



Shetland Islands Council

# Dunrossness Primary School



## Nursery Handbook 2026-27

**"Living, Laughing, Learning"**

Tel: (01595) 745440

Email: [dunrossnessnursery@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:dunrossnessnursery@shetland.gov.uk)

Blog: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/dunrossness>

The following information will let you know all about our nursery setting as part of Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) in Dunrossness Primary School. We hope that you find this useful and look forward to welcoming you to our school.

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## 1. Contact Details

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name:                   | Dunrossness Primary School                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Address:                | Dunrossness, Shetland, ZE2 9JG                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Telephone:              | 01595 745440                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Website:                | <a href="https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/dunrossness/">https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/dunrossness/</a>                                                                                  |
| Email:                  | School office: <a href="mailto:dunrossness@shetland.gov.uk">dunrossness@shetland.gov.uk</a><br>Nursery: <a href="mailto:dunrossnessnursery@shetland.gov.uk">dunrossnessnursery@shetland.gov.uk</a> |
| Stages of education:    | Nursery/Primary                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Roll:                   | Nursery: 21<br>Primary Department:                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Denominational status:  | Non-denominational                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Head Teacher:           | Mrs Louise Leslie                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Parent Council Chair:   | Sam Adamson                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Parent Council email:   | <a href="mailto:parentcouncildunrossness@gmail.com">parentcouncildunrossness@gmail.com</a>                                                                                                         |
| Parent Council website: | Facebook - Dunrossness Primary School Parent Council                                                                                                                                               |

## 2. Introduction

### Dunrossness Primary School

Welcome to Dunrossness Primary School! Our school is situated in the South Mainland of Shetland in a rural setting on the east coast of the island. Our catchment area includes the communities of Levenwick, Bigton, Quendale, Boddam and Virkie.

We are fortunate to be set in beautiful countryside with excellent amenities close by. We have wonderful beaches and a variety of places to visit, including Jarlshof, Old Scatness, Sumburgh Lighthouse, Quendale Mill and many more. There is a rich variety of wildlife to be seen in the local environment, including sea birds, otters and if you are lucky you may even spot a whale.

Dunrossness School is proud of our strong relationship with our parents. This handbook provides information for parents for the school year 2025-26. Although the information is believed to be correct it is possible that changes have occurred, or will occur during the year, that will affect the contents for this year or for the following school years.

For further information or clarification, please contact the school and/or look at our school blog at <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sh/dunrossness/>. Throughout this handbook, links to websites are provided for further information. Hard copies and different formats of the handbook (for example in Braille or large print) will be made available by request to the school. The handbook for the Primary Department can be found on the school blog or by contacting the school office.

Handbooks for all Shetland Islands Council's schools can be found on the council's website. The direct link is: <http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/SchoolHandbooks.asp>.



## Dunrossness Nursery (Early Learning and Childcare)

Our nursery setting offers a caring and nurturing environment where children feel safe to be curious and creative, explore and communicate. Much of the learning occurs through play, most of which is child-led, where we follow the child's interests.

The skilled staff in nursery are able to observe the children at play and support and extend their play, sometimes standing back, sometimes intervening to extend or offer ideas. The staff are experienced in planning in the moment and using questioning or suggestions to extend learning. We focus mainly on the learning process, not the product. There are also some adult-led play activities and areas set up to help children practise a skill or develop ideas.

Many of the ideas for learning come from the children and their current learning needs. We may utilise broad themes, supporting children to connect learning experiences. For example, colours or seasonal topics such as winter. Much of the learning is planned using a cross-curricular approach to help ensure meaning and relevance and to give fun and enjoyment and is led by the children's interests, creativity and curiosity. The nursery is very much part of the school and the children have many opportunities to become used to the whole school building and the wider school community.

Playing outside is fun, exciting and important for children's learning and development. We encourage children to develop a greater interest in the natural environment so we spend time outdoors on a daily basis, and in all weathers. The staff will observe, support and extend children's play in the same way they would inside.

Staff are available daily and are delighted to answer any questions or concerns you may have.



## When will my child start Nursery?

Children are enrolled into the Dunrossness Nursery setting using the SIC Education Service admission policy. After enrolling your child, you will be contacted at home to arrange a 'home visit', if you wish. Staff members will bring with them registration forms, an 'All About Me' booklet to be filled in by parents and children, tooth brushing consent and other relevant paperwork. This visit gives staff, children and parents a chance to develop relationships; please use this time to share a little more about your child's development. If your child has any special requirements for snack or allergies, please also let us know and any worries about toileting can be discussed so they can be sensitively handled. At this meeting you and your child will then be invited to visit the setting in the weeks before they are due to start. We have a relaxed induction programme, and sessions can be built up gradually as and when children are ready.

We want to make sure that your child's time in at Dunrossness is a happy, safe and enjoyable experience from the beginning. Some children settle quickly while others take longer to gain confidence. We get to know our pupils well as individuals and as learners, learning about their strengths and building on them. Staff and parents work together in partnership, sharing this important stage of your child's development. Stay and play sessions can be offered to help children settle in if needed but staff will advise you on this and will take the best approach to suit your family.

The start date for each child is dependent on their date of birth:

| <u>Birthday</u>                                  | <u>Nursery Start Date</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 March until start of new school year (August)  | Start of Term 1 of the upcoming school year (August)<br><br>Children who have their third birthday after 28 <sup>th</sup> February will be eligible to come to Nursery the following school year (August), still allowing two full years of Nursery provision. |
| After start of new school year until 28 February | The day after the child's 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday or an agreed date after the child's 3 <sup>rd</sup> birthday.                                                                                                                                               |

## Which hours are available?

Dunrossness Nursery provides a flexible model of Early Years provision within a local authority setting, which meets the developmental and care needs of the children. Children are entitled to select up to 30 hours per week; our daily provision runs from 8:15am to 4:15pm, with a protected session for lunch 11:45am – 1:15pm, with no collection or drop offs during this time.

We offer a great degree of flexibility, but in order to make Nursery operationally manageable, we ask that you adhere to the times you have set. This enables us to plan the best provision for the children in the setting. We support those who build up their sessions

gradually. If you wish to make a change to your child's hours, you should email [elc@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:elc@shetland.gov.uk) who will check if this is possible and get back to you as well as informing the nursery. Please discuss with nursery staff if you are unsure.

## Which hours should I choose?

You are under no obligation to send your child for the full entitlement and this can be discussed with the ELC staff and/or at a home visit.

We are often asked for advice on how many hours/days new starts should attend nursery, especially now that there is a great deal of flexibility in pick-up and drop-off times. The times that you select are referred to as your 'pattern'. We have compiled some suggestions to help you decide which pattern is best for your child and your family. While these suggestions may work for many families, we completely appreciate that some families require certain hours for childcare purposes, especially when parents have work or other commitments, and we will support whichever decisions are best suited to your family.

### Suggested Pattern Advice

- We frequently see one of two main patterns for the ante-pre year (i.e. the first year of nursery): several short morning sessions (e.g. 3-5 days of around 2.5 hours) or fewer longer days (e.g. 2-4 days of around 5 hours) Some people like to follow the traditional nursery pattern of a 2.5 hour morning session for most or all days of the school week.
- Many families choose to start with fewer days of the week in the ante-pre year. We'd recommend not starting with a full 30-hour allocation right away, if avoidable, particularly if your child is new to the world of childcare, as this can be a lot for your child in terms of energy levels both physically and mentally.

Example patterns:

|                                                                                                      |                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Up to 5 mornings per week, increasing to include lunch on some days later in the year:               | 3 days per week, increasing to 4 days per week later in the year:                    |
| e.g. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday<br>8.45am-11.45am                                             | e.g. Tuesday 9.15am-2.45pm<br>Thursday 9.15am-11.45am<br>Friday 9.15am-2.45pm        |
| Add in Wednesday later in the year and/or extend to include school lunches on some days of the week. | Add in Monday or Wednesday later in the year, or extend to include lunch on Tuesday. |

### Points to consider about your child's pattern

While the local authority allow you to select your drop-off and pick-up times from 15 minute intervals, this can at times hamper our efforts to get out and about in the wider school grounds or local area, as we have pupils arriving and leaving every 15 minutes. If possible, our recommended drop-off and pick-up times include:

Drop-off: any 15-minute increment until 9.30am

Pick-up: 11.45am (last pickup before lunch), 1.15pm (first pickup after lunch), 2.00pm, 2.45pm, 3.00pm, 3.15pm, 3.30pm

We appreciate that your family may have differing needs and we will of course accommodate drop-off and pick-up times from the full selection of 15-minute increments as required. Our 'protected lunch time' is from 11.45am to 1.15pm so there are no drop-offs and pick-ups allowed during these times.

Although we are open each day from 8.15am to 4.15pm, most pupils finish by 3pm or earlier. Please be aware that if your child is in the setting after 3.30pm, it's likely that they will not have any/many peers with them for this portion of the day. Staff will always support and care for children regardless of the time of day but we include this information as you may wish to choose sessions that allow your child a more sociable experience.

The primary school day runs from 9.00am to 3.00pm. These times are extremely busy around the school with buses and cars, so you may wish to avoid 9.00am and 3.00pm in favour of a slightly earlier or later time for easier parking if you are not also collecting a school-aged child!

You will already have indicated on your initial registration form which hours you may like your child to attend. It is easy to adjust your hours at any time, by emailing the central ELC team at [elc@shetland.gov.uk](mailto:elc@shetland.gov.uk) and requesting a change of pattern.

You may also wish to have a settling in period, where your child does not use all their chosen hours for the first few weeks while they adjust to their new surroundings. The settling in period can be arranged directly with nursery staff without changing your official hours.

### 3. School Ethos

# Living Laughing Learning

A caring, happy school that nurtures, encourages and supports every individual to **D**eterminedly **P**ursue **S**uccess in all areas of their lives.

Values      Kindness   Happiness   Honesty   Fun   Respect   Patience   Responsibility

## Aims

1. To provide a safe, happy and healthy learning environment where mutual respect is shown
2. To promote independence, resilience and responsibility and develop skills for life;
3. To encourage, motivate and support curiosity, creativity and feel free to experiment and learn from our mistakes;
4. To inspire, recognise and celebrate effort, success and achievement;
5. To foster cooperation, connections, responsibility to others and a thoughtful global outlook at the heart of our local community.

## Behaviour Blueprint

Staff and pupils have worked together to make our 'Behaviour Blueprint' which applies across the whole school. The adults and children follow the same rules!

### Our Rules

- Ready
- Respectful
- Safe
- Included

### Adult Behaviour

- We meet and greet you at the door.
- We are calm and consistent with high expectations for all.
- We display the behaviour we want to see.

### Behaviours to strive towards

- Good manners - all the time
- Kindness
- 100% effort in everything you do
- Move calmly through the school

#### 4. Our Nursery Staff - Who's who?



Mrs Louise Leslie  
Head Teacher



Mrs Leona Smith  
Senior Practitioner  
(Tues-Fri)



Mrs Michelle Sandison  
Nursery Teacher  
(Mon -Tues)



Miss Curstaidh Mackay  
Practitioner  
(Mon-Tues)



Miss Carrie Coutts  
Practitioner  
(Mon - Fri)



Mrs Amy Colvin  
Practitioner  
(Mon, Thu, Fri)



Miss Hannah Watt  
Support Worker  
(Mon-Fri)



Mrs Ashley Obern  
Support Worker  
(Wed)



Ms Helen Ball  
Support Worker  
(Wed, Thu, Fri)



Miss Megan Bolt  
Modern Apprentice  
(Mon-Fri)

Relief Staff:

## Other School Staff

### Primary

Primary 1/2

Vicky Morrison

Primary 2/3/4

Kristy Dag

Primary 4/5/6

Fiona Henderson (Mon/Tues/Wed), Brenda Smith (Thur/Fri)

Primary 6/7

Jenny GTeale

### Support Staff

Learning Support Staff

Miss Caitlin Gerrard

Mrs Emma Graydon

Ms Maureen Stewart

Ms Gwen O'Driscoll

Playground Supervisor

Vacant

Clerical Assistant

Jodi Clark (Tues/Wed/Thurs)

Janitor

Mr Trevor Jamieson (Mon, Tues)

### Canteen Staff

Head Cook

Vacant

Kitchen Assistants

Mrs Marina Smith

Ms Bethany Kelly

## 5. Our Nursery

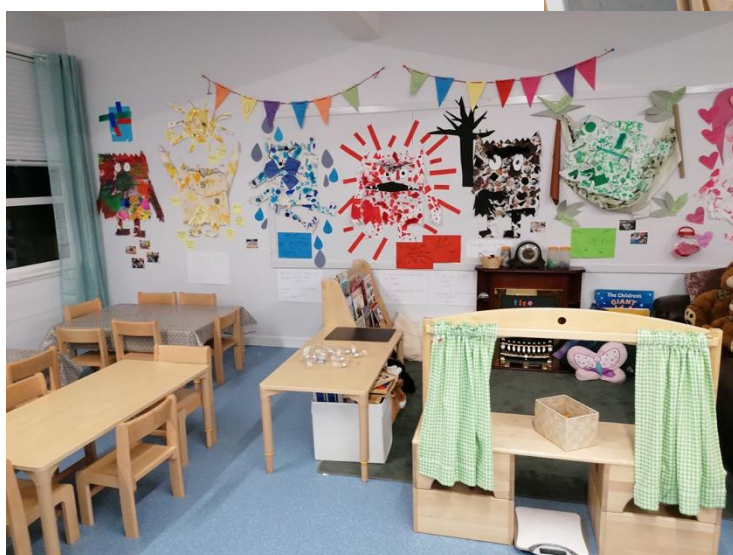
We use a variety of play resources and natural materials.



We like to play with open ended resources to help children create their own play ideas.



It's okay to take resources from one area of the nursery to another!



We enjoy eating together and have a 'rolling lunchtime' which gives pupils some choice over when to eat if they are absorbed in a play activity.



Sometimes our play might get messy! That's okay - it's all about learning about risks, consequences and the world around us, exploring all our senses.

We love imaginative play - tell us what you're interested in and we can help you find resources to extend your learning.



We use technologies in a variety of ways.



There are several quiet and cosy corners in nursery if you just want some chill out time!



Here are some areas we explore regularly and view as an extension of our nursery!

### The Nursery Playground



Mud kitchen

As the bairns grow their interests and needs change, therefore the nursery is continuously changing too. The bairns are fully involved; leaders in decision making, planning, building and evaluating.



Playground shelter



Sand and stone pits



## The 'Big' Playground



We often use other playgrounds around the school and take our bikes and scooters out.



Fire pit and  
toasting  
marshmallows!

## The Pond



We get to learn about  
the life cycle of a frog up  
close!

## The Forest!



## 6. The School Day and Practical Information

### Transport and Drop Offs

Parents are responsible for taking their child to and from nursery. No additional transport is provided. If a family is having financial or physical problems in doing this then help may be available from the Shetland Childcare Partnership.

The safety of children on the way to and from nursery is the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Children must be accompanied into and collected from nursery by an adult. Entry to nursery is by the yellow main gate directly into the playground, the blue gate into the nursery outdoor area and then the white door directly into the nursery playroom. **It is essential that all gates are left fully closed with safety latches locked, even if you are only entering briefly.** Staff should be informed if someone else is picking up your child. Staff will not release any child to someone who is unknown to us so please ensure we know of any alternative arrangements you make prior to the end of the session in question.

### What does my child need to bring with them?

In addition to the equipment provided within the unit, we ask that you equip your child with the following in a small backpack:

- **A full set of spare clothes:** messy play and toileting accidents are common at this age, so please provide a full outfit change - perhaps a few extra pairs of pants, trousers and socks if your child is potty training or newly toilet trained.
- **Season dependent:**
  - **Hat, scarf/snood and gloves/mittens:** Along with a jacket, these are essential for much of the year! Many families find snoods easier for children than scarves.
  - **Sunhat, sunglasses (if desired), sunscreen:** When it is sunny weather, we advise adding these items into your child's bag, too. You can provide your own sunscreen for your child, or there is nursery sunscreen available.
  - **Please make sure all items are clearly labelled with your child's name**
- **Nappy changing items:** if your child requires, we have full changing and nappy disposal facilities available. Please provide nappies and wipes for your child.
- **Suitable indoor footwear:** Most pupils wear their regular shoes when playing indoors at nursery. We are happy for children to bring in slippers to wear, if they find it more comfortable for a lengthy day of play. However, we do ask that children do not wear crocs, sandals or flip flops to nursery for safety reasons.
  - **Please note:** we have previously asked that pupils bring wellie boots and a waterproof suit or waterproof trousers/dungarees with them to nursery. However, we now have enough pairs of our own nursery waterproofs and wellies for each pupil, and also limited storage space, so we ask that if

possible your child does **not** take their own as they will be allocated a nursery set to wear. Outdoor play in all weathers, messy play, painting etc are fundamental aspects of your child's nursery learning experience so please be prepared for some damp or dirty clothing at times.

## Clothing

It is a good idea to put on clothes that your child can manage independently for going to the toilet. Please send your child in clothes that can get dirty or wet as there are many messy and creative activities on offer every day. Please make sure that all clothing is clearly marked with your child's name.

## Toys

Generally we ask that toys from home are **not** brought to nursery. However, we appreciate that sometimes a special object might be needed for comfort and transition. If your child requires a particular toy/item to aid their transition into nursery, please discuss this with nursery staff. Please be aware that any item brought into school may become lost or damaged, and the school cannot be responsible for this. It is school policy that **no toy guns or weapons** are permitted. Your child will have a tray allocated to them and we ask that any toys/objects brought in can fit in this tray for safekeeping and be kept to a minimum.

## Snack/Milk

All snacks are free of charge.

We provide two snacks per day, at approximately 9:45-10:15am and around 3:15pm. All children are encouraged to take part in snack time and to try the range of food on offer. Fresh fruit or vegetables, along with a variety of other foods, are offered as part of snack every day. Water is available at all times. Both milk and water are available at morning and afternoon snack time and milk alternatives can be provided in the case of allergies. Children are encouraged to pour their own drink and to wash up their own dishes and are often invited to help to create the menu and shop for snack.

## Lunch

School lunches are free for nursery pupils. Children have a choice between two different main meals each day, followed by pudding which is most often fruit and yoghurt.

School lunch is available to nursery children who are staying in the setting over the lunch time period of 11:45am - 1:15pm. Lunch is served at 12:00pm.

School lunches are chosen using an online system with Parentpay. Please contact the school office for more information regarding this and setting up your Parentpay account. There is an option to choose a packed lunch from home if you wish, which staff will refrigerate if required. Packed lunches must be cold/ready to eat as we are not able to reheat foods.

Following guidelines given for packed lunches from the Care Inspectorate, children will unpack their own lunch box onto a plate. The children are encouraged to pour their own drinks into a glass at lunch time including if they have brought their own water bottle. If providing a drink, we ask that this is milk or water. Cups and water are provided at the table. We would also like to ask that any grapes and cherry tomatoes are cut into quarters, for your child's safety and popcorn is not permitted. **Please note we are a PEANUT FREE SCHOOL.** Please ensure your child's packed lunch is peanut free and if having any form of peanuts before arriving at Nursery, your child has washed their face and hands.

We have recently received updated guidance on Adapted Diets for children and young people. Adapted diets include medically prescribed diets, allergy-related diets, neurodivergent-related requirements, ethical diets, and religious/cultural diets.

All requests for adapted diets must be submitted by parents/carers using the online Adapted Diet Form, available at the link below:

[Special Diet Request Form](#)

Please contact us if you require any support in accessing/completing this form. Should there be any changes to your child's diet, please re-submit the form. Schools will no longer collect this information or be able to create adapted diet without the completion of this form.

## 7. Communication with Parents and Your Child's Learning Journey

### Personal Plans

It is an expectation within the Health and Social Care Standards (Care Inspectorate) that each child in nursery has a personal care plan with input from parents/carers and staff. These plans are in place to meet the health, welfare and safety needs of each child in the setting. Personal Care Plans should be set up within 28 days of the child beginning to attend the setting and can be contributed to by both parents/carers and Early Years Practitioners. These are updated as and when required and must be reviewed with parents/carers at least every six months.

### Learning Journals

We use an online platform called 'Learning Journals' to share your child's learning journey with you. Your child will have their own online profile to which both staff and parents can add text and photos/videos to record learning. In nursery, our main form of assessment of learning is by observing children in their play. Staff will write 'observations' which demonstrate learning and will be shared with you via Learning Journals. Observations are linked to the curriculum and over the course of the year will give an insight into a child's progress in their learning. You are very welcome to contribute your insights from home into your child's learning journey, too by uploading 'Achievements From Home' onto your child's Learning Journals profile.

### Communication methods

As well as sharing your child's learning through Learning Journals, there are a variety of ways that staff and parents can communicate.

We have an open-door policy at the nursery - please just ask us if you have any questions, feedback, or want to share information about your child/family. Equally, you may wish to make an appointment with our nursery teacher or senior practitioner if you have any queries or concerns. The daily feedback you receive is the main form of reporting in nursery. We aim to talk to each parent/carer daily to pass on or receive information. You will have opportunities to attend informal open mornings/afternoons and/or Stay and Play sessions across the year. We would be pleased to arrange an informal chat to discuss any questions, concerns, feedback or ideas you may have as they arise. We also aim to have parent appointments once during the school year where you can view and sign your child's personal plan and have a closer look at their learning and development progress.

The school is also contactable by telephone or email; see Section 1 - Contact Details. At various times throughout the year, we may share information via letters/forms. Some correspondence may be emailed to you, and there is also a Messaging option within Learning Journals.

Parents are invited to join our Parent Council Facebook Page: 'Dunrossness Primary School Parent Council' which can be a helpful source for school information or questions.

## 8. Annual Events and Term Dates

### Annual Events

There are a range of annual events at Dunrossness Primary School, some of which are specifically for nursery and others which incorporate the whole school and community.

We will send out information as and when events are confirmed. Annual events involving nursery traditionally include a Christmas performance, Christmas party, SMUHA, a range of nursery 'Stay and Play' sessions, open days, Sports Day, Nursery Graduation, class trips and school fundraising events such as the Coffee Morning.

Funding for Christmas parties, special events, trips out and special items of equipment is raised through a variety of fundraising events and enterprises. This is supplemented by donations and funding from other miscellaneous sources. We will call on you from time to time to help out at these events and/or donate homebakes or items for raffles, tombolas, sales, etc. Any ideas you have for raising funds would be very welcome as we will need to self-fund more of our activities in the future as Council budgets are tightened.

### Term Dates

The dates overleaf are true at the time of printing but may be subject to change. The new school year commences on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

Term dates for the current and forthcoming school years can be found on Shetland Islands Council's website.

The direct link is: [http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/term\\_dates.asp](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/term_dates.asp)

#### Term 1

Wednesday 19 August 2026 to Friday 9 October 2026

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#### Term 2

Wednesday 28 October 2026 to Friday 18 December 2026

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#### Term 3

Tuesday 05 January 2027 to Wednesday 24 March 2027

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#### Term 4

Wednesday 7 April 2027 to Friday 02 July 2027

There are a total of five occasional holidays throughout the year, four of which are decided by central service and one floating day to be set by schools within their clusters, in consultation with Parent Councils.

### **Occasional Holiday Dates**

- Wednesday 27 January 2027
- Friday 12 February 2027
- Monday 15 February 2027
- Friday 21 May 2027
- 1 floating day to be set by schools within their clusters, in consultation with Parent Councils

### **In-Service Dates**

- Monday 17 August 2026
- Tuesday 18 August 2026
- Monday 26 October 2026
- Tuesday 27 October 2026
- Tuesday 16 February 2027

## 9. Attendance/Absence, Sickness, Medicines and Allergies

### Absences

It would be extremely helpful if you could inform nursery if your child will not be attending so as the sessions activities are not affected. If your child is due to have a school lunch and is absent please phone the school office by **9.30am** to inform them.

### Early Closing And Urgent Communications

Sometimes, in periods of severe weather, decisions have to be taken to close schools to ensure the safety of pupils. Conditions may arise when it becomes necessary to send the children home during the school day without delay. For this and other reasons, it is important that information on emergency contacts for all pupils is kept up to date.

Parents are reminded that it is their decision whether or not they feel it is safe for their family to travel to school during severe weather conditions, if it is open for pupils.

### Illness in School

Infection prevention and control are important aspects of our health and safety in nursery. Pupils are required to wash their hands on arrival and departure; staff will support with this where necessary.

If your child has taken ill and/or develops a temperature, we will try to contact you if he/she needs to be sent home. We ask that you provide the phone number of a grandparent, relative, friend or neighbour for us to contact if need be, in case of emergency or accident. It is important to keep us informed if you and your emergency contact are both going to be away and for you to have a contingency plan in place which you have shared with us.

Please keep the school informed of any change of address, telephone number and your work phone number. This will help speed up the time taken to contact you in the case of an emergency.

### Sickness and Diarrhoea

Children suffering from this should remain at home until fully recovered. Children should not return until **48 hours after the symptoms have ceased** to help prevent the further spread of infection, which is particularly important to protect vulnerable people. Please see our Pupil Illness Policy on the school website for more details.

## Allergies

It is vital that we are informed of any food or medical allergies that your child may have. Please do this on the official registration form and inform the Senior Practitioner of any changes or updates.

## Medicines

Medicine is best administered to your child at home. If, however, it is essential that your child should receive medicine in school, please contact the Nursery so that arrangements can be made to administer medicines.

**PLEASE NOTE:** A medical consent form must be completed and signed by parents before administration. We are not permitted to administer the first dose of a new medicine to your child; this must be done at home. Medicine must come in the original packaging with dosage instructions. Medicine prescribed by a doctor must come in the original packaging including a prescription label detailing the child's name, name of medicine, dosage and date prescribed. If these are not in place, staff will be unable to administer medication. A medical consent form is included in your pack and are available on the school website or from the school office. It should be noted that no member of staff can be held responsible for the safety of medicine in the classroom.

If your child has regular medication, we ask that parents provide a duplicate that remains in nursery (eg inhaler). This will be safely stored and administered as required. Having a duplicate means that we will always have medication required available to us when needed. Parents are asked to take a note of expiry dates and replace when necessary.

## Sun Screen

Please apply sunscreen to your child before they attend nursery and indicate this to staff at dropoff. There is a consent pack within your start pack, please fill this out and return it to us so we can reapply sun screen when required.

The sunscreen that we usually use is: **Nivea, Kids Advanced, SPF 50+**. Please inform a member of staff if your child cannot use this type. You are welcome to bring in your own sunscreen, please let a member of staff know if you choose to do this.

## 10. Parental Involvement

The role of family is of the utmost importance in your child's learning, development and wellbeing. We aim to build strong relationships between nursery and families, meaning that these carry on as the children transition into the primary at Dunrossness. We value and respect the contributions parents make and are respectful of each family's unique qualities. It is recognised that the outcomes for all children are much better if families are involved with their child's education, including the early learning and childcare setting. We try to involve families in a variety of ways including encouraging and extending learning from nursery-home and home-nursery. We welcome parental involvement and encourage you to share any skills in the setting. Please do let us know if you would like to share something. Equally, we would like to offer support, for example through family learning opportunities. We would welcome suggestions or requests.

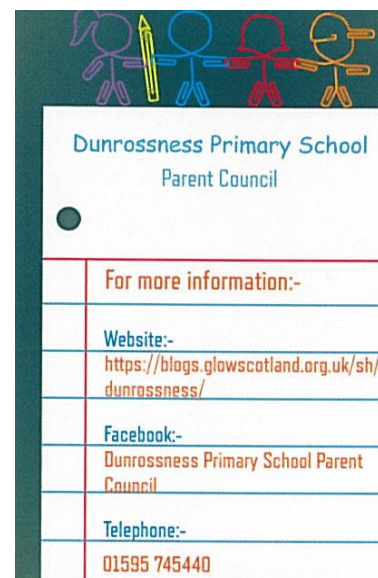
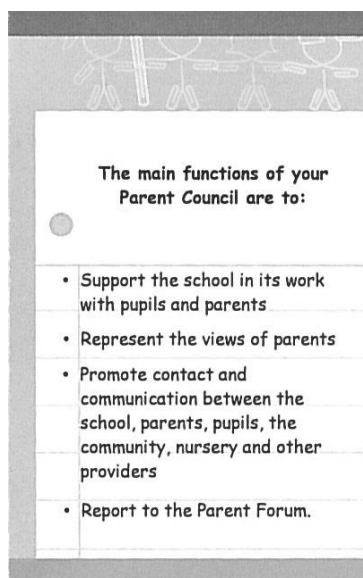
Below are useful websites for resources and ideas to support your child's development:

- <https://bumps2bairns.com/>
- [https://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/pre\\_school.asp](https://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/pre_school.asp)
- [https://www.shetland.gov.uk/childrens\\_resources/bruce\\_family\\_centre\\_parentingcourses.asp](https://www.shetland.gov.uk/childrens_resources/bruce_family_centre_parentingcourses.asp)

We work in partnership with other agencies and can support you or your child in accessing services you need. For example, we can contact Speech and Language Therapy, Pre-School Home Visiting service, among many others to help meet the needs of your child.

### Parent Council

Parents are represented on a Parent Council that meets six times a year to assist in fostering good links between home and school and to develop projects to help children with their learning. We are very fortunate to have such a committed and supportive Parent Council who work hard to help with a variety of projects in the school and in fundraising activities. If you feel this is an area you would like to become involved with, please contact one of the following members.



You can contact the school's Parent Council directly, follow their Facebook page 'Dunrossness Primary School Parent Council' and/or access information on Education Scotland's website. The direct link is:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/getinvolved/parentcouncils/index.asp>

## 11. Curriculum

### Overview

The Curriculum for Excellence is followed by all establishments providing education for Scotland's children and young people. The curriculum is designed to provide a coherent, flexible and enriched curriculum throughout a child's life from 3 to 18 years old. 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.

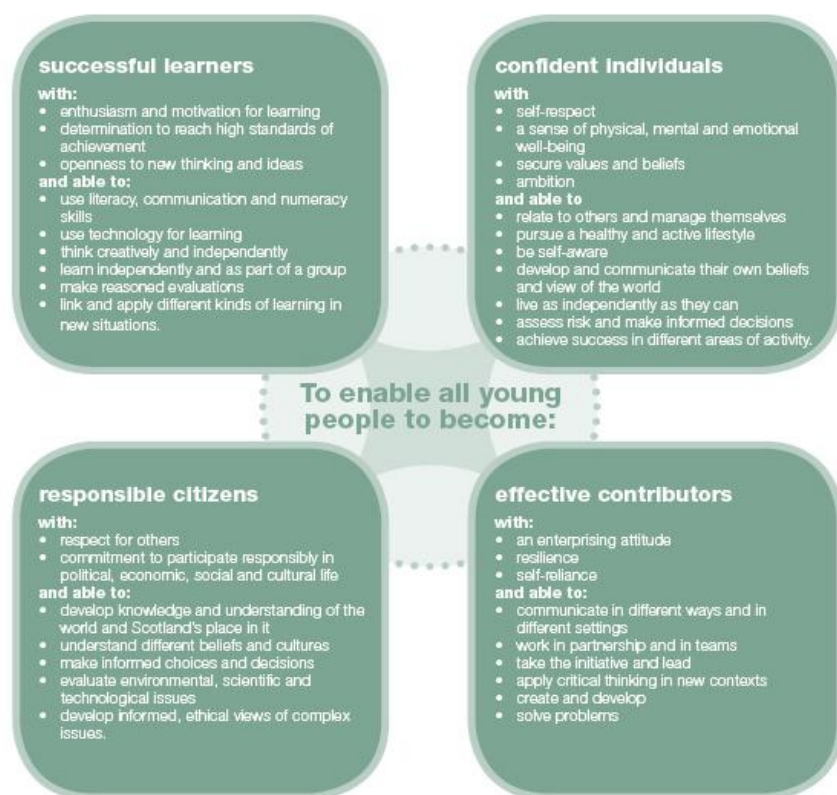
### Learning Through Play

In their play, children practise and consolidate their learning, play with ideas, experiment, take risks, solve problems and make decisions individually and in small or large groups. The development of children's self-image and feelings of self-worth and self-esteem are central to this process.

The curriculum within our setting aims to meet the needs of all children including those who are at an early stage of development and those who are more able. The curriculum will be appropriate to the individual child's needs and stage of learning rather than focussing solely on age-related outcomes to be achieved. Children will be helped to move on to the next stage in their learning when they are developmentally ready and at their own pace.

### The Four Capacities

The curriculum in Scotland aims to develop four capacities for successful learning and living. These are:



## The Curricular Areas

There are eight curricular areas. These are broken down into statements known as 'experiences and outcomes'. In nursery, we explore and discover all curricular areas through play:

- Literacy and English
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Health and Wellbeing
- Religious and Moral Education
- Expressive Arts
- Technologies

## The Curriculum Levels

Curriculum for Excellence defines five levels of learning. The first four levels provide a broad general education, with progression to qualifications described under a fifth level, the senior phase.

| Level            | Stage                                            |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Early            | The pre-school years and P1, or later for some.  |
| First            | To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some. |
| Second           | To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some. |
| Third and Fourth | S1 to S3, but earlier for some.                  |
| Senior phase     | S4 to S6, and college or other means of study.   |

Under Curriculum for Excellence, everyone involved in education has a responsibility to develop young people's literacy, numeracy and health and well-being skills across all areas of their learning.

Detailed information about Curriculum for Excellence can be found on Education Scotland's website. This includes:

- how the curriculum is organised
- the entitlements of every child
- how progress is assessed.

The direct link is: <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/thecurriculum/index.asp>

If you would like more information about Curriculum for Excellence, you can visit <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>. If you would like any further information about how the curriculum is delivered at Dunrossness Nursery, please contact the nursery teacher.

## 12. Transition into Primary 1

We aim to prepare our pre-school children for Primary 1 as best we can and therefore offer an extensive transition process inclusive of various experiences for them throughout the year. Most of these will be offered in the mornings, which we hope will help prepare your child for the morning routines of school. Further details will be provided when applicable.

In the terms before starting school we begin to prepare children for the move into Primary 1, aiming to make the transition as smooth as possible. Closer to the end of the pre-school nursery year, children will also get the opportunity to 'move on' and experience the day in P1 along with lunch time in the canteen and break time in the playground.

Parents of children whose birthday falls after 28<sup>th</sup> February and who wish an early admission to P1 should in the first instance discuss this with the Nursery Teacher and Head Teacher. If they wish to proceed they will need to make a formal request in the first instance to the Head of Service who will involve other agencies to help them come to a decision.

Parents of under-age children who have been refused admission into Primary 1 have a right to appeal. Appeals should take the form of Placing Requests and be made, in the first instance, to:

Head of Schools  
Children's Services  
Hayfield House  
Hayfield Lane  
Lerwick  
ZE1 0QD

### When will my child start P1?

If your child will be 5 years old by the first day of the school year (mid-August), they will be automatically due to enter P1 at Dunrossness Primary after the summer holidays.

If your child is eligible to enter P1, but are still 4 years old at the start of term, you have the opportunity to defer your child's entry into Primary 1 and instead they can have another year in nursery (please see further information below)

Previously, only children with a fifth birthday between January and February were automatically entitled to an additional year of funded early learning and childcare if entry to primary one was deferred. However, from August 2021 children who are resident in Shetland whose fifth birthday is between mid-August (the day after the school commencement date) and the end of February will be automatically entitled to an additional year of funded early learning and childcare.

### 13. Concerns or Complaints

Please remember the care and education of your child is a home-nursery partnership and that means communication must be two-way. If there are any problems or issues you wish to discuss, please contact us and we will do our very best to help.

In the event that you have a concern or a complaint about any area of our service, please discuss this in the first instance with the Nursery staff. Should you feel that the complaint is unresolved after this action, you should speak to the Head Teacher. If this does not bring about a suitable conclusion, you can then contact the Quality Improvement Officer for the school. A copy of the full complaints policy is available within the school and in the policy folder.

Schools Service, Hayfield House, Hayfield Lane, Lerwick, Shetland. ZE1 0QD.  
Tel: 01595 744000

The School Complaints Procedure can be found on Shetland Islands Council's website.  
The direct link is:  
[http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/hpc\\_complaints\\_procedure.asp](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/hpc_complaints_procedure.asp)

## 14. Additional Information

### Policies

A range of policies can be found in the school office, on the school/council website or by request. Any comments you have to make on these policies will be very welcome.

Policies applicable to all schools across Shetland can be found on Shetland Islands Council's website. The policies include:

- healthy eating
- bullying
- exclusion
- school trips
- equality and diversity
- adverse weather.

The direct link is:

[http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/policies\\_guidelines\\_and\\_forms.asp](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/policies_guidelines_and_forms.asp)

### Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

In Shetland, we believe that children can be better supported by adults working closely together and sharing important information with each other. This process is known as GIRFEC: getting it right for every child.

Before GIRFEC can be used, consent from the parent of the child and/or the child (depending on the age of the child) is required. The staff asking permission will explain more about what GIRFEC means. Detailed information about the process can be found on Shetland Islands Council's website.

The direct link is: [http://www.shetland.gov.uk/children\\_and\\_families/GIRFEC.asp](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/children_and_families/GIRFEC.asp)

### Child Protection

The security, care and well-being of all our children is our ultimate priority. We have been trained in the use of and follow the agreed Shetland Islands Council Inter-Agency Child Protection Procedures. A copy of these procedures is available for parents online at [www.shetland.gov.uk/children\\_and\\_families/documents/ChildProtectionProcedures.pdf](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/children_and_families/documents/ChildProtectionProcedures.pdf)

The Head Teacher is responsible for Child Protection in our school and will contact the relevant agency in the event of a child protection concern.

It is every child's right to be cared for and protected from harm. It is every person's responsibility to make sure that happens. The Shetland Child Protection Committee provides help when there is a need. Their website gives information on how to access that help. The direct link is: <http://www.childprotectionsketland.com>

Shetland Islands Council's website also provides information on our responsibilities towards children and includes where to find help and support.

The direct link is:

[http://www.shetland.gov.uk/children\\_and\\_families/child\\_protection.asp](http://www.shetland.gov.uk/children_and_families/child_protection.asp)

## Data Protection

All data held regarding your child will be treated in a strictly confidential manner. As a parent, you are able to access any information held about your child as laid out in our **Open Access Policy**. If at any time you would like to look through your child's information folder, please ask a member of staff who will access it for you to look through.

## Online Protection

For information about online protection for your child, you may like to look at the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre's website.

The direct link is:

<http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk>

## Financial Help for Parents

Grants are available for clothing. Guidance and an application form can be found on Shetland Islands Council's website.

The direct link is:

<https://www.shetland.gov.uk/education/ClothingGrants.asp>



If after reading this handbook, you have further questions, please contact us at school and we will be pleased to be of assistance.

