

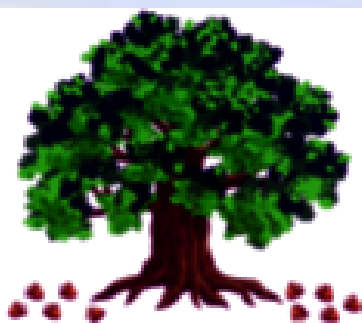
BISHOPMILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

An Information Booklet for Parents & Carers



Starting Primary School

**Your most frequently asked questions
(Answered by teachers & parents)**



FROM A LITTLE ACORN GROWS A MIGHTY OAK

ACHIEVEMENT COOPERATION OUTSTANDING BEHAVIOUR RESPECT NEW BEGINNINGS

Ambitious to Achieve Excellence *Together*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

STARTING PRIMARY ONE	3
THE FIRST WEEK.....	4
BUDDIES.....	4
UNIFORM	4
THE FIRST DAY.....	6
DAILY ROUTINES	6
PLAYTIME	7
LUNCHES	7
LOST PROPERTY	8
ILLNESS.....	8
THE CURRICULUM.....	9
HOMEWORK	10
SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD	11
SCHOOL WEBSITE/TWITTER.....	11
REPORTING	12
SHARED LEARNING.....	12
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (For parents by parents)	12
GLOSSARY OF TERMS (USED IN P1).....	16

STARTING PRIMARY ONE



When you registered your child for school you may have received (or viewed on the website) a copy of the school handbook which gives you general information about the school and school procedures. This booklet is intended to give you more practical information about Primary 1 and how you can help your child settle into school.

Hopefully most of your questions will be answered in the next few pages but if you are at all unsure about anything please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Telephone: 01343 547841

E-mail: admin.bishopmillp@moray-edunet.gov.uk

Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/my/bishopmill/>

You may also want to view our current related Twitter pages:



Transition: @BmillTransition
<https://twitter.com/BmillTransition>

P1D: @BishopmillG
<https://twitter.com/BishopmillG>

P1T: @BishopmillP1T
<https://twitter.com/BishopmillP1T>



THE FIRST WEEK

Do all new children start at the same time?

Yes, and to allow the children to become familiar with new routines and procedures they will attend in the mornings only for the first week. For the first week children will start at 9:15am and finish at 12:30pm.

Full day attendance begins in the second week:

Morning session 9.00am – 12.30pm Afternoon session 1.10pm – 3.00pm



Why do the children only attend for part of the day?

In line with Council policy, we operate a phased introduction to Primary 1 which ensures an easier transition into school.

Although the majority of children have attended pre-school education, and many are very familiar with the school, it is still a big step for them and it can take several weeks for most children to get used to the new routines and responsibilities they will have. It can also be a very tiring experience!

BUDDIES

What are Buddies?

Buddies are senior pupils (usually from P7) who help the new Primary 1 children settle into school and support them in the playground. Your child will meet their Buddy when they come for their school visit.

There are several things considered when matching up Buddies with younger children and we think carefully about who we put together. We do not place siblings together. If you have any concerns about Buddies please contact the school.

UNIFORM

Where can I buy school uniform?

Uniform is ordered directly through Dallas Designs

<http://www.dallasdesignsltd.co.uk/index.php/23/517521/>

(The school stocks sample sizes only)



Items available include polo-shirts, cardigans, sweatshirts, fleeces, ties and house coloured gym t-shirts.

PE bags and painting aprons are available from the school office only.

The uniform is grey – pinafore/ skirt/ trousers/ shorts, sweatshirt / cardigan / jumper and royal blue or white polo shirt.

For more formal occasions, e.g. school photos, concerts and assemblies, children are asked to wear a white long-sleeved shirt and the school tie.

We advise pupils to also keep a painting apron in school to protect their uniform during messy activities (an old shirt or adult t-shirt is often as good as a plastic apron).

As the weather is so changeable, all pupils should come to school with a jacket every day too.



What do they wear for P.E.?

Slip-on gym shoes, plain/self-coloured shorts and a house coloured t-shirt should be worn for P.E. Pupils may also wish to keep a sweatshirt in their gym bag for outdoor sessions. All items should be placed in a **clearly named** gym bag or plastic bag, to be left in school. They will be sent home at the end of each term for you to wash and check that items still fit.

House Groups - each child is allocated to a house, and where possible, to the same one as their siblings. The house colours are as follows:

MORRISTON – Blue
FINDRASSIE –Green

PITGAVENY – Yellow
SPYNIE - Red

THINGS CHILDREN NEED

What should they carry in their schoolbags?

Children are always keen to have things in their schoolbags. Initially they will only need to bring their filled water bottle, a small snack, a packet of tissues and a spare pair of pants and socks (just in-case). Later, they will be given a named plastic pocket for homework materials and parents should ensure that the contents are kept safe at home while the pack and diary are returned to school each Thursday.

Information is passed on to parents via email / text or letters so please also check bags each night.



THE FIRST DAY

What happens on their first day?

Your child will come to school in the morning. Times for the first week are **9:15am – 12:30pm**.

On the first day, the whole class will line up outside the P1 doors and be greeted by their teacher at the start time. This is the best time for you to say 'bye' and leave. The children will then gather with their teacher in the classroom to learn how to organize themselves each morning.

In order to help the children settle in, many of the activities on offer will be similar to those in their pre-school centre. The children will have break outside with their Buddy, giving them time to eat their snack and play.

DAILY ROUTINES

Coming to School

How do we take the children into school?

Primary 1 children line up at the P1 entrance to the school. We have a rolling rota of two staff members each week who will send the lines into school. The children are encouraged to come into school with the other children in their class; to support them in this we ask parents to stand behind the 'parents drop off line'.



Going Home

What happens at the end of the day?

At the end of the day the Primary 1 teacher will take the children to the P1 door. The children then look for the person they are expecting to take them home. It is impressed upon the children that they must stand beside the teacher until they can see the person collecting them. It is helpful if you reinforce this message at home. We advise that you try to stand in a familiar place each day, so they know where to look for you. It is also beneficial if you let us know when someone different than normal is collecting your child. This can be done by telephoning/emailing the school or sending in a note.



What should I do if I am late at pick up time?

We do request that you are there to collect your child on time, as it can be upsetting for them otherwise. However, things do sometimes happen so if you have been delayed please telephone the school and let us know. This will enable us to reassure your child and ensure that they are kept safe until you collect them.

PLAYTIME

What happens at playtimes?

Regardless of the weather, children usually go out each day to play mid-morning and at lunchtime, so it is important that they are suitably dressed, especially in colder weather. When the weather is unsuitable for outdoor play the children are supervised in their classroom by support staff and senior pupils.



Can my child have a snack at playtime?

Many children bring a snack with them to eat at the mid-morning playtime. We encourage healthy snacks and assure you one thing is enough to eat, along with playing, in the time. **N.B. we have a number of children who have severe/life threatening nut allergies, please DO NOT send your child with snacks containing nuts.**



Will my child be supervised outside?

Children are supervised in the playground by support staff at morning interval and lunchtime. They will be told that they are not allowed out of the playground until it is time to go home and it would help if you reinforced this with your child at home.

What happens if they hurt themselves?

Minor accidents do happen. The school has members of staff who are trained in first aid. If your child has a minor fall or bump, they will be treated appropriately in the first aid area. Minor ailments are recorded as per council policy. You will be contacted if the accident is of a more serious nature. If you are unavailable, we will contact the person you have named as your emergency contact.



LUNCHES

How do I find out more about school meals?

All children from Primary 1 to Primary 3 are now automatically entitled to Free School Meals. The current menu is available on the School & Moray Council websites. New pupils are normally issued a paper copy at the start of the session. The children make their own choice for lunch using a computer package (ipay) in class so it is helpful if you can discuss their choices for each day with them before school. Children can also buy juice tokens at the hatch (just inside the infant entrance) each morning between 8.45am and 9.00am.

What about packed lunches?

If you prefer your child to have packed lunch, please try to help them to become independent by supplying lunch boxes and containers that they can manage to open easily. There is help on hand, but, children can become frustrated if they have to keep asking for help. Please only put into the lunch box what your child would usually eat at home. Any unused food will be returned home in lunch containers to allow parents / carers to assess what has been eaten. **Again please DO NOT send your child with anything containing nuts.** All lunch containers should be clearly named.



LOST PROPERTY

What happens if my child loses anything?

Often clothes and gym shoes are misplaced at school, especially after P.E., but, if every item is clearly marked it is easy to return it to its owner. PLEASE NAME ITEMS OF CLOTHING CLEARLY. It is almost impossible to track down unnamed items. Any unclaimed items are kept in the lost property area just inside the P1 entrance. Unclaimed items are disposed of after each term.

ILLNESS

What do I do if my child is unable to attend school?

If you know your child is to be absent for any reason, please let us know beforehand. If they are unable to attend due to illness, then you should contact the school as soon as possible. If the school has no notification of the absence, then you will be contacted. More information regarding policy is in the school handbook.



What if my child becomes ill during the day?

We will contact you (or your emergency contact) as soon as possible and your child will be cared for until someone arrives.

What happens if my child wets themselves?

This rarely happens but if it does, members of support staff are on hand to help your child to change. Items of clean clothing will be supplied by the school, these items should be thoroughly washed before returning. It would be helpful if you had a spare change of clothes in their school bag if this is likely to be a regular occurrence.

THE CURRICULUM

What do the children learn in Primary 1?

Areas of the Curriculum

- Health and Wellbeing
- Languages
- Maths
- Social Studies
- Sciences
- Technologies
- Expressive Arts
- Religious and Moral Education



Reading – Children will learn to:

- Recognise letter shapes and sounds
- Recognise 42 sounds from "Jolly Phonics"
- Recognise 'tricky words'
- Read simple words phonetically
- Read within a group



Reading is introduced through "Jolly Phonics" and later "Jolly Readers". Although some of these materials are available in bookshops, we would not advise you to buy them for use at home. It takes away some of the excitement of learning something new if the children have already got the materials at home. One of the reading skills taught is prediction and this is difficult to do if they are already familiar with the story. There are lots of exciting and interesting children's' books available in bookshops and libraries instead.

Writing - Children will learn to:

- Write their name
- Hold their pencil correctly
- Form lowercase and uppercase letters correctly
- Use their drawings to record their experiences on paper
- Dictate their stories to an adult
- Copy the sentences that have been written for them
- Spell words phonetically and write simple sentences/texts



Talking and Listening – Children will learn to:

- Talk confidently in a group
- Take turns when talking
- Listen to instructions
- Listen in a group
- Answer questions appropriately

Maths – Children will learn to:

- Recognise Numerals, Shapes And Money
- Recognise Fastest Finger And Number Frame Patterns (Without Counting)
- Sort
- About Pattern
- Count Objects
- Ordering And Comparing
- Addition Facts To 10
- Subtraction Facts Within 10
- Numbers Within 100
- Count On And Back
- Measure – Time, Length, Weight And Capacity
- About Symmetry
- About Direction
- About Charts And Graphs



Active Learning

The children in Primary 1 will experience a variety of teaching methods and many of the activities involve practical tasks – active learning. Children learn better if they are actively involved and they will be encouraged to work with others to complete challenges, solve problems and find solutions.



HOMEWORK

Will my child get homework?

Most of the homework at the start of Primary 1 is simple, repetitive and active. We recommend completing it little and often, working around your own family circumstances. The children will each be issued with a named plastic homework pocket containing a diary. The diary will be used to set the tasks for the week and show the results of ongoing assessment, it should be signed and returned in the pocket **each Thursday** to enable us to complete it for re-use the following week.



They will be given a few simple resources for Maths at the start of the term to keep at home and use on an ongoing basis. They will then be issued with a weekly sound sheet that will let them practice the skills necessary for reading, sound recognition, verbalisation, formation and blending.

The children will participate in reading activities in class, and, when the teacher feels that your child is ready, a reading book will be sent home.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

How can I help my child at home?

If your child feels well prepared for school, then they will have less cause to feel anxious and it is often little things that can upset them. Here is a list of things that can take some of the stress away:

- Label everything (including hats, gloves, water bottles, bags)
- Check bags each night
- Read notes and respond promptly
- Do homework
- Make sure everything they need is in their school bag.
- Ensure fresh water is given each day (**children are allowed to drink water during class time**)
- Remind your child who is picking them up or how they are getting home at the end of the day
- Teach your child how to zip up their jacket
- If your child will be wearing laced shoes, begin to teach them how to tie their laces
- If your child is emotional about coming to school, allow them to take a special teddy or something of yours (to keep in their schoolbag) so they know that you will be back to collect them



SCHOOL WEBSITE/TWITTER

You can access the school website for further information about what is going on in the general life of the school. Each class has their own Twitter page which is updated regularly and will let you see what is happening specifically in your child's class. Links to both can be found at the start of this booklet and on the school website.

REPORTING

How do I find out how my child is getting on in school?

At the beginning of each term you will be informed of what your child will be learning for the session.

In the second week of term there will be a 'Meet the Teacher' curricular workshop which will further explain how reading and maths are taught in Primary 1.

You will be given the opportunity to meet with the teacher to discuss how your child is settling into school and there will be a second interview to discuss their progress later in the year. However, you are welcome to contact the school at any time should you have cause for concern or wish to discuss your child's progress. This should be done initially via the school office.



SHARED LEARNING

We undertake regular 'Shared Learning' sessions throughout the year (normally a couple per term) which will give you the opportunity to come in and find out more about how your child is learning along with them.

The sessions normally run at the end of an afternoon for approximately 30-40 minutes. They will cover a range of aspects of your child's learning, including Jolly Phonics, numeracy & health and well-being.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (For parents by parents)

These are some commonly asked questions or concerns of a practical nature which have kindly been answered by existing parents who have just been through the process you are about to embark on.

How many items of school uniform will my child need?

This is a matter of personal preference. Some parents may find 3 polo shirts and 3 trousers or skirts (1 to wear, 1 in the wash, 1 spare) is enough. Others may need more or manage with less of some or all items. As the school can be quite warm, the children often take their school sweatshirts/jumpers/cardigans off in the classroom. Shirts and ties are usually only worn for special events, e.g. school photographs, assemblies. School uniform items with the school logo are available from Dallas Designs throughout the year so you can always buy more if needed. Supermarkets and many high street stores also stock school uniform items throughout the year.

Will all the Primary 1s be in the same class?

This is unlikely as our numbers are normally greater than the set maximum for Primary 1 class sizes (currently 25). The make-up of the classes depends upon how many children there are in Primary 1, but they are normally split between 2 or 3 classes. This may take the form of a straight P1 class, a straight team-teach P1 class and/or a composite class. The Primary 1s are Primary 1s no matter which class they are in and will have lots of opportunities to be together as a year group.

My child is in a Primary 1 composite class. How much interaction will they have with the other Primary 1s? Will they be learning the same things?

All of the Primary 1 children spend time together, in both formal learning time and classroom playtime. They are also together in the dining hall and in the playground during morning interval and lunchtime. The teachers of all the Primary 1 classes share their planning and meet regularly to ensure core subjects are taught in a similar way.

Where can I find out more about composite classes?

There is a section on the school and council websites about composite classes. You are also welcome to speak with the school if you have any questions or concerns.

My child is in a Primary 1 team-teach class. What does this mean?

We are lucky enough to have big classrooms that hold more than the maximum class size of 25 children. Therefore, to accommodate the number of pupils in our intake, we create a class over the maximum limit of pupils and allocate 2 teachers to the class. This is not two classes in one space but is one bigger class shared by two teachers who share in the daily responsibilities of teaching and managing a class. This has worked very successfully in recent years. The number of pupils is still capped to the capacity the room will comfortably hold.

Will my child be able to cope with the school routine?

The first day of school is as big a day for the parent as it is for the child. It can be difficult to imagine your child going into school by themselves, choosing their own lunch, getting changed for gym and packing their own school bag at home time. However, the children are helped along the way by their teacher, the support staff, their Buddies and all the other children in the school. Primary 1 children adapt very quickly to the school routine and, before too long, are keeping their parents right about what happens each day.

What if my child doesn't want to go to school?

It is completely normal and natural for children to be apprehensive about going to school. Some children may feel nervous on their first day. For others, it may be a few weeks into term when they are tired and the initial excitement about school has worn off. It can be really hard for a parent to leave an upset child, but, teachers and support staff are very experienced and once the child is distracted, and into the school environment, they quickly settle. Please be assured, the school will contact you if your child does not settle. If there is a specific reason why your child does not want to go to school, please discuss this with the school as there may be something we can do to help.

Why is my child not eating his/her lunch?

At first, lunchtime in the dining hall with so many other children around can be overwhelming. The children are also excited about going out to play and do not want to be held back by eating. Or the food at school may be different to what they would usually have at home. The lunchtime supervisors do encourage the children to eat and the school would let you know if your child was persistently not eating school meals. Once your child is more settled into school life, you may find that they eat more at lunchtime. In the meantime, you could try giving your child a bigger breakfast in the morning, a snack for morning interval that might fill them for longer and being prepared to feed a hungry child at the end of the school day. **Again please ensure the snacks DO NOT contain nuts.**

Do Primary 1 children get homework?

Yes parents may experience initial horror at the thought of Primary 1 children having homework but it is not as labour intensive as you may think, and it certainly gets easier. We ask that homework is completed little and often rather than in large blocks. Most of it is very informal and can take the form of simple songs, games and activities (some of which you could even complete on the journey home).

Some children really enjoy doing homework, some do not. The best time to do homework is different for each child. In the mornings, before school, works for some families, for others, in the afternoon or evening works better. Finding a quiet time and place without distraction can be a challenge but usually makes for a more productive homework session.

How will I know if my child has homework to do?

New homework tasks will be placed weekly in your child's homework pack, along with their diary in which tasks are set. Where possible, we issue other correspondence in the packs at the same time, so it does not get lost. However, this is not always possible, and letters come in at other times, so it is always a good idea to check your child's school bag every day after school. Other correspondence is normally sent electronically, so please check emails regularly.

What if my child needs to go to the toilet during class time?

Children are permitted to go to the toilet as required. They do need to ask first so staff can keep a check on where they are. If toilet visits seem excessive, staff will check with you that there are no underlying medical concerns.

How long will it take for my child to get used to being at school?

This varies for every child but, for many, it is around the October holidays or towards the Christmas holidays. Many parents are surprised at how tired their children are after a day of school. Initially this may make your child more prone to mood swings. Your child may also be hungrier or need to sleep for longer. It can be hard to fit in after school activities at first, but this becomes easier as time goes on.

How can I get involved in helping at the school?

The school is always looking for volunteers to help with activities at the school. Letters may be sent out asking for volunteers or you could note your interest with the School Administrator at the school office. Joining or volunteering with the PTF (Parent Teacher Forum) or Parent Council is another way to get involved. Every parent of a child at the school is a member of the Parent Forum. At Bishopmill Primary School, like many other schools, the Parent Forum is represented by groups of parents. The Parent Council discuss issues affecting the school and concerns or queries raised by parents while the PTF arrange fundraising events and spending of raised funds. Both groups meet towards the start of each term and are always happy to welcome new members. Details of forthcoming parent meetings can be found on the annual calendar / school newsletters. Regular volunteers will require to be PVG checked before being permitted to do voluntary work within the school.



GLOSSARY OF TERMS (USED IN P1)

In this section, we have provided a glossary of words and phrases which we often use in the Primary 1 classroom.

Blending – is when sounds are joined together to create words.

Digraph – is when two sounds come together to form a new sound, for example 's' and 'h' to make 'sh'.

Fastest Finger – is when we use our fingers in the set pattern learned to represent numbers

Green for Growth – is a term used to identify next steps or show that improvement is needed.

Phonics - is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skillfully. They are taught how to recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes.

RRS – stands for Rights Respecting School and is how we talk about the articles linked to children's' rights.

Shared Learning – is an opportunity for parents to come into the classroom and learn about how their children are learning.

Subitise – means instantly recognising a number pattern (of items, fingers or dots on a frame) without counting.

Tickled Pink – indicates that the children are doing something well.

Tricky Words – are words that are not decodable, they may not follow a spelling pattern or may include alternative spellings.

