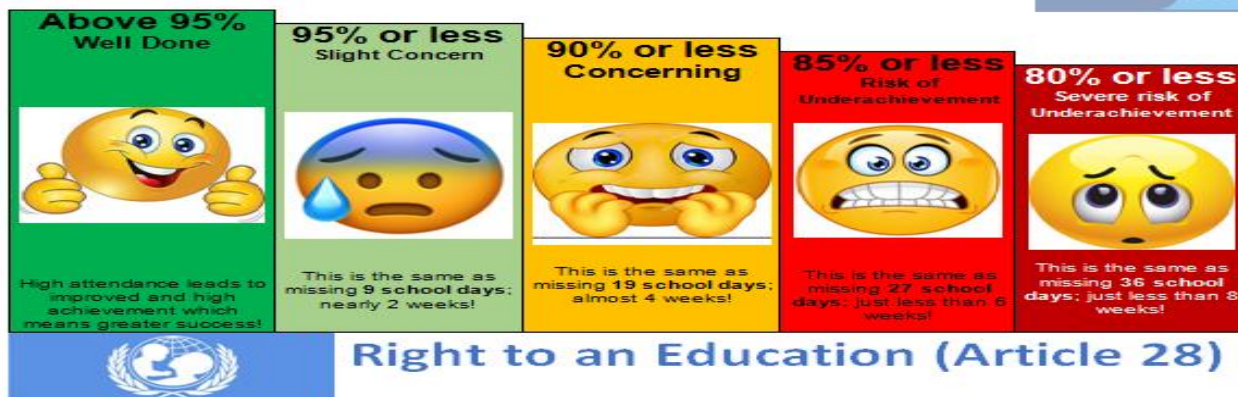
Regular attendance is vital in helping every child reach their full potential – something which sits at the heart of **our school vision**. Quite simply, when children are not in school, they miss valuable learning experiences and opportunities.

Punctuality matters too. Every minute of the school day is valuable **Learning Time**, so please ensure that your child arrives in time to join their class line and enter school promptly at **9.00am**.

We would also ask families, wherever possible, to avoid arranging holidays during term time. Term-time holidays are recorded as **unauthorised absences** and therefore contribute to your child's overall absence figure.

Please help us to maximise attendance. We encourage all pupils to aim for attendance of 95% or above, helping to minimise the impact of absence on learning and progress.

WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?



Parents Portal

We will continue to use **Parents Portal** this session for a range of important school information and administration, including the issuing of our pupil data forms. If you are new to our school or your child is in Primary One, we will be sending out further sign-up information soon, please do not panic. Mrs Wright and Mrs Keenan will get you signed up as soon as possible.

Further information about completing our data and administration forms for all classes will follow over the coming weeks. Consent forms for class trips planned throughout the term will also be issued electronically through Parents Portal.

Breakfast Club

A reminder that our **FREE Breakfast Club** is available to **all children** every school morning, with no registration required.

Breakfast Club runs in our dining hall from **8.15–8.45am**, where children can enjoy toast, cereal and juice. Children are supervised by school staff throughout and, at 8.45am, head into the playground for a short play before the school bell rings at 9.00am.

Class P.E. Times, Gym Kit and Class Newsletters

Class teachers will let families know their individual class P.E. days. These will be communicated through **letter/your child (as our previous School App for Parents is now defunct)** and will also be included within your child's class newsletter, which will be issued shortly.

For P.E., children require **shorts and a change of shoes**. A P.E. kit can be left in school, or children may choose to wear their polo shirt and shorts underneath their skirt/trousers on P.E. days.

Please remember: **NO FOOTBALL COLOURS OR LOGOS**.

For health and safety reasons, **all jewellery must be removed for P.E.** Jewellery should therefore either be left at home on gym days, removed in school or appropriately taped before coming to school. Where this cannot be done, unfortunately your child will be unable to participate in the lesson. This is a council-wide

health and safety measure designed to minimise the risk of injury. Further information is available from South Lanarkshire Council and a letter will be issued to reinforce the standards expected.

Indoor Shoes

All children change from their outdoor footwear into indoor shoes when they enter the school building. Please ensure your child has a suitable pair of indoor shoes, which can also be used for P.E.

Please note that **Crocs or similar footwear are not suitable for running or taking part in activities within our gym hall.**

We still have spare indoor shoes remaining from last session if your child requires a pair – just let us know.

Please ensure that all clothing, footwear and personal belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Healthy Snack and Water

We continue to encourage healthy choices throughout the school day and appreciate your support with this. For morning snack, please consider providing **fruit/vegetables or crisps, along with water**. Sugary or fizzy drinks and other less healthy snacks should be kept for home as we know this can have an adverse impact on pupil learning and behaviour.

Children can refill their water bottles from the school's water fountains throughout the day.

IMPORTANT – Allergies and Choking Risks

Please DO NOT send any snacks or packed-lunch items containing nuts into school. We have members of our school community (including a staff member recently diagnosed) with severe allergies and therefore need everyone's cooperation in keeping our environment safe. Please remember that this also includes products containing nuts such as many chocolate spreads,

Nutella products and Kinder Bueno.

Lollipops are also not permitted in school as they present a choking hazard.

Asthma

If your child uses an inhaler for asthma, we encourage them to carry their inhaler with them at all times – an important life skill as they become increasingly independent.

Please also provide the school office with a **spare inhaler**, clearly labelled with your child's name and dosage information. This will be kept safely in school and available should their usual inhaler be lost or required in an emergency.

Safer Travel

As we move towards the wetter months, more families understandably choose to travel to school by car. This means our car park can become particularly congested around **9.00am and 3.00pm**, creating potential risks for children and other users.

We ask everyone using the car park to be considerate and, most importantly, to **put the safety of our children first**. Please park only within the allocated parking bays and reduce car engine idling.

We also ask that adults and children travelling to school using bicycles, scooters or electric scooters **dismount when they reach the school's outer-perimeter gates**.

Information about the law relating to the use of electric scooters can be found online and no e-scooters are allowed on school premises.

Our Digital NEWS!

As part of our ongoing efforts to reduce unnecessary paper use and become a little more environmentally friendly, our newsletters and other communications will increasingly be shared digitally.

Newsletters will be issued through **Parents Portal**, as well as being uploaded to our **new school app, see below**, helping families to access information whenever they need it.

Jigsaw School App / School Communication

Our old 'school app for parents' is now defunct as they closed their business.

We are exciting to launch our new school app called '**Jigsaw School App**' – which will be used primary for sharing pupil learning, class updates and whole-school news. This can be downloaded from Google Play, the App Store or by searching 'Jigsaw School App' in Google. Once downloaded, type Spittal in the search bar and Spittal Primary will appear. You will then be asked for a code, enter **1957**. Please see separate letter distributed by Miss Elliott. The nursery will continue to use their separate Learning Journals app.

Remember you can find out lots of useful information at Spittal Primary and Nursery by checking out our website at: www.spittal-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Nursery – Morning Drop-Off

Parents and carers are warmly invited to come into the Nursery playroom when dropping/picking up children. This is a lovely opportunity to come in, have a look around and see the environment where your children play, learn and spend their day.

To help avoid congestion at the door, we ask families to stagger arrival anytime between **8.50–9.00am and 2.50-3pm**.

Once inside, we ask that children continue to follow their usual morning routine: registering themselves, self-selecting their lunch and getting ready for their Nursery day. Building independence is really important to us, so please encourage your child to do as much for themselves as they can.

And don't be scared to come in – **we don't bite!** 😊

Parent Council – 'Friends of Spittal'

Our fantastic Parent Council, **Friends of Spittal (FOS)**, plays an important part in the life of our school and we are always delighted to welcome new members.

Friends of Spittal discuss and contribute to school life, our place within the wider community and, of course, organise a range of fundraising activities and experiences for our Spittal children. We are incredibly grateful for the time and support they give to our school.

Their fundraising makes a **huge difference**. Without the support of our Parent Council and parent helpers, we simply would not be able to fund many of the extras our children benefit from – including helping towards the cost of buses for school and class trips, purchasing additional reading books for our school library, supporting our book vending machine and much, much more.

You don't have to commit huge amounts of time to get involved. **Even half an hour helping at an event can make a difference.** Details of upcoming meetings, discos, Fayres and other FOS events will be shared with families through our usual communication channels, unfortunately without parent support these opportunities will be lost and will have a negative impact on the opportunities we can provide (or not) to our children.

If you would like to get involved or offer some time to help, please contact Friends of Spittal at friendsofspittal@gmail.com.

The first meeting will be held in the school on Wednesday 26th August 6.30-7.30pm – it would be lovely to see as many of you as possible, all welcome!

Queries or Concerns

Good communication between home and school is extremely important to us.

For **class-related queries**, your child's class teacher should normally be your first point of contact. Teachers can be approached briefly at the **end of the school day** or contacted using their school email address.

Where possible, please avoid raising queries with teachers at the beginning of the school day. At this point, teachers have responsibility for welcoming and supervising the whole class and need to begin teaching promptly. This year we are focusing on exceptional lines as this sets the tone for behaviour throughout the day.

If you would like to discuss something with a member of the **school leadership team**, please contact us through the school office or using the email addresses provided below.

The pastoral responsibilities for **2026–27** are:

- **Mrs O'Kane, Early Years Team Leader** – pastoral responsibility within the Nursery Class, alongside our Early Years Practitioners.
- **Stephen Miller Head Teacher, Nursery and P1-3.**
- **Gillian Elliott, Acting Principal Teacher, P4-7.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is something you feel we need to know. Addressing smaller concerns early is almost always easier than allowing them to become bigger ones. Please note that the school will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible but expecting immediate appointments is unlikely, we will however schedule as soon as practicably possible.

School Contact Details

School Office: gw14spittalpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

Head Teacher – Mr Miller: gw14spittalpsht@glow.sch.uk

Miss Elliott (Acting Principal Teacher): gw07elliottgillian@glow.sch.uk (Monday - Friday)

Mrs O'Kane (Nursery Team Leader): gw14okaneleigh@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Houston (Room 1, Primary 1): gw11houstonheather2@glow.sch.uk

Mr Rashid (Room 2, Primary 2): gw24rashidsarfraz@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Ralston (Room 3, Primary 3): gw16ralstonsusan@glow.sch.uk

Miss Dowling (Room 4, Primary 4): gw17lyonsamantha@glow.sch.uk

Mr Houston (Room 5, Primary 5): gw14houstonneil@glow.sch.uk

Mr McNally (Room 6, Primary 6): gw24mcinallycameron@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Gold (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Brown (Wed-Fri) (Room 7, Primary 7): gw15goldnatalie@glow.sch.uk and gw15brownjade@glow.sch.uk

Miss Jack (CCC – timetabled across the school): gw20jacksarah@glow.sch.uk

Diary Dates

These will be issued separately as they are still evolving – this will include an overview of term 1-3 dates (Aug '26-June '27) to give as much advance warning as possible.

I look forward to working in partnership with you.

Yours sincerely



Mr Miller (Head Teacher)

Comment Slip

Should you have any compliments, comments or suggestions – please return the slips below, thank you:

My view, comment/concern/suggestion/compliment (delete where appropriate) – we always welcome compliments 😊

Your child/children's names/class(es):

Name: _____

Details should you wish us to contact you:

Thank you! Team Spittal