



Helpful Information for Parents/Carers



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

- Encourage your child to be as independent as possible. Practise buttoning jackets, pulling up zips, taking shoes on and off etc.
- Make sure that he/she is confident using the toilet and let staff know if your child needs support
- 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 and helping to tidy up at the end of an activity are really helpful
- Play 'I spy', rhyming and memory games these games help to develop pre-reading skills
- Let them help with weighing and measuring if you are cooking or baking
- Counting games like snakes and ladders or other games that use a dice help to develop understanding of number
- Read to your child regularly to encourage an interest in books



Times and Dates



On the first two days of the term a staggered start has been arranged -

First Day - Tuesday 16th August 2022

Arrive 9.15am in main playground at lunch hall

Home-time 3pm

Second Day Wednesday 17th August 2022

Arrive 9.15am in infant playground

Home-time 3pm

From Thursday 18th August 2022

Arrive at 9.00am in infant playground

Home-time 3pm

On the first day the children will come into the main hall where they will be collected by their teacher and taken to class. You are welcome to visit the class for a little while to take photographs and videos of your child's first day. We would ask that there are **no more than two adults per child** in the classroom. The 9.15am start allows us to ensure that the playground is as quiet as possible and to settle the rest of the children on their first day before welcoming our new P1s.

On the second day, the children should come into the Infant Playground where they will be collected by their teacher outside and taken to class.

Playtimes



Morning interval - 11.00 - 11.15

At Glencoats Primary, we designate areas of the playground according to classes across the school. This helps to ensure that each area does not become too busy and that activities and playground games can be appropriate to the age/stage of the children.

The pupils are supervised and supported in the playground by support staff and playground buddies. Playgrounds are very busy (and fun) places and our staff work hard to ensure that the children are safe and included and that they are given help when required. We strive to create an ethos at Glencoats where children develop social skills and are confident in seeking help from adults when needed. Please don't hesitate to contact the school at any time if there are any playground concerns and we will do our best to help.

We will work in partnership with parents where there are any concerns about appropriate play behaviour. We are always mindful that children come to school to learn how to play and socialise as well as learning academic subjects. We ask for your support to discourage physical play such as dummy fighting or wrestling as this can sometimes result children being hurt and little accidents especially among our infant children.

Lunchtimes 12.45 - 1.30pm



At Glencoats, our P1 & 2 children have lunch from **12.35pm** onwards giving them extra time to finish their lunch prior to the rest of the school coming into the hall. It helps our little ones to have a quieter start to their lunchtime when the hall is not so busy. The P1 & 2 teachers support the children at this time to develop their social skills and self-help skills as part of their health and wellbeing.

Children will be provided with a menu from the canteen staff and we will post a copy of this on our website and on Seesaw for your information. The menu is designed by AMEY and ensures the children are provided with nutritious, well-balanced meals. We would recommend that parents/carers discuss the options on the menu with their children so that the children are confident in ordering a lunch that they will enjoy. Currently, all P1-3 pupils receive free school meals. Children can also bring a packed lunch if they prefer.

Children are supported in the dining hall and playground by members of the senior management team and AMEY catering staff.

Seesaw



At Glencoats, we use Seesaw, which is a digital portfolio system that allows children to complete learning activities and share their work with their teacher and their family. The communication tools allow families to comment on student work and receive messages from teachers and the school. You will be given a QR code with instructions on how to join.

Snacks, Fruit Breaks & Water



In Primary 1, all children have the chance to have some toast which is prepared by our Early Years Officers in the morning as part of our soft start.

We hope to move towards a system where children can help to make their own snack to develop their life skills and independence skills (similar to Nursery) and will let you know when this happens. In the meantime, please try to provide healthy snacks where possible - thank you.

All children in Glencoats are encouraged to drink water throughout the day as it has been shown that this helps concentration! However, to help the management of this, teachers in P1 provide specific times for the children to drink including intervals and lunch breaks as this helps to minimise disruptions to learning and teaching as well as minimising toilet breaks and mess! Thank you for your understanding and support with this matter.

Toys from Home



Sometimes children like to bring in toys from home to play with. We recommend that parents keep this to a minimum to prevent loss or damage. As above, staff in the playground and teachers will try to help as much as possible but cannot take responsibility for lost or damaged items so please do not send in treasured possessions!

Absence / Late coming

If your child is going to be absent, we would ask you to telephone the school office after 8.50 a.m. A message will be passed to the class teacher. If your child is absent and we have not received any notification, the school will telephone / text after registration has taken place.

We operate a soft start system every morning where all children can arrive between 9am and 9.10am.

In the interest of the safety of all our pupils we ask if you and your child arrive late to school that you go to the school office at the main entrance where Mrs Morrier or Mrs Barlow will take any lunch orders before your child goes to his/her class.

As part of our monitoring procedures, attendance and late coming are monitored regularly throughout the session. Where there are concerns, the management team will contact parents to offer support as needed and work in partnership to maximise attendance.

School Enquiries & Communication



At Glencoats Primary School, we encourage open communication between staff and parents and wish to support any enquiries or concerns. In the first instance, all calls should be made to a member of the Senior Management Team. If you wish to meet with a member of the SMT please contact the school office and a suitable appointment will be made. We do our best to return all calls made on the same day where possible.

Teachers will also be available in the playground at the beginning and end of the school day for 'quick chats' or passing on of information but please be mindful that their priority is to get the children into school and begin learning and to ensure that all children are collected safely therefore if you wish to speak longer with the teacher, please call or come to the school office and we can arrange a time for this.

Teachers will send regular updates through Seesaw which we hope you find very helpful and informative! This app can also be used to send messages to the teacher when needed.

We also have a very informative website where you will find lots of helpful information. We work hard to keep this as up to date as possible. Please also check out our Glencoats Twitter page where we post lots of photos celebrating the great work that takes place in our school!

Website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/glencoatsprimary/>

Twitter @GlencoatsPS_

Wet Weather Arrangements



If it is raining at playtime or lunchtime your child will be supervised by our support staff and Primary 7 monitors. Children stay in their classes during wet intervals and during wet lunches when not in the dining hall.

Medicine & First Aid



A form has to be completed to allow staff to administer medicines to children. This can be obtained from our school office - please discuss this with our office staff. Office staff are not responsible for the administering of medicines such as antibiotics, etc however the Head Teacher, Depute Head Teacher and our ASNAs are happy to support individual families when needed.

Mrs Whyteman is our trained first aider and will support children when they are hurt or unwell in the first instance. The school will call parents if a child appears unwell and parents will always be contacted for any head or face injuries.

Children who have had an accident will be given an accident slip which they will bring home - this is part of our accident monitoring.

Parent Council & Parent Teacher Association Parental Engagement



Our current Parent Council Chairperson is Claire O'Neil. We are looking to recruit new members for next session so please come and join us!!

We very much welcome any partnership working with our parents/carers and are always open to parents working in the school to lead clubs or other activities - if you have any time or talents/skills that you would like to share please contact a member of the Senior Management Team to discuss further.



Uniform & Other Essentials



Our uniform is very smart and we encourage all pupils to wear it. It promotes school spirit and presents a good image of the school to pupils, parents and the wider community. It also allows us to quickly identify our pupils from any other visitors within the school grounds.

We cannot stress enough the importance of naming all clothing, gym shoes, bags, wallets, purses, pencil cases, packed lunch boxes - EVERYTHING! It allows the pupils to identify their own belongings when things get 'lost' and is a great help to the staff, especially in Primary 1!

It is very important that children are supported to take part as fully in PE lessons to promote their health and wellbeing and we ask that parents work with us to ensure that children are provided with kit - shorts or leggings, t-shirt and indoor trainers/sandshoes which can be kept in school and taken home to wash at holidays. If children forget their kit they may be able to borrow - please return any school kit if this comes home accidentally!

Children are not allowed to wear jewellery during PE for health and safety. New ear piercings must be taped over by parents - it is not the responsibility of staff to do this. Children must take full responsibility for any jewellery that has to be removed for PE lessons so we ask that parents keep this to a minimum.

Children can bring a school bag to school but all resources that they will need such as pencils are provided by the school. The school will provide a 'book bag' for homework for all primary 1 children.

If possible, please buy shoes with Velcro fastenings instead of laces. This helps the children to be more independent when taking shoes on and off. Slip on sandshoes for PE are great too!



Classes

Advice is taken from nursery staff when allocating pupils to classes including information on friendship groups. Our P1 teachers work closely together across literacy and numeracy to provide the children the chance to develop their skills at an appropriate pace and level. Information about classes will be sent to all new parents before the end of the session.

Learning is differentiated to meet the individual needs of children and teachers assess and track the progress of each child's learning very closely to ensure that everyone achieves their potential and receives appropriate support. Children in composite classes work at their own level so please don't worry about this.

Homework



Pupils begin homework in P1. This gives the children a chance to practise what they have been learning in school and is also an opportunity for parents/carers to discuss and support their child's learning. Please try your best to complete homework that is sent home - this really helps the children's learning. It is helpful to try to get into a homework routine where possible. If you have any problems with homework please contact your child's teacher or the school and we will do all we can to help you. The school will provide a homework bag for all children to use.



Supporting Pupils' Learning and Wellbeing

At Glencoats Primary School, all staff work very hard to 'Get it Right for Every Child'. We consider the whole child when planning to meet each child's needs in relation to the 8 Wellbeing Indicators (safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected, responsible and included). All teachers meet regularly with the HT and DHT to discuss and track our pupils' progress and where necessary to plan additional support. Where there is a need to plan additional support of any kind, the HT or DHT will contact parents as soon as possible as it is essential that we all work in partnership to ensure that all children achieve their potential.

There can be a need to plan additional support at any point in a young person's school career and we work with a wide range of agencies to meet our children's needs: Educational Psychology; Health (speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, school nurse team, CAMHS); home link and social work.

Please be reassured that where there is a need to consider additional support this is always done with the needs of the child at the centre. Parents/carers are encouraged to contact the school at any time to discuss any concerns they may have in relation to their child as well as working with the school where appropriate - team work really is a priority for us.

WE CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO JOIN US AT GLENCOATS PRIMARY SCHOOL!

