

Newtongrange Primary School

Primary 1 Induction
May 2020



Welcome to Newtongrange Primary School

We are delighted that your child is joining us in August 2020.

Normally we would have a P1 induction meeting for our parents and carers. Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic we need to share information regarding starting P1 Virtually.

We hope the page dedicated to P1 transition on our school website will provide you with key information regarding your child starting school.

There continues to be a lot of unknowns re when and how schools will reopen. We aim to keep our families updated through our school app and website.

We can't wait to welcome you and your child through our school doors!

School Vision and Values

After consulting with learners, parents and staff about what is important in our school, we have chosen three key words that we believe will support us to make a positive difference to our learners.

Aspire, Believe, Achieve

Our vision at Newtongrange Primary School is underpinned by our set of core values:

Kind Fair Hardworking Confident Respectful Responsible

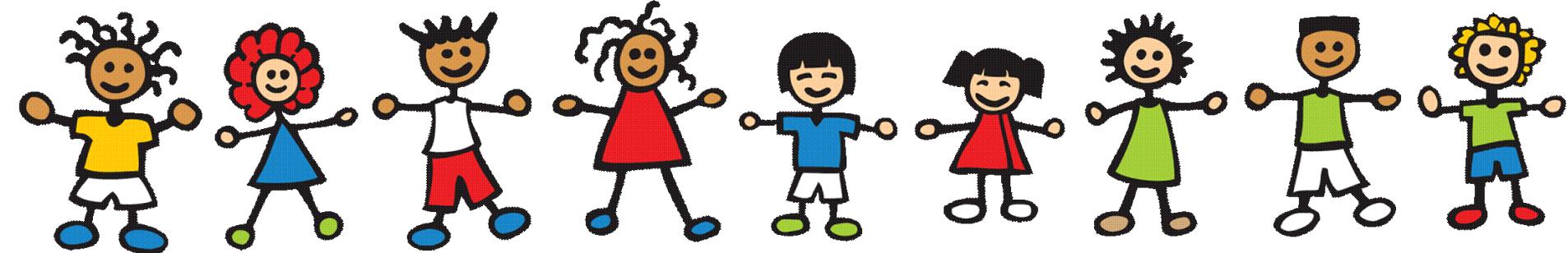
School Aims

Our school aims are to:

- Value every child as an individual.
- Provide excellent learning and teaching experiences, which allows all learners to develop the knowledge and skills relevant to their individual needs.
- Provide an exciting, creative and challenging curriculum that is broad and balanced.
- Create a learning community, where everyone works together in a supportive environment of mutual care, respect and consideration for each other.
- Promote our learner's health and wellbeing, encouraging self-esteem and a respect for diversity and fairness in life.
- Involve parents and carers in the work of the school and keep them fully informed of their children's progress, valuing their contributions and support.
- Develop links with the wider community to enable the school to play a full and active role in the community which it serves.
- Manage the school resources efficiently and effectively to maintain high standards and meet the needs of the school's continuous improvement.
- Establish learning as a life-long experience accessible to everyone involved with the school.

School Information

- We currently have 14 classes and a nursery with a 40 full time places in the nursery and 20:20 part time places.
- School roll – 435
- P1 intake Aug 2020 - 56
- P1 class organisation
 - **P1a – 23 learners**
 - **P1b – 23 learners**
 - **P1/2 – 10 P1 learners and 14 P2 learners**



Composite Classes

What is a composite class?

- A composite class is where children from two or more stages are grouped together eg P2/3

Why are composite classes necessary?

- Schools receive an allocation of teachers based on the number of pupils in the school. We are required to organise the pupils into classes, according to the staffing allocation. Composite classes are formed when the number of children at a year stage is greater than that allowed, or where the number is much smaller than the number allowed. Normally composite classes will have a minimum of 4 pupils from any one stage.

How are children allocated to classes?

- The allocation of pupils to classes will be carried in accordance with Education, Communities and Economy Directorate policy. Experience suggests that this is best achieved by the application of age as the main criterion.

Are composite classes detrimental to the progress of children?

- No. Children already work in groups according to their stage of learning. All children are individual and learn at their own rate. Children in composite classes will continue to work in the same way.

Please refer to The Formation of Classes in Midlothian Primary Schools policy for further information.

Staffing

Head Teacher	Miss V Morgan
Depute Head Teacher	Mrs D Crossan Mr S McBride
PT SfL Teacher	Mrs N Istephan
Home School Practitioner	Mrs L Grieve
P1 Teachers	P1a Miss Laidler P1b Miss Brown P1/2 Miss Mullen

Settling In

- Be patient with your child if they say they don't want to come to school.
- Let us know if there are problems.
- We are always available to listen if there are any concerns.
- Absences- Please telephone the school office before 9.15am.
- Late coming after 8:45am- If your child is late please enter the school by the main door and report to the school office.



Curriculum for Excellence

All children 3-18 in Scotland through Curriculum for Excellence, our national curriculum.

- Your child has already started on their journey in their pre-school placement
- Throughout their Primary and onto S2 they will study 8 main areas
 - Literacy
 - Numeracy
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Religious and Moral Education in The Catholic School
 - Expressive Arts
 - Sciences
 - Social Subjects
 - Technologies
- The curriculum provides progression of learning across the years.
- The core curriculum includes Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Mathematics and Numeracy.
- At Newtongrange Primary School we continuously review our curriculum to ensure it provides challenge for all individual learners.
- We also continuously review our curriculum to ensure it children enjoy learning, are motivated to learn and take responsibility for their learning.

Curriculum for Excellence

There are four levels within CfE and children are expected to achieve the different levels at key stages.

- Early Level End of P1
- First Level End of P4
- Second Level End of P7
- Third/Fourth Level Secondary 1-3

- Teachers use their ongoing professional judgement supported by standardised assessments to determine when a child has achieved the appropriate level.

Assessment is for Excellence

- During the first few weeks your child will work 1:1 with a staff member.
- They will be asked question focusing on:
 - Literacy- Phonics, Reading and Comprehension
 - Numeracy- Number recognition, addition and subtraction
- Asking these questions allows us to gain a clear picture of what your child already knows.
- Ongoing assessment informs children and teachers how well a child is doing and what they need to work on next.

Health and Wellbeing

Within Primary 1 the children will:

- Participate in 2 hours of quality PE.
- Develop emotional and social skills through building their class community and through play.
- Learn about healthy choices including diet, fitness and hygiene.
- Further develop their knowledge about keeping themselves safe.



Literacy

Within Primary 1 the children will:

- Learn sounds and how to blend these together to read words.
- Develop reading and comprehension skills.
- Develop handwriting and letter formation.
- Explore different genres for writing.
- Further develop listening and talking skills through group, whole class and play activities.
- Learn through a play based learning approach.



Mathematics and Numeracy

Within Primary 1 the children will:

- Learn all about numbers – names, counting, sequencing, addition and subtraction.
- Develop knowledge about shape, position and movement.
- Explore time, data handling and measure.
- Learn through a games based and active learning approach.



Learning Across the Curriculum

Within Primary 1 the children will:

- Learn about the world they live in through a different class projects.
- Have opportunities to develop skills across the expressive arts.
- Develop curiosity and enquiry through science and technologies.
- Recognise, appreciate and celebrate different cultures and traditions.



Play Based Learning

Play is a huge part of our Primary 1 curriculum.

Why play?

Delivering our curriculum through play has ensured a smooth and relaxed transition from Early Childhood Centre to school. Play enables our teachers to deliver the curriculum to smaller groups so children are receiving support and challenge at their level.

Children no longer come to school and sit at a desk of their own all day. They are taught in small groups at the teaching table and they are given a ‘target’ which is a job to reinforce their learning. Children will cover the same curriculum as before, however in a more active and engaging way.

School Uniform

- Grey/Black/ Navy skirt, trousers or shorts (**no jeans**).
- Royal Blue Sweatshirt
- White Polo Shirt .
- PE Kit – shorts, t-shirt and gym shoes.
- All clothing must be labeled clearly with your child's name.
- Uniforms are available through the school.



Labelling

Absolutely EVERYTHING needs to be labelled with your child's name on it before starting school!

Things do go astray, especially when children are getting changed for PE.

Please label:

- all uniform & PE items, including socks / tights
- water bottle
- school bag
- shoes
- packed lunch bags / boxes

There are many places where you can buy labels online - or you can just buy a labelling pen and write your child's name on everything.

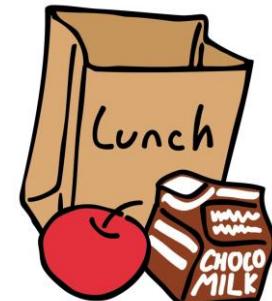
Playtime

- Children get a 15 minutes break during morning.
- During this time children can have a snack and play with their friends outside.
- Learning Assistants supervise the playground.



Lunch time

- All children from P1-P3 are entitled to a free meal.
- Lunches are provided by Midlothian Catering services.
- Lunches are supervised by school staff and catering staff.
- The menu is bases on a 3 week rotation.
- Menus can be assessed from the school app, school website and council website.
- Please discuss menu choices with your child.
- Children can bring a packed lunch to school.



Positive Behaviour

- We promote positive behaviour expectations through our school values
 - Respectful, Kindness, Responsible, Fair, Hardworking, Confident
- Aim
 - CREATE A RESPECTFUL CULTURE
 - NURTURE STRONG RELATIONSHIPS
 - BE VISIBLE, CLEAR AND CONSISTENT
 - FOCUS ON THE POSITIVE
 - BUILD A SENSE OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY
- Recognise and celebrate positive behaviour.
 - Whole school reward approach
- Stepped sanctions approach when learners need support to follow school behaviour expectations.

Homework

- At Newtongrange Primary School, we believe in encouraging our children to be lifelong learners – we hope to build on children's interests and enthusiasm by making learning fun.
- Flexible approach to homework.
- In short, you will find that homework at Newtongrange Primary may consist of:
 - Learning Logs that offer an **optional** selection of challenges for children to choose from across a half term.
 - One of Newtongrange Primary School's '*50 Things to do as a family around Newtongrange*' which can be shared with a photo on Twitter.
 - P1 numeracy grids with a range of activities to help children develop basic numeracy skills and agility.
 - Reading, reading, reading...
- Primary 1 homework should take no more than 10 minutes.
- If you are unsure please let us know.

Home School Practitioner

- We recognise and acknowledge families can be faced with many different challenges.
- At Newtongrange Primary School we have a HSP who can provide family support.
- Lee Grieve is our new HSP and works full time. Families can access Lee for number of supports.

We can support your family with:

- Family disagreements.
- Parental separation/ Family changes.
- Bereavement, coping with family illness or disability.
- Unemployment, Housing, Universal Credits.
- Health and Wellbeing concerns at school including learning and development and school attendance.
- Family members feeling overwhelmed, low mood, stressed, anxious.
- Family substance misuse or addiction.

Is there anything else my child needs to bring to school?

- A **reasonably sized** school bag, **(clearly marked with your child's name)** which can accommodate and protect an A4 homework pocket, a reading book, gym kit, etc, is essential.
- Water bottle
- Snacks
- No toys!.

How your child can prepare for school ...

- Using a knife and fork.
- Take turns.
- Identify own name and belongings.
- Get changed independently for PE.
- Pack and unpack school bag.

How you can help prepare your child for school ...

- Provide:
 - School bag
 - PE kit
- Read to and with your child.
- Play games with them.
- Encourage them:
 - To use a pencil.
 - Identify numeracy and literacy everywhere.
 - Write their name on everything!!

How you can get more involved in our school

Children do their best when parents and school work in partnership.

We welcome partnership with parents through a number of different ways.

- Sharing the Learning Events including:
 - Stay and Play
 - Showcase assemblies
 - Snapshot Jotter mornings
- Parent Helper
- Parent Council
- Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

How to find out more

We aimed to keep you informed through out your child's time at Newtongrange Primary School.

You can speak to your child's class teacher if you have any concerns – quick chats/ appointments

You will receive regular newsletters with school updates. Our school website and app is continuously being updated with news and helpful information.

You can follow us on Twitter – celebrating learning and achievements.