

Newsletter 5

February 2026

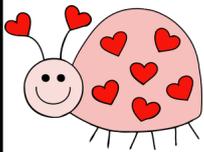
If you need to get in touch with us, please use the details below or feel free to make an appointment:

Phone: 01355 222521

Email: gw14maxwelltonoffice@glow.sch.uk



Dear families,



As we move through February, I'm delighted to reflect on what has been an inspiring and joy-filled month here at Maxwellton. The school has been buzzing with curiosity, creativity and community spirit – a wonderful reminder of what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Our STEM Week was a real highlight, offering children across the school a wealth of hands-on experiences. From fascinating visitors who shared their expertise, to exciting trips that brought learning to life, to the imaginative STEM challenges happening in classrooms – our pupils embraced every moment with enthusiasm. Their problem-solving, teamwork and sheer curiosity were a joy to witness, and we are so grateful to our staff and visitors who made the week such a memorable one.



We also came together for our Scottish Celebration, where every child in the school took to the stage to share poems, songs and stories from our rich Scottish heritage. The performances were full of pride and personality, and the hall was buzzing with warmth. Thank you to our families for supporting preparations at home, to our staff for their hard work in bringing the event together and most of all to our wonderful children for their confidence, energy and dedication – they were outstanding.

Our Pupil Council continues to make a positive difference across the school. This month, they have launched new initiatives aimed at making Maxwellton even safer, happier and more welcoming. We look forward to the introduction of stair monitors and their ideas for improving lunchtime experiences - ideas which show real leadership and care for their peers. We are incredibly proud of their thoughtful contributions and the way they represent the voices of their classmates.



Looking ahead, March promises to bring even more excitement. We are very much looking forward to our Rookie Rockstars production – always a vibrant and uplifting event that brings the whole school community together. We can't wait to see our pupils shine on stage. Parents' Evenings are also approaching, and we look forward to welcoming you into school to share in the progress, achievements and next steps of your children.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership. Your support means so much, and together we help create a nurturing and ambitious environment where every child can thrive.



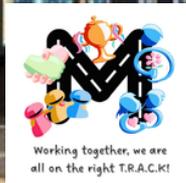
With love and best wishes,
Elaine Cooke
Headteacher



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World Book Day Matters

We're looking forward to a fun-filled World Book Day on Thursday 5th March with activities organised by our Primary 4 team running across the school. Here's what our pupils will be taking part in throughout the day:

P1-3: Story Scavenger Hunt

Our younger pupils will enjoy a story-themed scavenger hunt around the school. Small groups will work together to find clues and solve questions. Winning groups will receive a certificate.

P4-7: Hoops of Patience Challenge

Older pupils will take part in an outdoor, book-themed orienteering activity that blends problem-solving, teamwork and patience! Groups will move around the playground answering questions to complete the challenge. Certificates will be awarded to the winning team.

DEAR Time - Drop Everything And Read

At midday, the whole school will pause lessons for 15 minutes of quiet reading. Everyone—from nursery to staff—will pick up a book and enjoy some uninterrupted reading time.

Re-Design a Book Cover Competition

All year groups will be given a well-known book and asked to design a brand-new cover for it. One winner will be chosen from each class, with prizes awarded on Friday.

The Big World Book Day Quiz

After lunch, classes will take part in a fun whole-school quiz delivered by our P4 helpers. Pupils will compete in teams to test their book knowledge.

Whole-School "Book Worm" Finale

To finish the day, the whole school will gather in the hall for a special reading celebration. Pupils will bring a book of their choice and form a "book worm" from P1 to P7, reading together until home time.

All children will also receive a book token voucher for a selected book or £1 off a book of their choice at participating retailers. Huge thanks to Team P4 for organising!

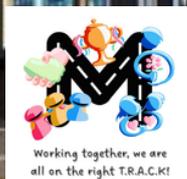
Parents' Evening Matters

Our next Parents' Evening sessions will be on 25th and 26th March. Please look on Parents' Portal to book your slot. Please note, due to a clash with the Dance Festival at Calderglen, there will be no appointments available for P6 on Wednesday 25th March. There will be additional times available only for P6 on Tuesday 24th March. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

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Healthy Eating Matters

We would really appreciate your support in helping us promote healthy playtime snacks across the school. Recently, we've noticed a growing number of children bringing large bags of crisps or sweets for breaktime. While these snacks are tasty treats, they can cause a quick spike in energy followed by a noticeable "slump" in the afternoon. This makes it harder for children to stay focused and engaged in their learning, and some pupils feel more tired or irritable as the day goes on. In addition, play time is only 15 minutes long, so there isn't time to consume large snacks and complete the very important job of playing! By encouraging healthier options, we can help keep their energy more balanced and support their wellbeing throughout the whole school day.

Some great options for a healthy, child-friendly snack include fruit, yogurt tubes, crackers, rice cakes, small bags of baked crisps, cheese portions or chopped vegetables. Even a small sandwich or a plain biscuit is better than high-sugar or large snack-pack alternatives. We know mornings can be busy, and we truly appreciate the effort families make to send children to school ready to learn. Your support with choosing healthier snacks makes a real difference to the children's mood, concentration and overall health.



Learning Excursion Matters

Primary 1, Primary 2, Primary 5 and Primary 6 will be having the opportunity to undertake learning excursions over the next few months. Primary 1 will be visiting the Museum of Rural Life, Primary 2 and 5 will be visiting Stirling Castle and Primary 6 will be visiting Parliament in Edinburgh. All of these experiences help to bring learning to life.

As always, we are reliant on parent volunteers to support our excursions. We will be in touch to ask for your support. Many thanks to all who have supported so far!



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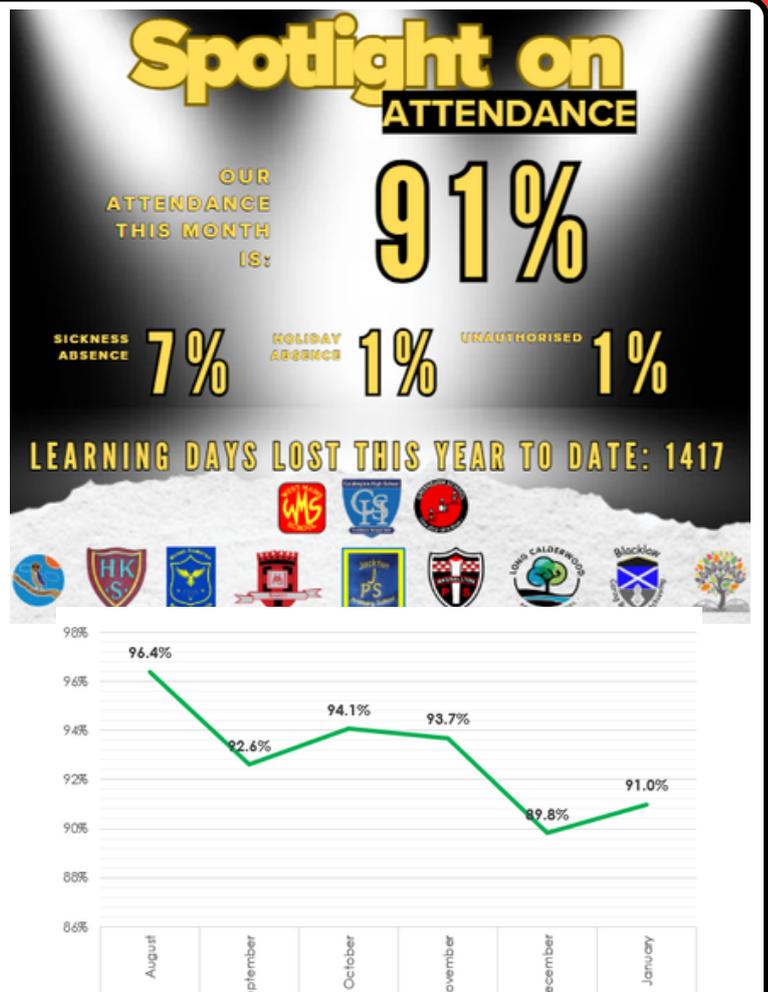
Attendance Matters

Our attendance figures this month are up! We have gone from 89.8% in December to 91% in January. We are hoping that this will continue to rise and improve. Being in school regularly makes a big difference to your child's learning journey.

A reminder that we completely understand that sometimes children become unwell. In the nature of a school, bugs will spread and, at times, your child may be affected. Their health and well-being always comes first. If your child is ill with vomiting and/or diarrhea, the 48 hour rule applies and they must be clear for two whole days before they return. This is to help stop the spread! Thank you for your support

Punctuality Matters

Arriving at school on time sets children up for a successful day of learning, confidence-building, and positive routines. Even a few minutes late can mean missing important introductions to lessons, instructions from teachers, or settling-in time that helps children feel ready to learn. Just like days of absence, minutes lost each morning quickly add up. For example, being 5 minutes late every day equals over 3 full days of learning lost in a year. Being 10 minutes late each day adds up to over 6 days, and 15 minutes late adds up to nearly 10 days of missed learning. Over the 7 years of primary school, this can add up to weeks of lost teaching time, making it harder for children to keep up with classwork, maintain routines, and feel confident in their learning. Every minute in school counts, and arriving on time each day helps ensure children get the best possible start.

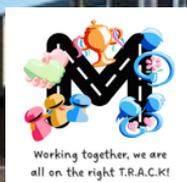


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Diary Date Matters March 2026

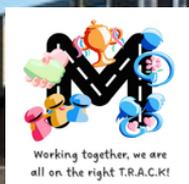
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>2 Netball Club</p> <p>Homework grids sent out</p> <p>6.30pm Parent Council Meeting</p>	<p>3 P5/6 Girls' Football Club</p> <p>Outdoor Learning Club</p>	<p>4 P6/7 Dance Club</p> <p>P5 Bible Alive</p>	<p>5 World Book Day – bring favourite book into school</p> <p>P5 Swimming</p> <p>Digi Buds Club</p> <p>Fun 5Z Netball Event</p> <p>Cross-Country Club</p>	<p>6 P2/3 Tennis</p> <p>P7 PE Transition Event</p> <p>Football Club</p>
<p>9 P4 – 6 Visit from Librarian</p> <p>Netball Club</p>	<p>10 Nursery Stay and Play</p> <p>Rookie Rockstars – Session 1</p> <p>P5/6 Girls' Football Club</p>	<p>11 P5 Bible Alive</p> <p>P6/7 Dance Club</p> <p>Rookie Rockstars – Session 2</p>	<p>12 Nursery Stay and Play</p> <p>P5 Swimming</p> <p>Digi Buds Club</p> <p>Rookie Rockstars – Session 3</p> <p>Cross-Country Club</p> <p>18.00 P7 Parent Committee & Residential Meeting</p>	<p>13 P2/3 Tennis</p> <p>Football Club</p>
<p>16 Netball Club</p>	<p>17 P5/6 Girls' Football Club</p>	<p>18 P5 Bible Alive</p> <p>1.30pm P2 Parent Workshop – Heraldry</p> <p>P3 Dance Club</p>	<p>19 Digi Buds Club</p> <p>Cross-Country Club</p> <p>18.30 Rookie Rockstars Concert</p>	<p>20 P2/3 Tennis</p> <p>Football Club</p>
<p>23 Netball Club</p>	<p>24 P5/6 Girls' Football Club</p>	<p>25 P1 to Museum of Rural Life</p> <p>P5 Bible Alive</p> <p>Parents Evening</p> <p>Calderglen Dance Festival</p>	<p>26 P5 Swimming</p> <p>Digi Buds Club (Lunch)</p> <p>Parents' Evening</p>	<p>27 P2/3 Tennis</p> <p>Football Club</p>
<p>30 Netball Club</p>	<p>31 P4 Parental Workshop – Vikings</p> <p>P5/6 Girls' Football Club</p>			

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Diary Date Matters April 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1	2 P5 Swimming Easter Celebration SCHOOLS CLOSE 2.30pm	3 HOLIDAY
6 HOLIDAY	7 HOLIDAY	8 HOLIDAY	9 HOLIDAY	10 HOLIDAY
13 HOLIDAY	14 HOLIDAY	15 HOLIDAY	16 HOLIDAY	17 HOLIDAY
20 Netball Club	21 Girls' Football	22 P7 Residential Fun 5z Netball Tournament P3 Multisports Club	23 P7 Residential P5 Swimming Cross Country Club	24 P7 Residential Football Club
27 Netball Club	28 P4 Visit to the Church Girls' Football	29 P3 Multisports Club	30 P5 Swimming Digi Buds Lunch Club Cross Country Club	