



Welcome to

Park Primary School



November 2023



Information at a Glance

School Address

Park School
Ashwood Drive, Stranraer, DG9 7NW
Telephone: 01776 704032

Email address:

gw08officepark@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Parent Council Chairperson: Mrs Deborah Blain

Head Teacher Mrs Olive Caldwell

School Roll 251

Denomination Status Non-demoninational

Status of Gaelic No Gaelic offered

School Staff:

Teaching Staff

Depute Headteacher Mrs Lisa Calderwood

Depute Headteacher Mrs Stacey Wilson

Principal Teacher

(Supported Learning Classes): Miss Fiona McCallum

Nursery Manager Mrs Diane Lowe

Supported Learning Classes Miss Heather Allan

Mrs Alison Wallace

Mr Luke Doherty

P1 Mrs Birkett

P1/2 Mrs Packer & Mrs McCann

P2/3 Miss Keenan

P3 Mrs Baillie

P4 Mrs Williamson

P4/5 Mr Morrison

If you would like some help understanding this or need it in another format please contact 030 33 33 3000.

P5 Mr Beggs
P5/6 Mrs Barlow
P6/7 Miss Ferguson
P7 Miss Gibson
Additional Support for Learning Mr Garry Anderson

Senior Educational Support Officer Andy Margerison

Auxiliary Staff

Clerical Assistants: Mrs Gillian Jackson
Mrs Eveline McKinnon

Facilities Assistant: Mrs Sheila Robinson

Catering Staff: Mrs Kirsty Lees
Mrs Rebecca Hannah

The School Day

Primary School

8:35	Breakfast Club (free, no need to book)
9am	School Begins
10:30am	P1 - P3 Morning Break
10.45am	P4 -P7 Morning Break
12:00pm - 12:45pm	P1 - P3 Lunch
12:15pm - 1pm	P4 - P7 Lunch
3pm	School Finishes

Nursery School

8:30am - 3:30pm
(Children will be allocated times within this period).

School term dates can be found at:

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/School-term-and-holiday-dates>

Communicating with home

Please keep an eye on the school app for updates. Newsletters will be posted weekly in the files section of the app. A paper copy newsletter is also available, just ask at the office. All children have a homework diary; please check and sign this daily for younger children or weekly for older children.

If you have concerns, please phone the school office or arrange an appointment.



Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

A warm welcome to Park School. The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with all the key information you will need as your child starts school. If you have any queries about the content of the handbook, or any questions that the handbook does not answer, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Children, staff and parents alike have a strong sense of pride in our school. Staff are continually exploring new ways to improve experiences and increase opportunities for children. As your child begins their primary school journey we hope that you too will feel proud and be able to celebrate and share in your child's and our school's achievements.

Park School is a learning community that extends beyond the school boundaries, working in close partnership with a wide range of organisations to provide support and offer exciting opportunities for children and families. We have an open door policy and welcome your ideas and suggestions. Working together, we can all help create a positive, nurturing centre for learning where children can achieve. In reading through the handbook you will discover many ways to get involved. I look forward to working with you throughout your child's primary school years.

Yours sincerely

Olive Caldwell
Head Teacher

For more information about how we support parents and work with our schools please see our [Authority Handbook](#)

School Aims, Values and Ethos

We aim to work in the heart of the community with you as our closest partners. Our staff numbers around fifty and we are all here to ensure the care, support and well-being of your child. In working in partnership, our vision is to:

- create a happy, safe and inclusive school
- provide relevant experiences to allow everyone to achieve and learn to the best of their ability

We have very clear and simple values, which helps to create and maintain a positive and encouraging learning environment.

They are summed up in our school motto **RESPECT**.

- **RESPECT YOURSELF**
(Believe in yourself, be kind to yourself, make healthy choices)
- **RESPECT EACH OTHER**
(Be caring, friendly and polite to all. Respect individual differences.)
- **RESPECT LEARNING**
(Work hard, challenge yourself, stay focussed, grab opportunities.)

We aim for all children to reach their potential by:

- Leading learning and setting ambitious targets.
- Having the courage to keep trying when things are hard.
- Doing what we can for our school and community.
- Knowing that we are all important and equal



Contact Us

The school welcomes suggestions and enquiries from parents and carers.

If you need to find out something

We can be contacted by e-mail, telephone, group call text messages or face to face. Where it is not possible to resolve enquiries straight away, we will make arrangements to follow up as necessary with the most appropriate member of staff.

Comments, Complaints and Compliments

A comment might be some brief feedback about how we have handled a situation or delivered a service. It is best to pass a comment straight to the school so that we can take any necessary action.

If you are not happy with the response you receive or a decision that has been made, you can Ask us to Look Again. You can do this by contacting ParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk. At this point an Officer will contact you and discuss the issue and direct the enquirer as appropriate.

Remember you can also access Dumfries & Galloway Have Your Say at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17349/Have-your-say>



How the School Works

Class Organisation

For organisational purposes, schools are structured into classes. Each year it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to organise the class structure.

Over recent years, the school roll has grown significantly. There are currently 10 primary classes, 3 supported learning classes and a 70 place nursery.

Class organisation is reviewed each school session to take account of the number of pupils at each stage and class capacities.

For more information please see the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Positive Behaviour and Celebrating Success

Park School RESPECT code promotes positive behaviour in all aspects of school life; in learning, making positive choices, respecting others. Children are encouraged to work as part of a house team to earn points. Rewards are given when a house reaches a points target. These could include anything from non-uniform days to afternoon tea with the headteacher.

Children can also win gold stars for individual achievements e.g. showing resilience in learning, demonstrating kindness to others, achievements outwith school (swimming, Brownie badges) etc. Once a child receives 9 gold stars, they are able to choose a prize from the prize cabinet. Other ongoing awards include pupil of the month, kindness awards and wordmillionaire (reading award) presented at assembly to mark individual achievements within school.

Wider achievements are acknowledged through 'Proud at Park' notifications on the school app and newsletter e.g. qualifying for a football/netball team,

winning a regional/national competition, taking part in an event, etc.

Every year the school awards special prizes to celebrate individual achievement in communication, creativity, mathematics and enterprise. Prizes are also awarded for endeavour and sporting achievement. The supported learning class also presents a special award for achievement.

For more information please see page 13 of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

School uniform

All Dumfries and Galloway schools have a dress code which encourages pupils to dress in a way appropriate to attendance at school. For more information on School Uniform, Dress Code, and School Clothing Grants visit www.dumgal.gov.uk

School uniform helps children to feel part of the Park Team and is strongly encouraged.

The uniform consists of a navy polo shirt or white shirt and school tie if you prefer, grey or black skirt/ trousers/pinafore and a red jumper or cardigan.

Sweatshirts, cardigans and polo shirts are available to purchase from school.

Items of uniform can also be purchased from supermarkets and department stores.

We also encourage parents to pass on items of uniform that still have some wear left. The school also has a uniform swap shop with FREE new and nearly new uniform items. This can be found just outside the school office.

Children are asked to bring shorts, a t-shirt and gym shoes for PE.

Financial Support for Children and Families

Grants and Bursaries

Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Child Payment is a payment for families on certain benefits or tax credits. Eligible families will get £40 every four weeks for each child under six.

Further information and an application can be made at: mygov.scot website or call us on 0800 182 2222.

Best Start Grant

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments:

- Pregnancy and Baby Payment
- Early Learning Payment
- School Age Payment

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit. The payments you can get now will depend on:

- how far along in your pregnancy you are
- how old your child is

Further information and an application can be made at: mygov.scot website

Clothing Grant

The award of clothing grants is to assist with the cost of school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on low income. The current award is presently £134 per primary school child and £150 per secondary school child.

Further information and an application can be made at: Free school meals and associated payments - Dumfries and Galloway Council (dumgal.gov.uk)

Education and Learning Directorate are committed to supporting families through their Anti-Poverty Strategy - details of which can be found at www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty Schools should also make parents aware of the School Uniform Bank Project. Donation and Collection information can be found at the above link.

School Meals

The Naturally D&G local provenance for a sustainable future ensures that meals are freshly prepared with seasonal ingredients and are free from undesirable additives.

Detailed information on school meals is available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmenus

Special Dietary Requirements

Facilities Services - Catering provide special dietary requirements for food allergy and intolerances; medically prescribed diets; or diets for religious or cultural reasons specific meals for children of different ethnic origin. Simply ask the school for a registration form to allow us to inform the catering team who will discuss your child's requirements in full.

For more information contact the Solutions Centre on 01387 271 112 or solutionscentre@dumgal.gov.uk to access the Legislation & Nutrition Officer.

Free School Meals

Free school meals are provided for all pupils in Primary 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Confirmation of when this will be rolled out to Primary 6 and Primary 7 from the Scottish Government has yet to be confirmed.

In Nursery eligible children can receive up to 1140 hours a year of Early Learning and Childcare. As part of this funded offer the child will be entitled to one free meal and a snack each day.

All primary schools are now operating a pre-order system for school lunches for paid and free school meals. Parent / Carer will receive a letter informing them of how to create and set up an account for their child.

Free school meals can lead to a large saving in each year, nursery and primary school pupils can save £360 and secondary school pupils can save £370. You'll also be helping your child's school if you qualify for free school meals. Some Scottish Government funding provided directly to schools is linked to the number of pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

For more information visit www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmeals

Visit the school meal website for further information www.dgschoolmeals.co.uk



School Transport

Free school transport is available for some school children attending primary or secondary school if they live within the school catchment area and if they meet certain criteria. For more information and guidance visit <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15245/Free-school-transport>

Free Travel for 5 - 22 year olds

From 31 January 2022 all children and young people aged 5-22 will be entitled to free bus travel in Scotland. You can apply for free travel online from today at www.getyournec.scot (This cannot be done through your school)

Attendance

It is your responsibility as parents to ensure that your child/children attend school regularly. For the safety of all children it is important for you to telephone the school office prior to/at the beginning of the absence. Absences are recorded in class registers and frequent or irregular absences not supported by a reasonable excuse, will be notified to parents and the matter may be referred to the Opportunities for All Service. If possible please, try to make dental/medical appointments outwith school hours. However, if this is not possible please inform us in writing or by telephone of the appointment and arrange to collect your child from class.

For more information on Attendance, Absences, Lateness and responsibilities of parents please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk

Absence from School

Pupils who need to leave school during the school day ie doctor /dentist appointments, must be collected by a named contact confirmed with the school office. They must also report to the school office on their return to school.

Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), now known as 'Scotland's Curriculum,' is bringing learning to life in the way education is delivered for all 3-18 year olds in nursery, primary, secondary, at college and via workplace or community learning. It aims to respond and adapt flexibly to meet the needs of an ever changing and evolving world and Scotland's place within it. At its heart lies a constant commitment and drive towards excellence and equity, to raise standards, improve knowledge, develop skills for all learners and close the gap between the lowest and highest achievers by ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to be successful no matter what their background or circumstances. Ultimately it aims to nurture children and young people as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Broad General Education

Children and young people work their way through Experiences and Outcomes in each of the five Curriculum Levels (Early, First, Second, Third, Fourth) and in each of the eight Curricular Areas. The five Curricular Levels span pre-school to the end of S3. This is the Broad General Education. Pupils progress at their own pace, working through the Experiences and Outcomes of the most appropriate level for them. Pupils will be supported in collecting evidence of their achievements, with a profile of these being produced in P7 and S3.

Our curriculum has been designed and will continue to develop to take account of the skills children will need as they move through life and into the world of work.

There are 8 curricular areas; literacy & modern languages, numeracy & mathematics, digital technologies, health & wellbeing, social subjects, science, technology, religious & moral education. These may be taught as discrete subjects or as part of what's called 'interdisciplinary learning' where more than one subject will be developed at a time e.g. recording the findings of a science experiment as a graph (maths and science) or writing a newspaper report from a particular point of view (literacy and social subjects).

Children will progress through carefully designed learning programmes to build knowledge about their local area and the wider world and develop key skills such as communicating, finding information, working with numbers, using digital technologies and most importantly making healthy choices.

Children will be supported in developing learning characteristics to enable them to continue to learn and adapt in our ever changing world. Learning characteristics include resilience, ownership, communication, reflection, challenge and innovation. The school seeks to promote wider achievement and participation in a number of ways.

All children from primary 5-7 are given the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument and perform as part of the school band/orchestra. Many of our youngsters go onto play in the local Brass Band.

Like most schools we have sport teams where children can take part in local and regional leagues and competitions.

We also offer a wide range of off-site excursions, including residential experiences, as well as a selection of after school clubs.

Parental Involvement and Engagement

Parent/Carers and the Parent Council

Every parent who has a child at our school is a member of the Parent Forum. The parent council is a group of parents who have chosen to represent the parent forum. As a member of the Parent Forum, each parent can expect to:

- Receive information about the school and its activities
- Hear about what partnership with parents means in our school
- Be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you
- Identify issues you want the parent council to work on with the school
- Be asked your opinion by the parent council on issues relating to the school and education it provides
- Work in partnership with staff
- Enjoy taking part in school life in whatever way possible

More information is available at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement>

More information and support for Parents/ Parent Councils is available at <https://connect.scot/>

Parentclub Scotland <https://www.parentclub.scot/> provides support information and guidance to expectant parents, baby, toddler, Child, Pre-teen and Parents and Carers.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland's (NPFS) Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell series. Free Downloads for parents/carers: <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/in-a-nutshell-series/nationals-in-a-nutshell-series/>

Parentzone Scotland

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone> information about the Curriculum and how you can be involved in your child's learning.

How is my child doing?

There will be several opportunities for you to discuss your child's progress. This may be through informal discussion with the teacher or at Parents' Nights/ Learning Conversations, formal reports or for some it may be through more formal, focussed meetings with other agencies.



Helping Your Child and Family Learning

Many parents have different views about homework. Homework can be a useful way of finding out about your child's learning and understanding your child's strengths and next steps in learning.

Taking 15 minutes each night can make a huge difference to your child's motivation. Set homework will usually include literacy tasks (reading, sounds/ spelling, preparing a talk) and numeracy (practising number bonds, times tables, etc).

There are also a wide range of online programmes to support learning at home e.g. Purple Mash. Please check and sign your child's homework diary every week. For younger pupils, checking daily would be helpful.

The school works closely with community learning and development to provide opportunities for parents and families to engage in learning. These include the weekly 'brew, blether and book' sessions for parents with pre-school children, family holiday programmes (activities and lunch) and supporting our parent council's family 'services and support fair'. A number of parents have been successful in gaining SVQ qualifications in early childhood development through school programmes. Advice and support is also available to help parents with literacy and numeracy skills as well as digital technologies.

Support for All

Support for Learners

Dumfries and Galloway Council is committed to the well-being and educational development of all learners. The process of inclusion requires all involved in the business of learning and teaching to demonstrate commitment, innovation and flexibility to ensure that all children and young people have access to quality learning opportunities and experiences.

More information is available at <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16163/Support-for-Learners> and on page 18 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

You are the expert on your child and what you think matters. Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) means that the School will always seek to involve you, to listen to your opinions and take them seriously.

More information is available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/girfec and on page 20 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Child Protection

All children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect. The vision for all children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway is that they should be: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible and included. Schools and front-line education and child care services will play an important role in ensuring all children and young people are safe and well. Further information can be found at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16640/Support-for-children-and-families>

Parents, carers and pupils have a key role in keeping the school community safe. We would therefore urge parents to share any information which would keep everyone safe, and to support and encourage their child(ren) to do the same.

Enrolment in Schools - School Places

Information on enrolment in school and catchment areas is available at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15241/School-places> Information regarding catchment areas can be found on the Council's website by accessing "Find My Nearest".

School Improvements

Each year the school will publish a School Improvement Plan which outlines the key priorities for the school during the year ahead, following engagement with staff, pupils and parents. The plan indicates the expected impact of priorities on pupil learning, as well as providing brief information about the key tasks to be taken forward. Both the report and the plan are published on the school's web-site and are also available in hard copy, on request. A copy can also be found by searching for your school at www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools

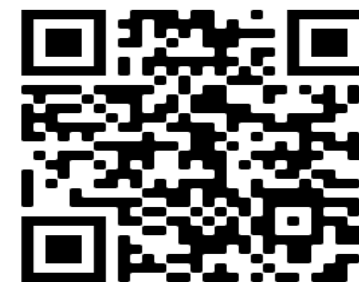
Over recent years the school has seen increased attainment in literacy and numeracy. Pupil Equity Funding has enabled the school to support children through interventions to identify and address 'gaps' in learning as well as helping to make excursions and experiences more affordable for families.

In session 2023-24 we will:

- Continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy through embedding Dumfries and Galloway frameworks. In addition, teachers will look at ways to improve the teaching of reading and how this links closely to writing.
- Use an Inclusion 'toolkit' to consider ways we can improve our classrooms to help all learners because we recognize the way our classrooms are set up can have a big impact on children's ability to learn and focus.
- Aim to achieve our Silver Rights Respecting Schools Award, after achieving our Bronze Award in October 2023. We will now set up Pupil Groups to help identify and make positive changes in school. Looking at different ways children can help us evaluate how good our school is and make suggestions for improvements.

What learning looks like
at Park Primary School

Scan Me



Health and Safety

Emergency Procedures (including Safer Together Guidance)

If your child feels ill during the school day and we feel that he/she would be better at home, we will telephone you or your emergency contact. Minor accidents, e.g. cuts, bruises, are dealt with by the school staff. Serious accidents are few, but should one occur your child will be immediately taken either to your doctor or to hospital, if necessary, and you or your emergency contact will be notified. We cannot stress enough the importance of supplying the school with the relevant information we require in such a situation, i.e. your own home and work number and a telephone number of an emergency contact. **Please remember that if your child stays in more than one home setting contact details should take account of this.**

Health Care (inc First Aid)

Many children will require their health care needs to be met at sometime within the nursery/school environment, for most children this will be for short periods of time only, but for some children this may require more long-term planning and support. If your child has any health care needs, please contact the school to discuss arrangements. Full details of the support available and your role as a parent and the role of your child are contained within Health Care in Schools 3-18 (NHS and Dumfries and Galloway Council) which is available from the school.

For more information see our [Authority Handbook](#)

Severe Weather and School Closure Arrangements

Headteachers are authorised to make an emergency closure when the state of the weather or any other exceptional circumstance make it necessary in the best interests of the pupils. In these circumstances parents will be communicated with in a variety of ways including text messages/ phone calls and emergency contact arrangements. All school closures will be notified on the Council Website.

www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15240/Emergency-school-closures

Data Protection

Information on how the Council uses personal data is available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Data-protection and www.dumgal.gov.uk/privacy

ICT in Schools

For more information on ICT in school please see page 14 of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Use of the Internet, Social Networking Sites

As part of the process of learning we allow our children supervised access to the Internet and e-mail. The authority runs its own filter system to ensure that young people are not at risk from exposure to inappropriate material. This filtering system is regularly being upgraded. We have a policy for use of the Internet and a contract for responsible use, which we ask parents and young people to sign up to.

For more information visit our [Education Authority Handbook](#) and [Safe Digital Learning and Social Media Leaflet](#)

