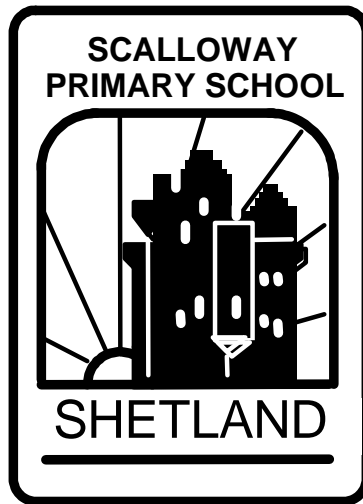


Welcome to



Scalloway Primary School

Starting School

2021-2022

Foreword

Dear Parent/Carer

Coming to school for the first time is a big step in a child's life. For some it is an exciting time, while others view it with a little apprehension. Parents too may feel a bit anxious and unsure of how their child will react to their new surroundings. We are here to make this transition a positive experience for you both.

This booklet has been produced to allay any fears you may have and to give you some insight into what goes on in our P1 class. **It should be read in conjunction with the School Brochure (available at www.scalloway.shetland.sch.uk), which contains comprehensive information about the whole school.**

I hope you will find this booklet both helpful and useful and I look forward to seeing you when you visit school. Please feel free to contact the school at any time if you have concerns, queries or wish additional information.

Yours sincerely,

Morag Fox

Mrs Morag Fox
Head Teacher

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Starting Dates and Times

Primary 1 pupils will begin school on **Wednesday 18th August 2021 at 9.00am.**

Primary 1 will attend full days from 9.00am until 3.15pm. Historically, P1 has begun as half days for the first two and a half weeks. A considerable number of children will have attended Nursery for full days already. However, should parents wish, they can collect their child at 12.45pm, following lunch for the first two and a half weeks.

Primary 1 will start their full time education on **Monday 6th September 2021.**

Morning Interval

Milk is available for all pupils and is brought to the classroom. Milk is payable by ParentPay, £1 per week. Staff supervise the children at play and they have their snack during their playtime. There will be no Tuck Shop initially when the Primary 1 pupil's start but when restrictions are lifted we anticipate this being available. Pupils take in money to buy healthy snacks.

School Lunches

School lunches will be in the canteen. They will be supervised and given assistance when required e.g. cutting up food however, this is a skill, which needs to be developed as soon as possible so that your child can be more independent. The menu is shared on the school website. Packed lunches are also eaten in the canteen.

Please let us know or update us, if your child requires a special diet or is allergic to certain foods - the canteen and appropriate staff will be informed.



How Can I Prepare My Child For School?

Your child will feel more independent if they can put on their jacket or change their shoes themselves and if they can go to the toilet unaided. However if this is not the case staff are always available to help.

Pupils are expected to tidy away toys when they have finished playing so some practice at this will help both yourself and the teacher.

Your child will settle into school more easily if they are used to being away from you for short periods of time. Most pupils have been at an Early Years Setting so are accustomed to coping.

Encourage them to look forward to starting school and be very positive in your outlook.

We have a school uniform that can help the children feel like they are coming to 'big' school. These are available from Intersport or through the website:

www.myclothing.com

School uniform is a great way to avoid the morning upsets over what to wear and is durable, washes well and looks smart.

What to get organised in the holidays:

- An art apron.
- A small drawstring bag with shorts, t-shirt and shoes for P.E. Please write your child's name on all of these.
- A water bottle



The First Day!

It is usual for parents/carers to accompany their children to school on the first day where they will be met outside by their teacher Mrs Sim. There will be a welcome board displayed for photos to be taken and then pupils will be invited into the classroom. Unfortunately, we are unable to have parents in the building due to COVID-19 and the risk assessments that we have in place.

If your child is upset, it is often easier to say a quick goodbye and leave them with the teacher.

On the first day children are given time to settle in and become more familiar with their surroundings. This gives the teacher and support staff a chance to get to know your child better and reinforce the new rules and routines that they are experiencing.

At morning interval children are supervised in the playground by our support staff. We encourage them to go out in most weathers so we ask that children come suitably dressed. When the weather is too bad to go outside then we have a range of toys and activities on offer indoors.

Children are provided with pencils, rubbers and crayons on their tables and are encouraged to keep any other items they bring to school in their tray.

You can pick your child up at 3.15pm outside in the playground. Or, if you choose, 12.45pm for the first two and a half weeks.

Children who start school are notoriously silent about what they do all day. When asked they might say, "I just played" so please ask if you want to find out more!



What Happens at School?

The Primary Curriculum is made up of Literacy, Maths & Numeracy, Social Studies, Expressive Arts, Health and Wellbeing, Technologies, Sciences and Religious and Moral Education.

Your child will encounter all of these areas at an early stage, mostly through topics and will gradually begin to acquire the skills and concepts involved. In this booklet you will get a very simple outline of some of the early learning activities which take place when a child starts school.

At the start of each term your child will take home their learning overview to share with you. Within this you will receive curriculum information relating to each term and the areas of work your child will be learning about.

Your child will be taught by specialist music, art and PE teachers once a week. They will have an additional PE lesson with their class teacher once a week. In term 4, your child will have a 6-week block of swimming lessons. The days on which each of these classes takes place will be noted in the front of your child's Homework Diary at the start of the term.

Active Learning

Active learning is learning which engages and challenges children's thinking using real-life and imaginary situations. It takes full advantage of the opportunities presented by:

- spontaneous play
- planned, purposeful play
- investigating and exploring
- events and life experiences
- focused learning and teaching

Emerging Literacy

As part of the Northern Alliance, Scalloway School have made a commitment to the Highland Emerging Literacy Programme. This focuses on Early reading and writing skills and developing these important building blocks fully.

The main areas that it focusses on are:

Phonological awareness, oral language, concepts of print and fine motor skills. More information will be given on this as we go through the year.

Reading

The core reading books we use in school are from the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme. Before any books are taken home children will learn the letter sounds. The first books your child will bring home may just have pictures only and no text. These are for discussion so encourage your child to look at the pictures and talk about what is there. Also, he/she might try to guess what happens next. As your child learns more sounds and begins to blend those sounds together they will take home books with text.

Pages to be 'read' will be noted in your child's homework diary along with any other homework. There is space here for you to make any comments should you wish.

You will soon become familiar with all of the sounds as the class make their way through Jolly Phonics. This is taught in an order that best equips children to start making and reading short words very quickly. **If you are discussing letters, please use their sounds not their names, e.g. 'a' as in apple.**

Writing

It is not necessary for your child to be able to write his name before he/she comes to school but if you wish to teach him, please help him to form his letters correctly. There will be a lot of work developing the children's fine motor skills and muscles for writing before they are expected to be able to write independently. We encourage mark making of any sort and then as the muscles develop and the child's pencil grip is correct then they will be introduced to the correct formations and asked to think about the size of their writing. This is part of the Emerging Literacy programme.

Numeracy/Mathematics

At first most of the maths done will be of a practical nature: sorting, matching, counting etc. Computers, laptops and ipads are used in these early activities to help the children gain understanding. It will be some time before they begin to do 'sums'. P1 use a scheme called Scottish Heinemann Mathematics, to support all the work required for this stage and is in line with the Curriculum for Excellence Outcomes for Mathematics, along with the practical methods.

French

The Scottish Government's policy, "Language Learning in Scotland: A 1+2 Approach" is aimed at ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn a modern language from P1 onwards. P1 French will be integrated into classroom vocabulary, play contexts and topic work.

The two languages introduced, in addition to English, are French and Shetland Dialect. We will also be continuing Sign-a-long with the children, which is a form of British Sign Language that has been introduced in early Years and at Preschool.

Health and Wellbeing

As part of the Health and Wellbeing programme, Circle Time has been introduced to promote self-esteem, self-discipline and a sense of responsibility towards others. The Golden Rules, which accompany this approach, form the basis of our behaviour policy. These Rules are displayed in class and throughout the school and we would encourage you to discuss them with your child from time to time. A spin-off from this is 'Golden Time' which all pupils are awarded each week but can be lost if they break the Golden Rules. This is very popular with pupils and is a great incentive to good behaviour.

We as a whole school are part of a mindfulness programme called Do BeMindful. It involves a weekly lesson on mindfulness and then daily practice where the children are asked to 'zip up' their mindful body and listen to a singing bowl for a minute. It gives them time to stop and process a busy day.

We also have a Breakfast Club that has been subsidised by our Pupil Equity Funding and is offered to Primary 1's twice a week in the Home Room. There will be information on the days that the P1 children can attend to follow in August. (This has been put on hold due to Covid restrictions. We hope to start Breakfast Club again as soon as we can.)

Questions You Might Have

What information should I give the school?

You have already completed an enrolment form for your child beginning P1, but please update the school at any time should you or your child's details change. Please also keep the school updated/informed of any medical needs. There may be relevant information regarding family circumstances which you may feel would be in your child's best interests to pass on in confidence to the school.

How do I get information from school?

All pupils will be issued with a School Diary. It is designed to be used for 2-way communication between teacher and parent, so feel free to use it. It is also used for details of homework. Most information comes to you by e-mail or schoolbag post. Please check regularly for letters or other information in your child's bag, diary or e-mail. Teachers are usually available from 3.15 till 3.30 pm and can be contacted then. If possible, it is preferred that an appointment is made.

How do I find out how my child is progressing?

Parents evening happens in Term 2 and there will be an end of year report in Term 4. There is also a Learning Journey evening where parents can visit the classroom with their child in Term 3. If you wish an additional update on how your child is doing then please ask the teacher for an appointment.

What happens if my child is absent?

If your child is absent from school, please phone the school (743777) by 9.30am. If you know in advance that your child requires leave of absence from school, please ask for a form at the school office. Family holidays taken during term time are recorded as unauthorised parental holidays.

If your child has a sickness bug then please be advised that they need to remain at home for 48 hours after the last time they were sick to limit the spread of infection.

If your child turns ill at school we will contact you so that you can collect your child. If you are not available then your emergency contact will be notified. It is therefore very important that your contact is someone who is usually on hand and is willing to have your child if you are not at home if he/she turns ill at school or if the school closes early in an emergency e.g. snow. If your child is involved in an accident, which needs immediate medical attention, he/she will be taken to the doctor's surgery or hospital and you will be notified as soon as possible.

