Primary 1 Learning Overview January – April 2026

LITERACY AND LANGUAGES
What your child is learning in school

Reading: Learning to Love Books

Your child is continuing their journey as a reader. They will focus on:

- Decoding: Learning how to blend letter sounds (like 's-a-t') and recognising 'tricky' words that don't follow regular patterns.
- Understanding: Using pictures and the story's flow to figure out the meaning of new words.
- Retelling: Showing they understand a story by acting it out with puppets, drawing pictures, or predicting what might happen next.
- Exploring: Learning the difference between a made-up story (fiction) and a book that gives facts (non-fiction).

Writing: Finding Their Voice

Your child is learning how to put their own ideas onto paper. They will focus on:

- Handwriting: Learning how to hold a pencil properly and making sure lowercase and uppercase letters look right and are easy to read.
- Sentence Basics: Learning to write from left to right, leaving spaces between words, and using a capital letter at the start and a full stop at the end.
- Spelling: Trying out different ways to spell words and learning how to spell common words they see every day.
- Purpose: Writing for fun reasons, like a letter to a friend or a list for the shop.

Listening & Talking: Sharing Ideas

Your child is learning how to communicate with others. They will focus on:

- Sound Play: Joining in with songs and rhymes to hear how words sound and identifying words that rhyme (like 'cat' and 'hat').
- Listening: Following instructions and picking out important information when someone is speaking to them.
- Confidence: Learning to answer questions clearly and feeling brave enough to share their ideas with their group or the whole class.

Languages: Scots

Your child will have opportunities to develop their understanding and use of other languages. They will focus on:

- Joining in with Scots songs, rhymes, and poems and begin to develop their understanding through actions and retelling.

How you can help at home

- You can help by reading together every day, encouraging your child to "write" shopping lists, and playing games that find rhyming words around the house.
- Check your child's Community Group (previously called Communication Group) weekly for their new sound, their 'I See You See and for texts that they can practice their reading skills with which match and consolidate the sounds they have been introduced to and taught.

MATHS AND NUMERACY
What your child is learning in school

Numbers & Counting: Building 'number sense' up to 20

Your child will learn to count forwards and backwards, recognise written numbers, and put them in the right order. They will focus on:

- Quick Counting: Recognising how many dots are on a dice or a frame without counting them one-by-one.
- Simple Math: Learning how to add and subtract up to 10, doubling small numbers (like 4+4), and using symbols like +, -, and =.
- Splitting Numbers: Understanding that 5 can be made of 3 and 2, or 4 and 1.
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Fractions & Sharing: Learning about parts of a whole

Through play and direct teaching your child will focus on:

- Exploring how to split shapes or groups of items into equal parts, using words like half and quarter.

Measuring & Estimating: Using 'maths talk' in real life

Your child is developing their understanding of mathematical language through play and with their teacher. They will focus on:

- Compare: Use words like "heavier," "taller," or "holds more."
- Estimate: Take a smart guess if something is "longer than" or "less than" another object.
- Measure: Use everyday items (like handprints or blocks) to see how big something is.
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Time & Seasons: Understanding the rhythm of the day

Your child is learning the days of the week, the months, and more about the four seasons. They will focus on:

- Telling Time: Reading o'clock and half-past on both digital and round (analogue) clocks.
- Sequencing: Using words like "before" and "after" to talk about their daily routine.

How you can help at home

- Involve your child in baking (measuring), setting the table (counting), or looking at a calendar to count down to special events.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

PE & Movement

Your child is developing control over their body and learning how to move safely and confidently. We will focus on:

- Gymnastics: They are practising how to balance, use different body shapes, and create simple sequences like jumping patterns.
- Basketball (and other sports): The focus is on coordination (eye/hand/foot), moving with purpose, listening to instructions, and learning to be a good sport whether they win or lose.

Building Resilience

- Your child is learning that effort and choices shape who they are and what they can achieve. They are learning that their brain grows stronger with practice and challenge.

Food & Health

Your child is learning important daily routines for staying healthy and safe, including:

- Hygiene: Washing hands and brushing teeth correctly.
- Food Safety: Understanding basic kitchen rules, like washing fruit and vegetables or storing food in the fridge.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING

Art & Design

- Your child will explore colours, shapes, and patterns to create their own artwork while learning to solve creative problems and share their feelings about famous art and design.

Religious & Moral Education (RME)

- Your child will learn about Christianity and Islam by exploring stories and festivals like Easter and Eid, helping them understand different beliefs and traditions.

Social Studies

- Your child will use family stories and old photos to discover how life today is different from life in the past.
- Your child will learn how to find information about the world using sources such as newspapers and television.

Technologies

- Your child will learn simple food preparation skills, learn simple computer coding, and discuss times when they have used different technologies.