

Introduction

Yetholm Primary School is pleased to welcome your child into Primary One. We appreciate that beginning school is a time of excitement and full of new experiences both for your child and also for you as parents and carers. We hope that this handbook will go some way towards explaining what and how your child will learn in their first year at Yetholm Primary School.



In Primary 1 at Yetholm we aim to:

- provide a place for your child to feel secure, happy and confident at school
- continue to build a strong foundation for your child's future learning
- provide an exciting and interesting environment, with learning at its heart
- create play-based, formal, outdoor and active learning opportunities to suit every learner

Numeracy and Maths

Examples of what your child will be doing:

Number, money and measure:

- Sorting objects into sets of colour, shape and size
- Matching objects one-to-one
- Being introduced to the idea of more or less
- Recognising numbers to 10 in the correct order
- Daily 'Number Talks' discussing strategies for working with number
- Adding numbers to 10 e.g. $6+4=10$
- Taking away numbers to 10 e.g. $10-6=4$
- Recognising that $3+6$ is the same as $6+3$
- Recognising coins
- Reinforcing learning through planned play and in the world around us
- Developing understanding and familiarity with the language of length, weight, capacity and time e.g. long, short, tall, heavy, light, full, empty, day, night

Shape, position and movement:

- Recognising and naming 2D shapes e.g. square, circle, and rectangle
- Recognising and naming 3D shapes e.g. cube, cone, and cylinder
- Using simple directions and describe positions
- Creating symmetrical pictures and patterns

Information Handling:

- Collecting and organising information
- Making and reading simple bar charts

Problem Solving:

- Exploring simple problem-solving strategies e.g. draw a picture, look for a pattern, guess and check

How to help at home:

- Use the language of maths as and when appropriate (see maths words sheet)
- Include maths in everyday activities such as laying the table – sorting and counting cutlery, mealtimes – quantities, baking, bath time. Talk with your child about maths and make it fun.

Literacy and English

Talking and Listening

Your child will be encouraged to:

- Listen carefully for instructions and directions
- Listen to each other talking and talk to others clearly and with purpose
- Talk in groups and to the whole class

Reading

Your child will:

- Listen to stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction read to them
- Begin to learn the main sounds that make up the English language
- Begin to read simple books using their knowledge of sounds

How to help at home:

- Read favourite books together
- Enjoy Stories together at bedtime, on journeys, etc.
- Listen to your child read, celebrating their success.

Read, Write, Inc. Phonics

This is a lively programme that teaches phonics and then how to blend them together to read words, while at the same time developing handwriting skills and spelling. The children will read fun Storybooks with words they can read so they achieve early success in reading.

Your child will bring home:

- A new sound regularly along with a sound book showing sound and picture
- A little Storybook

How to help at home:

- The success of this programme depends on your involvement
- Encourage your child to talk about the work that they are doing, and do the homework together – let your child tell you about the sound they have been learning.
- Read together and talk about the book that your child brings home
- Read great stories aloud to with your child.
- Enjoy doing this together. Make it fun and remember that little and often is best

Writing

Through Read, Write, Inc. your child will learn how to form the letters of the alphabet correctly. Letter formation and spelling is taught and reinforced throughout the year. Your child will be encouraged to share their experiences with others and to make up stories through role-play, drama and talking in groups. This will develop early writing skills. Detailed drawings will be encouraged. Initially your child's stories will be scribed, and later your child will be encouraged to write more independently. Story writing will be taught in a structured way encouraging your child to focus on specific parts of a story and to sequence events within a story.

How to help at home:

- Encouraging your child's imagination will help to develop later story-writing skills. You can do this by talking with your child about stories read together.
- Become involved in your child's play
- Make up stories together
- Encourage your child to hold pencils and crayons correctly
- Show an interest in your child's drawings and any writing they produce

French

We build upon simple French by incorporating it into our daily routine. We also learn simple words and phrases related to our experiences in school.

Health and wellbeing

Your child will learn about keeping safe, healthy and happy through ongoing work, specific topics and the wider curriculum. Your child will develop their understanding of themselves as individuals, their self-esteem, relationships with others, their own independence and an awareness of other people and how to work with others. Topics may be similar to:

- Keeping Healthy (healthy eating, "medicines", keeping fit)
- Feeling Safe (relationships and personal safety)
- Staying Safe (outdoor safety)

Your child will also be given experiences in:

- Games skills and games
- Gymnastics
- Fitness

How to help at home:

- Talk with your child about topics
- Encourage your child to engage in physical exercise
- Be ready to discuss 'stranger danger'
- Encourage your child to think about safety when crossing the road
- Be positive about your child's efforts and give lots of praise
- Encourage your child to identify with and demonstrate respect towards others
- Praise a caring and sharing attitude in your child

Expressive Arts

Your child will be having a broad range of experiences in the expressive arts:

Art and Design

For example: line drawing, pattern making, painting, collage, printing, 3D modelling, weaving and sewing.

Music

For example: singing, handling instruments, practising and playing rhythms, talking about sounds and noises in their environment, listening and moving to music, performing.

Drama

For example: listen to stories, take on the role of a character in a story, learn how to use mime, use movement within a story context, be encouraged to talk about events within a story and look for solutions to problems.

Dance

Your child will be given opportunities to explore ideas and be creative through different dance forms including both social and creative dance.

How to help at home:

- Encourage your child to look at and talk about the environment
- Talk about shapes and textures
- Show interest in and admire finished work
- Sing familiar songs and nursery rhymes together
- Clap along to music
- Join in with "let's pretend" games

Technologies

Your child will be given creative, practical and work-related experiences in understanding and using technology both through explicit computer skills and through other curricular areas. These will include the following:

- the development of mouse skills mainly through graphics
- keyboard awareness and using text
- awareness of different sources of information including the internet and using the internet in a very simple and controlled way
- understanding and use of e-mail in a simple form
- understanding and using simple databases on the computer
- using a programmable toy to enter simple instructions

How to help at home:

- Talk with your child about what is being done at school
- Encourage your child to show you new skills learned on your home computer
Encourage your child to use the home computer to practise newly learned skills
- Praise examples of work brought home and encourage your child to explain what was being learned

Social Studies and Sciences

Your child will be encouraged to develop their interest in, and a desire to find out more about, the world around them. This will be carried out through the teaching of cross-curricular topics, each of which will have a focus of social studies and/or science. Contexts for learning might include:

- Me and My Body (social studies and science)
- Toys (sciences)
- Katie Morag (Scotland/social studies)
- Plants (Science)
- Farming (social studies/sciences/technology)

How to help at home:

- Talk with your child about the current topic
- Encourage your child to ask questions and find out the answers together
- Encourage your child to look for information connected with the topic
- Let your child bring pictures, information or objects connected with the topic to school to share with others

Religious and Moral Education

Your child will be encouraged to think about sharing, caring, fairness and helping others. They will hear some stories from the Christian faith and be introduced to other world religions in a simple way. The topics might include:

- Me and my family
- Celebrations (e.g. Christmas, Easter and Harvest)
- Hindu Practices and beliefs

How to help at home:

- Encourage your child to show a caring attitude towards others
- Let your child share stories they have heard with you at home

Homework

Homework in PI is an opportunity for your children to practise what they are learning in school and to share their learning with you at home. Initially this will be practising sounds. Gradually it will involve some reading and spelling.

New PI pupils are given a Homework Bag at the beginning of the session. It is really helpful that you check your child's Homework bag each night for any communications from school. Replacements bags can be purchased from school.

First Day

Your child's first day at school will be very informal and should be seen as an extension to how they were learning in the nursery setting. We aim to make your child feel comfortable and secure. We will spend some time talking and listening to each other. We will share stories and play games. Your child may be asked to complete a simple drawing, cutting or colouring activity. We will sing or say nursery rhymes. We may play some games in the gym hall. The children will attend school all day from the start of term. Please do come into the playground at the start of the first day if you would like but when the bell rings encourage them to line up themselves. Anyone who is reluctant to come in can wait with you until the rest of the children have entered the building then one of the school staff will come and assist.

Buddies

The “Buddies” system is a pairing between a P7 pupil and a new P1 entrant. The aim being that the P7 pupil will provide friendly support to the new P1 in their first year at school.

At the start of the new term we expect the older Buddies to meet their P1 in the playground on the first day and to bring them into the classroom. At break time they come along to the P1 class and take their Buddies out for break, they play with their Buddies during break, making sure they are happy. This continues for a few weeks or until the younger children feel able to cope alone.

Many of the P7s keep an eye on their young Buddies throughout the first year of school, helping when they fall over or giving an extra big clap when they receive an award at assembly.

Daily Routines

When your child arrives at school in the morning they will go to the playground where they will meet their friends and play until the bell rings at 8:40am. There will be adult supervision in the playground from 8:25am onwards. The bell will ring at 8:40am when your child will line up at a designated point in the playground with the other children from their class. An adult will bring them inside where they will go to the classroom. Once in their classroom your child will put into their tray any items required for the day and put away their water bottle.

When your child comes home from school it is important to check in their bag for any letters or other communication from school.

At Yetholm we also operate a healthy snack break- pupils are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit, veg or similar which they will eat inside whilst listening to a story. Any other snacks will be taken outside to the playground.

Morning break is 10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. and the children have 50 minutes at lunchtime (12-12:50pm).

Mrs Luke (Monday to Wednesday) and Mrs Thomson (Thursday/Friday) supervise the playground, encouraging the play opportunities and sorting out any problems, bumps and scrapes. Sometimes Mrs Dyet is out to help pupils. We will sometimes run additional break/lunchtime clubs.

If the grass is wet and muddy the children are not allowed to play on it. We try to keep them clean! During wet weather if the children wear wellies to school, please could they be named, and they would need a change of footwear for indoors which can be their PE shoes if you wish. If the weather is really wet the children have their break indoors.

Transport/ End of day arrangements

A little before the end of the school day at 3:15p.m, your child will get ready for home. A bell will ring whereupon your child will go to the school area appropriate for their method of transport home. A member of staff will check your child on to their bus or taxi if appropriate.

Children who live in the village or who are being uplifted by a parent/carer go to the front door where again a member of staff will see them away safely.

Those children who travel by school bus should be in possession of a bus pass issued by Scottish Borders Council. Should this apply to your child you should receive a pass in the mail before the beginning of the school session.

We would ask that if you are making alternative end-of-day arrangements for your child at any time, please let us know in writing or by telephone. Do not leave your child to tell us.

Please be aware that the office is not staffed during the afternoons. Therefore, the answer machine is checked before the children go home.

In the event of the school having to send pupils home early because of adverse weather conditions we will make every effort to inform you of the situation as soon as possible. Should we be unable to contact you we will contact the person detailed by you as your emergency contact. For this reason we ask that you keep us fully informed of any changes to your emergency contact details.

Parental Involvement

If you are helping us out and working alongside children it is likely that you will need to complete a disclosure (PVG) form.

Class trips: We often need help if the class is going on a trip and appreciate any volunteers. Sometimes this includes driving some children.

Class Help: At times during the year we ask for parent/carers to help in the classroom. It may be to play some maths games, help with art activities or with a particular project.

Parent Council: This is the parental body that works closely with school staff to enhance the life of the school. A separate information sheet can be found in your pack. You are most welcome to join the Parent Council. Please speak to the school if you have any further questions.

Showbie: This is a council-wide online platform where the school is able to share learning with you. We will upload photographs of learning or sometimes completed pieces of work so that you can see what your child is learning and see their progress. New class codes will come home in August once they have started.

Summary

Your child will need:

- a school bag big enough for lunch box and homework, which your child can fasten
- indoor shoes
- a named PE bag which closes, containing shorts and t shirt, (trainers for outside during the summer term which can simply be the shoes they come to school in)
- a painting apron
- a water bottle
- a lunch box if having packed lunch
- an optional pencil case containing pencils and crayons

Please could everything be clearly named!

We also ask that each child bring in a box of paper tissues at the beginning of the school year. These prove very useful when the coughs and colds appear!

Please feel free to contact any member of staff at any time during or shortly after the school day. We are happy to speak to you on the telephone or to arrange a meeting with you, if you have any concerns or questions you wish to discuss.



Be Ambitious; Be Nurturing; Be Respectful; Be Safe

