



## Whinhill Primary School and Nursery Class Bun-sgoil agus Sgoil-àraich Chnoc a' Chonaisg



Transition from Nursery to Primary 1  
Eadar-ghluasad bhon Sgoil-àraich don Bhun-sgoil

2020-2021





## Welcome to Whinhill Primary School! Fàilte gu Bun-sgoil Chnoc a' Chonaisg!

We are very excited to welcome you into the Whinhill school community and hope that we will have a long and productive partnership together. This transition booklet has been created to help answer some of the questions that you may have about your child starting Primary One at Whinhill Primary School. At school we will work in partnership with you to help your child continue to learn new skills and understand more about the world around them. We hope we can work together to give your child the best start.

Transitions are the moves children make from home to nursery, from stage to stage and through Curriculum for Excellence levels. When transitions work well, they help children to develop confidence and acquire skills to manage future changes in their lives. Most children look forward to moving on in learning and in life. For some, children transitions can be challenging and support from parents and staff at school can help the transitions go more smoothly. Some children may need particular help and perhaps including some other agencies to ensure that they feel confident about the transitions.

It helps children at all transitions if staff and parents:

- Talk with them about what is going to happen
- Encourage them to talk about any concerns or anxieties
- Listen carefully to their concerns and consider sharing them with other relevant people
- Help them become familiar with the new setting and what will be expected of them

We will provide you with details of first day arrangements as soon as we can.



In Whinhill we aim to provide a caring, stimulating environment where each child learns at his/her own pace. Your child will take part in many interesting learning experiences each day. Some children will be very keen to tell you about their school day, while others may not. To encourage children to discuss their day with you, ask them, what have you learned today? This will begin a dialogue with them that we will support you with throughout their school experience.

You can find more information about our school in the handbook, on our website and through our Twitter [@WhinhillPS](#) Please see below for some key information which we think will be important to you.

## School Hours

Primary 1 pupils will attend school for the whole day from the beginning of term.

These hours are:

- 9am – 10.30am
- Interval 10.30am – 10.45am
- 10.45 – 12.15pm
- Lunchtime 12.15pm – 1.00pm
- 1.00pm – 3.00pm



## Breakfast Club

The school offers a breakfast club on Tues/Wed/Thurs from 8.00am. If your child is in receipt of free meals and clothing grant there will be no charge for breakfast club. If not, there will be a charge of £1.00 per day. This should be paid through parent pay.

## Problem Solving

Please use the time at the beginning or end of the day to chat with your child's teacher about anything that may be worrying you. If you would rather speak to Mrs Ruddy or Mrs Hunter, they are also usually available at the beginning and end of the day, but you can always contact us by telephone to arrange another suitable time. It is really important that you let us know if you have any concerns or if your child has any difficulties. Things like bereavement or illness can cause upset and if we are aware of difficulties, we can offer support when it is needed.

## Preparing your child for school - practicalities first!

### **Please put your child's name on all their possessions**

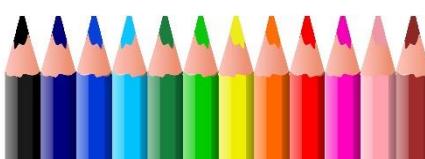
When everyone has new clothes, it is easier to find their own when a name is on it. Mix-ups happen easily, especially in Primary 1!

### **Encourage Independence**

It takes a long time to tie 20 pairs of shoes when children are going out to play. Shoes that are easily fastened or can be tied by their owner helps greatly. Life is easier before and after P.E. if children can put most of their own clothes on.

### **Be Positive about School**

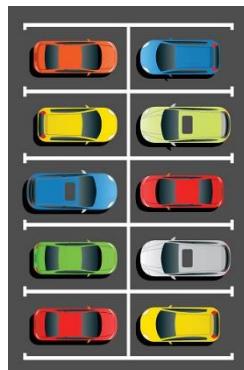
Encourage your child to look forward to school and if you are walking past the building talk to them about starting school and about how much they will enjoy it!



## School Safety

### Encourage Safety!

Whinhill is a child-protecting school, and we will do everything possible to keep your child safe when he/she is with us. It will be important for our Primary One children that an adult is available to meet them when they finish their day at school. If there is going to be a problem, please contact the school at your earliest convenience. Children who have an appointment during the school day will sit at the office until they are collected by an adult.



### Car Parking

There are no spaces for parents' cars in the car park. For safety reasons we ask you to park outside away from the yellow lines when you are waiting for your child to come from school or when you are dropping them off. The area around the school will be very busy and it may be worth considering parking slightly further away and walking a short distance to the gate. The main access gates to the school will be monitored while children are entering and exiting the school.

### Visitors

All visitors should come to the office and sign in. This is to ensure that every person is known to the senior staff. We ask that you use the main entrance of the building if you are coming into school during the working day as all other entrances are locked and alarmed for the children's safety.



### Medicine

There will probably be a time in your child's school career when they will require medicine during the school day. This is not a problem for the school. You will be supplied with a blank medical form in your parent pack which you should fill in and bring to the school with the medicine to be administered. Please note – only medicine prescribed by a GP can be given and no medicine can be given to a child without this form being completed.

## Communication

We use email to communicate information to our parents. Letters that require a reply slip will be sent home in their school bag. If you have any general queries, please contact the school office on 01475 715 749 or use our school website which has lots of useful information including our most recent newsletters.



<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/in/whinhillprimaryschool/>

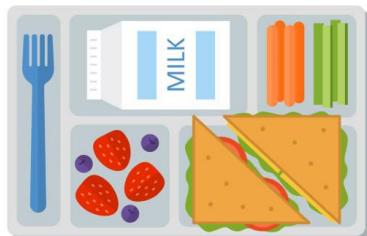
If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the school office and arrange an appointment with Mrs Ruddy, Head Teacher or Mrs Hunter, Acting Depute Head Teacher. You can contact us at our school email: [INWhinhill@glowscotland.microsoft.com](mailto:INWhinhill@glowscotland.microsoft.com)

## Emergency Contact Details

It is very important that we always have up to date contact information for parents/carers and emergency contacts. Please inform the school if any of this information changes as soon as possible.

## School Lunches

All food in Whinhill is cooked at the school. A three-week menu system is in operation providing a healthy choice of food. Any pupil who requires a special diet because of some medical problems can be catered for. You will be provided with a menu to help your child make choices on what they would like to eat. It would be helpful to discuss the menu with your child and help them choose what they will be having for lunch each day. The menu is also available on the school website. There is always a vegetarian option available each day. If you wish to provide your child with a packed lunch, please ensure their name is clearly labelled on their lunch bag.



Children may like to bring a snack to eat at break. We would encourage healthy snacks that are good for your child and their teeth. At Whinhill, we actively encourage children to drink water throughout the school day. A drinking bottle (plastic) clearly marked with their name or a mark which your child will recognise is recommended. Children may refill their bottles from the water fountains at school and children will take it home daily for washing.



Please be aware that we are a nut free school. Please do not put any nut products in your child's packed lunch or give them a snack containing nuts.

## ParentPay

All Inverclyde schools are cashless. We operate ParentPay at Whinhill where you pay for lunches, school trips and breakfast club online. You will be issued with a ParentPay username shortly after your child begins. However, please note that P1-P4 children are entitled to free school meals.

## Clothing

Our policy is to encourage pupils to wear school uniform. Please ensure that all children's clothing, including shoes and gym shoes are clearly marked with your child's name. At Whinhill we engage in outdoor learning. As Scotland's weather is unpredictable, we encourage children to bring a waterproof coat to school every day. Even in good weather coats may be necessary, therefore, if your child does not require a coat in the morning, please put one in their bag just in case. Once timetables have been finalised, and parents have been advised of gym days, children should bring their gym kit, clearly labelled.



## Uniform

- Grey skirt/grey trousers
- Tartan pinafore/Grey pinafore
- Grey jumper/grey cardigan/red sweatshirt/white polo shirt
- White shirt and Whinhill tie
- Fleece/waterproof jacket

## P.E.

- Shorts
- T Shirt
- Plimsolls \*

\*Plimsolls are worn throughout the school. Children change from outdoor shoes to ensure they are more comfortable during the day. Damaged plimsolls will be sent home with a note explaining that they require to be replaced.

## School Bags



Your child will need to carry items to and from school. A reasonably sized school bag, (clearly marked with your child's name) which can accommodate an A4 homework pocket, a reading book, gym kit, etc, is essential. While your child is at Whinhill, there will often be occasions when the school needs to keep you informed of events or send home permission slips for school trips etc. One of the ways we do this is by giving the children letters to take home, usually in their homework pockets. Sometimes they may forget about them, please check school bags daily and return any slips as soon as possible. The children will be provided with pencils in class – however, we do understand that some children may wish to bring their own pencil case. Please be aware that these may be damaged or lost.

## Homework

Homework provides a 'learning bridge' between home and school. At Whinhill we believe homework is valuable for creating partnership between home and school. Most children will have reading and possibly spelling or related language work on at least two or three nights per week, although some of the homework given may involve research or topic work. Completion of homework should take no more than around thirty minutes and should not be an arduous task for the child. Children will be issued with a homework diary and we encourage parents to regularly read and sign this.



## Assemblies



Throughout the year classes are given the opportunity to share their learning with the rest of the school and with parents at assemblies. The children really look forward to their turn and to having you as their audience. Look out for information about dates for a Primary 1 assembly later in the year in the 'dates for your diary' section of the newsletter.

Again, please remember, these dates are always subject to change.

## Buddies

To help our P1s settle into school, they are all allocated a P7 buddy. Their job is to support our younger children to feel safe, nurtured and included in our school. They also help P1 build their confidence in aspects such as using the canteen, making friends, and playing in the playground. P7 help our P1s become familiar with our school values and are Whinhill role models.

## Getting Involved in the Life of the School

You can get involved by joining our active PTA and Parent Council. Our Parent Council meet regularly to discuss issues relating to school life, policy, teaching and learning including school, local authority and national initiatives. We meet in the school on Monday evenings at 6.30pm. Our Parent Council represent the parent views on the issues of greatest importance to parents, to the school and local authority. We also discuss other topics raised by parents. Mrs Ruddy also shares a Head Teachers report on the progress of our school. Every parent/carer of a child in Whinhill is automatically a member of our Parent Forum. Our Comann Nam Parant group supports our children in Gaelic Medium and promotes Gaelic to our wider community.



Our Parent Council aims to help parents be:

- Involved with their child's education and learning
- Welcomed as an active participant in the life of the school
- Informed with information in an accessible way
- Able to discuss any issue of interest to parents, including school policies
- A voice for parents, in schools and in their local authority, on issues that are important to them and their children
- Involved in the recruitment of senior leaders in the school
- A contact between all parents and the rest of the school community

## PTA



Our PTA are responsible for organising fundraising events and work very hard to raise funds to benefit all our children within the school. The PTA also run our Halloween and Christmas discos, provide Easter eggs and Christmas selection boxes for all children, provide our P7 leavers with autograph books, our new P1 pupils with a school tie and many more!

We will confirm meeting dates in the new session.

## The Curriculum

Parents want their child to make the best start to their education and are keen to know what they can do to help at home.

Difficulties can arise when parents teach a child to do something one way and the school teaches another. The following sections are designed to show you ways to help your child at home which compliments the learning they do in school, and to familiarise you with the language we use.



In Scottish schools, the Scottish Government has set out guidelines for every child from age 3 to 18 to follow in eight major subject areas. These guidelines are known as A Curriculum for Excellence and cover Literacy, Numeracy, Social Subjects, Religious and Moral Education, Science, Expressive Arts, Technologies and Health and Wellbeing.

Whinhill Primary is an **attainment challenge school**. We have access to high quality resources, additional staff and staff training to support interventions. Our key focus is Literacy, Numeracy and Health & Wellbeing.

### Literacy

English Language is made up of four parts: Talking, Listening, Writing and Reading.



#### Talking and listening

Each child is encouraged to talk about their experiences as part of the 'Language' time in the early stages of the school. At the beginning of Primary One, Listening is part of the work in every area of the curriculum. The school advocates dialogic teaching which means "Talking and Listening for Learning" to support listening and talking.

This supports our children to become very sophisticated in their talking and listening skills.

#### Writing

The children are taught the 'sounds' that letters make rather than the names of the letters, and capital letters are only used at the beginning of names or sentences. Children are taught how to form letters along with the sound the letter makes and, in the beginning, use whiteboards to practice their letter formation. Patterns are drawn first to help build skills such as holding the pencil correctly and learning the correct side of the page at which to begin. Parents could help at home by encouraging your child to draw pictures with lots of detail. If your child is very keen to learn to write and you wish to show them how to write their name, only the first letter should be a capital, the rest should be small, or lower-case letters. Active Literacy is the main teaching and learning strategy used.



## Reading

Learning to read requires a number of skills and there are various ways that you can help your child before they begin school. You have been teaching your child many skills already!

- Talking - Talk to your child. This builds their vocabulary, language patterns and confidence.
- Listening - Listen to your child. Encourage them to use the talking skills and make them feel valued as they are worth listening to.
- Valuing Books - Read to your child, or look at picture books with them, this shows that reading is something worthwhile. The closeness felt when reading closely together makes it a special time for adult and child.
- Playing Games - Games like 'Snap' or 'Picture Lotto' can help develop a child's visual skills, Jigsaws can also help build manipulative skills.

A variety of texts will be used in Whinhill Primary and each child will bring home some books **with no words** in them before they bring home books **with words**. The children should be encouraged to tell you the story in the book.

## Numeracy

There are many skills to be learned when working in numeracy mathematics. These are divided into the following:

- Number, Money and Measure
- Shape, Position and Movement
- Information Handling
- Problem Solving



Here again there are many ways in which you can, and already are helping your child.

(Counting rhymes, games such as Ludo, Snakes and Ladders and even helping at home with setting the table!) We focus our learning in numeracy through SEAL – stages in early arithmetical learning.

## Health and Wellbeing

This includes experiences and outcomes for personal and social development, understanding of health, physical education and physical activity. Children and young people need to experience what it feels like to develop, enjoy and live a healthy lifestyle.



They also need to learn ways of dealing with the many new and challenging situations they will experience throughout their lives. A healthy lifestyle supports physical, social and emotional wellbeing, and underpins successful learning. Concerns about the health, diet and activity levels of Scotland's children and young people, social inclusion, and inequalities in health emphasise the importance of a focus on health and wellbeing throughout education, starting in the early years.

## Expressive Arts

Expressive Arts are made up of: **Drama, Music, Art & Design and Dance**



These areas of the curriculum are just as important as the others and many pupils can succeed in these when they may be experiencing difficulty in the more 'formal' curricular areas. In Whinhill we intend to allow every child to make the most of their potential, and each pupil should achieve success in as many areas of the curriculum as possible.

## Religious and Moral Education

Religious and moral education includes learning about Christianity and other world religions and supports the development of beliefs and values. It also includes aspects of philosophical enquiry. Our school chaplains are Rev A. Sorensen and Rev F. Murphy who will conduct our regular assemblies. We encourage a system of equal respect and all pupils are responsible for their own behaviour.

## Social Studies

Social studies include experiences and outcomes in historical, geographical, social, political, economic and business contexts. It is important for children and young people to understand the place where they live and the heritage of their family and community. Through social studies, children and young people develop their understanding of the world by learning about their own people and what has shaped them, other people and their values, in different times, places and circumstances, and how their environment has been shaped. They learn about human achievements and to make sense of the changes in society, conflicts and environmental issues. With greater understanding comes the opportunity to influence events by exercising informed and responsible citizenship.



## Sciences

Science includes experiences and outcomes in biological, chemical, physical and environmental contexts. The most important goal for science education is to stimulate, nurture and sustain the curiosity, wonder and questioning of children and young people. Young children have a natural sense of wonder and curiosity and are active and eager learners endeavouring to make sense of the world.

## Technologies



This curriculum area includes creative, practical and work-related experiences and outcomes in craft, design, engineering, graphics, food, textile, and information technologies. To participate fully in modern life, children and young people need to be skilled and knowledgeable users of technologies and be ready to embrace further developments in the future.

## Gaelic Medium Education at Whinhill Primary

Learning Gaelic contributes to children's wider education and life experiences. Language lies at the centre of our thinking and learning. Whinhill embraces children from a variety of backgrounds - ranging from those who have encountered Gaelic in the home, through extended family to those who have never experienced the Gaelic language. There will be lots of opportunities for your child to mix with their year group. These include playtimes, lunchtimes, school assemblies and other occasions throughout the school year.



### **Total Immersion / Làn Bogadh**

At Whinhill, the main emphasis in the first three years will be on gaining oral competence in Gaelic. This is called Total Immersion. In time, pupils will be able to communicate with confidence in Gaelic with their peers and staff.

We aim to:

- provide a total immersion experience by modelling high-quality Gaelic language
- provide a caring and nurturing environment in which to encourage all pupils to speak Gaelic
- praise and encourage the development of children's social language and build confidence in its usage as their vocabulary extends
- ensure all children hear Gaelic in a range of contexts and have opportunities to hear Gaelic out with the classroom
- develop an awareness of the richness and diversity of Gaelic culture

To enable the children to achieve the above aims we implement a variety of teaching methods. These include many active learning approaches, including songs, play, language games, drama, storytelling, art activities, visual aids, modelling of words and phrases and many more.

### **Support with Homework**

Homework instructions will be written in Gaelic but with direct English translation. However, please note that in Primary 1 the emphasis will be on talking and listening in Gaelic rather than written homework tasks. Parents will be given access to a Gaelic Padlet; which is an online resource to support you with Gaelic at home. This includes resources, games, videos and helpful links.



This section of the booklet includes some ideas you may like to try to help your child get ready for learning.

## Nursery Rhymes

Learning nursery rhymes can help children with their reading

They begin to notice the sounds in words and can add a rhyming word if you leave a gap.



When children retell a familiar story, they are using their memory, developing speech and putting events in order. They are also learning the form of a story. When reading to your child, stop occasionally and ask your child to predict what will come next. Puppets add a bit of fun. They can be made from paper bags, socks, wooden spoons, etc.

## Making books



Making their own books can help children understand the value of books for storytelling, gathering information and to help them remember. You could make a book about an outing or a holiday. Collect some photographs, leaflets, tickets, objects, etc and stick them in a little book. You could add captions or let your child add some “pretend” writing.

Gather some magazines, postcards, catalogues, etc. Make a zigzag book by folding a long narrow piece of paper one way then the other. Books can be made about anything - family, pets or favourite characters.

## Signs and Symbols

Reading can begin when children are able to recognise the shape of words. This is easier if they already recognise some of the signs and symbols they see around them. When you are out, look for signs and ask your child if they can tell you what they mean. Look at food packets. Can your child guess what is inside? Make a collection of their favourites.



## Collections

You and your child could collect other things: shells, stamps, tickets, etc. If you help with the labelling s/he will begin to match words with objects. How about a treasure hunt!

Leaf	feather
Key	twig
Sweet wrapper	stone

Lay each object beside the word.

## Games



Children enjoy games. They can make learning about numbers fun, help with word and picture matching as well as the social skills of turn taking and fairness. Play games with a number track, snap cards, matching pairs card game, Kim's game as well as I Spy, Spot the Difference, and lotto games. Dominoes is another excellent activity which is used a lot in active learning in school.

## Storytelling

Storytelling is a special time with your child. Try to spend time each day reading to your child or telling them stories.

If you can show how you value the written word in magazines, newspapers and instruction leaflets, and also enjoy reading for pleasure, your child will want to be like you and see reading as worthwhile.

If your child sees you writing cards and letters to friends, making lists, leaving notes as a reminder to yourself and others they will want to be able to do the same.



By spending time with your child, you will build their confidence. It will give you the chance to share their joy in discovering new things and help make learning fun. We look forward to working with you to continue your child's development.

