



Lighting the Paths of Learning - Learn, Include, Global Citizenship, Health, Together

Kindness

Respect

Responsible

Resilient

JANUARY 2026

WEBSITE: <http://www.st-gerardine.moray.sch.uk>

EMAIL: admin.stgerardinesp@moray-edunet.gov.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,
Happy New Year and finally a very warm welcome back to all of our children, families and staff in St. Gerardine Primary School for 2026!

This was certainly not the start to term any of us were expecting and I hope that you have all managed to stay safe and well during the recent snow this week. I am sure like me, you are hoping we do not have any more snow, ice or adverse weather warnings! Thank you to everyone for your understanding, support and engagement online in the learning activities. It was very strange to see all of the staff online and I think we all had flashbacks to Covid-19 times, which we really don't want to revisit! Needless to say, I was very pleased to update everyone that we would be opening again on Thursday 8th January.

I would like to say a really big thank you to the teachers for sharing learning and monitoring Class Dojo. I would also like to extend special thanks to Brian our Janitor and Mrs McDade for their hard work this week preparing the school for our return and sharing communication with all of our families.

Staffing Update:

At the end of last term, Mrs McDade was successful at interview for the Home School Link Worker vacancy. We all know that she will be an amazing addition to the HSLW team supporting families across Lossiemouth.



Congratulations to Miss Rutherford on her marriage during the Christmas holidays, and we welcome back Mrs Robertson!

We will also be saying a very sad farewell to Miss Mackay who will be leaving Primary 4/5 on the 23rd January to start her work in Moray Education's Deaf and Visual Education Team. Miss Mackay has been a fantastic member of staff at St. Gerardine and her enthusiasm, dedication, and devotion to all of the children and staff at St. Gerardine's Primary School will be really missed. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her all the very best in her new role. A separate letter about staffing arrangements for P4/5 will be sent to their parents.

Burns Society Visit – Poetry



We were delighted to have The Burns Society visit us again this week to hear the children recite Scots poetry. Each class had picked a Scots poem and read them as a whole and then children will had

the opportunity to recite their poem individually to the judges. It was great to see so many children taking part and confidently joining in. For each class a 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded by the Society which will be announced at our Burns assembly on Friday the 23rd. On Friday the 23rd we will have 'Touch of Tartan' day and the children will have a special Burns Assembly where some children can perform their Scots poem and the Burns society certificates will be awarded.

Absences

We are aware that there are still some nasty bugs on the go at the moment, and just a quick reminder that if your child vomits or has diarrhoea please keep them at home until they are 48 hours clear of their last incident of either symptom, thank you.



Please can we also ask that parents who are informing school that their child will be absent from school do so using parent portal, the school email address:

admin.stgerardinesp@moray-edunet.gov.uk

or school telephone number: 01343 812251

and not Class Dojo to inform us that their child is absent, thank you.



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HSLW – Attendance/ Lateness



Last term we launched our Attendance Superstars which was a massive success, celebrating the classes with the highest attendance. We are ready for the inter-class competition to start

again, with the top three classes winning places on our St Gerardine podium and selecting a class reward.

Our focus as a HSLW team across Lossiemouth is now on lateness. We understand mornings can be challenging, however we have a morning team ready to offer support to our families with the aim of getting children to school on time and also supporting those who find the school environment challenging.

Attendance and arriving late at school, are being monitored by the Homes School Link Worker teams across Lossiemouth ASG, with letters going out to families asking if we can help them to reduce pupil lateness. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like support.

School Attendance %	Days Missed
100%	0
95%	10 days
90%	20 days
85%	30 days
80%	40 days

Lossiemouth High - Primary 7 Information Evening

Initially this was scheduled for this term, however we have been informed by LHS that there will be information coming out to P7 parents directly about a change of date and with more information about that session.



Dandelions – MOD Support Workers



We are really excited to start this new term relaunching The Dandelion Group which is a friendly and safe environment for children from Armed Forces families. Mrs Hosking and Mrs

Wakeford will be running the group.

Dandelions have the option to come along to talk, play games, do crafts, write e-blueys, or take part in fun activities

together. They can join a small group, have one-to-one time, or pop in at lunchtime.

The Dandelion Group is here to help children feel happy, supported, and confident — especially when a parent or carer is away or getting ready to go away.

If you have any other questions we would be more than happy to answer them, so please do get in touch!

Parents' Evening Appointments

We are looking forward to holding our annual Parent's Evening Appointments this month. These can be booked on Parent Portal



Wednesday 21st January

P4/5 and P5/6 – 3.10pm – 5.10pm

Monday 26th January

P1 – 7: 3.10 – 5.30pm (not P4/5, P5/6)

Tuesday 27th January

P1 – 7, not P4/5 – 5.30pm (not P4/5)

Stuart Reid – Author visit 30th January



We are very excited that the very talented author, Stuart Reid is coming back to St. Gerardine Primary School to deliver a creative writing workshop! He will be

visiting some of the classes during the day and encouraging and inspiring the children to write some wonderful creative stories. There will be an opportunity to purchase a signed copy of his books on the day and more information will follow.

School Gates at Pick up and Drop Off Times

Thank you to everyone who ensured that drop offs were out with the school staff playground during our first few days back at school. None of us want any children to be hurt on their way to school, and I would respectfully ask that all children are dropped off out with the staff car park and that they enter the school through the pupil entrance, not across the car park, thank you.



I hope that the number of parents and carers entering the car park continues to reduce, so that we do not have to have a member of staff monitoring the car park. This is not something we want to have to do, and we hope parents and carers will work with us, however to keep all of our children safe this may be something we have to do in the future.



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Parent Council Meeting



The next Parent Council meeting is on Monday 2nd February at 6pm in the school hall. All parents / carers are members of the school's parent forum and all are welcome to join the Parent Council meetings. Minutes from the latest Parent Council Meeting are on the school website and can be accessed here:

www.stgerardine.moray.sch.uk/key_information/parent_council/meetings.html

DIARY DATES

JANUARY

- 5th – Start of term school opens at 8.55am
- 13th – Primary 1 Heights and Weights checks
- 14th – Elgin Burns Club judging poems
- 21st – Primary 4/5 and Primary 5/6 Parents Evening
- 23rd – Burns Assembly
- 26th – P1 – 7 Parent's Evening (not P4/5 or P5/6)
- 27th – P1 – 7 Parent's Evening (not P4/5)
- 30th – Stuart Reid Visit

FEBRUARY

- 2nd – Parent Council 6pm
- 4th – P1 and P7 Dental visits
- 12th – In Service training, school closed to pupils
- 13th – School holiday
- 16th – School holiday
- 17th – School holiday (Lossiemouth ASG occasional day)
- 18th – School reopens at 8.55am for all pupils and staff

Attached with this newsletter you should also have a copy of the whole school calendar with information for you up until the end of the summer term. If any dates change, we will let families know as soon as possible.

Hoping everyone has had a great start to the year and has a fantastic term,

Best wishes,

Mrs Wolford, Head Teacher.



Some of our Burns inspired poetry and artwork.

