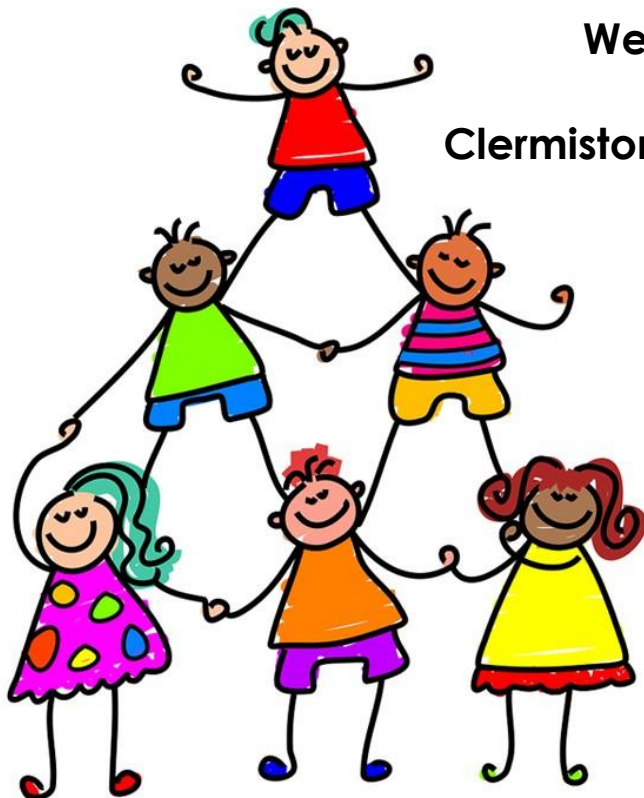


# CLERMISTON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Welcome  
To  
Clermiston Primary School

Starting Primary One  
August 2021



STARTING SCHOOL  
BOOKLET

AUGUST 2021

# Welcome to Clermiston Primary

We are delighted to be welcoming you and your child into our school. We recognise that this is a very exciting time (although with some added nerves sometimes) for you and your child. Our school vision at Clermiston is that everyone should be supported and challenged to be the best that they can be. This means you and your child, and we are committed to providing the best care and education possible. The first steps into school can be a little daunting, but our staff team are looking forward to nurturing and developing your children to help them to be confident in school and successful in their learning. We hope that you find the information in this booklet useful and that you will find ways to get involved and support the school. I look forward to working with you all over the coming years.

Gordon McIntyre  
Head Teacher



For further information, we will be hosting a virtual P1 information evening on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June from 4-5pm. You will receive an invitation by email. This year, we are also launching a transition Twitter account: **@ClermistonP1**

Please follow us to find out about P1 at Clermiston, meet the teachers and some pupils, and ask some questions. We also have a comprehensive website, which provides school information throughout the year: [www.clermiston.edin.sch.uk](http://www.clermiston.edin.sch.uk) and you can follow the school on Twitter **@ClermistonPS**

Each year many parents have questions to ask about their child starting school. We have tried to list some of the most common questions and hope the answers will help you with this important step in your child's schooling.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What skills can I try and ensure that my child develops so that he/she is able to operate as independently as possible in Primary 1?**



1. The ability to recognise his/her name and coat and to put it on without assistance.
2. The ability to fasten zips, buttons and laces.
3. The ability to go to the toilet on their own, wash their hands properly and deal with their clothing as necessary.

### **If I have a worry or query about my child and the school, what should I do?**

Please do not hesitate to contact the school and an appointment will be made to speak to either the teacher or the headteacher. We also hold two parents' evenings per school session when you will be able to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher. In addition to this we have open days and a variety of other school events each year for you to join in with the life of the school.

### **What should my child bring in his/her school bag?**



1. An overall for painting. (This can be an old shirt or an adult t-shirt.)
2. A gym bag containing black gym shoes, shorts and a t-shirt.



### **Who looks after my child in the playground?**

Adult supervision is provided in the playground during breaktime and lunchtime by Pupil Support Assistants. P1 classes play in the infant playground. Some P7 pupils are also given the responsibility of buddying to support the children with their play.



### **What should I do if my child is ill or unable to come to school?**

Please phone the school as soon as possible on **336 3361** and inform us on the first day of absence. When your child can return to school please also send a short note with them explaining their absence. The school office will phone you if a reason for absence has not been given.

### **What and how will my child be taught?**



Early in the term, you will be invited to attend a (possible virtual) meeting where the P1 teachers will talk to you about the curricular programmes and approaches that are used in school. The homework system will also be explained and you will be shown books and various activities which your child might participate in. You will also have the opportunity to ask any questions related to the curriculum. Information will also be sent home at the beginning of each term to inform you about current areas of learning for your child's class. Once settled into P1, each child will be given a log in which will allow them to access their class 'Team' online. Homework will be posted here and there are opportunities for children to ask their teacher if they are unclear about anything.

### **What about school uniform?**

As preparations get underway for August you may wish to order school uniform. Ordering can be done online and you can do so by using this link:



[Border Embroideries Clermiston Page](#)

There is also a new Border Embroideries shop in Dundee Street, Fountainbridge if you prefer to shop in person.

Our main focus for pupil uniform is on school sweatshirts and polo shirts. We do not insist on more formal trousers, skirts or shiny shoes. There is no expectation that children wear a school tie, but you are of course able to have this option if you choose. We have a very active play area with grass, dirt and mud, and we try to get children out for exercise in almost all weathers so we strongly advise parents and carers to take this into account when selecting clothes for school. A school polo-shirt, school jumper and jogging bottoms or dress/skirt is ideal.

All P1 pupils will be issued with a homework bag in school colours with school logo. This is very kindly provided by our Parent Council.

### **Should children bring a playtime snack?**

We are a health promoting school and ask that all children bring a healthy snack to school. The snack can be brought in your child's school bag or in their lunch box. We ask that new P1 pupils only bring one item to eat eg. a piece of fruit, a biscuit or a packet of crisps. We have many children with nut allergies and ask for parents' cooperation in ensuring that no snacks containing nuts are brought to school.



### **What should I do if my child wants school meals?**



Pupils may bring a packed lunch to school or they may have a school meal. There is no charge for P1 – P3 school lunches, however you will need to register with ParentPay to record lunches. Information about this will be given once your child starts in P1.

Lunches need to be recorded by midnight on the Wednesday for the following week's lunches. If you do not record the lunches on ParentPay then a packed lunch should be supplied by yourselves.



### What should I do if my child wants milk?

School milk is available and milk money is collected at stated times throughout the year. Please note no refunds are given in the event of absence from school. Money should be paid through ParentPay as soon as possible. Pupils in receipt of free school meals are entitled to free milk. For session 2021/2022 the payment dates are shown below:

Payment due	Period covered	Amount
As soon as possible	18.08.21 – 30.06.22	£32.30
<b>Alternatively, parents may if they wish pay in 2 instalments as follows:</b>		
As soon as possible	18.08.21 – 31.12.21	£13.95
Wednesday 4 December	03.01.22 – 30.06.22	£18.60

### Classroom drinks

Pupils can drink water in the classroom and your child should come to school with a named water bottle. This can be refilled from water fountains in the school. Apart from milk at milk time, other drinks are not allowed in the classroom. Children can have some fruit juice in their lunch box, but fizzy or high sugar content drinks are not allowed in school.



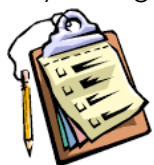
### What if my child needs any medication?

Pupils sometimes need medication to be administered at school. Please fill in a form at the office for your child's requirements. We are not able to administer medication if we do not have signed permission or if it does not come in regulation packaging.



### What if there is any change in my family circumstances?

Any change in family circumstances may sometimes result in a change in your child's behaviour at school or indeed in a change in the standard of work being produced. It is therefore important that we are made aware of any change in circumstances in order that the teacher can deal with it appropriately. **It is very important that the school be notified of any change in address/telephone number in the event we need to contact parents.**



### Where can I drop my child off for school?

If dropping off or picking up your children by car please be aware of the restrictions on the roads surrounding the school.



Please note that there is no access to Parkgrove Place and Parkgrove Terrace between

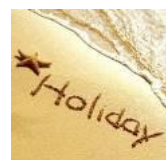
**8:20am to 9:00am and 2:50pm to 3:30pm Mon to Thurs**

**8:20am to 9:00am and 12:10pm to 12:40pm Fri**

It is essential that you **do not park on the double yellow lines or zig zag lines.** Please also take care not to block any resident's driveway. We are very keen to promote the school's reputation for consideration and safety and ask parents who need to drive to park one or two streets away and take a short walk at drop off and collection times.

Can I also remind all parents and carers that the school car park is for school staff only and is not to be used for picking up or dropping off pupils. Unauthorised use of the car park presents a real danger to our pupils and we hope that all drivers will help keep our pupils safe by staying clear of the car park and the entrance to the car park.

### What about taking my child off on holiday during the school term?



Permission is needed for holidays in term time and a letter requesting this must be sent to the Head Teacher. The school does not authorise absence without a valid reason and does not provide work for pupils whose parents choose to holiday during

term time. We ask all parents and carers to ensure that any holidays are taken during the school holiday period.

### Are there any other ways I can be involved in my child's schooling?

Yes! We are very lucky at Clermiston to have a Parent Council which is very active and gives the school huge support in many ways. Look out for regular letters from the Parent Council. They also have access to the school website which they update on a regular basis. They inform the life and work of the school and have a highly active and successful fund-raising function.



### How am I kept informed of any meetings and events in school?

Through regular monthly newsletters and letters from school. These are sent via ParentPay. The Parent Pay system simply the school to send any information to your email address, thus limiting the amount of paper copies being sent out. **We strongly encourage all parents to sign up for our ParentPay system.** An activation code and password will be issued to you once your child starts school. There is also a school website for information.



At Clermiston Primary we are fortunate to have many after school clubs and a Breakfast Club which operate five days a week during term time, details are as follows:



- After School Club - Gillian Dick, Telephone No. 336 1855 or 07541 268630
- Oscars after school club – Samantha Graham - 07786 977586
- Leaps and Bounds after school club – 339 1490

- Breakfast Club – Jude Walsh, [jude.in.edinburgh@gmail.com](mailto:jude.in.edinburgh@gmail.com) or 07952 687955



### When does my child start school?

Pupils return to school on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August. Further information and specific times will be given following our P1 information meeting.

On the first morning you should line up with your child at their entrance door. There will be school staff and parents to help direct you. Class teachers will collect pupils in lines and take them into their new classroom to start their school journey! Please do not worry if your child is a little upset on their first day. This is perfectly natural and our staff are highly experienced and skilled at settling pupils. Similarly, please don't be upset if your child marches in without so much as a backward look or wave – this too is perfectly natural! After school, parents should gather in the same place, taking care to leave space for classes to come out. Our teachers only release pupils from the line when they have established contact with the parent or carer collecting them that day.

All pupils in P1 are brought to school and collected from school by an adult. Please let the teacher know if another adult will be collecting your child.



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**One final request! Please name all clothing articles and everything else your child brings to school. This really helps with any lost property issues.**

