2026 - 2027

Welcome to Primary One



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 01835 826533 as we are always happy to help. If you have not already, you will get to know Mrs Clark and Mrs Townsend, 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 your child 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
- **Black** shoes **or plain black trainers** (Velcro fastenings are preferred)

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

- Trainers (Velcro fastenings are preferred)
- a white t-shirt
- a pair of black gym shorts
- a clearly named gym bag to put them in and hang 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 via ParentPay. For those not yet on ParentPay an order form will be emailed to you. Other uniform, without the school badge, can be purchased from supermarkets /department stores.

The Parent Council holds 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, the class teacher will escort them into their new classroom. 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 the children have entered the building.

Children will get settled into their classroom, spending time getting to know their teacher, support staff and the environment. They will learn where everything is kept in their new classroom 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. 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 an opportunity for you to visit the P1 classroom as part of our transition in June.

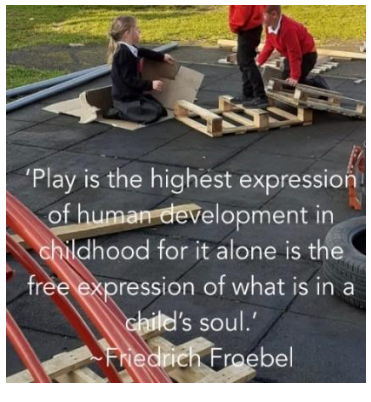
Timings for P1

Our P1s start and finish at the same time as the rest of our pupils. Our school day begins at 9:00am, with a breakfast club available from 8:00am. The cost is £2 per day, no booking required.

Monday to Thursday all children finish at 3:30pm. and on Friday all children finish at 12:50pm. 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. A line for the children to line up on will be clearly marked with chalk and the teachers will be ready to meet classes from 8:55am onwards during the first week of term. For 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 (swimming pool end) 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 from home, 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 etc... 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. *This includes Nutella based snacks.*

At lunchtime children will be escorted to the dining hall together as a class with their class teacher. Children will be supported by their teacher to 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 and Depute Headteacher. 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 Townsend or Mrs Clark 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 bulletins, dedicated emails and texts through the GroupCall system, use of the Xpressions app, our school Facebook page and also through Showbie.

At the start of each new term you will receive an email with the curriculum overview. These provide details of what children are learning during the term, any special events happening during that 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

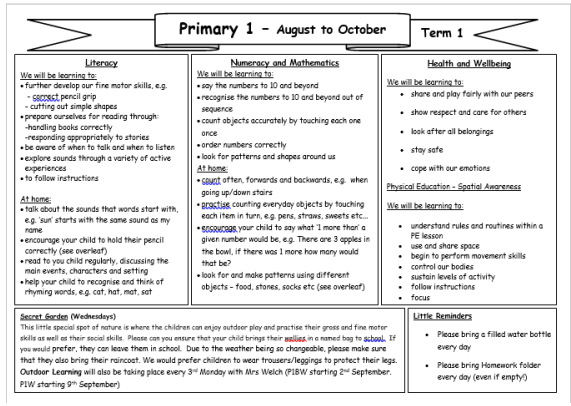
If your child is unwell and not able to attend school, it is important to contact the school before 10am to let us know. We are legally required to check on children's whereabouts if they are not in school. The school office number is 01835 826533 or you can email us, edensideps@scotborders.gov.uk or use the Eduspot 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 throughout the 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**

Literacy

We will be learning to:
- Further develop our fine motor skills, e.g.
  - correct pencil grip
  - cutting out simple shapes
- prepare ourselves for reading through:
  -handling books correctly
  -responding appropriately to stories
- be aware of when to talk and when to listen
- explore sounds through a variety of active experiences
- to follow instructions

At home:
- talk about the sounds that words start with, e.g. 'sun' starts with the same sound as my name
- encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly (see overleaf)
- read to you child regularly, discussing the main events, characters and setting
- help your child to recognise and think of rhyming words, e.g. cat, hat, mat, sat

Numeracy and Mathematics

We will be learning to:
- say the numbers to 10 and beyond
- recognise the numbers to 10 and beyond out of sequence
- count objects accurately by touching each one once
- order numbers correctly
- look for patterns and shapes around us

At home:
- count often, forwards and backwards, e.g. when going up/down stairs
- practise counting everyday objects by touching each item in turn, e.g. pens, straws, sweets etc...
- encourage your child to say what '1 more than' a given number would be, e.g. There are 3 apples in the bowl, if there was 1 more how many would that be?
- look for and make patterns using different objects – food, stones, socks etc (see overleaf)

Health and Wellbeing

We will be learning to:
- share and play fairly with our peers
- show respect and care for others
- look after all belongings
- stay safe
- cope with our emotions

Physical Education - Spatial Awareness

We will be learning to:
- understand rules and routines within a PE lesson
- use and share space
- begin to perform movement skills
- control our bodies
- sustain levels of activity
- follow instructions
- focus

Secret Garden (Wednesdays)
This little special spot of nature is where the children can enjoy outdoor play and practise their gross and fine motor skills as well as their social skills. Please can you ensure that your child brings their wellies in a named bag to school. If you would prefer, they can leave them in school. Due to the weather being so changeable, 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 3rd Monday with Mrs Welch (PIBW starting 2nd September. PIW starting 9th September)

Little Reminders
- Please bring a filled water bottle every day
- Please bring Homework folder every day (even if empty!)



