



Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## Transition information for Primary 1 Session 2021-22

Dear Parent/ Carer

We are delighted to welcome you and your child into Giffnock Primary School. Some of your children already attend our nursery class and therefore already know all about our 'Giffnock Family', a sense of community which we take great pride in. As your child embarks upon their journey into Primary 1, Giffnock's School Values and shared responsibilities, alongside our trust and compassion for one another will remain paramount in all that we learn together.

We know that you and your child will have begun thinking about the move into Primary 1 and we are aware that you will have a number of questions about the arrangements ahead. We therefore hope that this letter will begin to answer some of these matters, with further communication and clarification to follow during the weeks ahead.

### **Primary 1 Induction Visits and information:**

Ordinarily, we would be inviting you into school to meet the Senior Leadership Team, our new Primary 1 teachers and other friendly faces who you will get to know much better in the months ahead, as well as to experience practical aspects such as school lunches. This would usually be a time where you and your child together would be welcomed into Giffnock Primary. Given the current position relating to CV-19, we are planning to share as much as we can and will continue to adapt these plans as necessary, taking full consideration of national guidance regarding health & safety measures.

Following further clarity from both the Scottish Executive and East Renfrewshire Authority last week, we are delighted to be able to plan a transition visit during June for all of our children who will be entering Primary 1 in August. The guidelines require us to reasonably maintain any 'bubbles' of children that we can. With this in mind, these visits will happen on:

- **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021, 9.30 – 10.30am for all children currently attending Giffnock Nursery Class**
- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2021, 9.30 – 10.30am for all other children currently not attending Giffnock Nursery Class**

For next session we will have two primary one classes, Primary 1A and Primary 1B. For these Induction Visits, the classes will be split into half to reduce the numbers of children attending at one time, with half the class visiting on the Wednesday and half on the Thursday. We will be sending another information letter to you during the week commencing Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May, within which your child's class and class teacher will be confirmed. The visits will be a great chance for your child to meet their teacher, some of their new classmates, members of the Senior Leadership Team and to see their new classroom and other learning areas around the school.

**It is with regret that we have to share that current national and ERC based Health & Safety guidance relating to CV-19 requires that parents/ carers will not be able to come into the school grounds and will have to remain outside of the school gates during this time.** In addition, in order to reduce the amount of adults arriving at one time and gathering on Academy Road outside the school, we would ask that only one adult brings your child to the Induction Visit. We are very sorry to have to ask this and thank-you in advance for your co-operation and understanding.

### **Parental information and a chance to talk:**

Ordinarily, whilst your child was with their classmates and teacher during an Induction Visit, members of our Senior Leadership Team would have welcomed you into school and shared a range of information about school life at Giffnock Primary. This would also have been a chance to ask any questions that you may have. As this is not possible, we are arranging two video calls for our new Primary 1 parents: the first between 4-5pm on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June; and the second at 6-7pm on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June. It is only necessary to attend one of these as the information provided will be the same, however we hope that the option of times will be helpful for you and parents can attend either. Links for these video calls will be included in the letter shared during w/c May 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Class sizes and the move to Primary 2:**

For our new school year, we will have two classes as usual. As has been the case in the past, most recently three school sessions ago, we have a larger Primary 1 roll and will therefore have one class of up to 33 children with two full-time class teachers, and a second class with up to 25 children and one class teacher. It will not be an 'advantage' to be in either the larger or smaller class with either two or one class teacher(s); rather, we have found previously that the provision of three class teachers across Primary 1 will actually benefit the entire year group, and certainly creates a range of additional learning & teaching opportunities for the children. Again, your child's class and teacher names will be confirmed for you in the letter shared during w/c May 24<sup>th</sup>.

In connection and for your information well in advance of the time, our Primary 1 children will need to be re-organised into two different classes for Primary 2 and beyond. This is because the nationally agreed ratio of teacher to children changes from 1:25 in P1, to 1:30 in P2. The two classes will therefore be re-organised into two classes of up to 30 children. Much nearer that time, we will speak with you again about exactly when and how this will be done. The criteria for the re-organisation will include managing a balance of gender, ethnicity, learning needs and other factors, including friendships. We have found such re-organisation has actually been very beneficial for our children in past years and in such circumstances, as by that time we have a very close understanding of the learning needs of our children and can use this to support the re-organisation.

### **Starting School Guide:**

In order to help to answer many of the organisational questions that you may have, we have updated our Starting School Guide which you can access through the link below:

[Giffnock Primary School Starting School Guide Session 2021-22](#)

We would also recommend going on to our school website where you will be able to find a wide range of information about life at Giffnock Primary:

[Giffnock Primary School Website](#)

## [Transition to Primary 1](#)

Our school twitter feeds will also give you an enjoyable, visual perspective for life at Giffnock Primary:

[Giffnock Primary School Twitter feed](#)

[Giffnock Primary Nursery Class Twitter feed](#)

### **Primary 1 Transition Project:**

Staff colleagues within our local area collaborate on a regular basis and our early years/ nursery establishments will continue to share information about all of our children and their learning. In connection, we have put together a transition project which all of our children are welcome to take part in and enjoy. The theme relates to the book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and we hope that this proves both fun and engaging for the children. The theme will be used during our Induction Visits and additional details may continue to be shared through our school website and Twitter feeds as above. Please use the link below to access the project:

[Primary 1 2021-22 Transition Project](#)

### **Additional Information:**

As previously mentioned, further information including photos and video recordings will be shared with you in a letter during the week commencing Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May, prior to your child's Induction Visit and the parental video calls. I hope that the vast majority of the questions that you may have will be answered through this. However, if you have any other questions or issues that you would like to discuss further at this time, please do not hesitate to contact the school via our main email address: [schoolmail@giffnock.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@giffnock.e-renfrew.sch.uk). Our Principal Teacher Mrs. Judy Brown will be overseeing Primary 1 and will remain a good person for your contact and support in the year ahead.

We are excited to get to know all of our new families properly and I very much look forward to the shared learning journey ahead.

Kind regards,



Rob Lawson  
Head Teacher