

Dear Parents/ Carers

Your Child's Transition to School

Due to COVID 19 school closure, we have not been able to prepare your young person, in the way we would normally do, for his or her journey into Primary 1. However, we want to do the very best we can to ease your child's transition from the early years setting to school despite the restrictions we need to adhere to.

Significant Information

Alongside this letter in the email you will find a link to a SWAY presentation which includes an embedded link to a video. The SWAY includes a short introductory guide from myself covering content which would normally be conveyed at our new Primary 1 parents' meetings. The video gives a 'walk through' of your child's journey through the Primary door into their learning area and other places they will use during their time at school. Later, we shall also upload videos of staff to introduce themselves. When these videos are available, we will group call parents to alert you to find the links on our school blog 'Transition Page.' You will find this on our school blog by scrolling down the pages at the left hand side of the 'home page.'

We are planning to invite your child into the Primary 1 setting later in June. Your child's invitation will follow in due course, once class organisation is finalised and teachers names confirmed. On June 16th between 1.30pm and 2.30pm, we are planning to have a 'Meet The Class' event where the children will have a short tour, take part in some familiarisation activities and have a short story before being collected again. The side gate of the school playground will be opened to allow parents to bring their children to the outside of the Primary 1 toilet corridor door. We ask that parents who are waiting with their children, observe social distancing. We will then take the children inside for approximately an hour while parents wait outside the school playground. When the session ends, we will bring the boys and girls individually to the door and ask parents to step forward and collect them one at a time. We know this is not the way we would usually approach transition but we hope that this small experience will help, at least a little, to smooth the beginning of school in August.

Primary 1 Beginner's Guide Booklet

Also being sent to you by email is a link to a pdf version of our booklet 'A Beginner's Guide to Primary 1.' Again, we shall make the link available through our school blog. We would like to highlight some of the things outlined on page 7 to encourage your child gain confidence at being independent. However, some of the details in the handbook are subject to change, due to COVID 19 restrictions, which can vary from time to time.

School Uniform

If you have not yet made arrangements to order school uniform, you can find out more about how to do this by visiting our school blog. We are recommending that parents have two sets of uniform to allow for clothes to be washed at the end of each school day.

What Can you Do Now To Prepare Your Child

As mentioned above, our 'Beginner's Guide to Primary 1 contains lots of useful information about ways to help your child. In the final few months of your child's time in the pre school setting there is normally a strong focus on preparing for school. While we do not want to make parents feel pressured, this is a list of some of the activities the early years setting may have been encouraging:

- developing good pencil control
- attempting to write own name
- changing shoes and managing clothes fastenings
- lots of counting activities and recognising numbers 1-10

We do hope you find the information in this letter helpful. Please do contact school by telephone or email if there are any further questions you have. We look forward to welcoming your young person into school in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Duncan

Headteacher Dalbeattie Primary School