



EDUCATION, HOUSING & COMMUNITIES

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Head Teacher Newsletter End December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Ho, ho, ho! We have made it (almost) to the Christmas holidays! This will be my final message until 2026. It is a lovely time of year to work in a primary school. One of the younger children told me this week that the Three Kings brought the baby Jesus gold, myrrh and Frankenstein... that would certainly have made for some interesting Christmas card illustrations! Thank you for taking the time to read through our updates.

Our staff had a tree competition making decorations for our canteen Christmas Lunch tables. Here are the winning four but all the competitors did a great job – it was hard to judge. What do you think?



Hot Off The Press:

Santa has JUST arrived
at the Primary 1's Party!



Support for Parents/Carers – Including getting to School and Attendance:

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/school-education>

I have been asked to put this into our newsletter. [Attendance video for parents with voiceover](#)

Our school attendance (just before the bad bugs started to go around) was sitting at just over 93%. The Moray aim is for it to be at 95%. If they are well, children should be in school. It is better to be late than to not come at all. Please let us know if you need any support regarding pupil attendance. Our protocols mean we must find out why children are absent (if we have not heard from parents/carers) and we have to contact you by letter if your child's attendance continues to cause concern (if it drops under a certain amount). If attendance is an ongoing issue, it is possible we will be required to contact other agencies for support.

Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.



A child with 95% attendance across a whole school session (from August to June) will have missed around 60 lessons.

A child with 85% attendance will have missed around 250 lessons.

Young Carers

Sam Buchanan is supporting us with our Young Carers, along with Quarriers. Young Carers might have extra responsibilities in a household because of the needs of another member in their family. If you feel one of your children could do with support as a Young Carer because of your personal circumstances at home, please get in touch.

No Swaps Please

A gentle reminder that 'swapping' items or making deals with items, such as small ducks, cards, snacks or plastic toys, can cause arguments and lead to upset. We do not allow this type of activity in class, hallways or in the playground. Thank you for your support.

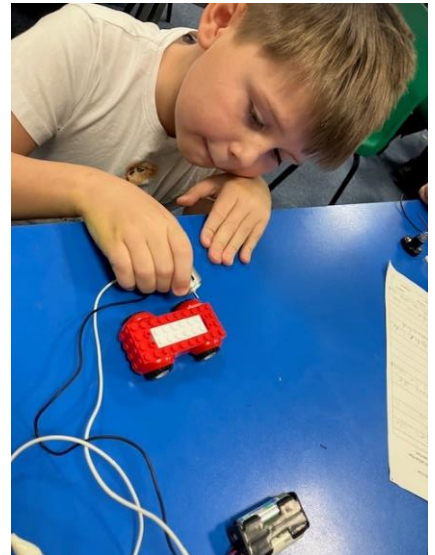


STEM Activities for Topic Work This Term

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are important subjects that can lead to excellent, interesting job prospects and hobbies. We have enjoyed making some circuits in physics (see Right).

Following from this, if you have you are able to watch Prime* at home over the holidays, I have been enjoying a series called 'How Did They Build That?'. I think it uses excellent vocabulary (even better learning if the subtitles are on), has interview clips with successful engineers, architects, structure and material experts (inspiring role models), highlights some beautiful places to visit around the world and makes very effective use of computer graphics. Documentaries with subtitles (especially those about nature, history, geography or science) are a very enjoyable way for children to learn a wider range of vocabulary words, improve comprehension and learn new information.

* Other platforms are available...



Christmas Song Showcase and Christmas Fayre Updates



Thank you for coming to support us in our shows on such a rainy day. We raised £310 for the Friends of Cluny. We hope you enjoyed the show. Thank you to all our staff for their hard work in preparation.

Primary 7s worked hard to run a fabulous Christmas Fayre for all the other children. They raised a tremendous £440 to go towards making special P7 memories before moving on to High School (see Below).



Possible Parent/Carer Job Opportunity

The Catering Department is seeking Relief Catering Assistants to work across all areas. This is an "as and when required" position to provide cover for sickness or vacant posts. It's a great opportunity to gain experience within the catering team and decide if a permanent role is right for you.

If you are interested in, can you please go to the advert link below:

[Relief Catering Assistants - MOR10960 | Moray Council | myjobscotland](#)

You Asked, We Listened – Pupil Edition

- Pupils have asked for more bins that seagulls cannot get into. We listened and have provided more.
- Our Prefects have asked for more jobs to do (!) and we have listened. There is now a list of jobs they can do (if they wish to) during break times and lunch breaks. These include helping younger children, litter picking, sorting the library books and giving stickers to pupils who are demonstrating kindness and inclusion.
- I have been asked about the climbing wall – I am in the process of getting permissions to put this up.
- Older pupils have said they really enjoy Mandarin so we are continuing this next term too.
- We are putting more equipment out in the playground so pupils have a selection, not just football. I have also organised more lunchtime sports clubs in the PE hall with Active Schools next term.
- I have started the process of updating the bike shed plastic sheeting for safety and security.

Staffing Update



As you will have read in a separate email, we are delighted that the role of new permanent Head Teacher for Cluny Primary has been filled. Mrs Lisa Campbell will start sometime around the February half term break, or thereafter. I will continue in my current position as Acting Head Teacher until she takes up the post and we will ensure there are a few days of hand over. Mrs Campbell came for a tour of our school and it was lovely to meet her. She is very happy to have been the successful candidate and looks forward to joining, and leading, Team Cluny in 2026.

Volunteers – If you'd like to volunteer to help in our library or to help with trips to the local library or in other ways please contact us. If you need a PVG check, we can help with this.

Primary 4/5A Reverse Advent Calendar

Yet again you have been so generous in your donations for our Reverse Advent Calendar. Donations have been given to the Buckie Hub. I am sure your support will help many local families this Christmas period. As you can see below – the generosity from the school community has been amazing – Thank you!



Cluny Primary Pupils Visit Parklands Care Home to Sing Carols and Play Music for the Residents



Our pupils really enjoy getting out into our community and meeting people. Our singers and musicians did an excellent job as school ambassadors and demonstrated important skills and qualities such as confidence and kindness.



North Church Service



Thank you to everyone who attended our Church Service and to Reverend Jaco for his support. The children sang so well and I hope they sound just as beautiful on Thursday evening for 'Carols in the Square' (which has moved to the Church

due to poor weather forecast). Just to clarify what one of our P1s answered in the church, please let me reassure you that none of our pupils have been asked to make '3000 cards' in the run up to Christmas! We will continue to work on our number facts and counting 😊

Our church collection raised over £340 for Pancreatic Cancer in memory of our former Depute Head Teacher, Mrs Veronica Cunningham. On behalf of her family, thank you for your generous donations.

Our thoughts are with them and everyone who may be facing some challenges this Christmas time.

Dates for Your Diary

- Thursday 18 Dec Evening – Carols in the Square in the North Church
- Friday 19 Dec – Last day, Dress as you Please Day (no football strips or high heels/long nails please), School finishes at 3.10pm and Term 3 starts at 9am on Monday 5 January 2026
- Monday 5 January – A Celebrating Success Assembly – Children can bring in any certificates, trophies or badges they have been awarded in the last few months and talk about their achievements.
- Wednesday 14 January – Meeting after school for P1 August 2026 parents/carers to see classes after school (more info to come)
- Monday 19 January 2026 – Community Action Group 3 – Pupils meeting during assembly time
- Thursday 5 February 2026 – All Teach, All Learn Open Morning (Numeracy) – Meet in Hall 9.15am
- Thursday 12 February 2026 – In-service Day – no pupils in school
- Friday 13 February 2026 – Tuesday 17 February 2026 (inclusive) – School Holidays

Sharing Positivity and Appreciation

- Thank you to all our staff for their hard work in the run up to the holidays.
- We are very grateful to Mrs Lisa Campbell for applying to be our New Head Teacher and we look forward to welcoming her to our school again soon.
- Thank you to all the parent helpers that helped the whole school walk safely to and from the Church.
- Lots of appreciation to our staff members who have committed to undertake CYPIC Writing Training this year. Thank you for all your dedication to improving writing in our school with a lot of extra training, meetings, reading and paperwork.
- Thank you to our P7 Leaders for helping to arrange our new reading books in the Library and to sell our 'stamps' and deliver our Christmas cards around the school.
- I am very grateful to all our staff for getting our attainment data ready to report (on time) to HQ. The Government asks us to submit only P1, P4 and P7 percentages although we monitor all classes. Our statistics this year are looking VERY positive so far with most of our pupils on track in their learning (currently P1 Literacy 97.7%, P1 Numeracy 97.7%, P4 Literacy 88.4%, P4 Numeracy 90.7% and P7 Literacy 89.8% and P7 Numeracy 87.8%). This demonstrates our staff and pupils' hard work – the best Christmas present a Head Teacher could hope for!
- Thank you SO much to Mr Ewen for spending HOURS putting together a wonderful staff video which children will watch tomorrow in a special assembly.... GO TEAM CLUNY!

Finally, for your information, I have attached a summary version of our School Improvement Plan (SIP) so you can see what we are focused on this school year (16 weeks done, 24 weeks to go). Maybe you can have a few *sips* of tea while you look through it...

Thank you for all your support in 2025. I hope you all have a nice Christmas and New Year.

With best wishes for a happy few weeks, see you in 2026 -

Kim

Miss Kim Karam
Acting Head Teacher
Cluny Primary

Priority 1

To create an inclusive learning environment. More pupil leadership opportunities and children will be more involved in their own learning, giving their views and will have a better understanding of their own next steps and targets.

We will do this partly through:

- Creating a shared understanding of wellbeing and children's rights through a variety of staff training
- Using different documents to guide our school journey (one we are using is called the 'CIRCLE' document)
- We will continue to clear and adapt our physical environment to create calmer learning spaces
- Every pupil will be a member of a Community Action Group (CAG)
- Older pupils will be Digital Leaders, Play Leaders and/or House Leaders as well as being asked for views in Pupil Focus Groups
- SHANARRI wellbeing words will be used in lessons and to help staff monitor pupil wellbeing

Priority 2

To focus on developing Writing in Cluny Primary.

We will do this partly through:

- Training more teaching staff to use the CYPIC National Writing Programme
- Identifying our starting data and setting clear targets to meet through the year and across stages
- Learning intentions and success criteria to be shared in every writing lesson
- Learners will have daily opportunities for self and peer assessment in writing
- Gather pupil voice relating to writing
- Reviewing teaching aims relating to writing, including pace and challenge

Priority 3

To improve digital literacy and embed active, differentiated, learning experiences that maximise student engagement. Assessment approaches will be reviewed across the school.

We will do this partly through:

- Creating and using a whole school digital progression to develop digital literacy skills
- Using a range of digital platforms effectively
- Staff training to ensure best use of platforms and subscriptions
- Ensuring more lessons are active, increasing engagement and supporting targets with pace and challenge
- Reviewing assessment approaches to ensure consistency across the school in literacy and numeracy

Priority 4

To increase parental engagement to create a positive home school partnership.

We will do this partly through:

- Empowering families to support their children's learning by sharing more information about pupil progress and through practical family learning sessions
- Running a series of family sessions across key curricular areas (e.g., Literacy, Numeracy, STEM) to deepen parental understanding of current teaching methods and to provide practical strategies for home support
- Introducing a new, school-wide strategy for sharing learning and pupil progress with parents/carers
- School Improvement Priorities (SIP) will be shared with all parents/carers via a 'SIP Snapshot' and in school on a noticeboard. If possible, it will also be added to the school website.
- School open sessions will link to our SIP priorities and outline ways parents/carers can support their child at home too, the school will look into setting up a 'Tea and Talk' support group to support parents of pupils with Additional Support Needs – allowing them to share feelings, offer peer support and reduce isolation.

Christmas Parties, Traditional Games and Dances are Underway!

