

**Starting Primary 1  
at  
Bridge of Weir Primary School**



**Session 2016 - 2017**

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to Bridge of Weir Primary School! Starting Primary 1 is an exciting time for children and parents alike. In this booklet we aim to give you all the information you need to make your child's transition from nursery to school as smooth as possible.

**Please keep this booklet in a safe place as it contains important information about arrangements for the first few days and weeks of Primary 1 (although it is also available via the school website if it happens to get mislaid!)** We don't expect you to read it immediately from cover to cover, but you will find it helpful to dip in and out of. Do remember that you can contact the school at any time should you have any questions or concerns.

We look forward to you and your child joining our school community here at Bridge of Weir.

Elaine Kent  
Depute Head Teacher  
Primary 1-3

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### **Links with nursery**

We receive information from the nursery your child has attended which tells us about his or her interests, aptitudes and progress. Mrs Kent will visit each of the nurseries to have an informal discussion with your child's key worker and, where possible, meet the children who will be starting school. In addition we try to arrange for our P1 teachers to visit children in nursery after our induction afternoons have taken place.

### **Induction Days**

Our induction sessions in May allow children to meet their classmates (some of whom they may already know from nursery), spend time with their class teacher and see around the school building. It's also an opportunity for you to find out a bit more about what to expect when your child starts school and ways in which you can support their learning. We have two induction sessions, both of which take place in the school hall, and this year the dates are as follows:

**Tuesday 24 May      1.30 - 2.30pm**

**Tuesday 31 May      1.30 - 2.30pm**

It's ideal if you can come along to both sessions but even if you can only manage to one it will still be beneficial for your child. If you are unable to attend it's good if you can arrange for someone else to bring your child along. When you arrive on the first day our P6 pupils (next year's P7s) will be waiting to meet their P1 "buddies". After an initial welcome from our Head Teacher Mrs Vallance the P6 pupils will take you and your child to their P1 classroom where the children will stay for the remainder of the session. Parents will return to the hall to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee whilst Mrs Vallance and Mrs Kent run through some information about school routines and ways in which you can help your child to settle in quickly at school.

### **Curriculum Evening**

**Wednesday 7 September 6.00pm**

This session provides an overview of the P1 curriculum with a particular focus on reading, writing and numeracy. You will have the opportunity to see some of the resources and approaches we use to help children begin to read, write and count independently.

### **Evaluation**

At the end of the P1 induction programme you will be asked to complete an evaluation form. The information which this provides is invaluable and feedback which parents have given us in the past has led to us making several changes to improve our programme. Please let us know what you think went well and if there is anything which could make it even better.

## What can I do to prepare my child for starting school?

- ❖ Encourage your child to be as independent as possible. Practise buttoning jackets, putting up zips, taking on and off shoes etc – even although we know it is often quicker to do it for them!
- ❖ Make sure that he/she is confident using the toilet and that boys are familiar with a urinal.
- ❖ Help your child to use a knife and fork for cutting up food as well as eating.
- ❖ Social skills are really important – learning to share and take turns, helping to tidy up at the end of an activity and understanding what is/is not acceptable behaviour.
- ❖ Activities which strengthen fingers such as rolling dough, threading beads onto laces and making patterns in salt, sand or shaving foam are great preparation for writing – and good fun too!
- ❖ Picking up small objects such as dried peas or using peg boards also encourage the “pincer” movement which is needed for a correct pencil grip. If your child is using a pencil they should hold it between the thumb and index finger with other fingers underneath and their hand resting on the paper like this:



Triangular pencils can help with this (these can be purchased at WH Smith).

- ❖ Don't worry about teaching your child how to write letters before they start school. It's much better to trace or make patterns such as wavy lines, zig-zags, curls and loops. Remember you can do this with chalk, crayons or paint on easels or blackboards too.
- ❖ Many children *will* know how to write their own name before they start school but again, please don't worry if your child is not ready to do this yet. **We would ask that if this is something your child is keen to do that you encourage them to only use a capital for the first letter of their name.** Please refer to the sheet provided to help them form their letters correctly.
- ❖ Play “I Spy”, rhyming and memory games – these are really important in helping to develop pre-reading skills.
- ❖ Let them help with weighing and measuring if you are cooking or baking - use words like lighter/heavier, more than/less than.
- ❖ Counting games like snakes and ladders or any game that uses a dice help develop an understanding of number.
- ❖ Setting the table encourages children to look at sets of things as well as one-to-one correspondence, patterns and sequencing.
- ❖ Talk about how much things cost when you go shopping.

## The First Day – Monday 15 August 2016

After much anticipation the big day has finally arrived. Amidst the new uniforms, pencil cases, school bags and shiny shoes the most important thing for your child is that you are calm and reassuring. Children are so well prepared for coming to school nowadays that most of them are more than happy to wave goodbye with barely a backward glance – which is just what you want! If anyone is feeling a little overwhelmed the teaching staff and classroom assistants are there to help and it usually doesn't take long for everyone to settle in.

### Where should we go?

When you arrive at the school please make your way round to the back of the building to the link corridor and wait for your child's group to be called. To avoid congestion we have a staggered entry and pupils in Primary 1 will be invited to come in to school in the following order:

<b>Surnames</b>	A - I	9.15am
	J - M	9.20am
	N - Z	9.25am

You are more than welcome to accompany your child into the classroom, take photographs etc but we would ask that there are no more than two adults per child and that you leave before the next group is due to come in. Tea and coffee will be served in the school lunch hall from 9.15 – 10.15am and all parents/carers are invited to join us.

### Lunch

All P1-3 pupils in Scotland are entitled to a free school lunch and your child will be able to have lunch from the first day. We will provide you with more information about arrangements for this at our induction afternoons.

### Where will I collect my child at the end of the first day?

Renfrewshire Council are introducing full day attendance for Primary 1s from August 2016 and so your child will stay in school **until 3.00pm from Day 1**. Because of the building work at the front of the school parents should wait in the raised playground area (up the steps to the right of the school building) and teachers will escort classes round to this area just before 3.00pm. It would be very helpful if your child can be collected by a parent or other adult for the first week however we realise that you may have child care arrangements in place and if this is the case it is **imperative** that we know whether a child is travelling by bus, being collected by a parent or child minder or going to one of the after school providers. We will send you a form to complete during the summer break and would ask you to bring this with you on the first day of term.

If your child is entitled to travel on the school bus they may begin to do so as soon as you feel they are ready. We have P7 "bus buddies" (two for each bus) who will accompany pupils onto the buses at 2.55pm. Children who travel by taxi make their way to the main entrance just before 3.00pm where they are met by an adult and escorted outside.

Class teachers, Mrs Vallance and Mrs Kent will supervise the "hand over" of all pupils. We understand that collection arrangements can sometimes change and if this is the case please send a note to your child's class teacher or phone the school office to let us know if eg your child has not to get the bus on a particular day.

## FAQ

### What happens on Day 2?

Please wait with your child in the playground at the front of the building where P7 buddies will collect them at 8.55am and take them round to line up at the link corridor for 9.00am. Mrs Kent or another member of staff will accompany any child whose buddy is not available. This adult will wear a high visibility jacket to ensure that they are easily identifiable. *See additional info on p7.*

### What do children do at playtime?

From the very first day children will have a morning break, during which a classroom assistant will be on playground duty assisted by P7 pupils. P1 pupils have a designated playground at the back of the school.

### Can my child bring a snack to school?

We encourage children to bring a small snack to have during the morning interval but suggest that they bring no more than one thing to eat and one to drink. Our Oral Health Promoter who visits classes during P1 talks to them about healthy snacks – cheese, fruit, breadsticks, sandwiches, crisps, water or milk are all recommended. We would prefer if children did not bring sweets, chocolate or flavoured water which are all high in sugar. *To make it easier for everyone, please put any snack for morning interval into **school bags** not packed lunch boxes which are kept separately.* The lunch hall is also open from 8.45am when water, milk and toast can be purchased.

### What about in class?

Pupils may not eat in class however in line with Renfrewshire Council policy we do allow them to bring in a bottle of water which they can sip throughout the day. Please note that this must be **plain, unflavoured** water as diluting juice, flavoured water etc is not allowed. It is also helpful if water bottles have a “sports” type lid to avoid large spillages if they are accidentally knocked over!

### What should my child bring in their school bag?

Pupils should bring two or three sharpened pencils and a rubber, their snack or drink and possibly a *small* toy to play with if we have a wet interval. **Your child will be issued with a red school homework bag which should be brought to school each day.** Reading books, library books and homework sheets or jotters should be kept in this bag and letters home will also be put here.

### Does my child need PE kit?

Yes, your child will have PE in the first week of P1 and should bring gym shoes and shorts in a gym bag all of which should be clearly labelled with his or her name. This bag can be kept in school. We recommend that pupils wear a school polo shirt on gym days so that they do not need to change their top for PE. You will be told when your child’s gym days are. We will send kit home before holidays so that it can be washed and to allow you to check that gym shoes etc still fit.

### What about the toilet?

Children may go to the toilet when they ask but they should get into the habit of always going at playtime. The class teacher will remind them to go. It’s a good idea for boys to have been taken to toilets where there is a urinal as sometimes they can be unsure how to use it. We do keep spare clothing for emergencies.

### What if my child is going to be absent?

Please telephone the school office on 01505 612833 before 9.30am each day your child is going to be absent. This should be followed on return to school by a note to the teacher. If we do not hear from you by 9.30am we will text or telephone you as we monitor attendance very carefully.

**What if my child needs medicine?** Please contact the school office. A form has to be completed to allow us to administer medicines to children.

## Buddies

Our P7 buddies play a very important role in helping our new entrants settle in to school and we really appreciate how seriously they take their responsibilities. Here is an overview of their main duties:

**April/May** – P6 pupils visit Bridge of Weir Primary Nursery and children attending other local nurseries have the opportunity to visit the school and meet their buddies. During these visits children will receive a “Buddy Card” which will include a photograph of the P6 pupil which the younger child can keep and share with parents.

**Induction afternoons** – welcome parents and new entrants and show them to classrooms; collect pupils and return children to parents at end of each session.

### Day 1

P7s come to class at the end of the day to read stories to P1 buddies, help with coats etc and escort with class teachers at 3.00pm. If a P7 buddy is absent for any reason the class teacher will ensure the P1 pupil is matched up with another P7.

### Day 2 onwards

- meet P1s at front of school in morning and accompany to class line
- groups of P7s will be on duty in P1 playground during morning interval

*From Day 2 we ask parents to wait at the front of the school in the morning and for buddies to take the P1s round to line up. This is for the safety of all our pupils and to ensure that only known adults are in the playground. **Please note that we aim for P1 pupils to be walking round to their playground independently by the end of September.** Some children may need a bit longer but most are happy to walk round with a friend or sibling and we are keen to encourage this. Please do not feel that you **have** to wait for your child’s buddy in the morning – if they want to walk round by themselves, with a friend or big brother or sister, that is absolutely fine!*

### First Assembly and House System

Pupils will join the rest of the school for our weekly assembly. They are accompanied by and sit beside their buddies for the first few weeks until they are ready to sit on their own. We operate a house system in the school and have four houses – Burns, Martin, Thomson and Watt. Children with family already in the school will be in the same house as their brothers or sisters. During assembly pupils in the same house all sit together and they are awarded points for good behaviour etc. At the end of each term the house with the most points is given a reward such as an extra 10 minutes play time. Pupils can also earn points for their house on Sports Day when the winning house is awarded the school sports trophy. Buddies also walk with the younger children when we go to one of the local churches for our services at Easter and in June.

*Please note that we discourage the exchange of gifts between buddies as we feel that there is a risk of some children feeling excluded. However a hand made “thank you” card is always appreciated!*

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## Baseline Assessment

This year Renfrewshire Council are introducing a new online assessment for our Primary 1 pupils. Each pupil will complete a baseline assessment on an iPad with his or her teacher. The information collected will help us identify your child's strengths in language, literacy and numeracy and allow us to target support where required. The assessment will be repeated at the end of Primary 1.

## Homework

Pupils begin learning letter sounds and names right away and will be given some homework tasks within the first few weeks. Whenever your child is taught a new letter they should practise saying it then writing it on the relevant page of the homework workbook. Around October time your child will get their first reading book and we will talk in more detail about this at the curriculum evening in September. The first page in your child's reading record provides some helpful advice for parents.

## Library Books

Once a week your child will get the chance to take home a school library book. The book will be sent home in a Book Bag and should be returned to school by the same day the following week. **We encourage all children to change their library book weekly and would ask for your help to ensure this is the case.**

## Forms and Money

You may sometimes receive forms which have to be completed or requests for payment for excursions etc. Completed forms should be returned in the red Homework Bag as should money which should be in a clearly labelled envelope.

## Parent Helpers

We have a great team of parents who volunteer to come in for an hour or two each week and we really appreciate the contribution they make. Some help children choose books at library times while others supervise games during active maths sessions or help pupils practise something new which they have been learning. We encourage parents who come in as helpers to have Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG for short) disclosure and a form for this can be obtained from the school office. Disclosure Scotland does charge for this (currently £59) but it allows you to work with children in other settings too such as Brownies or BB which some parents find useful. It is still possible to be a parent helper without having a PVG certificate, as we can adapt the activities you would be involved in – please don't let it put you off! Please speak to Mrs Kent if you would be interested in becoming a parent helper.





## A Day in the Life of Primary One

Parents often ask what pupils actually do once they start school. In reality each day is a little bit different but the following outline describes a fairly typical day at the beginning of Primary 1:

- 8.55 Warning bell rings – children finish their games and line up in the playground
- 9.00 School begins – teachers supervise lines and accompany pupils to their classes
  - Hang up coats in cloakroom
  - Registration and order school lunches
- 9.00 – 9.30 Smartstart – similar to nursery free play sessions
- 9.30 – 9.50 Maths lesson on counting to 10 using large flashcards and Interactive Whiteboard
- 9.50 – 10.20 Small group activities – games, activities and written work reinforcing counting to 10
- 10.20 Tidy up, go to toilet, coats on and snacks organised
- 10.30 – 10.45 Morning Interval
- 10.45 – 11.20 Phonics lesson – learning the sound “t” – games, songs and activities with teacher; workbook activity completed independently
- 11.20– 12.00 Writing lesson – I am kicking leaves
  - Pupils go outside for autumn walk then complete detailed black line drawing of what they have been doing. Class teacher and/or classroom assistant scribe what each pupil wants to say about his/her picture.
- 12.00 – 12.15 Tidy up, go to toilet, coats on
- 12.15 – 1.00 Lunch followed by outside play
- 1.00 – 1.45 PE lesson in gym hall
- 1.45 – 2.30 Drama
- 2.30 – 2.50 Story
- 2.50 - 2.55 Coats on, bags packed, line up, P7 buddies collect pupils travelling by bus.
- 3.00 Children escorted outside to be collected

# The Curriculum

*“Curriculum for Excellence aims to achieve a transformation in education in Scotland by providing a coherent, more flexible and enriched curriculum from 3 to 18..... The curriculum aims to ensure that all children and young people in Scotland develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they will need if they are to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future.”*

*Education Scotland*

Over the last few years there has been a review of what we teach in schools and also how we teach it. Curriculum for Excellence forms the basis of pupils’ experiences in nursery, primary and secondary schools across Scotland and aims to equip young people to become successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens. At Bridge of Weir Primary School we have worked hard to develop plans, activities and programmes of study which help pupils fulfil these aims and encourage them to achieve their potential. If your child has attended nursery you will probably be aware that the Early Level begins when children are 3 and continues for most children to the end of Primary 1. They then progress through levels until the end of S3 when they move on to the Senior Phase. Curriculum for Excellence lays great emphasis on making learning relevant, helping pupils make connections and equipping them for their role in society in the future. There are eight curricular areas:

- Expressive arts
- Health and wellbeing
- Languages
- Mathematics
- Religious and moral education
- Sciences
- Social studies
- Technologies

Teachers carefully plan age appropriate activities in all curricular areas with a particular focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing. Here is a brief summary of what your child will be learning in these areas during the first few weeks and months of Primary 1.

## **Literacy**

Pupils learn how to sound, name and write all letters of the alphabet using a programme called “Fast Phonics First”. After that we move on to learning how to blend letters to read words like b-at, c-at and ba-t, ca-t and also some of the “tricky” words like “said” which can’t be sounded out. The Storyworlds reading programme systematically develops reading, writing and comprehension skills and teachers use a range of approaches including games, puzzles, ICT and role play to reinforce what is learned. Learning to listen to instructions and to others in the class is very important as is having the confidence to speak clearly and confidently about experiences and opinions.

## **Numeracy and Mathematics**

Initially pupils will focus on learning how to read, write and count numbers to 10 before moving on to simple addition and subtraction. Children also learn about money and it is a good idea to talk to them about the coins that they use, their values and that they are not all “pennies”. Other activities will include learning to tell the time (o’clock only), recognising shapes, measuring, making graphs and solving problems. Learning through play is very important at this stage and so teachers will create opportunities for children to learn about mathematical concepts eg by setting up a shop to learn about money or playing bingo type games that help them learn the names of shapes.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

This incorporates learning about physical fitness and healthy eating as well as how to keep safe when crossing roads or on the internet, the importance of following rules, making and keeping friends and knowing how to make good choices.

**For more information about Curriculum for Excellence go to [www.educationscotland.gov.uk](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk).**

## Top Ten Tips!

The following Top Ten Tips for parents and families of children starting primary school comes from the [www.parentingacrossscotland.org](http://www.parentingacrossscotland.org) website:

### 1) Starting school

Going to school for the first time is a big event for children. Visit the school before your child starts, schools often provide opportunities for parents and children to visit. Even though your child may not remember where everything is, at least the journey and teachers will be more familiar on their first day.

### 2) Have patience

Sometimes children's behaviour becomes babyish when they start school. They can swing from being dependent one minute to independent the next. Be patient with them, give them a cuddle and show a genuine interest in their worries.

### 3) Establish a routine

Mornings can be especially stressful for both of you. Establish a morning routine and make sure your child has breakfast. Give yourself and your child enough time to get ready in the morning especially if they are beginning to dress themselves.

### 4) Show interest

Show a genuine interest in everything your child does, both in school and at home, encourage them to talk to you about how they are feeling, but beware of turning interest into pressure.

### 5) Encourage them

You don't need to go over the top with praise - it is often better to show interest and encouragement. This will help them to feel confident and secure. Don't be afraid to constantly tell them you love them.

### 6) Time to relax

When children start school the day can be very long and tiring for them - allow them time to relax when they get home. Children have a continuing need for love, support and encouragement from those who love them most.

### 7) Spend time together

Try to spend even a small amount of time doing something together each day, even if this is just watching their favourite TV programme with them and talking to them about it.

### 8) Have fun

Starting school is an anxious time for all children. Having fun and playing with your child helps to alleviate some of the anxiety, and play helps children to manage new situations and develop social skills.

### 9) Talk to the teacher

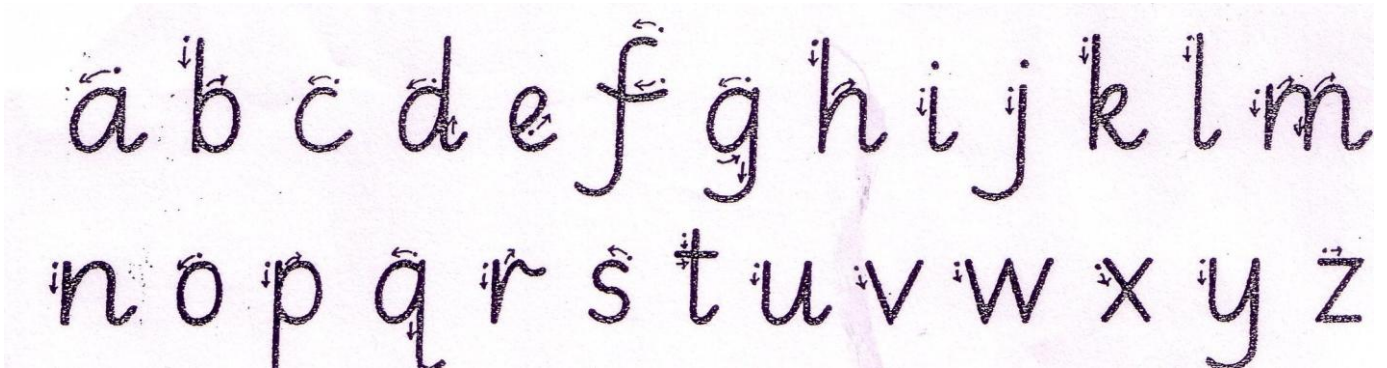
Make a point of talking to your child's teacher if you are worried about anything at all. It's best to voice concerns early on even if you think that it's just a small thing. Regularly attend parents' evenings and school meetings - it shows your child and the school that you are interested in how everything is going.

### 10) Look after yourself

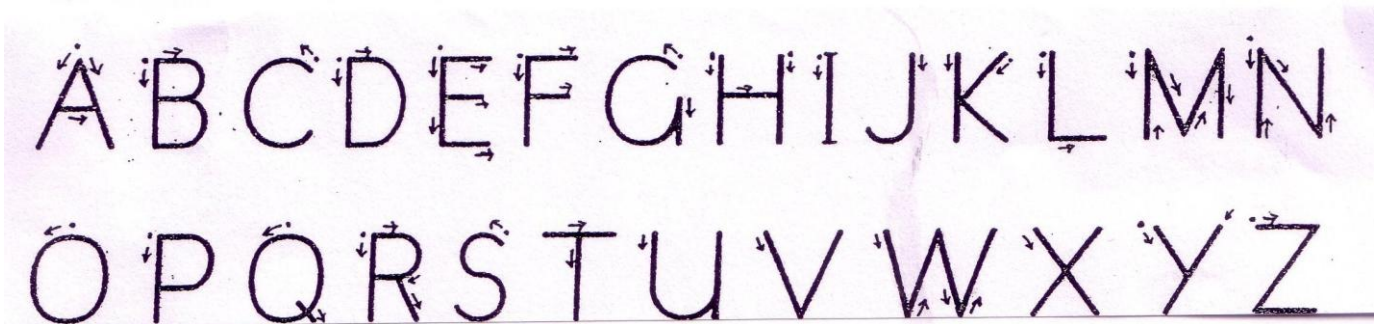
Parents today have a difficult and complex job to do but parents don't need to be perfect. Make sure you look after yourself and have people to talk to when you need to. Try to spend some time thinking about your own life and priorities.

# Bridge of Weir Primary School Handwriting

## Lower case letters



## Capital letters



## Numerals

