

# *Welcome* to Primary One

2023- 2024



*Full of Learning, Laughter and Love*



# Welcome to the Edenside Family

Whether you are new to Edenside or continuing on with us from our nursery, we want you to get to know us and feel welcome in the school. We aim to work in partnership with you to enable your child to achieve the best outcomes possible and grow into a happy, healthy well-rounded young person.

Our school values are Learning, Laughter and Love. The three of these will be woven through your child's experience in Primary 1 and beyond.

The purpose of this pack is to provide you with the information you need to support your little one as they start Primary 1. We hope you find this booklet useful. It covers most of the general questions that parents usually ask in relation to starting school. We will cover:

- getting ready for school
- your child's first day
- what to expect at school
- lunch-time arrangements
- how to keep in touch

If there is other information you need, please don't hesitate to contact the school on **01573 224 264** as we are always happy to help. If you have not already, you will get to know Mrs Webster and Mrs Fleming, our admin staff, very well. They will have the answers to most questions or will be able to direct your query to me.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child to ensure that she/he settles well into Primary 1 in the short term. In the longer term, the whole staff team look forward to working with you both to help your child 'be the best they can be' at Edenside!

Karen Dixon

Headteacher



# Getting Ready

## School Uniform

Here at Edenside, we are very proud of our school uniform and we hope you will be proud to wear it too. It builds a sense of community and belonging.

These are the things you will need for August:

- A **red** school sweatshirt (school badge preferred) or a red cardigan
- A **white** polo shirt
- A **black/grey** skirt or **black/grey** trousers
- Please note that leggings are not part of our school dress code
- **Black** shoes (Velcro fastenings are preferred) or **plain black trainers**

You will also need **PE kit** for your PE lessons each week. This includes:

- trainers
- a white t-shirt
- a pair of gym black gym shorts
- a clearly named gym bag to put them in the cloakroom.

We are grateful for parental support in ensuring all our children do wear school uniform. Sweatshirts with the school badge are available to order online through Border Embroideries or through the school at a discount. An order form, to order through the school, will be emailed to you. Other uniform, without the school badge, can be purchased from supermarkets /department stores.

The school has regular Second Hand Uniform Sales, which are a really affordable way of buying good quality clothing.



## Check List:

- ✓ School bag
- ✓ Uniform
- ✓ **Filled** water bottle
- ✓ PE kit with gym bag
- ✓ All items must be **clearly labelled**

Please note that pencils and cases are not needed, but a child may bring them if he/she wishes.

## Labelling items

Absolutely **everything** needs to be labelled with your child's name on it before starting school. Things do go astray, especially when children are getting changed for PE. Identifying unlabelled items is very difficult when they are identical or very similar.

To help us and your child keep all of their belongings secure we ask that you label:

- all uniform & PE items, including socks / tights
- water bottle
- school bag
- shoes
- packed lunch bags / boxes

It is likely that misplaced items will be found in the school's Lost Property box, if you have labelled them. There are many places where you can buy labels online - or you can just buy an indelible labelling pen and write your child's name on **everything**.



# First Day: What to Expect

Your child's safety, physical and mental wellbeing are always our main focus as we warmly welcome our new pupils into school. Once children have lined up in the P1 yard, class teachers will escort them into their new classes. If this is your first child starting school, you may be surprised that they are likely to feel more confident than you will! Staff will be on hand in the area, should you have any questions or need any reassurance after classes have entered the building.

Children will get settled into their classrooms, spending time getting to know their teacher, support staff and the environment. They will learn where everything is kept in their new classrooms so that they can access materials to play and learn independently.

Children will also quickly learn where to keep their coats and bags on their own labelled pegs. They will have labelled trays to keep their snacks in. Children will learn routines for lunch and for break times outside. These are surprisingly exciting events when they happen for the first time!

## A Play-based Approach

In line with national and local guidance, we believe that it is important that your child's Primary 1 experience continues on from the learning experience they enjoyed in nursery. From day one, there will be a play-based approach, which will include a variety of carefully thought out learning opportunities indoors and outdoors to engage the children in activities that interest them. This will include: construction, role play, reading, drawing, sand and/or water, fine motor skill activities with small objects that require concentration and dexterity to develop muscles in fingers, hands and wrists. You can read more about fine motor skills development in the Emerging Literacy section of our website. There will also be opportunities for play involving large movements to develop gross motor skills and to develop creativity. And of course, there will be opportunities for group activities like singing, games, yoga and story time.

Although children may not feel like they are learning during their play, they will of course be learning a great deal without realising it. They will be socialising, communicating with others, building, designing, drawing, cutting, writing, role playing, and much more. All of these activities provide children with important opportunities that will help them gradually become ready for periods of adult-directed learning in small groups.

We provide opportunities for you to visit the P1 classrooms as part of our transition in June. We encourage you to look at the video of our P1 classrooms on our website to help your child become familiar with their new surroundings.

## Timings for P1

Our P1s start and finish at the same time as the rest of our pupils. Our school day begins at 9:00 am, with a breakfast club available from 8:00 a.m. Monday to Thursday all children finish at 3:30 p.m. and on Friday all children finish at 12:50 p.m. The playground is supervised from 8.45am.

## Where to line up

Primary 1s enter and exit the building through the gym doors at the side of the school. We will provide an opportunity for you to visit the school in June to enable you to familiarise yourself with the area. The line for each class will be clearly marked with chalk and teachers will be ready to meet classes from 8:55am onwards during the first week of term. During the first week parents are welcome to stand outside the red fence to watch their children go into the school. From week 2 we encourage P1 parents to drop their children at the school's front gate in the morning to promote independence.



# During the School Day

## Food & Snacks

P1 children normally have three breaks during their day: morning break, lunch and afternoon break. During the morning and afternoon break children will need to bring a healthy snack, which they will take into the playground with them. We discourage chocolates and sweets for snack time and promote healthy eating with fruit, rice cakes, healthy cereal bars. While nuts are a healthy option, unfortunately we cannot have them in school due to the serious risk it poses to children with nut allergies.

At lunchtime children will be escorted to the dining hall together as a class with their class teacher. Children will be given tokens by their teachers to help remember their lunch choice. The class teacher will initially help each child to collect the correct meal. Children who bring a packed lunch will go to the dining hall and will sit with their class to eat their lunch.

To ensure that your child gets a lunch choice they want, please order these using the ParentPay website for the week ahead. You can order these further in advance if you wish. Please do talk to your child about their lunch choices while ordering to help them understand what each one is like, so that you can be sure you choose something that they will like. When your child joins us in August you will receive an activation code to enable you to access the ParentPay website. Although school lunches are free for all children in P1 to P5, we would strongly encourage you to apply for free school meals and clothing grants if you think you may be eligible.

We have a number of staff on duty in the dining hall, including our support staff, head teacher, depute head teacher and principal teachers. All of these staff work together to encourage the children to eat a reasonable amount of their lunch so that they will not be hungry later in the day. If there are any concerns about a child not eating, these will be shared with the class teacher, who will then share with parents. Previous parents have found that making food choices on ParentPay with their children leads to more food being eaten at lunch time!

Food allergies can be catered for by our kitchen staff, please let us know if this is applicable for your child and we can advise you accordingly.

## Play Times

Staff are always present on our playgrounds during breaks and lunchtimes. Primary 1s and 2s have their own playground near the nursery outdoor space, with dedicated staff always supervising the playground. There will be regular opportunities for P1s to engage in play with their P7 buddies at these times.



## Medicines

Any prescribed medicines that need to be taken during the school day require a MEDICAL form to be completed beforehand. These can be requested from Mrs Fleming or Mrs Webster in the school office.

All other medicines, such as antihistamines, inhalers or epipens are kept in labelled boxes in classrooms. Any children who have medical plans will have these in place before their first day of school so that staff are well-prepared to adhere to these plans effectively.

All medicines will be sent home at the end of each school year.



# Keeping in Touch

## How we contact you

We communicate with parents in a range of ways: through our school website, regular newsletters, dedicated emails and texts through the GroupCall system, use of the Xpressions app, our school Facebook page, Twitter account and also through Showbie.

At the start of each new term you will receive curriculum overviews from class teachers. These provide details of what children are learning during the term, any special events happening during the term, when PE sessions and outdoor learning take place, along with any clothing needed for these sessions and ideas of how you can support your child's learning at home.

The school provides regular updates, shared by email. It's important to read this update as it provides information about upcoming events that parents should be aware of.

Other information that is for particular classes only, regarding trips for example, will be issued from time to time as paper copies or emails.

## How you can contact us

If your child is unwell and not able to attend school, it is important to contact the school before 10am to let us know. We are legally required to check on children's whereabouts if they are not in school. The school office number is 01573 224 264 or you can email us, [edensideps@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:edensideps@scotborders.gov.uk) or use the Xpressions app.

Your child's class teacher will always be happy to meet with you to discuss any questions or concerns you have. We have parent/teacher meetings two times per year. Outwith these times appointments to see teachers can be made through the school office. If it is an urgent concern and only a brief conversation is needed, it is best to speak to a teacher at the end of the school day after they have ensured that all children have been collected safely by their parent/carer.

We have an open door policy and are always happy to meet parents and carers. Should you wish to schedule a meeting (to avoid a wait or in case we are out of the building), you can do so through the school office or leave a message so that we can return your call.

We look forward to welcoming you and your child into Primary 1!



Primary 1 - August to October		Term 1
<b>Literacy</b> We will be learning to: - further develop our fine motor skills, e.g. cutting out simple shapes - marking out letters for reading through handwriting books correctly - measuring appropriately to letters - use words of when to talk and when to listen - explore stories through a variety of active experiences - to follow instructions <b>At Home</b> - talk about the stories that you read at school, e.g. use cards with the same scene to retell the story - encourage your child to look their pencil correctly (use mirrors) - read to you CVC regularly, discussing the main events, characters and setting - encourage your child to recognise and blend of rhyming words, e.g. cat, hat, sat, ant	<b>Numeracy and Mathematics</b> We will be learning to: - use the numbers 10 and beyond - recognise the numbers to 10 and beyond out of sequence - count objects accurately by touching each one once - number numbers correctly - check for patterns and shapes around us (e.g. dice) - spot differences, similarities and patterns, e.g. when going up/down stairs - identify counting everyday objects for counting each item in turn, e.g. pens, shoes, seats etc. - recognise your child to say what 1 more than a given number would be, e.g. There are 1 apple in the bowl, if there was 2 more how many would that be? - look for and make patterns using different objects - food, clothes, etc. (see parent's) Home	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> We will be learning to: - share and play fairly with our peers - show respect and care for others - look after all belongings - play safely - copy all our work <b>Physical Education - Outdoor Learning</b> We will be learning to: - understand rules and routines within a PE lesson - use an appropriate space - begin to perform movement skills - control our bodies - follow instructions - follow instructions - Home
<b>Special Needs (Inclusion)</b> This class should offer a range of activities which the children can enjoy outdoors and develop their gross and fine motor skills as well as their social skills. Please can you ensure that your child brings their pegs or a towel bag to school, so you can provide them with them when in school. Due to the weather being so unpredictable, please make sure that they also bring their raincoat. We would prefer children to wear trousers/leggings to protect their legs. Outdoor Learning will also be taking place every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday with Mrs Walker (PEW) starting 2 <sup>nd</sup> September. PEW starting 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	<b>Learning Objectives</b> - Please bring a towel under lockers every day - Please bring homework folder every day (over 1 empty)	

