

Dalrymple

Primary School & Early Childhood Centre



A Guide for Parents

Information for when your child starts school

Session 2025 - 2026



Welcome

On behalf of all the pupils and staff here at Dalrymple Primary School and Early Childhood Centre I would like to warmly welcome you and your child/children to our school community.

Within Dalrymple Primary School and Early Childhood Centre our aim is simple – to provide the very best educational experience for your child in an environment which is calm, caring, engaging and motivating. We believe this will provide them with the foundation for the best possible opportunities in life. This cannot be accomplished by ourselves alone. Strong and effective partnerships are key to the success of the school and the pupils within it. With this in mind we look forward to working with you and your child, in partnership, along this next stage in their journey.

Schools need to be the heartbeat of each community and as such contribute to the strength, safety and vibrancy that we should come to expect from living in East Ayrshire. Like any positive relationship, Dalrymple PS & ECC and the wider community need each other. We seek to establish a welcoming, proud and confident school which makes the best possible use of the resources, people and places around us. So please, watch out for any community events and come along and join in. You will always be welcome here.

'The greater danger for most of us lies not in setting our aim too high and falling short; but in setting our aim too low, and achieving our mark.'

Michelangelo

Simon Leitch
Head Teacher

'The First Day and New Weekly Structure'

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Primary 1 will begin school on Wednesday 20th August 2025

Parents and carers are asked to bring the children into the school playground and wait in the area nearest the class entrance. Dalrymple Primary staff will come out and bring the children into the class at 9.15 am and allow you to come in with your child to take photographs and videos of those first precious moments. We will be happy to take photographs for you so that you can be in the picture too! This will be the starting time for Wednesday 20th Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd August. The finishing times for these days will be 3.00 pm.

From Monday 25th August onwards the school day starts at 9.00 am. The school day finishes at 3.00 pm and children will be dismissed from the classroom door. They will not be allowed to depart unless accompanied by a known responsible adult. If the adult is not known to the school, please notify the school office before collecting the child at the end of the day.

Meet the Staff

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Leadership Team

Mr Simon Leitch	Head Teacher
Ms Heather Sabatini	Depute Head Teacher
Mr David Stokes	Principal Teacher
Mrs Katy Hastings	Acting Principal Teacher
Mrs Rachael Millar	Acting Principal Teacher
Mrs Caroline McLeod	Senior Lead EL & CP

Early Years Staff	
Mrs Christine Miller	Early Learning & Childcare Practitioner
Mrs Allison Prendergast	Early Learning & Childcare Practitioner
Miss Thea Slimmon	Early Learning & Childcare Practitioner
Miss Natalie Speirs	Early Learning & Childcare Practitioner
Miss Ainsley Vance	Early Learning & Childcare Practitioner
Mrs Emma Valentine	Early Years Support Assistant

Teaching Staff	
Mrs Susan Murray	Class Teacher
Mrs Rachael Millar	Class Teacher
Mrs Izzy Holloway	Class Teacher
Mr Andrew Carruthers	Class Teacher
Mrs Sharon Mair	Class Teacher (Maternity leave)
Mrs Gillianne Duckworth	EAST Teacher

Support Staff	
Mrs Fiona Armstrong	Senior Clerical Assistant
Mrs Kerry Andrews	Clerical/Classroom Assistant
Mrs Gail Galbraith	Classroom Assistant
Miss Stephanie McCurdie	Classroom Assistant
Vacancy	Janitor

School Lunch

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Legislation changed in January 2020, entitling **ALL children in P1 – P5** access to a free school meal. Lunch time is at **12.35 pm – 1.20 pm** and provision is also in place for those who choose to have a packed lunch instead.

Parent Pay

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Dalrymple Primary School operates a cashless payment system called ParentPay. Pupils have their own online account where payments for school meals are made without the need of actual cash. Parent/carers are able to access the account to pay in funds electronically, whenever they choose to do so. Payment of school excursions and other events is also made through this system. You will receive communication from the school to set up account activation and guidance on how to use the application.

Attendance at School

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It is very important that your child attends school regularly. East Ayrshire Councils definition of acceptable attendance levels is 90%. This will be calculated as 90% of their planned days for being in school under the current restrictions. Regular absence from school can seriously impact on a young person's ability to thrive socially, emotionally and academically.

That said we do appreciate that from time-to-time your child will have some illness which prevents them from being at school.

Should your child be unable to attend school due to illness it is vital that you inform the school office as a matter of priority. Please be prepared to explain your child's absence and if possible when you anticipate their return to school.

School Holidays

There are ample school holidays throughout the academic year which I would encourage you to use to facilitate family holidays and visits to relatives etc. Some parents choose to withdraw their child from education during term time to enable them to participate in family holidays. This action is not something that East Ayrshire Council or Dalrymple Primary School encourages. A two or three week absence from school can have a significant impact on your child's learning.

If this is something you are prepared to do then written notification should be submitted to the Head Teacher prior to the holiday occurring. Please note that holiday absences are recorded on your child's attendance record as unauthorised. Furthermore, request to have school work to take on holiday with them will unfortunately be declined. This is additional to the school day and not factored into the class teacher's remit or responsibilities. Thank you in advance for understanding this.

Uniform

At Dalrymple we are proud of our pupils and proud of our uniform. It is part of our school ethos, values and aims that everyone should wear our uniform.

Our school uniform consists of a red sweatshirt (with school badge), white polo shirt (with school badge), white shirt with school tie and black/grey skirt, pinafore or trousers. School uniforms are available from schoolwearmadeeasy.com and BE Uniforms in Ayr.

Physical Education

PE is part of the core curriculum and our expectation is that ALL children participate fully in the Physical Education programme. To enable them to do this please provide the following:

- Pair of black/grey shorts (clearly marked with your child's name)
- Gym shoes/training shoes (clearly marked with your child's name)
- School polo shirt/white T-shirt (clearly marked with your child's name)

You will be notified in the new term the days your child has PE.

ALL jewellery, including earrings must be completely removed prior to participation in PE. This should be done at home or by the child themselves. Staff are not permitted to remove earrings or tape them up, however please be advised that following new legislation (March 2024), pupils are allowed to now tape up their earrings themselves if they are able do so (unfortunately, we do not provide tape in school). **It is our preferred option that earrings are removed completely to minimize all risks during PE lessons.**

IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON EVERYTHING THAT THEY BRING TO SCHOOL ESPECIALLY THEIR JACKETS AND JUMPERS!

Thank you in advance for your understanding and support with this.

Health & Wellbeing

International research suggests that plain water is excellent at keeping our brains hydrated and enables us to focus and concentrate for greater periods of time as a result. Our pupils are encouraged to drink plain water during class to aid this hydration. If this is something you wish your child to participate in then please provide this for them – again, clearly labelled with their name. No juices or flavoured waters should be provided

for during class time. **Please put water in a bottle with a sports cap top to avoid spillages.**

As we are a health promoting school we actively encourage healthy play-time snacks. No food is to be consumed in the classrooms (unless we have a wet play). The school kitchen provide daily free fruit for children at morning break.

Allergies

Clearly certain foodstuffs are not permitted within the school due to pupils having specific food allergies. Further information will be provided regarding this after the summer.

We are a **NUT FREE** school (as are all East Ayrshire schools) and therefore **no nut** products should be brought or consumed on the school premises. This includes **all** chocolate spreads unfortunately. If you are unsure please check the label. Any products containing nuts will be removed from pupils immediately and will **not be allowed** to be consumed on the school premises. This is essential to ensure the safety of all pupils and staff and visitors.

Additional Support

Occasionally, a child may face difficulties preventing them from effective learning. We identify them as having additional support needs, which may be short term, or for their whole school journey.

Our School Early Childhood Centres have a variety of procedures to assist in the early identification of children with additional support needs and planning will take place at the earliest possible stage.

Children and young people who have been identified as having additional support needs will be supported through a Child's Plan (CP), Individual Learning Plan (ILP) or in some cases a Coordinated Support Plan (CSP). You and your child will be fully involved in developing these plans at all stages. Team With The Family (TWTF) meetings will be held 3 times a year with the Class Teacher and ASN Co-Ordinator and any other relevant professionals, in order to set and review targets.

Additional and more specific information on Additional Support Needs can be found on our website:

www.eastayrshire.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/SupportForPupils/AdditionalSupportForLearning.aspx

The Curriculum



Curriculum for Excellence is the education system in Scotland. It includes early childhood centres, schools, colleges and community learning from 3 to 18 and beyond.

In Dalrymple Primary School we follow the values and principles for the curriculum as set out in 'A Curriculum for Excellence'. We encourage our pupils to develop skills for learning, life and work, including literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing in and out of the classroom.

We use a mixture of a play-based curriculum in Primary 1 with a slightly more structured approach through a variety of curricular areas. Each child is encouraged to reach their potential in a positive and appropriate context, consolidating their holistic development of the early learning experiences from the ECC as part of their transition into Primary 1.

It affirms that curriculum for Excellence is for all young people in all educational settings and that it should support them in a range of ways which helps them to maximize their potential. At the heart lies the aspiration that all children and young people should be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. These are the four capacities.

It defines the scope of the new curriculum as extending beyond subjects to include:

- ✓ The ethos and life of the school
- ✓ Curriculum areas and subjects
- ✓ Interdisciplinary projects and studies
- ✓ Opportunities for wider achievement

Children and young people enjoy making progress and find satisfaction in meeting the challenges posed by a curriculum that engages, stimulates and motivates them.

In Dalrymple Primary School we recognise that children and young people progress at different rates and we have a great focus of teaching literacy and numeracy skills as well as place a huge importance on everyone's health and wellbeing, to ensure they are prepared for their future lives.

The Curriculum is now organised under the following headings:

- ✓ Literacy and English
- ✓ Numeracy and Mathematics
- ✓ Health and Wellbeing
- ✓ Expressive Arts
- ✓ Religious and Moral Education
- ✓ Science (STEM)
- ✓ Social Studies
- ✓ Technologies (STEM)

Teachers plan exciting and challenging inter-disciplinary studies where each of the curriculum areas makes its own unique contribution to developing the four capacities of children and young people. Teachers have much more freedom to teach in innovative and creative ways, with the emphasis on the competencies outlined at the outset of this booklet: Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking.

Communication



Our School Website and School App contain information of a general nature about what is happening in school.

School website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/dalrymplepsandecc2017/>

Safer Schools Scotland App

A leaflet explaining how to download the app and access it is available from the school office but can also be found on our school website.

If your child is involved in a school excursion, it is important therefore, that you ensure you have notifications switched on for your device and regularly check them.

The exception to this will be the initial annual paperwork issued at the beginning of the school year to ensure pupil information is correct and up to date.

Parents may make contact with the school at any time. Should you wish to discuss any matter/concern with a member of the senior leadership team it is advisable to do so via appointment, this can be arranged by speaking with a member of the administration team.

Emergency Contacts

When you registered your child, you were asked to give information about addresses and telephone numbers, etc. we also ask for a person who can be used as an emergency contact.

**PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL IF THERE ARE ANY
CHANGES TO THIS INFORMATION.**

The emergency contact is called upon when the school is unable to make contact with a child's parent or carer and circumstances have arisen whereby the child needs to be sent home or taken to hospital etc.

We have first-aid trained staff in school. If your child is injured, this person will be contacted and will offer first aid. If the injury is more serious, parents (or emergency contacts) will be contacted and asked to take the child for further investigation. In order that you are kept informed, a letter is given to children who have fallen and received first aid in school.

It is school policy that contact will be made with a parent/carer in the event of a head injury, regardless of the severity of the injury.

If your child requires to take medicine during school hours, you are required to complete a form stating the dosage, frequency and authorisation of school personnel to administer the medication. In doing so parents /carers understand that the medication will be administered by a non-medically trained staff member.

Only medication prescribed by a GP for your child can be administered by school personnel.

School personnel cannot administer 'over the counter' medication.

Supporting your child's Learning



All of these activities provide lots of opportunities for developing communication and life skills.

- Helping you around the house e.g. setting the table, washing up, putting the shopping away.
- Sitting together reading a book and listening to stories.
- Visiting places together like the park, supermarket, station, bank, library, post office.
- Singing rhymes and songs together.
- Collecting things like buttons, shells, postcards or pebbles.
- Simple games for all the family to play:
 - Snakes and ladders
 - Large jigsaw puzzles
 - Snap
 - I spy...
 - Picture lotto
 - Skipping games
- Talk about
 - What happened today
 - What you did today
 - A television programme
 - Things you like/dislike
 - The games your child plays with other children.

Before your child starts school, it would be helpful if he/she could have some of these life skills.



Change shoes and pumps.



Put on and fasten his/her coat.



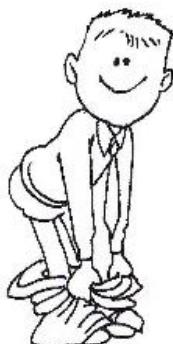
Use a knife and fork



Use the toilet properly and flush it



Wash and dry his/her hands and face



Dress and undress him/herself



Use a handkerchief



Tidy/clear away his/her toys

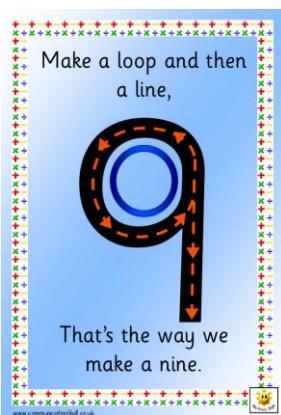
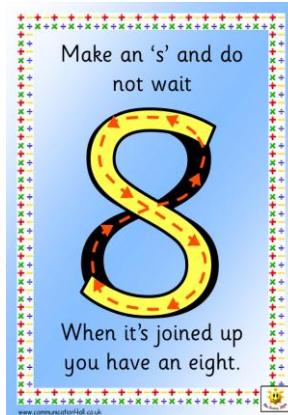
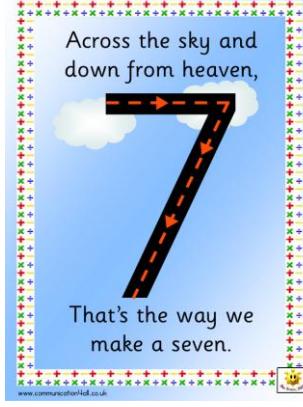
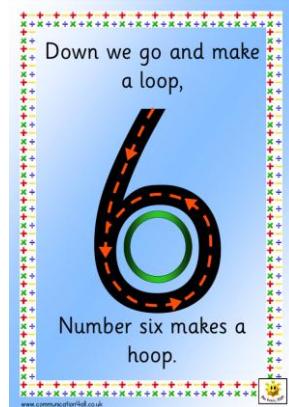
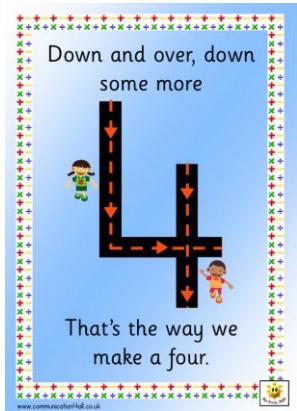
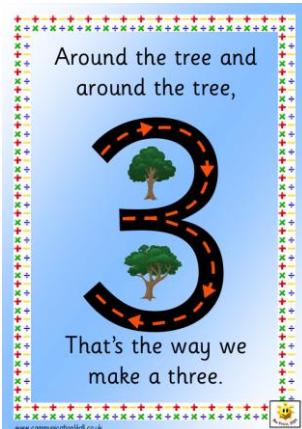
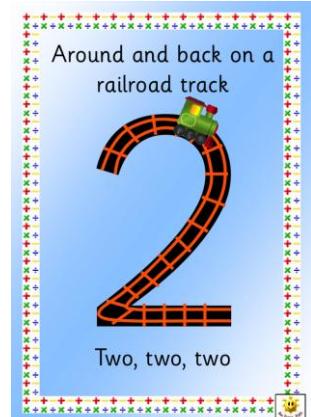
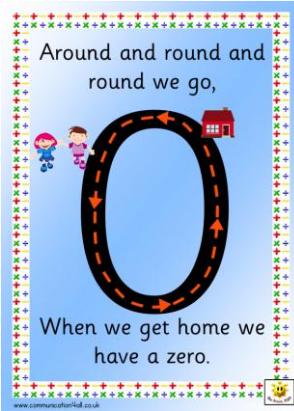
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and numbers*



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j k l m n o p q r

s t u v w x y z



Contacting Us

Dalrymple Primary School & Early Childhood Centre

Hillview

Dalrymple

KA6 6PZ

Phone: 01292 560368

E-mail: ea.Dalrymple.PS@eastayrshire.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you and your child in
August 2025