



Onthank Primary School and Supported Learning Centre

Session 2025/2026 Handbook





Onthank Primary and Supported Learning Centre
Meiklewood Road
Kilmarnock
KA3 2ES

Telephone No:	01563 525477
Email:	alison.wright@eastayrshire.org.uk
School Blog:	https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/onthankps/
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/onthankprimaryschool/
Parent Council Blog:	https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/onthankparentcouncil/
School App:	Please download the 'School App' onto your mobile device and select 'Onthank Primary School'. Available on appropriate mobile devices.
Denominational Status (if any):	Non-Denominational
School Roll:	Co-educational school with a roll of 552 pupils in mainstream and 40 pupils in the Supported Learning Centre.
Further information:	www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/schoolhandbooks



Dear Parent/Carer,



On behalf of the staff team, I would like to warmly welcome you and your child to Onthank Primary School and Supported Learning Centre. I hope you will find this handbook helpful in preparing you and your child for their learning and life journey at #OurOnthank.

In partnership with you, we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that allows each child to reach his or her potential both in formal learning and in wider aspects of life. Our aspiration for all children is that they become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors within our community.

We believe that all children and adults should enjoy learning, experience success and have high expectations of what they can achieve. As a school we collaborate with our children to create an environment and ethos which celebrate Pupil Voice and reflects our values:



We aim to ensure that all children are Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible and Included while promoting our values as Onthank Ambassadors.

I hope that your child has an enjoyable and successful experience with us and we look forward to welcoming you into #OurOnthank Community.

Alison Wright

Alison Wright
Head Teacher

#AnythingIsPossibleEvenTheImpossible



SECTION 1

Ethos, Vision and Values



Onthank Vision Statement

To provide educational experiences in a nurturing environment and community for all pupils to reach their maximum potential.

Aims:

- Enable children to operate as independent learners and thinkers
- Inspire a love for learning through learning experiences responsive to children's needs and interest
- Provide a relevant, broad curriculum for all
- Provide a stimulating, challenging and inclusive learning environment
- Enable all children to value themselves and recognise their place and value in the local community
- Foster a sense of belonging to the community by working with wider partners
- Recognise and respect cultural and social diversity within society

Rebranding of our Onthank Values

During this session, Onthank Primary School and Supported Learning Centre is currently engaging in a consultation process with pupils, parents, and staff to rebrand our school values. This initiative aims to ensure that our values truly reflect the voices of our school community and support a positive, inclusive, and aspirational learning environment. We believe that by working together, we can create a refreshed set of values that inspire pride, belonging, and ambition in every member of our school. Your input is vital, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts as we shape the future of Onthank Primary.

School Roll 2025/2026

Onthank Primary Roll: 552

Onthank Supported Learning Centre Roll: 40

Parents should note that the working capacity of the school may vary dependent upon the number of pupils at each stage and the way in which the classes are organised.

Stage	Current Roll	Stage	Current Roll
P1	68	P5	82
P2	80	P6	74
P3	68	P7	95
P4	85		

Class	Teacher/s	Class	Teacher/s
P1E P1KP P1K	Mrs Easter Mrs Kilpatrick Mrs Klein (PT)	P5M P5S P5SM	Mrs Merrick Mrs Strain Mrs Smith
P2S P2E P2W	Mrs Saxelby Miss Ellis Mrs Wilson/Mrs Carten	P6F P6MC P6M	Mr Franchi Mrs McMurdo Mrs Martindale
P3C P3H P3R	Mrs Cree Mrs Harvey Mrs Rogerson/ Mrs Kemlo	P7N P7T P7M	Miss Telford Mrs Mills (PT) Miss Neilson/Mrs McKenzie
P4K P4M P4N	Mrs Kidd Mr McNichol (PT) Mrs Nelson	Non-Class Contact Time (NCCT)	Miss McLeod Miss Atkinson Mrs Burn Mrs Kemlo
Senior Clerical	Mrs Andrew	Clerical	Mrs Douglas Mrs Barrie
Classroom Assistants	Mrs Banks Mrs Lobban Mrs Steele Mrs Robinson Mrs Doepner	Janitor	Mr Stewart
EAST Teacher	Miss Glencourse	Educational Phycologist	Ruth Miller
Home Link Worker	Mr Swan	Teacher of Inclusion	Mrs Carten

Respectful Relationships @ Onthank

Promoting an ethos of Respectful Relationships across our full school and wider community is central to our vision. We deliver pupil and parent workshops throughout the year in collaboration with East Ayrshire, Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service 'Respect Me' and our Parent Council to share this vision as well as strategies, techniques and information to support our pupils and families.

We believe that for our children to be Successful Learners and take their valued place in society as Responsible Citizens, they must be part of a supportive, caring ethos in which relationships are managed positively and consistently. It provides children with a secure framework in which they will develop and strategies to help them take responsibility for their own behaviour. Subsequently, the relationship between pupil, teacher and wider staff will be built on mutual trust and respect, allowing pupils to be honest.



Aims:

- to show respect for self, others and property: treat others as you would wish to be treated
- be responsible for your own and the safety of others
- be honest, kind and caring
-



Pupils are encouraged to achieve these aims through the Class Charter which all pupils are included in designing at the beginning of term. This is based on the Rights of the Child as outlined in the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). Adults in our school work with children to ensure they are aware of their rights and fully respect the rights of others. Our work on Rights Respecting Schools is at the heart of this and our policy sits alongside East Ayrshire's Anti Bullying Strategy and Relationships Framework.

Our Parent Council actively support this vision, contributing to, and leading our Respectful Relationships focus group encouraging a sense of responsibility and respect at home and in the local community.

Although instances of bullying at Onthank are relatively infrequent, children are always encouraged to report any allegation of bullying to staff where this is dealt with appropriately and parents are informed. Our Social, Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing Curriculum incorporates planned anti-bullying and equality lessons at every stage, as well as Respect Me Respectful Relationships lessons.

Parental Engagement

The importance of the family on children and their learning is crucial, therefore as a school we wish to actively involve you, the families and parents, more in your children's education and our community. Our establishment thrives on the partnership we build with you and our community. It is, however, very difficult to convey atmosphere and feeling in writing and we would extend an open invitation for you to meet our young people and staff team and learn about us first-hand!

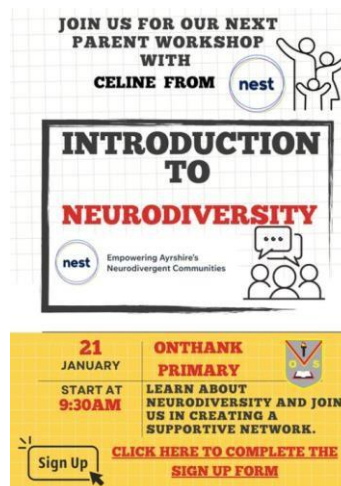
In Onthank Primary, we would like to encourage the involvement and participation of parents in their children's experiences at school. You are automatically part of the wider Parent Forum at Onthank Primary School and you can become more involved in the life of the school through the following means:

- **Sharing our Learning events:** One way you can become more involved is by attending 'Sharing our Learning' events held by your child's class. It is an opportunity to find out what they have been learning about and share in some learning activities with your child.



- **Parent Council:** The Parent Council are a smaller body of parents who provide support and feedback ideas and opinions on behalf of the wider parent body. In addition, the Parent Council organises fundraising events and encourages links between the school, parents, pupils and the wider community. Visit our school blog for more information on how you can join our Parent Council.

- **Parent Workshops:** Opportunities across the year to learn about how to support your child's learning. Parents also form subgroups, creating and delivering bespoke workshops based on the needs of our community.
- **Parent Helpers/ Volunteers:** Parent helpers/volunteers are welcome, and there are many opportunities available to assist at events and activities. To get involved as a regular volunteer, you will have to undergo a Disclosure Scotland PVG check before you can help in the school



Onthank Primary School is situated in the Northwest of Kilmarnock. We work in partnership with a wide range of partners to plan and deliver enhanced learning experiences and in delivering improved outcomes for our children and families. Some of our partners include NHS, Leigh Kirk Church, Active Schools, Dean Park Rangers, TESCO, Morrison's, Dunelm, SSPCA, Kilmarnock Football Club and Vibrant Communities.

Wider Achievement

Wider Achievement is an essential part of a child's learning. It promotes skills for life and work as well as skills for learning, and can help in our young people being confident, highly motivated and engaged in their wider community.

In Onthank Primary we celebrate achievement in a variety of ways. All classrooms have systems for celebrating accomplishments and pupils are encouraged to share successes from out with school at our weekly, Monday Assembly. Parents/Carers are encouraged to email photos and updates of achievements from home: e.g. taking part in charity events, winning medals; we love to hear about our pupils' successes and wider achievements. Photos and information will be displayed on our Wider Achievement Wall. It is important to acknowledge that learning takes place outside the classroom, at home and in the wider community:

- helping in the home and in the community
- hobbies and interests, such as participating in a sport/hobby
- achieving an award: medal, certificate, cup
- Charity events

If you would like to share your child's wider achievement with us, please complete the form below or email them to Mr Gilroy (DHT).

<https://forms.office.com/e/GGYKdDA62j>



We seek to provide opportunities for our pupils to learn in real life contexts and promote positive relationships with families to build strong learning teams to meet outcomes and build on positive outcomes for all.

Parents, carers and family members are important partners in children's learning and generating a strong sense of community. We make use of technology to promote home-school dialogue, provide opportunities for family learning and encourage families to participate in school events.

Some of these include our well attended Community Nights, Colour Run, Tea Dances, annual Santa Dash, Zumba sessions and McMillan Coffee mornings as well as our diverse After School Activities programme, built on Pupil Voice, to name but a few!



SECTION 2

Meet Our Senior Leadership Team

We want to create an open environment where families feel at ease, feel welcomed and feel valued. If you ever have any queries, please contact a member of our Leadership Team who will be more than happy to help!



Head Teacher
Alison Wright



Depute Head Teacher
Murray Gilroy



Depute Head Teacher
Nicola Newall

Communication

We are keen to maintain excellent and open communication links with our families and have several ways in which we do this:

- Via the 'School App'
- Emails to Parents/Carers
- Posts via all our social media platforms
- Learning Journals in Primary 1 and 2 and the Supported Learning Centre.
- Posts on the school 'Blog' throughout the year to celebrate success
- Posts via all our social media platforms

We will contact you by telephone if there is every anything specific that we wish to discuss with you. Should you ever wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or development, please phone the school office on **01563 525477** and an appointment to meet will be arranged at a mutually convenient time.

Our Senior Leadership Team and wider staff may not always be available during teaching hours, however, will return any call requests after 3pm.



Transitions

Transitions are the moves children and young people make from home to nursery, nursery to home, from stage to stage, from primary to secondary, between schools and from secondary to further education and beyond.

Transitions work well when children are supported before, during and after the process and where transfer of information is seamless.

In Onthank Primary School and Supported Learning Centre we have an effective, robust transition process between the different stages in our school and a programme of events to support children make the transition from ECC into Primary 1 or Supported Learning Centre. These processes allow for professional dialogue and the passing on of information to ensure coherence and progression across the curriculum. The needs of children with identified additional support needs are discussed at the authority's Inclusion Review Group (IRG), Team with the Family (TWTF) or school-based meetings prior to starting school to ensure all necessary arrangements are in place.

We have strong links with Onthank ECC, Kilmarnock Academy, our associated secondary school and other educational destinations. A programme of transition events is organised at the beginning of the session. Children on our additional support needs log will have a Trans 1 meeting in P6 and Trans 2 meeting in P7. Secondary staff are invited to these meetings to ensure needs are identified and catered for at the beginning of S1.

Additional Support

Occasionally, a child may face a variety of challenges preventing them from positive engagement, choices and effective learning. Following robust interventions and assessments, we identify them as having an additional learning support need, which may be short term, or for their whole school journey.

Supports put in place include: the class teacher, classroom assistant or other school staff providing support. We also have support from the East Ayrshire Support Team.

Through the daily work and observations, class teachers may identify a child who is requiring additional support for learning out with what the school can provide. A referral to the Additional Support Needs coordinator would be made. As a team the Head Teacher/Depute Head Teacher, class teacher, EAST teacher, and parents will agree a course of support tailored to the individual needs of the child. Depending on the child's needs Pupil Support Assistants, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Educational Psychology, teacher for visually or hearing impairment, English as an Additional Language Teacher, etc. may join the team.

If you believe your child has additional support needs, please contact Mrs Wright. Specific information on Additional Support Needs can be found on our website:

<https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/SupportForPupils/AdditionalSupportforLearning.aspx>

SECTION 3

Our School Day

STAGE	START TIME	STOP TIME	ENTRY DOOR	EXIT DOOR	PLAYGROUND
P1	8.55am	2.55pm	RED DOOR	RED DOOR	Back Playground – near ECC new garden
P2	9.00am	3.00pm	PURPLE DOOR	YELLOW DOOR	Back Playground–near ECC new garden
P3	9.00am	3.00pm	GREEN DOOR	GREEN DOOR	Back Playground
P4	9.00am	3.00pm	GREEN DOOR	GREEN DOOR	Front Playground
P5	9.00am	3.00pm	BLUE DOOR	BLUE DOOR	Front Playground
P6	8.55am	2.55pm	BLUE DOOR	BLUE DOOR	Front Playground
P7	8.55am	2.55pm	BLUE DOOR	BLUE DOOR	Front Playground
SLC	8.55am	pm	PINK DOOR	PINK DOOR	Back Playground

Drop Off and Collection

- P1-P2 parents/carers are asked to enter the back playground and drop their child off at the door.
- P3-P7 parents/carers are asked to drop their child off at the gate in the front playground and **not enter** the playground with their child at this time. Pupils are also encouraged to arrive independently without an adult.
- Parents/Carers are asked not to gather close to the gate entry/exit to allow children to see who is picking them up.
- Parents/Carers of children in the Supported Learning Centre drop children off at the SLC where staff are waiting to welcome them.

All children will be met by Pupil Support Assistants and the Leadership team. Staff are available at all entry points and playgrounds to warmly welcome and support pupils if required. We have an informal entry in the mornings where children make their way to their classroom through the allocated door.

P1-P2 parents/carers are asked to collect their child at the back playground.

- Primary 1 parents/carers collect children where they drop them off.
- Primary 2 parents/carers are at the yellow door to avoid congestion at the gate.
- P3 parents/carers are welcome to wait in the front playground to avoid congestion at the gate.
- P4-P7 parents/carers are asked **not to enter** the playground at this time, but wait along the school fence/grass area near the front gate.
- P4-P7 pupils are encouraged to be independent on their departure from school, leaving without an adult.

We politely request this information is shared with your full family, especially those who may take responsibility for dropping off or collecting our young people. Please do not bring dogs into the playground.

Attendance and Time Keeping

Parents/Carers are responsible for ensuring that your child attends regularly and arrives on time. Parents/Carers are also responsible for ensuring the safety of your child on their journeys to and from school, except when they are on any transport we provide. Regular and punctual attendance is linked closely to achievement and staff will work with parents to ensure that children can achieve their full potential. Attendance and time keeping are monitored by the Head Teacher and Home Link Worker and will be followed up with parents should any difficulties emerge.

East Ayrshire Council champion a vision where all children and young people have an annual school attendance rate of 95% or above to maximise life and learning experiences. At Onthank Primary we support this vision by ensuring there are no barriers to attending school and offer Home Link/Walking Bus/Multi-Agency interventions when required, to allow our children to be healthy, happy and here.

Reporting Absence

We kindly request parents/carers inform the school of their child's absence BEFORE 9.15am. This can be done by calling us on 01563 525477 or using the Safer Schools App. If you do not inform us by this time, you will receive an attendance text message requesting you call the school. Following this, if we do not hear from you, we will call all listed emergency contacts. Under Child Protection Procedures any absences not reported to the school must be followed up by the school with a text or phone call home.

The school SEEMIS messaging system holds one main contact and will send attendance notifications to the main contact only. It is not possible to generate the automated message necessary to inform all parents/carers. However, should a parent/carer have a significant concern that the main contact is not sharing key information regarding attendance, they should contact the school to discuss possible alternative solutions.

Authorised Absence

Your child will be noted as having an 'authorised' absence if/when you let us know the reason for their absence.

Unauthorised Absence

Your child will be noted as having an 'unauthorised' absence if we do not hear from

you and no reason for absence is provided.

This will impact your child's overall attendance % and continued unauthorised absences will lead to communication from Mr Swan (HLW) and Mrs Wright (HT) as we support your child's attendance.

Unauthorised absences can be changed on your child's record when you have provided the reason for their absence.

Late Arrival

Any child who arrives **AFTER 9.10am** will be marked as late.

Mr Swan (HLW) will contact any families if we note a pattern of late arrivals to support prompt school arrival for your child.

Onthank Primary are here for our families and encourage you to contact us if you require any support regarding school attendance – 01563 525477.

Illness or Accidents

If your child feels unwell during class, they should tell the class teacher/practitioner and, where necessary, a first aider will be called to attend. If we need to send your child home, we will contact you to make the relevant arrangements. Your child should not go home without permission and pupils who are being sent home due to illness must be picked up by a parent, or other responsible adult (e.g. a relative). In the event of an accident or illness which requires referral to the local Medical Practice and/or to the Accident and Emergency Services, parents or the designated emergency contact will be informed.



Dress Code

We encourage **all** pupils to wear school uniform and be proud ambassadors of Onthank Primary School. By encouraging the wearing of school uniform account must be taken to prevent any discrimination on the grounds of race or gender.

Our uniform comprises of:

- White polo shirt (preferably with school badge if not wearing a sweatshirt)
- Red school sweatshirt/cardigan
- White shirt & school tie
- Red/grey tartan skirt/pinafore
- Black/grey skirt/trousers/shorts
- Black/red shoes

We kindly ask that names are written on all items of clothing.

P.E. kit should also be provided and in addition, earrings or other body piercing jewellery should not be worn for any P.E. related activity.



As an eco-school we follow always try to 'Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle'. Over the last few years, we have operated session a school uniform recycling initiative. The school collects uniforms that are in good condition and anyone from the school community is welcome to take what they need. If you would like more information please speak with our Home Link Worker Mr Swan (01563 525477).

School Meals

The Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) Act 2007 sets out in detail the National Nutritional Food Standards. School Meals in East Ayrshire offer nutritionally balanced well, presented food in an environment that is sensitive to the needs of pupils. It offers a good lunchtime experience with an important break in the day away from the classroom, while still being in the safety of the school.

All primary pupils in P1-P7 are entitled to a free school meal. Pupils can either order a school dinner or bring a healthy packed lunch.



Our most up to date school lunch menus for session 2025 – 2026 can be found here:
[Primary School Menus](#)

Online School Payments

A safe and secure system of online school payments has been introduced to all primary and secondary schools, removing the need for your child to carry cash. The payment service is being provided by ParentPay: <https://www.parentpay.com/>

ParentPay is a secure online payment system allowing parents to pay for school meals, educational visits and much more. Parents who do not have access to online facilities or wish to continue to pay in cash can do so by paying through Paypoint facilities at local shops.

Benefits for parents:

- Make payments whenever and wherever you like
- No need to worry about your child carrying cash to school
- Monitor and make payments by instalments for larger items such as school trips
- A single login for all your children regardless of which school they attend
- Alerts for low balances via email and/or SMS text

Further information on online school payments is available online at:
www.eac.eu/onlineschoolpayments

Lunch Orders & Packed Lunches

We promote our daily lunch orders in advance on our school app, social media and within the classroom. We encourage our families to go through lunch options the night before in order to ensure there is something on the menu our young people will enjoy. Likewise, to ensure packed lunches are eaten please include your child in the at home 'Lunchbox Order'.

Homework

Parents are the most important influence in their child's life. The interest and encouragement from parents greatly influence children's attitudes to school. Homework is an opportunity for pupils to use some of the skills and knowledge they learn in school. Pupils should practise their core numeracy and literacy skills regularly at home. Homework should always be a positive experience and we will support all children with their learning. We have increased our use of digital technology. Primary 1 and 2, and the Supported Learning Centre use Learning Journals. P3-7 have a class TEAMS. Each stage has a Glow blog and key information can be found here.

Emergency Procedures

The school has procedures in place with regards to pupil safety. This involves evacuation protocols which are practised termly. In the event of an evacuation, parents will be informed through Seemis group text and via our School App. We will also inform parents by email.

It is important that parents keep emergency contact details up to date. Should your contact details or address change, please inform a member of our Office staff.

Administration of Medicine

The administration of prescribed medicines in an educational establishment is at the discretion of the Head Teacher. If the Head Teacher agrees to administer medicine at the establishment, the member of staff administering the medication is legally required to exercise reasonable care to avoid injury. The Head Teacher is entitled to the full co-operation of the parents in helping to observe safe practices.

The only medicines allowed to be prescribed are those issued by a doctor or pharmacist – a prescribing label must be present and full administration details provided. Parents will be required to complete a form before medicines can be administered. Forms can be completed in the school office.

Data Protection

The school will handle all data in relation to children as per Data Protection Act 2018. Our staff adhere to East Ayrshire Council's "Data Protection Guide to Staff" and have completed all mandatory GDPR modules.

Security and Visitors

For safety and security reasons it is essential that we know who is in the building at any point of the day. All visitors, including parents, are asked to use only the Main Entrance of the school to enter the building. If parents wish to speak to the teacher please enter through the Main Entrance and speak to the Office Staff or a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will make an appointment for you to meet with the teacher at a suitable time.

Playground

- The playground is supervised by an adult presence from 8.45am each morning. At break times Pupil Support Assistants supervise the playground along with members of the Senior Leadership Team.

- At the start and end of the day, we kindly ask parents not to crowd the gate areas to allow children to identify their parent/carer and leave safely.
- In the interests of your child's safety, if a different adult is collecting him/her from school that the identity of this person is made known to the school. We will not allow your child to leave the school with an unknown adult.

School

- All entrance doors are locked during school 'work times' with access being obtained through a fob system or a buzzer operated from within the building by an adult member of staff.
- An over-ride system allows staff and children to leave through all doors in school in the case of emergencies.
- All visitors and tradespeople are asked to sign the register at the front of the school and sign out as they leave. Camera and entry phone systems are in operation. Please ring the bell and wait to speak to one of our team.
- Visitors should always report to the office; they should sign the visitors' book and, if not known by children and staff, wear a visitor's badge.

Comments, Suggestions and Concerns

Should you have a comment, suggestion or concern we would encourage you to speak to a member of our Senior Leadership Team at the school. Our aim is to provide high quality services to the people we serve, but sometimes things can go wrong. If this happens, please contact us in the first instance and we can move forward positive together, resolving any complaints as your first point of contact.

Only if as an establishment we fail to be able to resolve any issues should this complaint then be escalated to stage two through the council's complaints procedure.

Further information is provided in the leaflet a guide to making comments, suggestions and complaints or on the Council website www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/complaints

Parent Council

There is an active Parent Council Committee within the school who are committed to supporting the pupils, respecting the news of parents and encouraging links between the school, parents and wider community. Our PC fundraise and support various initiatives and events throughout the school year.

As a member of the Parent Forum, parents are welcome to attend meetings. Parent Council information and minutes are available on the school app. Our Parent Council have a Facebook page-

[Onthank Parent Council Facebook](#)



The Parent Council Co-Chairs are Dara Wyper and Chelsea Haswell.



Dara Wyper



Chelsea Haswell



Parent Council members at
Ongo Bingo



School Holiday Arrangements



School holidays 2025/26

Please note that all dates are inclusive.

Date	Holiday
August	
Monday 18 August 2025	In-service day
Tuesday 19 August 2025	In-service day
Wednesday 20 August 2025	Pupils return
September	
Friday 19 September to Monday 22 September 2025	Local holidays (Ayr Gold Cup weekend)
Tuesday 23 September 2025	Pupils return
October	
Monday 13 October to Friday 17 October 2025	October holidays
Monday 20 October 2025	In-service day
Tuesday 21 October 2025	Pupils return
December/January	
Monday 22 December 2025 to Friday 2 January 2026	Christmas and New Year
Monday 5 January 2026	Pupils return
February	
Monday 9 February 2026	Local holiday
Tuesday 10 February 2026	In-service day
Wednesday 11 February 2026	Pupils return
April	
Friday 3 April to Friday 17 April 2026	Easter holidays (Good Friday – 3 April 2026)
Monday 20 April 2026	Pupils return
May	
Monday 4 May 2026	Local holiday (May Day)
Tuesday 5 May 2026	Pupils return
Thursday 7 May 2026	In-service day
Friday 8 May 2026	Pupils return
June/July/August	
Monday 29 June to Friday 14 August 2026	Summer holidays
Monday 17 August 2026	In-service day
Tuesday 18 August 2026	In-service day
Wednesday 19 August 2026	Pupils return

SECTION 4

The Curriculum

At Onthank Primary we follow Curriculum for Excellence. We created a Curriculum Rationale which can be found here



Onthank Curriculum Rationale

In Onthank Primary School we provide lessons in a nurturing environment and community for all pupils to reach their maximum potential to:

[Go to this Sway](https://sway.cloud.microsoft/TuXLd5d_4Mz1IyxZP?ref=Link)

https://sway.cloud.microsoft/TuXLd5d_4Mz1IyxZP?ref=Link

The Curriculum for Excellence identifies SEVEN PRINCIPLES for curriculum design and we aim to ensure our learning, teaching and planning has:

- Challenge and enjoyment
- Breadth
- Progression
- Depth
- Personalisation and choice
- Coherence
- Relevance

When developing our curriculum, we asked Parents and Carers

'What do we want for our children and young people and how will we work together to achieve this?'

At Onthank Primary we take all 7 principles into account as we plan, teach and assess children's learning. They are the core foundations to ensure each child reaches their full potential while also forming the basis of our evaluations, monitoring and tracking.

In all curricular areas, considerable importance is assigned to challenging all our pupils. A variety of teaching styles are used incorporating cross- curricular learning.

We offer a broad progressive and coherent curriculum giving pupils a voice in all aspects of their learning and school life.

Children are given a solid foundation in numeracy and literacy while being equipped to deal with the demands of modern society with skills in ICT, Outdoor Education and World of Work.

In Health and Wellbeing, we will follow East Ayrshire's Progression Pathways for Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenting. An information letter is available to all parents and carers on our Onthank PS school blog with links to Early, First and Second Level RSHP parent leaflets.

Religious and Moral Education

Occasionally parents from different religious communities may wish their children to be absent from school for religious events. We will support this with alternative arrangements being made if this is the case.



Our Improvement Priorities 2025 - 2026

Summary of Improvement Plan directly linking to Education Service Improvement Plan

Our Leadership	Teaching and Learning Together
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will involve pupils in shaping our school's values and improvement plans. We will refresh our school's vision and values by working closely with families, staff, and pupils. We will continue to provide opportunities for children to take on leadership roles through pupil groups and school projects. We will continue to embed our work as a Rights Respecting School, maintaining our <u>Gold</u> status by supporting pupils to lead on rights-based initiatives. We will support staff to lead in key areas that help improve learning and school life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will use revise our "Excellent Lesson" framework to make learning clear, engaging, and challenging for all pupils. We will further spread our national improvement work by deepening how Learning Intentions and Success Criteria are used in lessons, supporting children to track their progress and understand how to meet their learning goals. We will encourage pupils to take more responsibility for their learning and reflect on their progress. We will work together as a staff team to share ideas and improve teaching across the school. We will help children build important life skills such as teamwork, creativity, and resilience.
Our wellbeing and belonging	Our Attainment, Destinations and Achievements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will continue to embed inclusive practices that support emotional wellbeing and positive behaviour across the school. We will implement a clear, trauma-informed behaviour policy that supports all learners, including those with additional needs. We will strengthen support for care-experienced children by delivering staff training aligned with The Promise, assigning named adults, and tracking progress in wellbeing, attendance, and attainment. We will improve attendance and engagement through targeted support and early intervention. We will use pupil voice, wellbeing trackers, and regular reviews to monitor progress and ensure every child is supported to thrive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To raise attainment in writing, we will continue to implement the National Improving Writing Programme, with staff using proven tools and strategies to improve writing skills and confidence. Teachers will use Improvement Science tools and training to support progress for every learner. We will also support pupils to track and celebrate their own progress through learning profiles and regular feedback. We will review our learning and teaching in numeracy linking to the National Curriculum review. Families will be supported to engage in learning at home and beyond school.



SECTION 5

Achievement and Improvement

In Onthank Primary, we pride ourselves on our achievements and awards. Please see below a sample of some of our achievements:

- Gold Rights Respecting School's journey, preparing to submit our evidence to maintain our Gold status.
- Sports Scotland Gold award.
- PATHS model school.
- Continued promotion of school events and achievements through our social media platforms; Facebook, X, School App and Teams
- Successfully held numerous Wider Community Events including; Termly Community Nights, 'Ongo Bingo', Christmas Fayre, Litter Pick and Macmillan Coffee Morning to name but a few!
- Held various successful school performances across the school year, all of which were well supported by our families and community.
- Positive Choices Week as part of Health and Wellbeing Week
- Onthank competed in the East Ayrshire Sports hall Athletics and in the East Ayrshire Dance Fest.

We provide opportunities for children to be involved in the life of the school with pupil-led groups from all classes. Our pupil groups are: Rights Respecting School Ambassadors, Pupil Council Reps, Eco-Reps, Health & Safety Officers, Lost Property Detectives, Digital Leaders, Sports Committee, Waste Wardens, House Captains/Vice Captains, JRSOs, PATHs Play Buddies and Prefects. We created more opportunities for children to volunteer for posts linked to the World of Work. To improve pupil participation, we plan to embed these opportunities into the Curriculum.



SECTION 6

Assessment and Reporting

We have a Meet the Teacher/Sharing Our Learning session near start of each school year. This gives parents/carers an opportunity to find out more about their child's new class as well as being part of a shared activity.

Parents' Day/Evenings are twice per year. Parent consultations are an opportunity for teachers and parents to talk about their child's progress and next steps in learning. The parental meetings usually take place in October and April. Parents/carers also receive a written report in March which details your child's progress and next steps.

The Excellent Learning Experience
As agreed by teachers, pupils and parents

"We know we have learned something if we can teach it to others"

Active Learning

- Pupils learn by carrying out a variety of activities
- Pupils think creatively, investigate and solve problems
- Pupils have choices
- Pupils work on their own and in groups
- Pupils engaged in 'Think, Pair, Share' activities
- Pupils use different resources including ICT
- Teachers don't rely on textbooks
- Pupils often learn outdoors
- Activities relate to real life
- Lesson has links with other subjects
- Lesson links with local businesses and community
- Enrichment and Enjoyment

On task

On track

Onthank

Skills Development

- Skills for Life, Learning and Work
- Leadership skills
- Higher order thinking skills
- Growth Mind-set
- Recognition of achievements in and out of school
- Digital learning

Assess to Progress

- Teachers discuss previous learning with pupils
- Pupils understand learning intentions
- Teachers and pupils agree success criteria
- Pupils evaluate the lesson
- Pupils know the level they are working towards
- Children's blogs are used to reflect on learning and set targets
- Teachers and pupils ask challenging questions
- Pupils are prepared to risk getting answers wrong
- Teachers give pupils feedback to help them improve
- Wrong answers are used to improve learning
- Pupils assess and learn from each other
- Pupils achieve learning intentions by end of lesson

Meeting Pupils' Needs

- Everyone has high expectations
- Every pupil is learning
- Positive and nurturing environment
- Teachers teach in a variety of ways
- Teachers challenge and support all pupils
- Pupils all work at an appropriate pace
- Pupils can explain to others what they have learned in different ways
- Pupils feel:
 - ✓ Safe
 - ✓ Healthy
 - ✓ Achieving
 - ✓ Nurtured
 - ✓ Active
 - ✓ Respected
 - ✓ Responsible
 - ✓ Included

Curriculum for Excellence emphasizes that assessment is an integral part of day-to-day teaching and learning. Learners' progress will be closely monitored by staff, who reflect with them on their strengths, learning needs and next steps and take action based on this. Learners themselves will be increasingly involved in this process, as they develop the skills needed to be able to make effective judgments on their own learning; skills that will be important to them throughout life.

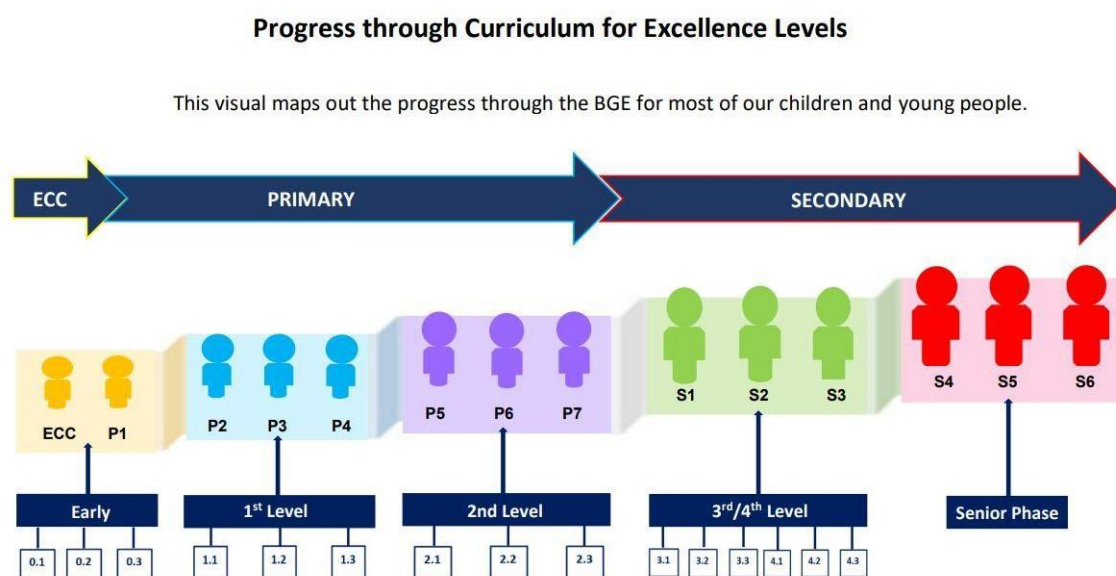
Onthank Primary uses a variety of assessment procedures. Within class, the teacher

uses continual formal and summative assessment to inform the pupils of their next steps for learning. Pupils are encouraged to assess their own work and the work of their peers using self- assessment and peer-assessment methods such as traffic lighting and ‘two stars and a wish’. We also use local authority and national formalised assessments at different stages of the establishment. Young people have ownership in collaborating with the class teacher in determining learning intentions and success criteria. At the end of a block of learning, the children are given the opportunity to evaluate their work.

Children who may have additional support needs, or who require an Individual Learning Plan, will be assessed in a way suited to their individual requirements. Further information is available from the Head teacher; Mrs Wright.

The tracking of all learners’ progress is carried out using East Ayrshire’s Tracking and Monitoring system. Learners’ progress is tracked using various pieces of evidence including learners’ class work, assessments, Standardised Assessment which are all then used to aid teachers’ judgement in providing a ‘level’ for each learner in Numeracy, Reading, Writing, Listening & Talking and Health & Wellbeing.

The table below explains each level of the National Broad General Education Scale:



For any further information, please contact Onthank Primary School on 01563 525 477

