Welcome to P1

A guide for parents and children

Together we.... Inspire, Believe, Achieve
We hope that you find this booklet informative and useful in making the transition to primary school as easy as possible. We would like you to read through the information in this booklet with your child and talk about the areas covered. Why not share some of your early school memories?

If you are worried or concerned about your child, make an appointment to see your child’s class teacher by telephone (02890482680) or by letter. *Any urgent or sensitive matters may be brought directly to the school Principal / Vice-Principal.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching, are committed to the well-being of every child.
At Dundonald our aim is to ensure your child feels safe and secure each day in school. There are lots of people who make this happen.
Can you point to your teacher/classroom assistant? What is her name? Keep practising your class teacher and classroom assistant’s name.
Preparation for P1

It is important that your child understands and listens carefully to what their teacher is saying to them and that they can communicate their needs to both adults and peers.

Personal and Social Skills
- Talk about school in a positive way
- Encourage your child to ask lots of questions
- Encourage obedience
- Encourage independence eg putting on and taking off their coat and hanging it up
- Teach your child to be tidy
- Teach your child to say please and thank you
- Practice using the toilet, flushing and washing hands
- Try to establish a regular bedtime
- Encourage co-operation with peers and learn to take turns

Learning Skills
- Read to your child and teach them some familiar nursery rhymes
- Count together at every opportunity.
- Talk about the things they see around them - colours, shapes and sizes
- Encourage them to draw, write, scribble and colour

YOU DON’T NEED TO BE ABLE TO WRITE BEFORE YOU START SCHOOL
Healthy Break in P1
We encourage our children to eat a healthy and balanced diet. The Primary 1 and 2 classes love the fresh fruit, toast and milk or water we provide for their break.

The charge per term is £15

If your child has intolerance to any particular fruit or dairy product please inform the class teacher.

Lunch Time in P1
From Monday 25 September your child will be staying in school for their lunch. There are two options; either to go to the dining hall for a school dinner or bring a packed lunch and eat it in the classroom.

At both locations the children will be supervised by a P1 classroom assistant.

Dinner menus will be sent home in September. Money should be sent to school on a Monday. Further details will follow.

IF YOU ARE SENDING MONEY TO SCHOOL ALWAYS PUT IT IN AN ENVELOPE WITH NAME, CLASS AND WHAT IT IS FOR.
CAN YOU OPEN AND CLOSE YOUR LUNCH BOX?
Personal Belongings
The Dundonald Book bag acts as a school bag in P1 and P2. It will be sent home with your child in September and costs £5.

Our school PE kit is available from reception and costs £5.00 for shorts and t-shirt. School Logo PE bags are optional and can also be purchased from reception for £3.50.

Toys can only be brought into school at the teacher’s request. The school has lots of toys and play equipment and it can be very distressing for children if a valued personal item goes missing.

Remember to label your coat, uniform, bookbag, PE bag and PE kit - don’t forget your shoes!!!!!
Winter Uniform for Girls

Dark Grey skirt or pinafore

White polo shirt with school logo

Bottle green sweatshirt with school logo.

Dark Grey socks or Tights

Black shoes

Summer Uniform for Girls

Green Gingham dress

White socks
Winter Uniform for Boys

- Long dark grey trousers
- White polo shirt with school logo
- Bottle green sweat shirt
- Dark Grey Socks
- Black shoes

Summer Uniform for Boys

- White polo shirt with school logo
- Dark grey shorts (optional)
The P1 School Day

School starts for all pupils in P1-P7 at 9.00am. Doors open at 8.50am and pupils go directly to their classrooms.

First few days in P1- Dates/Times given on your pack indicate the time your child comes to school for the first few days.

You can leave and collect your child from their classroom for the first two days then from Friday 1st September

P1 KT and P1 AC will enter and leave by reception.

P1 LS and P1?? will enter and leave school through the door on the right through the pencil gates.

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS WILL BE ON DUTY AT BOTH ENTRANCES IN THE MORNINGS FROM 8.50AM TO WELCOME THE CHILDREN AND GUIDE THEM TO THEIR CLASSROOMS.

From 4th to 22nd September pupils will be in school until 12.30 pm

From 25th September to 30th June P1 pupils will be in school from 9.00am to 1.50 pm
In P1 the children will explore learning through carefully planned play-based learning activities and interactive digital resources.

**The Foundation Stage Curriculum**

- Builds on previous learning
- Provides practical, challenging, enjoyable activities
- Ensures children are observed individually and progress to the next stage when ready
- Promotes a positive attitude to learning.

**Foundation Stage Areas of Learning**

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us
- Physical Development and Movement
- The Arts
- Religious Education
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

For more information, see the Northern Ireland Curriculum at www.nicurriculum.org.uk
“Play is the business of childhood”

What does Learning Through Play Mean?

- Play involves children making choices.
- Children have confidence in play based activities and this has positive effects on motivation, concentration and self-image.
- Play involves children using imagination and creativity.
- Play requires experimentation and exploration.
- Children learn to collaborate and so-operate with peers in play activities.
- Play aids motor and perceptual development.
- Play contributes to the total development of the child.
- Children can apply problem solving methods and processes in a natural way.
Home Learning

Home Learning is an important part of your child’s education and plays a key role in contributing to your child’s development. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. It fosters partnership between home and school, providing parents with an opportunity to be involved, informed and to share in their children’s learning.

During the P1 year your child will have activities to carry out at home. These activities will be linked to various aspects of the curriculum and will be based on the topics being covered in class.

AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE MOST OVERWHELMING KEY TO A CHILD’S SUCCESS IS THE POSITIVE INVOLVEMENT OF PARENTS
What happens if your child is ill?

If your child is unwell the best place for them is at home.

Please consider your child and their friends. If your child is unable to attend school please inform the school office and send a note on their return giving a clear indication for the absence.

If he/she has an infectious illness such as measles, mumps, chicken pox, slap cheek etc please notify the school immediately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Illness</th>
<th>Period of Exclusion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Measles</td>
<td>Seven days after rash has gone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chickenpox</td>
<td>Until spots are crusted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German measles</td>
<td>Not until advised by Doctor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mumps</td>
<td>Five days after onset of swelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slapped Cheek</td>
<td>Inform School</td>
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</table>
Time for school!
Together we….

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