



Stane

Primary School
and Nursery Class



Kindness

Compassion

Courage

Community

Starting School Booklet



A guide for parents/carers

Introduction



As your child's first day at school draws closer, you are probably feeling a mixture of emotions. Making the transition from nursery to 'the big school' is a huge step for everyone involved. There are many ways that parents/carers and school staff can work collaboratively to make this transition a positive experience for children.

At Stane Primary School, Primary 1 **Transition Sessions** provide children and their parents/carers with an insight into the school itself with the hope of increasing familiarity with new surroundings, and in turn, easing the transition in August. This is also a nice opportunity for parents/carers to get to know the new surroundings and begin to build relationships with school staff and other parents/carers.

Due to the current situation, we have been unable to run our P1 Transition Sessions. We will endeavour to make your child's transition to P1 as seamless and as smooth as possible, supporting all of our children and their families as they embark on the next part of their educational journey.

How can parents/carers support their child?

There are many ways that you, as parents/carers, can help to support your child as they approach the transition from Nursery to Primary 1. Have a look at the list below. The list highlights skills which will help your child to confidently make the move to their P1 class. Can you spot any areas for development? The summer holidays and the current additional time at home provide an ideal opportunity to practise, practise, practise!



- I can share my toys.
- I can take turns.
- I can fasten zips.
- I can fasten buttons.
- I can fasten buckles.
- I can tie my shoe laces (if not ... velcro shoes are perfect!)
- I can use the toilet properly, flush and wash my hands.
- I can get changed for PE and back into my uniform again.
- I can tidy up my toys.
- I can use cutlery

First Day at School

What will your child need?



- School bag
- Gym shoes with velcro strap (to remain in school each day)
- Healthy snack
- Packed lunch or have chosen a school meal from the menu
- A bottle of water (plastic bottles only)

Please only send your child in shoes with laces, if your child is able to tie them independently. You will be informed of gym days in due course. All items of clothing including shoes (indoor/outdoor), ties, shirts, jackets, cardigans, sweatshirts, trousers, skirts, t-shirts **must have your child's name clearly written on them**. We have a lost property box/area within the school, to prevent your child from misplacing items, it is very important that all items of clothing are clearly labelled.



Sounds

Your child will be introduced to 2 sounds each week until approximately Christmas. In January, phonemes with 2 letters but only one sound will be introduced, for example sh,ch,th. Children will be encouraged to look for these sounds at the beginning, middle and end of words.

Magnetic Boards are used to make/break, blend, read and write words in class each day. These will be used until Primary 3. The children will follow the 5 finger phonics approach below.



- First, **say** the word.
- **Make it** with the letters/ **Break it** up, leaving a space between each sound.
- **Blend** the sounds from left to right.
(pushing them from left to right)
- **Read** the word.
- **Write** it on the line.

Spelling



Each week, 3 common words will be introduced to your child. They will be taught strategies to recognise tricky/common words.

Reading

Reading books will be introduced in class and sent home each night. It is essential that books are returned each day as the children will be completing work linked to their book. We use books from a range of publishers and authors to ensure children are exposed to a variety of contents and styles of writers. These books are banded into colours and your child will have experience of a diverse range of books within each colour.

Helping Your Child to Read Words

To help your child read at home, they will be introduced to Word Attack Strategies during Active Literacy. These strategies help the children to break down and decode new words.

- Look at the picture
- Look at the first letter
- Look at the shape of the word
- Sound out the first few letters
- Look for a rime (at in cat)
- Break the words into syllables (or parts)
- Look at the last letters
- Read the sentence again



To assist your child with their understanding of the book, they will be asked questions to encourage them to think about the text. You could ask your child the following questions before, during and after they have read their book.

- Can the pictures tell what the story might be about?
- Can the title tell me what the story might be about?
- Who is in the story?
- What happened in the story?
- What happens at the start?
- What happens in the middle?
- What happens at the end?



Writing

Children will be introduced to writing by overwriting, writing between the lines or writing over the top of yellow ink. They will then move on to writing under the text. It would be helpful if your child could recognise and attempt to write their name before Primary 1 begins. Do not worry too much about children being able to form letters of the alphabet. This will be taught at school. Our writing programme consists of daily writing activities, writing across the curriculum and a weekly 'taught' writing lesson which investigates 5 main genres (narrative, persuasive, instructional/procedural, recount and information report).

Here's another one for the checklist;

- I can hold a pencil.

Please remember our golden writing rule as you make your way to Primary 1:

'Remember pointy finger thumb and you'll be well on your way to Primary 1.'



Numeracy & Mathematics



As you will be aware, children develop an awareness of numbers before they begin school particularly during their time in nursery. This development usually occurs as they experience everyday activities which involve number and other aspects of mathematics, like matching, sorting and putting things into order.

You can encourage your child to develop these skills around the house:

- asking him/her to sort the cutlery
- match the socks
- checking off the shopping list

Talking about what you are doing can also help to develop valuable mathematical vocabulary (more than, taller, same as, different, smaller etc.) which will be useful for your child as they make the transition to Primary 1.

Why not try some of these fun, everyday activities to help develop different mathematical concepts:

- Sorting the cutlery into the tray
- Putting the toys into the right boxes
- Sorting the clothes for each family member
- Putting the clothes in the right drawers
- Setting the table (1 knife, 1 fork etc. for each place)
- Putting an egg in each egg cup
- Pairing up socks/shoes
- Ordering pots/shoes/spoons etc. from smallest to largest/largest to smallest
- Playing dominoes, Snap, Snakes and Ladders, Happy Families, Ludo etc.

Partnership with Parents/Carers



We are extremely proud of our strong partnerships with all parents/carers and firmly believe that children are happier, more settled and are more open to learning experiences if parents and school staff work in partnership, demonstrating mutual trust and respect. In school, just as parents do at home, school staff make decisions with the best of intentions for the children in our care. We like to provide opportunities for pupils and parents to share their views and also their great ideas and suggestions!

Please have a look at our school website (blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/staneprimary) which is updated regularly and all newsletters, important information is posted here. You can also follow us on Twitter @staneprimary.

If you need to contact the school for any reason, please phone the office on 01501 826 705 or email enquiries to ht@stane.n-lanark.sch.uk

If you wish to speak to the Head Teacher, Miss Simpson, your child's class teacher or another member of the senior management team, please contact the office and an appointment will be made for you as soon as possible. Telephoning the school office should be your first point of contact with the school, we will endeavour to answer any questions or queries that you may have as promptly as possible.

School Meals



All children from P1-P3 are entitled to a free school meal. We operate a band system where children order their preferred lunch in the morning and are given a coloured band. This indicates their choice to catering staff and makes for happy, healthy children.

If your child has any allergies, please make us aware as soon as possible.

We continue to have a number of pupils and staff who have known allergic reactions to any sort of nuts. For this reason, Stane Primary, like most other schools, remains a 'nut-free' zone. No snacks containing nuts are permitted.



Water Bottles

Children can bring a water bottle to school and will have regular access to drinking water during the day. We ask that diluting juices are not sent in. No fizzy juice is permitted in school.

Childsmile

Childsmile is a national programme designed to improve the oral health of children in Scotland. Research tells us that brushing at least twice a day with fluoride toothpaste can prevent tooth decay. To support this, Childsmile has developed a daily supervised toothbrushing programme to take place in school in addition to brushing at home. Your child will be provided with their own toothbrush and will be supervised brushing their teeth in school. Each child must have parental consent to participate in the programme. If you would like further information please log on to www.child-smile.org or telephone 01236 707 711

Stane Primary School Vision and Values

‘Stane Primary School and Nursery Class, where we aim to promote Connection through Kindness, Compassion, Courage and Community.’

We are an attachment informed school that promotes every child’s achievement by meeting their social, emotional and academic needs. We aspire to high levels of attainment for all, supporting pupils to overcome any barriers to their learning.

Our school is built and continues to grow on the firm foundations of positive and nurturing relationships to embed a warm and supportive learning environment for all.

Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour

At Stane Primary School and Nursery Class, we collectively work hard to create and maintain a learning environment that fully embeds our three key aims:

- **Safe**
- **Ready**
- **Respectful**



Our learning environment supports all learners and maximises the quality learning and teaching opportunities for all. We endeavour to maintain high expectations and standards of behaviour and respect within our school.

Stane Primary School and Nursery Class adopts the recommendations set out by North Lanarkshire Council in the document ‘Promoting Positive Relationships and Behaviour’ and also embodies the principles of the Health and Wellbeing Indicators (SHANARRI) outlined in Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC).

Final hints and tips

Some final hints and tips which can help your child to make a smooth transition include:

- Using the summer to maintain an early bedtime routine, with a healthy breakfast to start off each day.
- Encouraging your child to get him/herself ready each day (the benefits will be massive!)
- Talking to your child about pick up / drop off arrangements, childminders, etc. well in advance as well as each day when they begin to come to school.
- Be positive!

Although you may be feeling anxious, try to be really positive about this big adventure that your child is about to embark upon! We will fully support you each step of the way! Before all the formal learning takes place, the most important thing is to share your excitement with your child about coming to school.

We are looking forward to seeing our new P1 pupils and their families on the first day of school and will clarify arrangements as soon as we possibly can. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

Kindest regards

Mrs J Scott

Acting Depute Head Teacher

