



**Toronto Primary Curricular
Information**



**A Year in
P1**

**With
Miss Hughes and
Miss Galloway**

This booklet is designed to provide information about the curriculum your child will experience this year in Primary 1 as well as providing information about classroom routines and expectations.

Curriculum for Excellence establishes clear values, purposes and principles for education from 3-18 in Scotland. It sets out to enable children and young people to develop their capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.

The key methods by which we will develop these capacities are through:

- ❖ active learning
- ❖ interdisciplinary learning
- ❖ outdoor learning
- ❖ co-operative learning
- ❖ learning logs
- ❖ pupil profiles

We will be using a range of Assessment is for Learning techniques including:

- ❖ sharing learning intentions and success criteria
- ❖ high quality interactions and feedback
- ❖ learner involvement in reflection, setting learning goals and next steps
- ❖ self and peer assessment

The curriculum is divided as following:

Curriculum Level	Stage
Early	Pre-school and P1 or later for some
First	To end of P4 but earlier or later for some
Second	To end of P7 but earlier or later for some
Third and Fourth	S1-S3 but earlier for some The fourth level broadly equates to SCQF Level 4
Senior Phase	S4-6 and college or other means of study

English and Literacy

In Primary 1 we use a variety of Literacy resources including, the North Lanarkshire Active Literacy Scheme for introducing all aspects of literacy and phonics work. Each week, children are introduced to new 'sounds' (phonics) and then learn how to use these sounds when reading and writing by 'recognising', 'segmenting', 'blending' and 'word building'. To support learning the letter sounds, we also sing phonics songs and learn actions. You can help your child by practising the sounds that will be sent home once they have learned a block of six. We have backed **consonants in blue** and **vowels in red**. As the collection of sounds build you can help you child by building words together i.e. **t a p** & **p o t**.

- ***If you haven't already done so, please send a small Tupperware tub in to school so that we can put new sounds that the children are learning inside.***

You can further support your child in their Language and Literacy development by reading to them as often as possible, saying nursery rhymes together and looking around and pointing out words and letters in your everyday environment. When reading books come home, please continue to support children by encouraging them to sound out words carefully from the books provided from school.

The children are also developing their writing skills and will be working on improving their fine motor skills, pencil grip and use of scissors. Activities such as using a paintbrush to paint sounds, or cutting out different shapes can be very helpful for this development and through our active approaches to learning, the children are exposed to this type of learning every day.

Reading

In Toronto Primary we use an approach called 'Guided Reading' to teach our children a wide range of reading skills, for example; reading aloud (decoding), blending words (**c-a-t**), talking about the features of a book (front cover etc.), predicting what might happen next and talking about the different characters/pictures in the book to name but a few. We use fiction and non-fiction books to teach the children a range of reading skills.

Assessment in Primary One is ongoing every week and builds on your child's progress from Nursery. Not every child will be ready to engage in formal 'reading' at the same time and therefore they will not all receive a reading book at the same time. We introduce reading books as and when the time is right for your child and will provide some useful hints and tips on how you can support them at home. Please make sure you sign the little yellow 'Reading Records' provided every time you hear your child read and note down any comments you wish in these.

Writing

Building on from Nursery experiences, our children are given regular opportunities to write for a variety of purposes. As most Primary One children are at the early stages of developing their writing skills, learning experiences will be linked to role play, topic work and through the North Lanarkshire Active Literacy Scheme. Comprehension experiences are closely linked to 'Guided Reading' and encourage the children to write about their understanding of the texts they read. We also teach 'tools' for writing such as basic punctuation (capital letters, commas, full stops and finger spaces). Recognising and being able to write 'Common Words' such as **the, I, you, come and was** etc is a tricky skill to master as these words usually cannot be 'sounded out' i.e. 'WAS' sounds like it should be 'WOZ' so we spend lots of time practising these. Lists of these common words will come home too inside Tupperware tubs later on in Primary 1.

Listening and Talking

Good listening and talking skills are taught and reinforced in an ongoing way every day in our classrooms and across our school. In Primary 1, as well as ongoing assessment, we assess these skills through activities such as class talks and when reciting Scottish poetry – we will give you notice when this is coming up. We build on the good practice from Nursery and encourage children to ensure that they put their hand up when they would like to speak in whole class situations and are able to listen and respond to others in class.

As part of our learning we also choose a 'Star of the Week' this person gets to take home Mr Ted for the weekend. They are given a Mr Ted and his book to take home to record the adventures in. Following on from the weekend, the child who has Mr Ted will be given the opportunity to share what they did together and can invite others to ask questions. The children just love this experience so please ensure Mr Ted arrives back to school after the weekend so that we can find out about his fun adventures!

Modern Languages

In Primary 1 we introduce very simple French vocabulary in an informal way, for example when saying hello/good morning – *bonjour*, good bye – *au revoir* and thank you - *merci*. We will also introduce some simple numbers and some simple colours later on in Primary 1.

Numeracy & Mathematics

Developing a solid understanding of mathematical and numerical concepts in Primary 1 is very important as it provides strong building blocks for later learning. In Toronto Primary School, we aim to provide rich, active learning experiences where our Primary 1 pupils can explore and learn about a range of concepts such as counting on and back (numbers to 20 initially then beyond), number sequences, sorting and matching, number patterns and addition and subtraction. Over the course of the year, we also plan learning experiences to develop skills and understanding in areas that we call 'Beyond Number', this includes

experiencing Information Handling by exploring and making simple graphs. We also explore money by recognising and using coins within £1, and develop our awareness of 'time' when understanding days of the week and months of the year before building on what the children already know about 2D shapes and 3D objects. We will also continue to develop children's knowledge and understanding of positional language (in, on, under, before, next, in between, shorter, longer etc) through a variety of contexts etc.

Here are some fun everyday activities that you can do to support your child in their mathematical development:

- On your journey to school, count trees, cars, doors, people, or lampposts
- Can you spot door numbers? What's the number before/after?
- Can your child help measure out flour when baking?
- Clap hands or snap fingers, jump, skip or hop while your child counts aloud etc

Health & Wellbeing

During the year we will be discussing various aspects of personal safety often linked to seasonal events such as Bonfire night. We also learn about stranger danger, road safety and internet safety through fun learning contexts within the classrooms.

PE is an important part of the curriculum and we would be grateful, if you haven't done so already, if you could provide your child with a PE kit (shorts/joggers and t-shirt). Labelling all items of clothing and footwear will help ensure that children have the correct kit. We are happy for your child's PE kit to stay in the classroom for the term. We will send it home at the end of each term to be washed and returned at the beginning of the next term. However if you would like your child to take it home more often then just send in a note.

We would really appreciate if you could support your child at home by practising getting changed in and out of their clothes on their own. Please ensure that long hair is tied back and jewellery, especially earrings, should be removed before coming to school on PE days. This is for your child's safety during PE.

This term our P.E days will be: **Tuesdays and Wednesdays**

Everyday Essentials

Water: it is important for your child to stay hydrated, so please try to send your child to school with a water bottle every day. **We ask that you provide still water only – NO JUICE.**

Very soon, your child will be provided with a coloured zipped bag. This bag will be labelled and your child should bring it to school every day. Please check this bag on a daily basis, inside will contain any letters or important information we hand out. Please ensure that you look after these zippy bags as they will be our main means of communication.

Rights Respecting School Award

Toronto Primary has achieved its Level 1 Rights Respecting Schools Award. As part of our work in promoting and developing our Rights Respecting School, each class discusses and agrees their own 'class charter' to reflect the rights and responsibilities that all children are entitled to. We will take part in whole school assemblies which will look at children around the world and how our rights and their rights often differ, depending on circumstances. As we have been learning about this recently, please ask your child and they can tell you all about it!

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Each child has a traffic light card and they always begin the day on green, if a child breaks a class or school rule their card may be turned to amber or red. If this continues, cards may be moved to a sad face which means 5 minutes of Golden Time has been lost. After every incident children have a chance to change/improve their behaviour and each day is a fresh new start as we aim to promote positive behaviour. Please check in with your child to see how their day has been and if they have stayed on green. If you have any queries about anything that has happened, please don't hesitate to ask.

Golden time is a reward for good behaviour and hard work throughout the week which all children just love as it is their free time to choose what they would like to do with their friends. Your child can bring in a toy from home for this (on Friday mornings) but please do not allow them to bring electronic toys, iPads or phones.

Social Studies (Topic Work)

Building on our Social Studies improvement work last session, and following on from learning experiences that the children have had in Nursery, Primary 1 will be learning about the following topics:

- Influential Person (Andy Murray)
- Me at School and People Who Help Us
- Toys (old and new)
- Nativity
- Space
- Mini-beasts

Classroom Organisation/Routines

Children select and order their lunch during registration at the start of the school day. Following our Council initiative, all Primary 1-3 children receive free school lunches and therefore do not need to provide money each day. Please make sure however, that money for milk, trips or other events is paid via iPayimpact online using your child's password or if requested by school, is handed in to teachers/office staff in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name and class on it.

Please ensure that gym shoes are checked regularly – the children wear them everyday and their feet grow incredibly quickly! As in Nursery, names will be written on the front of gym shoes so that the children can refer to them if they need help when writing their names.

Keep practising being more independent with tricky coats, shoes and laces!

Communication

If you wish to contact us for any reason please either send a note with your child or get in touch with the school office. We would be glad to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. Also, feel free to catch us briefly at the end of the school day.

Leadership Opportunities

Over the school year, children will be given the opportunity to take on different leadership roles within the school such as being a member of the Eco group, Rights Respecting School Group and Pupil Council. Your child will also develop their leadership skills in class through roles and responsibilities such as being a milk monitor, class messenger, group leader, etc.

Homework

All homework will be issued on a **Monday**. At present the children will take home their new sounds and a short writing task to complete in their homework jotters. Homework will be gradually increased over the course of the year to cover other areas of the curriculum.

Once your child has received a reading book, please support them by reading and discussing their book with them. You can help by discussing the story line, practising common words and asking them to predict what is going to happen next.

Please support your child by signing their homework and returning it to school every **Thursday** unless otherwise stated on the instructions.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to working with your children this year!

Miss Hughes and Miss Galloway