

Ladeside Primary School

Aug/Sep 2026

Interim Headteacher: Mrs. J McLaughlin



Find us at:

<https://www.ladeside.falkirk.sch.uk>

Email us:

ladesideprimaryschool@
education.falkirk.sch.uk

Phone us:

01324 503460

Welcome to the Aug/Sep Newsletter.

It's been a busy and productive start back to the school year. We have been establishing new classrooms, welcoming new children and families to the school as well as settling everyone back into familiar routines.

Everyone looks smart in their uniform, and the new hoodies and zip ups are looking particularly fashionable. The school is a sea of Ladeside RED.

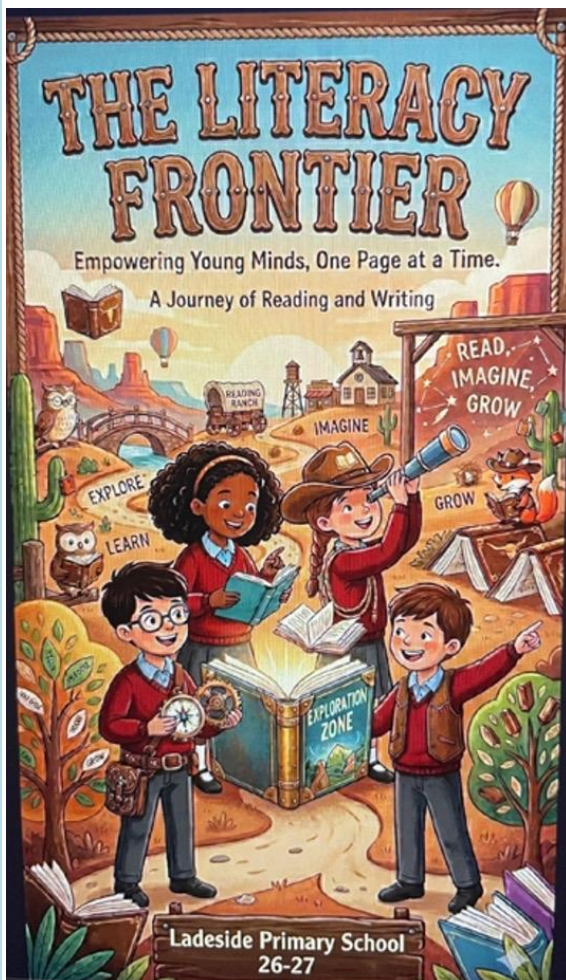
Mrs. J McLaughlin

Ladeside Primary School - Senior Leadership Team Remits

Interim Headteacher	Mrs McLaughlin	P4/3, P4, P7 & Mainstream ASN
Depute Headteacher	Mrs Martin	ELC, P1, P2/1, P2, P3
Depute Headteacher	Mr McLellan	ASC
Principal Teacher	Mrs Knight	P5 and P6
Principal Teacher	Mr Smith	ASC (Foxes and Owls)

We are more than happy to speak to families at any time. Please contact the relevant person above in the first instance to discuss anything with your child. Both Mrs Knight and Mr Smith have a class commitment and so any return communication may have to wait until the end of the school day.

To make contact please email into the school email address or leave a message with staff in the office and we will get back to you as soon as we can. Seesaw can be used for day to day information sharing. Staff will acknowledge your message on Seesaw but will not respond, we will call you instead.



School Improvement Plan 26-27

We are looking forward to prioritising key areas for improvement this year.

The main focus for the whole school is a focus on Literacy, particularly within reading and writing, the teaching of reading and writing and planning for effective pace and challenge across school at all stages.

The staff have started training for a new writing approach (PM Writing) and we have taken "Read, Write Inc" from P1 to P4 this year. Staff will also be developing a Ladeside reading spine which gives all children in all classes exposure to a variety of reading genres. Reading for pleasure will be celebrated and the children are excited about the new Reading Ambassador certificates which will be given out at assembly.

During the August in-service day, all staff across mainstream and the ASC have been trained in Word Aware. A whole school focus which supports extending and developing children's vocabulary and understanding of language.

All the above is wrapped up in a new theme for 26-27.

Ladeside is on the "Literacy Frontier". Already there are brilliant displays across school with western themes. The children love our new staff cowboy/cowgirl reading hats and "Laddy" the horse has made an appearance at assembly last week.

Yeehah!

Focus 2 is continuing to develop Rights Respecting Schools and Focus 3 is developing pupil voice and leadership across the whole school.



Welcome to "The Glade"

As part of the work in school developing the school's vision, values and aims a decision was made to refresh and update the class names and vision for the children in Ladeside ASC (Additional Support Classes).

Mirroring the school's four values and sticking to the theme of nurture and nature the above visual has been developed and is proudly displayed across school.

We will refer to our seven ASC classes as "The Glade". No longer will we say the base, the ASC or the wing – it will be "The Glade".

Encouraging a sense of pride in our children across the whole school and supporting inclusion and equity for all.

As well as the visual above, classrooms have been refreshed, updated and moved around to support the children in the best environment. Pop in during the Meet the Teacher event to see for yourself.

Pupil Absence

Please continue to use the Parents Portal App to register your child's absence from school. You can also phone the office and leave a message or email into the school inbox. Please do not report absence on SeeSaw.



PALS

The first meeting & AGM of the new school year is coming up on Tuesday 1st September in the school hall at 7pm. At this meeting there will be an update on school priorities, a chance to hear about the next developments for Ladeside and a discussion on this year's events.

With support from PALS volunteers last year, Ladeside installed new playground equipment, hosted some brilliant discos as well as an epic P7 leavers night, had an excellent Christmas fayre and gifted the school well over £10,000 to ensure the children of Ladeside have what they need to thrive in school.

Let's do it all again but we can't do it without your help.



Meet the Teacher

Join us on Wednesday 2nd September from either 2.15-3.00pm or 3.15-4.00pm to meet your child's new teacher, have a look at your child's new classroom environment and have a look around the school.

Staffing Update

Mrs Mitchell, Targeted Support Teacher has been successful in her interview for a new secondment. She will be working with Falkirk Council as a probationer support teacher. This secondment is likely to last 2 years. She will be supporting probationers across Falkirk in their first year of teaching. We are delighted for her success and know she will be great in that role.

In her absence, Mrs Rafferty has taken on a full-time position alongside new member of staff Miss Dickson to form the Targeted Support Team. Miss Gardener, SFLA will work with the team providing support for pupils in class, at playtime and lunchtime and within the targeted support room.

Mrs Campbell, SFLA in "The Glade" has been successful at interview for a new job. Still in education but not in Ladeside. We are sad to see her go but also wish her the very best in her new role. Recruitment has started to fill her post.

We say goodbye to two long-standing members of staff - Netta Saritas, Cleaning Chargehand and Karan Taylor, Head Cook. Both ladies have worked for Falkirk Council and Ladeside for a very long time showing their commitment to the children and the school. They love their jobs but love retirement more!

They will finish on Friday 18th September and we will make sure they are thanked for all their hard work over the years. We send our best wishes to both ladies.

Ladeside's new HT – The recruitment process has started, and this will last all of Term 1. By the October holidays at the latest, we will know the outcome. I will keep you posted.



You said – We did

Last year we asked for feedback at various events over the year, following this we have implemented some new, exciting additions to Ladeside for this year.

- **You asked that children are more involved.**

Pupil Leadership Groups – as part of the assembly programme, all children from P1-P7 will take part in a leadership group of their choice. More information will be sent out in a few weeks time but we are looking for volunteers to come into school to support this initiative. The dates are set to allow you to plan for this. Groups will support children to develop their communication, problem-solving, and team building skills as well as having lots of fun.

- **You asked for further information on learning.**

Class Curriculum Flyers – you will now receive a flyer from the teacher once a term which will give you an overview of what is being focused on for class learning.

- **You said homework was inconsistent across the school.**

Homework Grids – staff have worked together to create Homework grids which primarily focus on Literacy and Numeracy and will promote a more consistent approach to homework at all stages.

- **You asked for more information on your child's work.**

Snapshot weeks – staff have created Snapshot jotters. Snapshot weeks are in the diary. Over the year there will be five opportunities for children to bring home their Snapshot jotter. The children will complete some of their classwork in the snapshot jotter and then bring this home. You will have the chance to look at what is being worked on and chat to your child about their work.

- **You said that teaching younger children to read on an electronic device was tricky.**

Read, Write, Inc books – We have allocated £12,000 of PEF money to buy all the Read, Write, Inc books necessary to allow P1-P4 children to work with a physical book.



Term 1 – 2026

August

Homework and reading start over the next two weeks.

September

Tues 1 st	CEM assessments in school for P2-P7 for a few weeks
Tues 1 st	PALS AGM in school 7pm all welcome
Wed 2 nd	Assembly – Religious Observance – International Day of Charity
	Meet the Teacher 2.15-3pm and 3.15-4pm
Mon 7 th	HOLIDAY – School and ELC closed
Wed 16 th	Pupil Leadership groups in school (session 1)
Mon 21 st to Fri 25 th	Maths Week Scotland in classes
Mon 21 st	P1 Falkirk Herald Photo (am)
Mon 28 th -Fri 2 nd Oct	Snapshot Week
Tues 29 th	School Sponsored Fundraiser – Colour Run Obstacle (PM) more info to Follow
Wed 30 th	Assembly – Religious Observance – European Day of Languages

October

Mon 5 th to Fri 9 th	School Charity Week – Food bank collections
Wed 7 th	Assembly – Religious Observance Harvest Service at Found Church, Larbert 1.45pm all welcome
Thurs 8 th	P7 Tuck shop in school for all
Fri 9 th	Last day of term 1 – 3.15pm finish
Mon 12 th to Fri 23 rd	October Holidays – school and ELC closed

Term 2

Mon 26 th to Fri 30 th	Rights Respecting Schools focus in school – Inclusion & Equity
Mon 26 th	Back to school and ELC, Flu Vaccinations in school

November

Mon 2 nd	Halloween Disco for pupils – details to follow
Wed 4 th	Pupil Leadership Groups in school (session 2)
Mon 9 th	P4 and P7 Standardised Assessments for the next few weeks

Wed 11 th	Assembly – Religious Observance – Diwali/Armistice Pupil Consultations in school 3.30-6pm
Mon 16 th to Fri 20 th	School focus week – Reading Rodeo Book Week Scotland
Tues 17 th	Tempest Photographer in school for individual and family photos
Thurs 19 th	Pupil Consultations in school 4.30-7pm
Wed 25 th	Pupil Leadership Groups in school (session 3)
Thurs 26 th	PALS Christmas Fayre in school
Mon 30 th	In-Service Day – school and ELC closed to pupils

December

Wed 2 nd	P1, 2 and 3 Nativity to families – 9.30am and 1.45pm
Mon 7 th to Fri 11 th Dec	Snapshot Week
Wed 9 th	Pantomime in school for all children – The Snow Queen
Wed 16 th	Assembly – Religious Observance Christmas service at Larbert Cross, 1.45pm all welcome
Fri 18 th	P5 and 6 Christmas Party AM P7 Christmas Party PM
Mon 21 st	P3, 4/3 and 4 Christmas Party AM ASC Christmas Party PM
Tues 22 nd	P1, 2/1, 2 Christmas Party AM School and ELC closes at 1.30pm

January 2027

Tues 5 th	Back to school and ELC
----------------------	------------------------



Communication

Our main means of communication is the newsletter which will be sent through both email and on Seesaw – please check over carefully to ensure you are fully informed of news from school.

You can phone or email at any time. If nobody answers the phone, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.