



Welcome to

Primary One



April 2024



Welcome to Newington Primary School

Whether you are new to Newington or continuing on with us from our nursery, we want to extend a warm welcome to our school.

The needs of the children are always paramount in the life and decision making within this school and I strongly believe in providing our children with exciting, creative and meaningful learning experiences, which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow and develop positively in a variety of ways.

I think it is crucial to involve the children and their families as partners in their education, building a whole school community which thrives on mutual respect and values positive relationships.

As key educators in your children's lives, I feel that it is important that you have a voice and that as a school we are approachable and allocate time to listen to your concerns, worries or thoughts about the school.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with the information you need to support your little one as they start Primary 1. We hope you find this pack useful. It covers most of the general questions that parents usually ask in relation to starting school.

If there is other information you need, please don't hesitate to contact the school by email or telephone as we are always happy to help.

Mrs A Ferguson
Headteacher

Transition Process

We appreciate that the transition from nursery to Primary One can be an anxious and confusing time for parents. This year, we are working hard to ensure that your child has a smooth, happy transition into Primary One and that they will thrive on their new experience.

We have been working with the Nursery Manager, Mrs Susan Gallagher and the nursery staff to establish a transition programme which involves a natural progression from nursery to Primary One.

Our transition programme involves:

- Meetings between nursery staff and infant staff
- Nursery visits by Primary One teachers
- Nursery visits to the dining hall to have snack/lunch
- Nursery visits to the infant area and playground
- Transition grid sent out to parents before the summer holidays
- Tracking system starting from Nursery to track progress against the Early Level benchmarks

This booklet was initially developed by a parent/staff working group. Hopefully it will provide some useful information and reassure those of you who feel nervous about letting your child take those steps in their education.



People for You to Recognise



Mrs Ferguson, Headteacher



Mrs Carter, Depute Headteacher



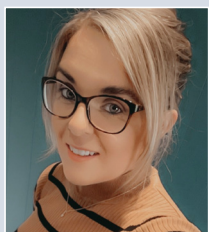
Miss Nicoll, Depute Headteacher



Mrs Bell, P1/P2



Mrs Saunders P1



Mrs Bell, General Assistant



Mrs Hind, Secretary



Miss Simpson, Secretary



Mr Kennedy, Janitor



Mrs Davidson, Playground Supervisor

Do all the children start together on the first day?

On the first day only, Wednesday 21 August, Primary One pupils in Mrs Saunders class will start at 9.15am and Mrs Bell's class will start at 9.30am.

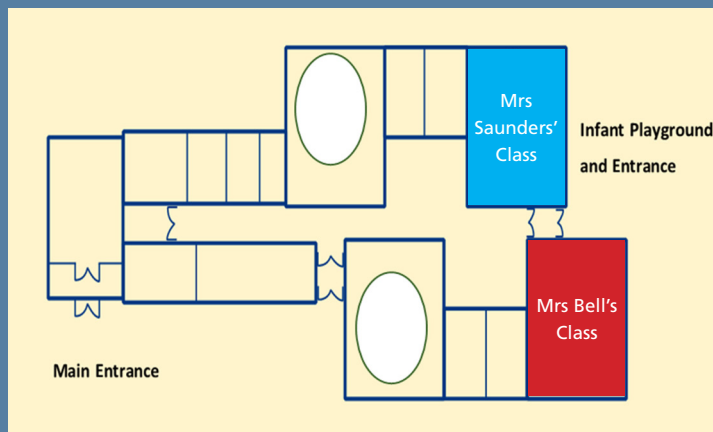
On the first day only they can be collected at 2.40pm and thereafter 2.50pm. They will start full time on Wednesday 21 August. The children will go for lunch at 12 noon initially until we get the lunch routine sorted and dismissed from school at 2.40pm

What happens on the first day?

On the first day of school parents should bring their children to the Infant Playground which is to the right of the main entrance. Parents are encouraged to bring their child into the school playground where they will be greeted by staff. There will be a photo opportunity and then you can say your goodbyes. Staff will guide the children into their classrooms.

N.B. Any pictures taken are for your own domestic home use and should not be posted on Social Media, no videos should be taken or posted - we don't have image consent for all pupils.

Where is the Infant Playground?

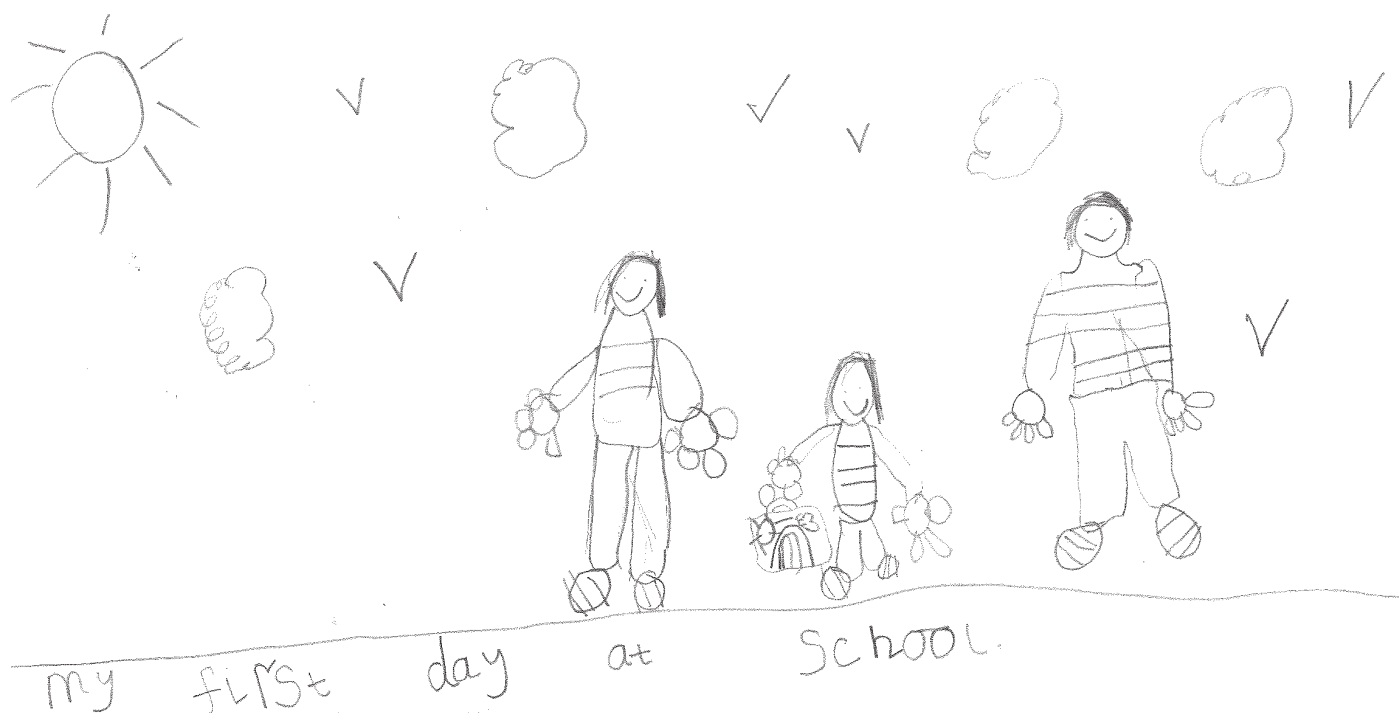


The Primary 1 Day

8.45am	Day begins
10.20 -10.40am	Interval
12.30pm	Lunchtime
2.50pm	Home time

At the end of the day, your child should be collected by an adult. It is very important to your child that they know who is collecting them and that they are on time. Please let us know if someone unfamiliar to staff is collecting your child. You can either phone the office or inform the staff member who will be minding the gate in the morning. If you are running late, for whatever reason, please contact the school office.

Where possible make all arrangements in advance. The office can be overwhelmed by requests to pass on messages and it can be upsetting for the pupils too.



School Uniform – Can we ask that your child wears school uniform. This consists of black skirt, trousers or shorts, a red polo top and jumper with the school badge on.

Indoor Shoes – Your your child will need indoor shoes to change into.

P.E. Kit – A t-shirt and a pair of shorts should be kept in your child's PE bag. Please note, football strips are not appropriate for school. Can your child also have some trainers, (preferably Velcro fasteners?) You will be informed of PE days when your child starts..

Snack – your child will be allowed to take a snack out at interval. This snack may be a piece of fruit, a bag of crisps or a small nut free chocolate bar/biscuit. This could be kept in your child's bag.

Water – we are a health promoting school and your child will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day. A sports bottle can be brought from home and refilled each day. Can you please make sure that they have their names on the bottle.

Change of Clothes – it is advisable to have a change of clothes in your child's bag in case of a 'little accident'. Please ensure that all items of clothing have your child's name clearly written on them.

We will provide all resources needed for classroom activities. A pencil case is not required.

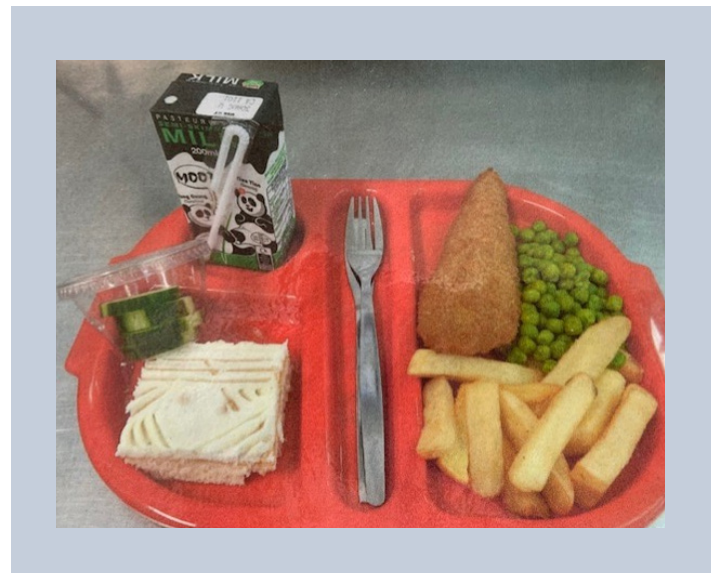


What can my child have for lunch?

Packed Lunch – Pupils will be encouraged to eat the contents of their packed lunch box. Please do not put in more food than your child would normally eat at home. A sandwich, drink, yogurt, biscuit and a piece of fruit will probably be enough. All lunch boxes should be clearly named.

School Meals – All Primary One children are entitled to free school meals. The menu is available on the school app daily and we ask that you discuss this with them so that they know what to order in class.

Although lunches are now free, if you qualify for a clothing grant, please still apply online at www.dumgal.gov.uk. This is important as this in turn helps maintain the levels of PEF Funding for our school community.



Do you have playground supervisors?

There will be learning assistants and members of senior management team in the playground from 8.30am onwards. One of these staff members will be at the gate to greet your child and ensure they enter safely. At morning interval and lunch time Mrs Davidson and Primary 7 monitors supervise the children. They will ensure all children have someone to play with.

What if my child is ill?

If your child is too ill to attend school please text the 24hr Absence Line on: **07860 029432**.

Their class teacher will then be informed.

If a child becomes unwell at school we will contact a parent/guardian, if they are not available we will phone the nominated emergency contact. With this in mind please ensure that the school is kept informed about changes to phone numbers.

If your child has to take medication during school hours it should be brought to the office. You will then have to fill out a form consenting to its administration.

Head Lice – is an ongoing problem and can spread quickly in a school. Prevention is the best method for keeping it in check. It is advisable to check hair thoroughly once a week and after shampooing, use conditioner on your child's hair and then comb through with a head lice comb.

Appointments – If your child has a planned appointment, can you please text this information to the absence line giving time and date.

How will I know what goes on at school?

Children who start school are notoriously silent about what they do all day. When asked they often say, 'Nothing' or 'I just played'. So how do you find out more?

There will be an Open Event early in the session. This is an opportunity to meet with Mrs Saunders and Mrs Bell to find out about the curriculum e.g. Jolly Phonics, numeracy, reading and play. There will be two parents' evenings during the session where you have an individual consultation with your child's teacher.

A report card will be issued in June 2025. These will provide information on your child's development and progression. If a duplicate copy is required please request this at the school office.

Letters home will be put into homework folders or school bags – please check these daily. Please help the school by sending back all returns.

We also use group texts regularly to give parents updates and our school app is the best way to get up-to-date information. Make sure we have an up-to-date number so you don't miss out on these.

Teams – Information regarding how to access Microsoft teams will be provided to all parents/carers early in the new term. Teams is used throughout the school for homework and information sharing in classes.

School Website – You will also find a lot of information on our school website and on the class page. The web address for this is:

www.newingtonprimary.schoolwebsite.scot

What should I do if I have any concerns?

Within the Infant Department we employ an open door policy. This means that should you have any concerns regarding your child you can approach the class teacher at the end of the day or a member of the senior leadership team, at the gates in the morning. This gives both the teacher and parents/guardians a chance to chat informally and for children to see the continuing link between home and school.





Never be afraid to come and ask anything. That's what we're here for.

What if they need to go to the toilet?

Children will be shown where the toilets are on their first day at school. They will be encouraged to go to the toilet before playtime and lunch but if they need to go at any other time they just need to ask!

If your child should soil themselves at school, as far as possible, they will undertake their own care under the supervision of a known adult. If they are unable to do this then parent/guardian or emergency contact will be phoned. While waiting for an appropriate adult to arrive your child will remain in a suitable area e.g. toilets and be checked by a known adult.



What can I do to prepare my child for school?

Children enjoy being able to do things for themselves – they feel important and are less anxious. Here are some things you can do to help prepare your child for Primary 1:

- Fasten zips and buttons
- Change shoes (velcro fastenings will be much easier)
- Dress and undress for P.E.
- Use cutlery correctly
- Use the toilet properly
- Wash and dry hands
- Use a tissue

What can I do to help my child learn?

- Ask them to tell you about their day and what they have learned
- Give praise and encouragement
- Sing songs and say number rhymes
- Look for numbers in the environment and count everyday objects
- Play together
- Cook together and enjoy the result!
- Visit the local library and read them stories

Remember

Don't compare your child to others, they all learn at their own pace.

Finally

School should be a fun and positive experience. Your child is about to take the next step on their educational journey, please support them in all they do.

We hope that some of your questions have been answered and that you are somewhat reassured.

This is an exciting, new time for you and your child – share it with us and enjoy!



School Holidays

Dates for school holidays for future sessions are available on the council website <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/School-term-and-holiday-dates>

