

# Hints and tips from current parents/carers to soon-to-be Primary 1 parents/carers

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## Uniform

- You are notified in the termly Learning Letter when your child will have gym – on that day dress your child in the school uniform that they can easily take off/ put on independently e.g. polo shirt and jumper
- School ties can be bought from the school office and are available with elastic necks so you/your child do not need to tie them
- You can order the school uniform at different times of the school year
- Label everything – uniform; coats; shoes; water bottles; school bag etc
- Velcro tying school shoes are best
- Check throughout the year if your child's gym shoes and gym uniform still fits (gym kits are sent home at the end of every term)

## Snacks/lunches

- The school operates a free breakfast club which is available from 8.05am. Children should be dropped off at the main entrance. The breakfast club is in the main hall and has two supervisors. The breakfast club runs until 8.25am and the children go into the playground at this time where they are supervised.
- Don't give too much food for snack or packed lunch. Snack should be one item to eat which preferably will be a healthy snack. It takes a while for P1 to get used to eating within a certain time

## Communication to/from school

- Check the blog on a regular basis as there are great updates along with lots of useful information (<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/>)
- Read the monthly newsletter and mark the dates on your calendar
- Remember to tell the school/teacher if your child has really enjoyed a lesson or experience – they love hearing feedback from pupils and parents/carers
- Within the first 2/3 weeks of primary one you will be invited to a short five minute meeting with the class teacher (during the school day) to find out how your child has settled into primary one.

## Miscellaneous

- Weekly homework is handed out on a Monday and returned on a Friday; children will have nightly reading/ phonics
- Milk that you can purchase on a termly basis is semi-skimmed milk
- If you are not sure about something or it doesn't seem right – just ask
- Get involved! Support the school with events, join the Parent council or the PSA or be a volunteer to help

- This session there have been after school clubs for primary one children
- If sending in money – put it in an envelope and label with: your child's name; how much money is enclosed; what the payment is for
- Regularly check your child's school bag for letters
- Don't be concerned if your child is not in the same class as their current best friend, they all play in the playground together and there are opportunities within the school day when all primary one pupils will learn together
- Children should have a pair of black gym rubbers to change into when they come in from the playground. These are kept in school
- Children should bring the following each day:
  - Reading book
  - Reading record
  - Water bottle
  - Lunch (if applicable)



# Nursery parents questions and answers:

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## **Do children from the same colour group in nursery go into the same primary one class?**

- Due to the nature of our class arrangements we do not keep same colour of nursery groups together.
- During the first fortnight of the new term the focus is on building community and friendships in our classes

## **Who will I speak to if I have a problem with my child?**

- You should speak with the class teacher

## **Will my child attend for the full day right away?**

For the first week the children will be in school until lunch time – this is 12.05am on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and 12.30pm on the Friday

## **What happens first thing when I drop my child off?**

You leave your child at the school gate and your child will come into the playground and play with their peers. We currently have a supervisor on the school gate and a supervisor in the playground. P7 buddies also help in the playground.

## **Is there a transition period where children go over to a class?**

Yes – there is a four week transition visit and children will go to primary one for 30/40 minutes per week. They will learn alongside the current primary one pupils. The children will also experience the school playground.

## **Is there a staggered intake?**

- We do not operate a staggered intake

## **Will we get to meet the Primary 1 teachers before the start of the new term?**

Yes – you have been invited to meet the staff at the Meet the Teacher afternoon in June. The primary one staff will also be at the Primary one induction evening in June.

## **How do composite classes work?**

West Lothian Council Composite Class policy can be found on:

[http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2249/Composite-Classes/pdf/Composite\\_Classes.pdf](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2249/Composite-Classes/pdf/Composite_Classes.pdf)

