



# Welcome to

Auchencairn Primary School



December 2022

# Information at a Glance

## School Address

Auchencairn Primary School  
Auchencairn, Castle Douglas, DG7 1RW

Email address:

[gw08officeauchencair@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officeauchencair@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)

Parent Council Chairperson Mrs Poppy Baggott

Parent Council Email

Head Teacher Ms Fiona Christie

School Roll 33

Denomination Status Non - Denominational

Status of Gaelic N/A

## Teaching Staff

Principal Teachers Ms C McCall /  
Miss J Ross

P1-3 Mrs. D Styles /  
Miss J Ross

P4-7 Ms C McCall /  
Mrs J James

Learning Support Teacher Mrs. A Scrimshaw

Clerical Assistant Mrs. B Fisher

Specialist Teachers

Art Teacher Ms J. McLeman

Educational Psychologist Mrs K. Howatson

School Education  
Support Officer Mr M Armstrong

If you would like some help understanding this or need it in another format please contact 030 33 33 3000.

## Auxiliary Staff

Learning Assistant Mrs R. MacPherson

Cook Mrs B. Norcross

Janitor Vacancy

Minibus Mrs S Cairney

Facilities Assistant Vacancy

## The School Day

09:00 School Starts

10:45 - 11:00 Morning Interval

12.30 - 13:15 Lunch

15:00 School Finishes

School term dates can be found at:

[http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/  
School-term-and-holiday-dates](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/School-term-and-holiday-dates)

## Communicating with home

To ensure good communication with parents, we use a variety of methods such as, phone calls, letters, school diaries, texts (Group Call), emails, Microsoft Forms, curriculum and monthly Newsletters. To allow information to be processed efficiently, please return letters, with reply slips, to the school office, as soon as possible. Please contact school, as soon as possible and before 9.30am if your child is absent for any reason. Remember to inform the school of changes in phone numbers or address in case of emergency.

Facebook: [Auchencairn Primary School](#)

Blog: [Auchencairn and Borgue Partnership Blog](#)



## Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Auchencairn Primary.

Auchencairn Primary is a rural school, set on the edge of Auchencairn Village, surrounded by beautiful Galloway countryside. We promote a friendly, welcoming and positive environment where your child is appreciated as an individual and provided opportunities to grow and develop within an inspiring and secure environment.

This handbook is designed to give you as much information as possible about your child's new school. It cannot replace direct personal contact between school and parents, but we hope it provides an insight into our learning environment.

We hope you find the information useful and look forward to welcoming you to Auchencairn Primary School.

With Best Wishes,

**Fiona Christie**

Partner Head Teacher

For more information about how we support parents and work with our schools please see our [Authority Handbook](#)

## School Aims, Values and Ethos

Auchencairn Primary is a friendly and welcoming school where we aim to inspire, challenge and nurture all, to be the very best they can be. We aim to ensure that everyone in our school and wider community is included, respected and treated fairly. We have high expectations of learning and achievement. We provide opportunities to explore, discover and create in an active, fun and safe environment to develop the skills needed to be successful learners both now and in the future.

**Our School Motto:** Be the Best You Can Be!

### Our School Aims and Ethos

At Auchencairn Primary we aim to enable all children to develop their capabilities as:

- Successful Learners
- Confident Individuals
- Responsible Citizens
- Effective Contributors

### Our School Values

**Be Respectful**

**Be Responsible**

**Be Kind**

**Be Honest**

These aims are related to the seven key areas of school life:

#### 1. Curriculum

Provide a real, relevant and inspiring curriculum supported by learning through local and global contexts. Be committed to ensuring that our pupils are responsible citizens who are equipped with the skills, attitudes and expectations required for our evolving, multi-cultural society.

#### 2. Attainment

Ensure all pupils are provided with opportunities to realise and maximise their potential through high quality learning and teaching experiences.

#### 3. Learning and Teaching

Enable each child to be successful and maximise their potential by fostering resilience and life-long learning skills. To develop creativity through digital technology and the expertise of partners, cluster schools and the local community.

#### 4. Support for Pupils

Provide for the pastoral, social, emotional, spiritual and physical needs of each child. Remove barriers to learning by employing a variety of learning and teaching approaches which meet the needs of all learners.

#### 5. Ethos

Create an open and positive learning environment which promotes a culture of achievement and high expectations for all.

#### 6. Accommodation and Resources

Present a welcoming, stimulating and safe environment. Provide staff opportunities for continuous professional development to promote the achievement of excellence.

#### 7. Management, Leadership and Quality Assurance

Provide a clear and ambitious vision. Develop and value the skills of all staff, ensuring that ongoing monitoring and self-evaluation leads to continuous improvement.

## Contact Us

The school welcomes suggestions and enquiries from parents and carers.

### If you need to find out something

We can be contacted by e-mail, telephone, group call text messages or face to face. Where it is not possible to resolve enquiries straight away, we will make arrangements to follow up as necessary with the most appropriate member of staff.

### Comments, Complaints and Compliments

A comment might be some brief feedback about how we have handled a situation or delivered a service. It is best to pass a comment straight to the school so that we can take any necessary action.

If you are not happy with the response you receive or a decision that has been made, you can Ask us to Look Again. You can do this by contacting [ParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:ParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk). At this point an Officer will contact you and discuss the issue and direct the enquirer as appropriate.

Remember you can also access Dumfries & Galloway Have Your Say at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17349/Have-your-say>

## How the School Works

### Class Organisation

For organisational purposes, schools are structured into classes. Each year it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to organise the class structure.

For more information please see the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

## Positive Behaviour and Celebrating Success

We aim to provide a safe and enjoyable learning community, where respect for everyone is paramount, and the rights of the child are realised. Positive behaviour and achievement are celebrated through:

**Golden Time** – Each day pupils earn ‘Golden Time’ leading to a 30 minute reward session on a Friday. ‘Golden Time’ is earned for demonstrating a positive learning attitude and allowing everyone to enjoy their ‘Rights’. For a variety of reasons, children sometime find it challenging to display a positive attitude. In these circumstances, we will always work with parents to provide support for the child.

**House points** - We have four Houses Bengairn, Hestan, Screel and Suie.’ House points are awarded for good behaviour and demonstrating our school values. House Captains, senior pupils, develop their leadership skills by giving short motivational speeches to their House and act as ‘role models’ for behaviour.

**Pupils of the Week** - Children receive a certificate, linked to one of the Four Capacities; a Confident Individual, an Effective Contributor, a Responsible Citizen’ or a Successful Learner. This is presented in assembly each Friday.

**Stickers and Certificates** – Throughout the week children may receive stickers, stampers or certificates to recognise small areas of personal achievement.

For more information please see page 13 of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

## School uniform

All Dumfries and Galloway schools have a dress code which encourages pupils to dress in a way appropriate to attendance at school. For more information on School Uniform, Dress Code, and School Clothing Grants visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

Pupils are encouraged to wear uniform every day but especially for school concerts, photos and trips.

Parents can order school uniform via the school office or by ordering online from ‘Brigade.’ [www.brigade.uk.com](http://www.brigade.uk.com)

Auchencairn Primary uniform is as follows:

- Green Sweatshirt, cardigan or hooded top embroidered with the School Logo
- Gold or white polo shirt
- Black or grey smart trousers or skirt.
- Green gingham/summer dress,
- Green tartan pleated kilt

Please name all uniform.

A uniform donation scheme runs across the partnership. All recycled uniform is £1 per item. The rack of donated uniform and shoes are located in the school corridor for browsing and buying.

### PE Kit

Pupils require shorts or joggers and a T-shirt. PE Kit can be left in school in a gym bag. Trainers or plimsolls are required for PE or for indoors when the weather is wet.

Pupils are encouraged to wear outdoor footwear which is suitable for running/outdoor sporting activities.

## Financial Support for Children and Families

### Grants and Bursaries

#### Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Child Payment is a payment for families on certain benefits or tax credits. Eligible families will get £40 every four weeks for each child under six.

Further information and an application can be made at: [mygov.scot](https://www.mygov.scot) website or call us on 0800 182 2222.

#### Best Start Grant

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments:

- Pregnancy and Baby Payment
- Early Learning Payment
- School Age Payment

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit. The payments you can get now will depend on:

- how far along in your pregnancy you are
- how old your child is

Further information and an application can be made at: [mygov.scot](https://www.mygov.scot) website

#### Clothing Grant

The award of clothing grants is to assist with the cost of school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on low income. The current award is presently £134 per primary school child and £150 per secondary school child.

Further information and an application can be made at: Free school meals and associated payments - Dumfries and Galloway Council ([dumgal.gov.uk](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk))

Education and Learning Directorate are committed to supporting families through their Anti-Poverty Strategy – details of which can be found at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty) Schools should also make parents aware of the School Uniform Bank Project. Donation and Collection information can be found at the above link.

### School Meals

The Naturally D&G local provenance for a sustainable future ensures that meals are freshly prepared with seasonal ingredients and are free from undesirable additives.

Detailed information on school meals is available at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmenus](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmenus)

### Special Dietary Requirements

Facilities Services – Catering provide special dietary requirements for food allergy and intolerances; medically prescribed diets; or diets for religious or cultural reasons specific meals for children of different ethnic origin. Simply ask the school for a registration form to allow us to inform the catering team who will discuss your child's requirements in full.

For more information contact the Solutions Centre on 01387 271 112 or [solutionscentre@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:solutionscentre@dumgal.gov.uk) to access the Legislation & Nutrition Officer.

### Free School Meals

Free school meals are provided for all pupils in Primary 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Confirmation of when this will be rolled out to Primary 6 and Primary 7 from the Scottish Government has yet to be confirmed.

In Nursery eligible children can receive up to 1140 hours a year of Early Learning and Childcare. As part of this funded offer the child will be entitled to one free meal and a snack each day.

All primary schools are now operating a pre-order system for school lunches for paid and free school meals. Parent / Carer will receive a letter informing them of how to create and set up an account for their child.

Free school meals can lead to a large saving in each year, nursery and primary school pupils can save £360 and secondary school pupils can save £370. You'll also be helping your child's school if you qualify for free school meals. Some Scottish Government funding provided directly to schools is linked to the number of pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

For more information visit

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmeals](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmeals)

Visit the school meal website for further information

[www.dgschoolmeals.co.uk](https://www.dgschoolmeals.co.uk)



## School Transport

Free school transport is available for some school children attending primary or secondary school if they live within the school catchment area and if they meet certain criteria. For more information and guidance visit <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15245/Free-school-transport>

## Free Travel for 5 - 22 year olds

From 31 January 2022 all children and young people aged 5-22 will be entitled to free bus travel in Scotland. You can apply for free travel online from today at [www.getyournec.scot](http://www.getyournec.scot) (This cannot be done through your school)

## Attendance

It is your responsibility as parents to ensure that your child/children attend school regularly. For the safety of all children it is important for you to telephone the school office prior to/at the beginning of the absence. Absences are recorded in class registers and frequent or irregular absences not supported by a reasonable excuse, will be notified to parents and the matter may be referred to the Opportunities for All Service. If possible please, try to make dental/medical appointments outwith school hours. However, if this is not possible please inform us in writing or by telephone of the appointment and arrange to collect your child from class.

For more information on Attendance, Absences, Lateness and responsibilities of parents please visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

## Absence from School

Pupils who need to leave school during the school day ie doctor /dentist appointments, must be collected by a named contact confirmed with the school office. They must also report to the school office on their return to school.

## Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), now known as 'Scotland's Curriculum,' is bringing learning to life in the way education is delivered for all 3-18 year olds in nursery, primary, secondary, at college and via workplace or community learning. It aims to respond and adapt flexibly to meet the needs of an ever changing and evolving world and Scotland's place within it. At its heart lies a constant commitment and drive towards excellence and equity, to raise standards, improve knowledge, develop skills for all learners and close the gap between the lowest and highest achievers by ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to be successful no matter what their background or circumstances. Ultimately it aims to nurture children and young people as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

### Broad General Education

Children and young people work their way through Experiences and Outcomes in each of the five Curriculum Levels (Early, First, Second, Third, Fourth) and in each of the eight Curricular Areas. The five Curricular Levels span pre-school to the end of S3. This is the Broad General Education. Pupils progress at their own pace, working through the Experiences and Outcomes of the most appropriate level for them. Pupils will be supported in collecting evidence of their achievements, with a profile of these being produced in P7 and S3.

### Literacy and English

Literacy includes Reading, Writing and Listening and Talking. English underpins all learning.

### Numeracy and Mathematics

Maths and Numeracy are taught daily through direct teaching, mental and active maths.

### Expressive Arts

Learning the skills of Art and Design, Dance and Drama in a variety of mediums.

### Technologies

Digital Literacy skills are developing through the curriculum and children can use technology in a wide variety of contexts.

### Social Studies

Social Studies include history, social and economic studies and geography from a local, national and global perspective.

### Sciences

Through the Sciences, children and young people develop their early interests in, and understanding of, the living, material and physical world.

### Cross Curricular Work or Interdisciplinary Learning

"Interdisciplinary Learning" is when two or three planned curricular areas are used together to complete learning.

### Religious and Moral Education (RME)

Children learn about World faiths and cultures. There are planned times for "Religious Observance." with opportunities to think about ourselves, our community and our core values;

### Health and Well Being Education

HWB includes physical, social and emotional wellbeing as well as, looking after our bodies and keeping safe.

### Wider Achievement and Celebrations

Many pupils have skills and talents outside of school, it is important to share all successes! Please send photos which can be displayed on the "Wider Achievement Wall".

## Parental Involvement and Engagement

### Parent/Carers and the Parent Council

Every parent who has a child at our school is a member of the Parent Forum. The parent council is a group of parents who have chosen to represent the parent forum. As a member of the Parent Forum, each parent can expect to:

- Receive information about the school and its activities
- Hear about what partnership with parents means in our school
- Be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you
- Identify issues you want the parent council to work on with the school
- Be asked your opinion by the parent council on issues relating to the school and education it provides
- Work in partnership with staff
- Enjoy taking part in school life in whatever way possible

More information is available at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement>

More information and support for Parents/ Parent Councils is available at <https://connect.scot/>

Parentclub Scotland <https://www.parentclub.scot/> provides support information and guidance to expectant parents, baby, toddler, Child, Pre-teen and Parents and Carers.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland's (NPF5) Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell series. Free Downloads for parents/carers: <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/in-a-nutshell-series/nationals-in-a-nutshell-series/>

### Parentzone Scotland

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone> information about the Curriculum and how you can be involved in your child's learning.

### How is my child doing?

There will be several opportunities for you to discuss your child's progress. This may be through informal discussion with the teacher or at Parents' Nights/ Learning Conversations, formal reports or for some it may be through more formal, focussed meetings with other agencies.



## Helping Your Child and Family Learning

Homework provides opportunities for independent study and consolidating classwork. We consider homework important for the following reasons:

- To develop the practice of independent study.
- To develop perseverance and self-discipline.
- To take learning out of the classroom.
- To involve parents/carers in their child's learning.

Pupils normally receive weekly reading, spelling and maths homework. Reading to and with your child is one of the most valuable home-learning activities both, in the early years, and as children move through the school. Similarly, in maths, repetition of addition and subtraction facts and times table practice supports progress in numeracy.

All children are provided with a homework diary, to keep parents informed of tasks set. We kindly request that parents check and sign the diary on completion of homework. Additionally, we provided reading/homework bags in Primary One.

Throughout the year, opportunities are provided to discuss your child's progress. This may be through informal discussion with the teacher, Parents' Nights/ Learning Conversations, Formal Reports or Children's Planning Meetings with other agencies.

## Support for All

### Support for Learners

Dumfries and Galloway Council is committed to the well-being and educational development of all learners. The process of inclusion requires all involved in the business of learning and teaching to demonstrate commitment, innovation and flexibility to ensure that all children and young people have access to quality learning opportunities and experiences.

More information is available at <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16163/Support-for-Learners> and on page 18 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

### Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

You are the expert on your child and what you think matters. Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) means that the School will always seek to involve you, to listen to your opinions and take them seriously.

More information is available at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/girfec](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/girfec) and on page 20 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

### Child Protection

All children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect. The vision for all children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway is that they should be: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible and included. Schools and front-line education and child care services will play an important role in ensuring all children and young people are safe and well. Further information can be found at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16640/Support-for-children-and-families>

Parents, carers and pupils have a key role in keeping the school community safe. We would therefore urge parents to share any information which would keep everyone safe, and to support and encourage their child(ren) to do the same.

### Enrolment in Schools - School Places

Information on enrolment in school and catchment areas is available at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15241/School-places> Information regarding catchment areas can be found on the Council's website by accessing "Find My Nearest".

### School Improvements

Each year the school will publish a School Improvement Plan which outlines the key priorities for the school during the year ahead, following engagement with staff, pupils and parents. The plan indicates the expected impact of priorities on pupil learning, as well as providing brief information about the key tasks to be taken forward. Both the report and the plan are published on the school's web-site and are also available in hard copy, on request. A copy can also be found by searching for your school at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools)

### Auchencairn and Borgue Partnership School Improvement Plan 2022-23

In June of each year, the school publishes a Standards & Quality Report providing all stakeholders with a comprehensive summary of the school's work and learners' achievements.

The first part of this report provides an overview of the school's progress in addressing key priorities, while the second part gives information about, for



example, how well pupils are learning and achieving and how well the school is supporting children/young people to develop and learn.

In June, following engagement with staff, pupils and parents, we publish a School Improvement Plan which outlines the key priorities for the school during the year ahead. Current priorities include:

#### Literacy

- to develop progressive frameworks to support learning and teaching in Early Literacy and Reading
- to develop a consistent and progressive approach to teaching writing

#### Learning and Teaching

- to improve learner opportunities to be actively involved in their learning



## Health and Safety

### Emergency Procedures (including Safer Together Guidance)

If your child feels ill during the school day and we feel that he/she would be better at home, we will telephone you or your emergency contact. Minor accidents, e.g. cuts, bruises, are dealt with by the school staff. Serious accidents are few, but should one occur your child will be immediately taken either to your doctor or to hospital, if necessary, and you or your emergency contact will be notified. We cannot stress enough the importance of supplying the school with the relevant information we require in such a situation, i.e. your own home and work number and a telephone number of an emergency contact. **Please remember that if your child stays in more than one home setting contact details should take account of this.**

### Health Care (inc First Aid)

Many children will require their health care needs to be met at sometime within the nursery/school environment, for most children this will be for short periods of time only, but for some children this may require more long-term planning and support. If your child has any health care needs, please contact the school to discuss arrangements. Full details of the support available and your role as a parent and the role of your child are contained within Health Care in Schools 3-18 (NHS and Dumfries and Galloway Council) which is available from the school.

For more information see our [Authority Handbook](#)

### Severe Weather and School Closure Arrangements

Headteachers are authorised to make an emergency closure when the state of the weather or any other exceptional circumstance make it necessary in the best interests of the pupils. In these circumstances parents will be communicated with in a variety of ways including text messages/ phone calls and emergency contact arrangements. All school closures will be notified on the Council Website.

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15240/Emergency-school-closures](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15240/Emergency-school-closures)

### Data Protection

Information on how the Council uses personal data is available at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Data-protection](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Data-protection) and [www.dumgal.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/privacy)

### ICT in Schools

For more information on ICT in school please see page 14 of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

### Use of the Internet, Social Networking Sites

As part of the process of learning we allow our children supervised access to the Internet and e-mail. The authority runs its own filter system to ensure that young people are not at risk from exposure to inappropriate material. This filtering system is regularly being upgraded. We have a policy for use of the Internet and a contract for responsible use, which we ask parents and young people to sign up to.

For more information visit our [Education Authority Handbook](#) and [Safe Digital Learning and Social Media Leaflet](#)

