



# Dalbeattie Primary School

## A Beginner's Guide to Primary 1



# Welcome

to your new class at Dalbeattie Primary School.

This guide has been prepared with funding from our family Learning Co-ordinator in conjunction with school staff and Mrs Howie and is reviewed each new school year.

Our aim has been to provide new parents with useful information about the school and wider community activities.

*The staff are friendly and always willing to chat.*

*My favourite thing in P1 was learning to read like my big brother. Spelling and number work is great fun and then I like to test everyone at home*

*I think that it is a great school where all my children are very happy and doing really well.*

Please note that Dalbeattie Primary School operates an open door policy - do not hesitate to phone and make an appointment should you have any concerns. Tel: 01556 613130

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## 1 General Information

School Address:

Dalbeattie Learning campus, Craignair Road, Dalbeattie, DG5 4LU

Telephone Number: 01556 613130

School Office Email: [gw08officedalbeatti2@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officedalbeatti2@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)

School Blog:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/dalbeattieprimaryschoolblog/>

Facebook Page: Dalbeattie Primary School

Roll of the School August 2021: 273

Stages of School: P1 to P7 with attached Nursery Class.

Head Teacher: Mrs Duncan





Mrs Howie  
*Deputy Head Teacher*



**Janitors**  
Dennis Parker



Jean Radwell



Jane Widdowson

Other staff to be confirmed.

### 3 The School Day

School resumes after summer break on Thursday 19 August 2021. P1 is a new experience for your son/daughter in terms of education, emotional and social expectations. It can take a few weeks to settle into new routines.

Parents are normally welcome to accompany pupils to the class on their first day but due to Covid 19 restrictions this is not possible this year.

P1 children enter in the mornings through the P1 toilet corridor door (see photo) and are released from the same doors at home time throughout the year.



At present we are operating in bubbles which have staggered start and finish times.

These will be confirmed for your child's class in due course.

Likewise, playtimes and lunchtimes are subject to change.

Each child has a labelled coat peg in the cloakroom area. On arrival, they will hang up their coat, school bag and gym kit.

Please note - all P1 children will be provided with a homework bag by the Parent Council.

Gym kit consisting of shorts, t-shirt and soft gym shoes (preferably slip-on or with velcro fastening), should be brought in on a Monday and taken home on Friday. Football colours are not suitable. A labelled storage tray is provided in the classroom or hall area for your child.

#### Top Tips

Please label all clothing and footwear clearly. An indelible pen can be used or name labels can be ordered on-line. A spare pair of pants and socks may be kept with the gym kit.

## 4 The School Building



### Parent Drivers

Please note - Parents may seek special permission to access the car park on application to the school office. Permits can be issued to drivers who have blue badges or to parents of nursery children where there are younger siblings who need the use of a pushchair/pram/car seat. Please contact the school if you think you are eligible for a permit.

## 5 School Uniform

**The school uniform consists of:**

- A sweatshirt in royal blue with the school logo
- White/blue polo shirt
- Grey trousers or shorts
- Blue or grey skirt
- Checked blue or grey pinafore/dress.

Letters will also go out at various times throughout the school year to allow parents to order through school.



## 6 Independent Children

Your child will more than likely be able to do many things for themselves. Being independent in school does wonders for their self-esteem and confidence.

**You can help prepare your child for P1 by encouraging them to:**

- Use the toilet unsupervised and wash their hands
- Fasten zips and buttons
- Put on and fasten shoes
- Identify their individual coat hook
- Change into PE kit
- Use cutlery
- Pack and unpack their own school bag
- Use a tissue
- Tidy up toys and games
- Share equipment and toys with others
- Try to learn to tie laces

*My favourite thing in P1 was playing in the open area”*

*Encourage your child’s independence by not standing watching through the window at 9am.*

## 7 P1 Homework

In the first few months of P1 there will be very little homework. The earliest homework in P1 will concentrate on learning the phonic sounds. This year, phonic work is based on the Edinburgh Literacy Rich Scheme. Further into the first term you will receive more information about homework. Gradually, reading books and worksheets will be introduced along with a homework diary. A school homework bag will be supplied for each child early in the first term.

*Do homework as soon as you get home as later in the evening concentration is poorer.*

*My favourite thing in P1 was number work and reading*

### Top Tips

- Avoid items of clothing and footwear which are difficult to manage (e.g. lace up shoes)
- Chat with your child to help him /her develop talking and listening skills
- Read lots of stories to your child and discuss events and characters
- Encourage counting whenever possible
- Learn to hold and use a pencil for drawing
- Practice using scissors safely
- Play lots of games and puzzles

## 8 Communicating With Parents

Your child's teacher will be happy to speak to you at any time before or after the school day. However, at 9:00am, teachers do need to start teaching their classes.

There are many ways to communicate with the school to find out about your child's progress and learning, here are some of them:

- Homework Diary
- Open afternoons
- Parents' evenings / afternoons
- Individual progress reports

### Top Tips

Occasionally you may prefer a one-to-one meeting with your child's class teacher. You can arrange this directly with the teacher or via the school office - when you can arrange a mutually convenient time.



## 9 Snacks, Lunch and Drinks

### Snack

We encourage healthy snacks for break time such as fruit. Snacks should be in a clearly labelled tub or bag, separate from packed lunch bags as they are stored separately at school.

### School Dinner

School dinners are provided free for P1 however, parents can choose packed lunches if they prefer. The children eat their lunch in the Heughan Hall. They can choose to sit with their friends and will be given as much time as required to finish their lunch. Parents will be provided with details on how to create an account in our online ordering system iPayimpact in due course. Parents and pupils can then go online and pre-order lunches.

<https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmeals>

<https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/IPI/Account/LogOn#>



### Top Tips

- Remind your child in the morning what they have chosen for lunch.
- School lunch bags and snacks should be clearly labelled.
- Ensure containers and packets can be opened easily by your child.

## Packed lunches

Packed lunch boxes are stored on a trolley in the flexible space. Packed lunches are eaten in the Heughan Hall under the supervision of a member of staff. Children eating packed lunches and school dinners are encouraged to sit together. It is recommended parents should include an ice pack to keep food chilled.

## Water

At the beginning of Primary 1 the children are given a complimentary water bottle but it is not suitable for ongoing use. Thereafter we recommend that the children have a suitable refillable bottle. The children are able to refill these bottles at a water dispenser in the school. It is not necessary to include a separate drink for snack time, However, you may wish to include a separate drink with a packed lunch.

**It is vital that the school / teachers are made aware of any allergies or special dietary needs which your child may have.**



## 10 Illness / Medication

If you have any concerns that your child may be feeling under the weather, please let the class teacher know when you bring them to school. Should your child become ill during the day, the procedure in the School Handbook should be followed.

**If your child is not attending school, please phone the school office before 9am that morning and each day thereafter to report progress.**

Medication will only be dispensed when a parental / guardian consent form has been completed. These can be obtained from the school office. See the School Handbook for full details. Please note that ongoing medication (e.g. inhalers) should be replaced regularly and consent forms should be renewed on a termly basis.

**Children should not carry any items of medication - these should be handed to the class teacher.**

During a bout of sickness and diarrhoea a period of 48 hours should be allowed before the child returns to school.

### Top Tips

- To avoid any unauthorised absence procedures, your child should return to school with a note explaining the reason for their absence.
- To minimise the risk of infection please encourage your child not to share items such as lip salves, creams, drinks bottles etc.

# 11 Important Places

The Playground	Supervised by Learning Assistants and the Janitor. Other members of staff are also present, as timetable allows.
The Cloak Room	Each child has a labelled peg for their gym bag and coat with shoe storage space below. This is built into recesses in the P1 flexible space.
Toilets	Separate toilets, located off the flexible spaces are accessible from indoors and outdoor and are available for both boys and girls.
Indoor Open Area	This area is for play activities and craft
School Hall	P1 uses this regularly for lunch, hymn practice, Assembly and P.E.
Heughan Hall	P1 uses this regularly for lunch
Primary School Hall	P1 uses this for PE, Hymn practice and Assembly.
Primary Break Out Space	This area is used by Primary 1 for class art activities.
Primary Library and ICT Area	This is used by Primary 1 for computer work.
Primary School Hall Stage	This is used by Primary 1 for Drama and Movement.

## Top Tips

- Encourage your child to speak to a member of staff immediately if they are unhappy at any time.
- The school has a comprehensive anti-bullying policy available on request from the office.

*My favourite thing in P1 was spelling and reading storybooks*

*Get up and organised in plenty of time in the morning, it starts the day better for everyone.*

## 12 Lost Property / Items From Home

It is normal for younger children to feel more secure at school with their favourite toy. However, any toy brought to school must fit into their school tray (approximately 8cm deep by 40cm long).

Please do not bring items which will cause children to be upset if lost or broken.

### Top Tips

- Always label any toy brought to school. Where possible, it may be better to avoid bringing any items to school.
- Discourage your child from swapping / borrowing / lending their toys as this avoids confusion over ownership.



# Weather Arrangements / Early School Closure

**During the school year we experience all sorts of weather!**

**Rain** If it is raining in the morning the school doors will be opened at 8.45am (but not before). On wet days P1 children will access the school via the P1 toilet corridor door into the cloakroom area (see pictures on pages 4 and 6) where they will remove wet weather clothes. During break time children remain indoors. At the end of the day P1 pupils will be dismissed from the same door as usual.

**Sun** In the event of hot sunny weather, sun cream should be applied before going to school. Choose a brand which will last all day. Staff are unable to apply sun cream.

**Snow** If the school has to be closed early because of bad weather or some other emergency, emergency closure paperwork agreements will be followed. This paperwork is issued annually in August. The following arrangements apply:

## School Closure Priorities

**The school will operate the following order of priorities for getting children home:-**

- Pupils who travel by taxi or public transport will be informed by telephone where possible.
- Pupils who travel by private car - Parents of pupils who travel by private car will be informed by telephone where possible

## Top Tips

- Always keep contact details up-to-date with the school office - see page 29 for update slip.
- Parents should have an arrangement in place with a friend / relative / neighbour who may collect a child in the event of school closure. This is updated annually
- If you live within walking distance of the school, please do not telephone the school in worsening weather as the line must be kept open for us to make outgoing calls to those pupils who require transport and other external services.



## 14 Curriculum in the Early Years

Your child's move to P1 is a next step within the journey through the *Curriculum for Excellence 3-18*. The journey begins with the 'Early Level' in Nursery and this continues through your child's first year at school. As your child progresses through P1, more expectations will be made in terms of teaching methods. 'First Level' usually begins in P2.

When your child first starts P1 he/she will have plenty of opportunities for free choice in play activities similar to the nursery environment. However, as the teacher judges the readiness of your child to move into more formal learning experiences, he/she will take part in more structured activities to achieve within the learning outcomes of *Curriculum for Excellence*. Around this time teaching of numeracy, phonics and reading skills will be introduced.

Children will extend existing skills from Nursery by learning to write and work with numbers in more challenging contexts.



## 15 Learning to Read, Write and Use Numbers

Here is a brief overview of the way your child's teacher will plan learning experiences in P1.

### Reading

We now use the Edinburgh Literacy Rich scheme which is a phonic based approach. We continue to use 'Jolly Phonics' songs and actions. Teaching phonics means introducing all the sounds that letters make. The nature of the scheme means we have to concentrate on introducing all the sounds very quickly before beginning reading books. This gives children the necessary decoding skills for subsequent reading. This also allows children to blend and word build from a very early point. The earliest homework in P1 will concentrate on learning these sounds. **When a child is read to, they learn that:**

- A book is read from front to back
- The print starts at the left hand side of the page
- We read printed words to tell a story
- A story has a beginning, middle and ending
- A story has characters and pictures
- Reading is valuable and books are fun

*My favourite thing in P1 was playing in the writing corner.*

*Don't be afraid to ask if concerned or unsure about anything concerning your child's time at school.*

## Reading Books

As your child becomes confident at recognising and using ‘*Jolly Phonics*’ sounds, reading books will gradually be introduced. We are aiming to increase our range and breadth of reading books.

**At the moment we use:**

- Oxford Reading Tree
- Ginn
- Collins Big Cats
- Dandelion Readers

Eventually, your child will go on from remembering the story to attempting to read the words. Children are also encouraged to develop their sounding out through phonic based readers. Children progress at different rates when learning to walk and talk, reading is just the same. They won’t be getting it all right and making mistakes is part of learning to read. Your child may take rapid steps with their reading and then appear to make no progress for some time.



## Top Tips

### Early Stage

- Encourage speaking and listening skills by talking, giving simple instructions, tell children stories, rhymes, poems and sing songs. Involve them in planning what you are doing.
- Have lots of conversations and show interest in what they are doing.
- Read to your child, share and enjoy books together.
- Encourage a wide range of reading material (from books, comics, newspapers etc.). Read everything!

### As Reading Develops

- Listen to them read aloud everyday
- Make reading an enjoyable experience
- Talk about the book
- If they get stuck on a word: ask them to have a guess using the picture or clues from a sentence or look at the first letter. If this does not work tell them the word.
- Don't let them struggle
- Keep reading to them
- Occasionally go back to easier books to gain confidence
- Encourage further reading with trips to the library

## Writing

The time when children are ready to hold a pencil and form letters varies greatly from child to child. Many children will already have learned to write their name, and some children will be keen to experiment with writing other words too. If you feel your child is ready or interested in experimenting with letter writing, we will provide you with a sheet to help guide him/her with the correct formations. In Primary 1 we will concentrate on letter formations once we have covered all the phonic single sounds. This allows us to introduce writing within 'letter families' such as: a, o, c, d, g and q.

One of the most important parts about learning to write is the ability to think of ideas and communicate them clearly. The earliest form of story writing in P1 is 'emergent pictures'. This encourages children to add detail to line drawings to communicate their thoughts and feelings. As they progress, children will be encouraged to add sounds and letters before they attempt independent sentences later in the school year.

## Numeracy

Matching and sorting activities will initially be used when your child starts school. This will progress to counting and the recognition of numbers up to 10. When your child is ready, he/she will be encouraged to write the numbers 0 -10. For some children, these experiences will not be new, but they will help your child to feel confident, within the school setting, before quickly moving onto an appropriate level of work.

During the year, P1 children do a considerable amount of practical maths work covering areas including time, 2D and 3D shapes, addition and subtraction to 10, numbers to 30 as well as written work. Oral and practical activities provide a good foundation for mathematics.

## 16 Useful Web Links

[www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk) - Link to the Dumfries & Galloway Council

[www.ltscotland.org.uk/understandingthecurriculum/whatiscurriculumforexcellence/index.asp](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/understandingthecurriculum/whatiscurriculumforexcellence/index.asp) - Curriculum for Excellence

<http://jollylearning.co.uk/> - Jolly phonics link

<https://education.gov.scot>

[www.parentinguk.org](http://www.parentinguk.org) - Information and advice for parents

[www.ltscotland.org.uk](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk) - Learning and Teaching Scotland



[www.educationscotland.gov.scot/parentzone](http://www.educationscotland.gov.scot/parentzone) - Learning & Teaching Scotland Parentzone

[www.youngscot.org](http://www.youngscot.org) - Young Scot - information for young people about jobs, training and careers

[www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) - Public Services and useful information for parents

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/learn](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/learn) - BBC Bitesize learning resources for home and school



## 17 How to Get Involved With the School

There are many opportunities to get involved in helping within the school:

- **Parent Council** - contact the Chairperson via the School Office
- **Volunteer** - if you would like to help by volunteering to help during the school day then please contact the School Secretary in the School Office.

*Get involved as much as you can as a parent helper. Then you will see what your child does at school.*

*My favourite thing in P1 was Topic Work.*



## 18 Community Links

### Children

- **1st Dalbeattie Beavers** - contact Cheryl Murray 01556 612767.
- **2nd Dalbeattie Beavers** - Wull Davidson 07753801674
- **Birchvale Theatre Players** - 07717 676254,  
[enquires@birchvaletheatre.co.uk](mailto:enquires@birchvaletheatre.co.uk)
- **Blair Youth Centre** - contact 01556 610117
- **Colliston Parent and Toddler Group** - Craignair Church Hall, Tuesdays (term-time only) 9.30am - 11.00am
- **Dalbeattie Rainbows** - Contact Patricia Donnelly on [weedixer@mail.com](mailto:weedixer@mail.com). Meetings in the Maxell Room, St. Peter's Church, Craignair Street, Dalbeattie on Tuesday evenings 5.45pm - 6.45pm
- **Brownies** - Contact 07793 005031.
- **Dalbeattie Sea Cadet Unit** - Contact 01556 612401 or email: [co.dalbeattieseacadets@gmail.com](mailto:co.dalbeattieseacadets@gmail.com)
- **Swimming Lessons** - Castle Douglas Swimming Pool  
Tel: 01556 502745.

## Parents

- **Dentist** - Birch Valley Dental Practice, 273 High Street, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire DG5 4DW, Tel: 01556 610917
  - **Doctor's Surgery** -  
Craignair Health Centre Dalbeattie Tel:01556 610331
  - **Library** - High Street, Dalbeattie. Tel: 01556 610898
- Stewartry Netball Club** - [stewartrynetballclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stewartrynetballclub@yahoo.co.uk)  
Tuesdays 8pm - 9.30pm Dalbeattie High School Sports Hall.
- [www.dalbeattiematters.co.uk/index.asp](http://www.dalbeattiematters.co.uk/index.asp) - community website

*My favourite thing  
in P1 was Art.*

*Keep your child's gym  
kit in his/her school  
bag all the time - saves  
forgetting to pack it!*

## 19 Glossary - Jargon Used in a School Setting

**AiSfL** - Assessment is for Learning

**ASLA** - Additional Support for Learning Assistant

**CfE** - Curriculum for Excellence

**HMIE** - Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education

**ICT** - Information and Computing Technology

**JtE** - Journey to Excellence

**Learning Community** - Made up of schools in a cluster plus all other services and organisations providing support and/or delivering a service within those schools

**LA** - Learning Assistant

**PLP** - Personal Learning Plan

**PSD** - Personal and Social Development





## 22 Change of Contact Details

Should your contact details change during the year, please fill in this form and hand it in at the school office.

Parent's name:

Child's name:

New address:

New telephone / mobile no:

New email address:

Other details:

Dalbeattie Primary School  
Dalbeattie Learning Campus  
Craignair Road  
Dalbeattie DG5 4LU

Telephone Number 01556 613130

School Office Email: [gw08officedalbeatti2@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officedalbeatti2@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)