

# Newsletter 4

## January 2026

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

**Phone: 01355 22521**

**Email: [gw14maxwelltonoffice@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14maxwelltonoffice@glow.sch.uk)**



Dear families,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed a restful and joyful festive season. As we step into January, there's a real sense of excitement and possibility at Maxwellton. A new term brings fresh opportunities for learning, growth and connection, and we're ready to make the most of it together.

This month, we're continuing to build on the fantastic progress made throughout last term. Our focus on Writing remains a key priority, and pupils will be engaging in creative and purposeful activities to strengthen their skills. We're also looking forward to diving into our development of our Maths and Numeracy curriculum, sparking curiosity and encouraging every child to aim high.

Beyond the classroom, January will see the return of many of our popular clubs and committees, giving pupils the chance to develop leadership, teamwork and confidence. We're also planning some exciting events, including our Scottish Celebration led by Primary 5, to keep spirits high during these winter weeks – watch out for updates on these soon!

As always, our commitment to fostering positive relationships and high expectations for behaviour and learning remains at the heart of everything we do. Thank you for your continued support and partnership; together, we create an environment where every child feels safe, valued and inspired to thrive.

We also have a couple of staffing updates for you. We welcome Michelle Williamson to our Support Assistant Team. Michelle will be working a Wednesday and Thursday supporting our children. We are also awaiting start dates for our new part time Support Team Leader and a new full time Support Assistant. News coming soon! We also welcome Alison Cuthbertson to our Nursery as Early Years Practitioner on a Thursday and Friday, and hope to welcome Lisa Harris very soon as our new Early Years Support Assistant!

I'll leave you with a thought that feels especially fitting as we begin a new year: "Every day is a chance to begin again." - Unknown

Here's to a term filled with learning, laughter, and shared success.

With love and best wishes,

Elaine Cooke  
Headteacher

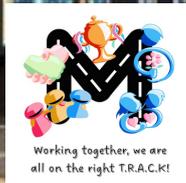


Working together, we are  
all on the right T.R.A.C.K!

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### **Celebration Matters**

We absolutely love celebrating birthdays and sharing in these special moments with our pupils! Your generosity and thoughtfulness in wanting to bring cakes and goodies to mark the occasion is truly appreciated.

However, to keep all children safe and respect the wide range of allergies and dietary needs within our school community, we kindly ask that no cakes, sweets or edible treats be brought into school for birthdays. This helps us ensure that every child is included and protected.

If treats are sent in despite this guidance, please note that they will not be eaten during the school day. Instead, they will be distributed at the end of the day so families can decide if and when they are suitable for their child. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us create a safe and inclusive environment for everyone.

### **After School Club Matters**

After school clubs begin again this week, with the exception of Athletics and Girl's football which will begin again w/b 19<sup>th</sup> Jan and 12<sup>th</sup> Jan respectively.

### **Scotland Matters**

We are delighted to share that on Friday, 30th January 2026, our Primary 5 pupils will proudly lead our Scottish Celebration Assembly. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the whole school to come together and celebrate Scotland's rich culture and heritage.

In preparation for this event, every class will be learning a Scottish poem, helping our children to explore language, rhythm, and tradition. To make this even more exciting, there will be a poetry competition within each class. One winner from every class will be chosen to perform their poem during the assembly—a fantastic chance for our pupils to shine!

Following the assembly, we will host a special celebration for the winners and their families, where they can share in their child's achievement and enjoy this memorable occasion together on Friday 13th February at 13.30.

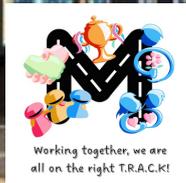
We are looking forward to seeing the creativity and confidence of our pupils as they prepare for this event. Thank you for supporting them at home as they practise their poems – it really makes a difference!



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### Attendance Matters

Every school day is a new opportunity for children to learn, grow, and connect with others. Regular attendance helps children build strong foundations in reading, writing, and maths, while also developing confidence and friendships that last a lifetime. Even small differences in attendance can add up over time. Out of 190 school days in a year:

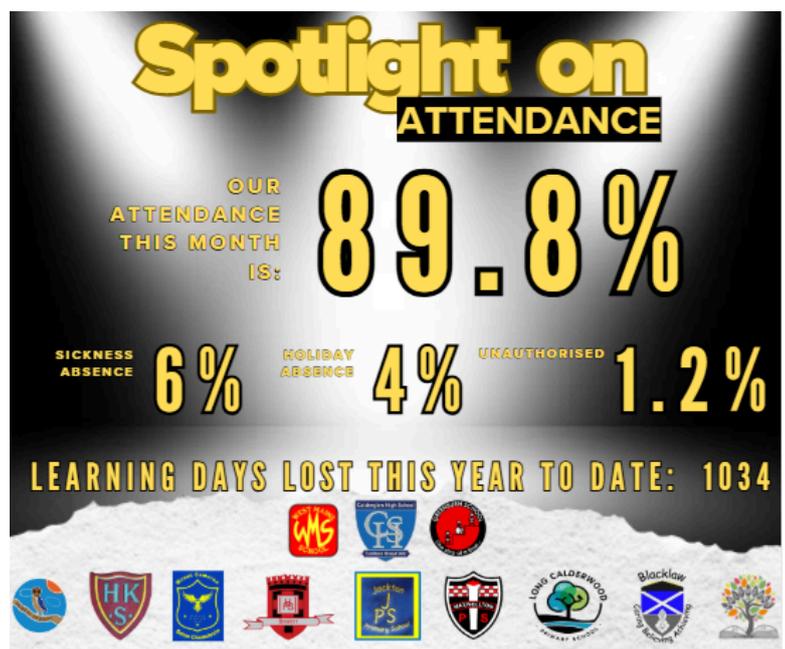
- 95% attendance means missing about 9.5 days (almost 2 weeks)
- 90% attendance means missing 19 days (almost 4 weeks)
- 85% attendance means missing 28.5 days (almost 6 weeks)
- 80% attendance means missing 38 days (almost 8 weeks)

Over 7 years of primary school, this really adds up:

- 95% attendance = around 13 weeks missed (a whole term)
- 90% attendance = around 26 weeks missed (over half a school year)
- 85% attendance = around 40 weeks missed (over a full school year)
- 80% attendance = over 53 weeks missed (almost a year and a half)

Every day counts, and being in school regularly makes a big difference to your child's learning journey.

We completely understand that children sometimes become unwell and need time at home to recover. Their health and well-being always come first, and we want to work with you to make sure they return to school happy and ready to learn. If your child is ill, please let us know as soon as possible so we can support them and keep our records up to date. Term-time holidays, however, can have a big impact on learning and progress, as every day in school really does count. If you're considering a holiday during term time, please talk to us—we're here to help and can explain the implications and explore any alternatives. By keeping us informed about the reasons for absence, we can work together to give your child the best possible start in life.



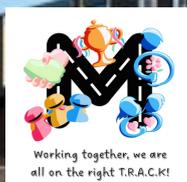
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### Diary Date Matters

#### January 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 HOLIDAY	2 HOLIDAY
5 PI Registration 26/27 (All week)  Netball Club	6  Outdoor Learning Club	7  P5 Fundamentals of Music  P4 Sports Leaders	8  Digi Bugs Club (Lunch)	9  Class Teacher Interviews  P2/3 Tennis (MUGA)  Football Club
12  Netball Club	13  Pupil Council Reps - Let's Do Lunch!  Outdoor Learning Club	14  P5 Fundamentals of Music  P4 Sports Leaders	15  Digi Buds Club (Lunch)	16  P2/3 Tennis (MUGA)  Football Club
19  Netball Club	20  P5/6 Girls' Football Club  Outdoor Learning Club	21  P5 Fundamentals of Music  P4 Sports Leaders  P6/7 Rugby  P6/7 Dance Club	22  Digi Buds Club (Lunch)  Nursery Stay and Play  Nursery Flu Vaccines (Catch Up)	23  P2/3 Tennis (MUGA)  Football Club
26  Nursery Registration 26/27  Netball Club	27  P5/6 Girls' Football Club  Outdoor Learning Club	28  P4 Sports Leaders  P6/7 Rugby  P4 Multisports Club  P6/7 Dance Club	29  Netball Fun 5z Tournament  Digi Buds Club (Lunch)  Cross-Country Club	30  Scottish Celebration  P2/3 Tennis (MUGA)  Football Club

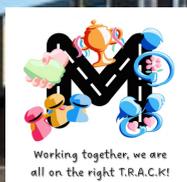
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## Diary Date Matters

### February

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Netball Club	3 P5/6 Girls' Football Club  Outdoor Learning Club	4 P7 STEM Workshop at Calderglen  P4 Sports Leaders  P6/7 Rugby  P4 Multisports Club  P6/7 Dance Club  17.00 P7 Parent Committee Meeting  18.30 Parent Council AGM	5 Digi Buds Club (Lunch)  Cross-Country Club	6 P2/3 Tennis (MUGA)  Football Club
9 Netball Club	10 P1 to Moncrieff Church - Welcoming a Baby  Pupil Council Reps - Let's Do Lunch!  P5/6 Girls' Football Club  Outdoor Learning Club	11 P4 Sports Leaders  P6/7 Rugby  P4 Multisports Club  P6/7 Dance Club	12 Digi Buds Club (Lunch)  Cross-Country Club	13 P2/3 Tennis (MUGA)  13.30 Scottish Celebration Winners Event  Football Club
16 HOLIDAY	17 HOLIDAY	18 INSERVICE DAY (NO PUPILS)	19 Digi Buds Club (Lunch)  Cross-Country Club	20 P2/3 Tennis (MUGA)  Football Club
23 Netball Club	24 P5/6 Girls' Football Club  Outdoor Learning Club	25 P4 Sports Leaders  P4 Multisports Club  P6/7 Dance Club	26 P5 Swimming  Digi Buds Club (Lunch)  Cross-Country Club	27 P2/3 Tennis (MUGA)  Football Club