

Craigbank Primary School



Transition from ELC to Primary 1 2021

A guide for Parents and Carers

Preparing your child for Primary 1

The period before a child starts school for the first time can be an anxious time for parents. We have put together the following information as a simple guide to how you can best prepare your child for this exciting time in their lives!

Promoting Independence

Your child will really benefit from being as independent as possible when they start school. Of course teaching staff will always be on hand to help, but children feel a real sense of achievement when they can accomplish things by themselves! Examples include being able to dress and undress independently, as this will really help with PE sessions. Learning to tie shoelaces can be tricky, so provide opportunities to practise this skill and also explore different types of fastenings, for example Velcro.

Children in Primary 1 will also have access to an outdoor space throughout the day, so being able to put their coat on and zip it up independently will really help them, as will being able to take off their jumper when they get hot. It also means that they can get straight to their playing and learning without having to stop and ask an adult for help!

Another important part of being independent at school is being able to use the toilet independently, including washing and drying their hands.

Having lunch independently may also be new to your child. If they will be having hot dinners, practise using a knife, fork and spoon. If they are taking a packed lunch, practise opening the packets and containers of food they will be taking. Encourage them to help choose and make their lunches. Maybe they could use their new school lunchbox and water bottle when you go for a picnic in the park? This would enable them to practise opening their food and learn about their likes/dislikes and suitable items for school lunches.

How can I help?

- Listen and talk to your child about this change in their lives.
- Involve your child in getting ready for school by helping choose the things they will need, for example their uniform, lunchbox, schoolbag.
- Talk to your school if you have questions or concerns.
- Support staff in getting to know your child, let them know about interests and health issues.
- Keep in touch with the school about anything that may affect your child's learning.
- Familiarise with Class Dojo. This is the platform we will use to communicate with you.

Important Information

- All children in Primary 1-3 receive free school meals. The children have the option of a hot lunch or sandwiches with assorted fillings each day.
- You will be given the option of ordering milk for your child. If you choose to do this, your child will receive a carton of milk in class every day.
- Craigbank uses Parent Pay for any payments that need to be made to the school (milk, ordering, school trips). Parent Pay is an online cashless payment system for schools. You will be given a username and password for this at the start of term in August. It is important that you sign up even if you do not need to use it yet.
- Primary 1 children will have Physical Education sessions with Miss Crossan (PE Teacher) 3 times a week.
- It is helpful to write your child's name on all of their school clothing, especially jumpers/cardigans. This will ensure that clothing can be found in class easily.
- Ask your child to help name their uniform/clothes and school equipment like drinks bottle and lunch box. This will aid name recognition and help them to identify which things are theirs!

We are really
looking forward to
welcoming you to
Craigbank Primary
School.

