

 Welcome  
 To Our School

St Nicholas' Primary



Primary 1
Curriculum Booklet
for Parents

Welcome To Our School



Welcome to Primary 1 in St Nicholas' Primary. The purpose of this booklet is to provide you with information about the curriculum your child will cover during their time in Primary 1 and to inform you of the day-to-day routines. The Primary 1 teachers are looking forward to working closely with you to ensure that your child receives a motivating and exciting first year in school.

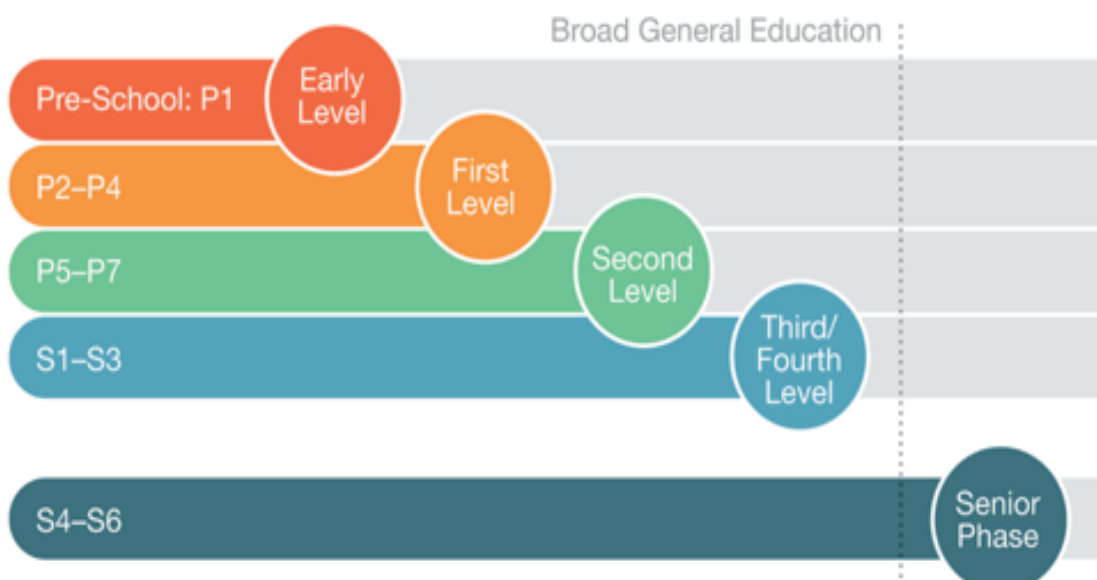
curriculum for excellence



The 3-18 curriculum aims to ensure that all children and young people in Scotland develop the attributes, knowledge and skills they will need to flourish in life, learning and work.

The knowledge, skills and attributes learners will develop will allow them to demonstrate four key capacities- **to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.**

Curriculum for excellence defines **five levels of learning** as outlined below. Most children are expected to follow through the levels which reflect the age of the children. Some children will start learning at these levels earlier and others later depending upon individual needs and aptitudes. The framework is however designed to be flexible in order to permit careful planning for those with additional support needs and those who are particularly able or talented.

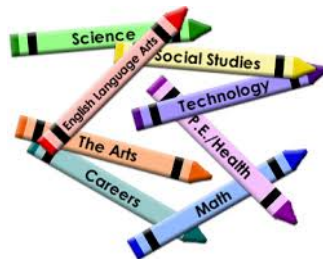
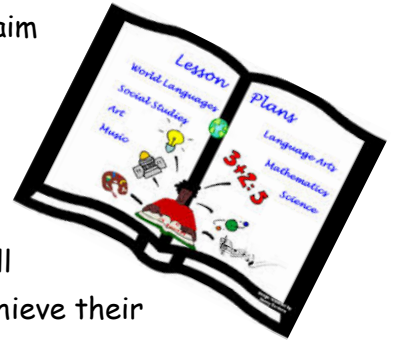




Curriculum

How do we plan the curriculum in St Nicholas' Primary?

Teaching and learning is the core purpose of our work in school. Our aim is to ensure the children develop in their learning. Staff, plan pupils' learning to ensure it is challenging, engaging and motivating. All our children will experience continuous progression in their learning within the C.F.E. framework. Each stage will build upon earlier knowledge and achievements. Learners of all aptitudes and abilities will experience an appropriate level of challenge, enabling each child to achieve their potential. They will be active in their learning and have opportunities to develop and demonstrate their creativity.



Topics and themes are used to deliver the curriculum objectives in a creative and relevant format. Some lessons are delivered in a cross-curricular way to enable children to use the skills they learn in other subject areas. First hand learning activities, including educational visits and visitors, are used to ensure the children are engaged in effective and dynamic learning. Whilst recognising the importance of maintaining high attainment, we strive to celebrate the many achievements that our pupils are involved in across varied activities.



Learning through Play or '**Play 2 Learn**' is the pedagogy adopted in Primary One. Building the Curriculum 2, the guidance paper for active learning in the early years, advocates the need for

- ▶ Spontaneous play
- ▶ Planned and purposeful play
- ▶ Investigating and exploring
- ▶ Events and life experiences
- ▶ Focused learning and teaching



Through excellent teaching of Learning through Play, we aim to ensure that every child achieves the highest standards in learning across the curriculum, with a particular focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well Being.

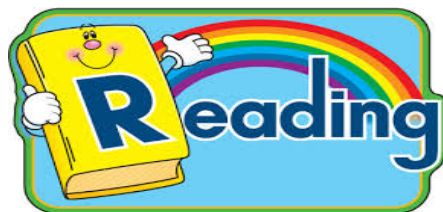
"We want Scotland to be the be the best place to grow up. A nation which values play as a life-enhancing daily experience for all our children and young people; in their homes, early learning and childcare settings, schools and communities."

Scotland's Play Strategy Vision (2016)

Why Play?

- ▶ Play develops a learning culture. It is the most natural way for children to be able to talk about learning and thinking (metacognition).
- ▶ Play develops and enhances children's natural curiosity and social and emotional development.
- ▶ Play raises children's expectations as a learner, promotes critical thinking and enhances skills for learning, life and work.
- ▶ Play develops a positive attitude and growth mind-set.
- ▶ Play raises a positive self-image and self-awareness and offers choice to children.
- ▶ Play allows children to develop real life experiences and transfer skills whilst working co-operatively with others.





We value the support we receive from parents and we are sure that with your help and continued interest the children will experience a very fulfilling Primary 1.



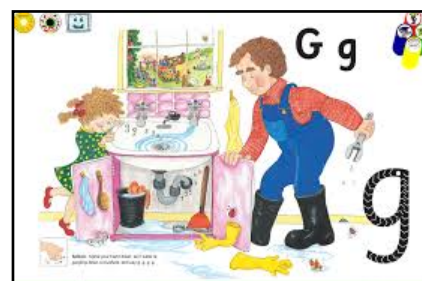
How is reading taught?

In Primary 1 reading is taught in a variety of ways including **phonics sessions**, **individual reading** with the class teacher, **whole class shared reading** with the teacher, **guided work in small groups** and lastly during **story time**.



In St Nicholas' Primary we use **Jolly Phonics** which uses the synthetic phonics method of teaching the letter sounds in a way that is fun and multi-sensory. Children learn how to use the letter sounds to read and write words.

Parental support is important to all children as they benefit from plenty of praise and encouragement whilst learning.



Shared Reading



This is **whole class reading**, usually using a text shared by the whole class. These sessions are led by the teacher who will model reading aloud for the children, and will ask questions about the text. The teacher will also encourage the children to think of the different types of questions they can ask about the text to find answers or information.





Group Reading -Reading Books

The sight vocabulary for **Bug Club** is carefully introduced. **Acquiring a sight vocabulary is important** and words must be taught in a context. Sight vocabulary is also reinforced in games, worksheets, online activities and **the word books that come home for practice.**



As children progress they will read books in a group, often with children of similar ability to themselves. In addition to checking the children's understanding, the teacher will ask questions about the purpose, layout and structure of the text. As the children progress through the school, this provides an important opportunity for children **to develop higher order reading skills.**



Storytime

Story time develops the child's listening skills, extends their vocabulary and understanding of story language; but more importantly gets them interested in reading books! Stories can broaden a child's understanding of different environments and they can learn about feelings by hearing or guessing how characters in a book felt. **Listening to a story** also increases a child's attention span as they learn to sit quietly for a period of time.

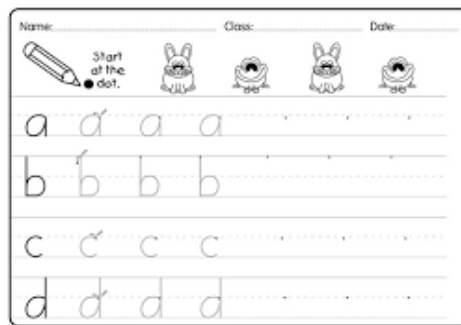




In order to **be ready to write**, children need to have developed hand skills. This means they need to have the strength and dexterity to handle, and control, small objects with their hands. But, they will also need to develop the muscles in their forearm and upper body to provide the strength and stability that will allow them to use their hands to manipulate and control writing instruments.

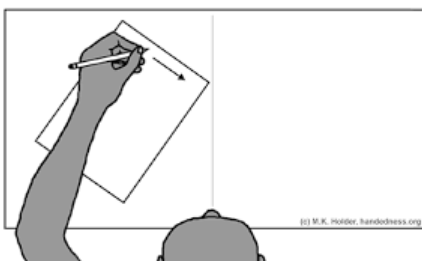
Pre-writing activities such as painting, colouring, tracing, cutting with scissors and opportunities to work with Play-Doh helps develop finger and hand strength and control.

Children will be encouraged to practice handwriting skills in play activities at writing tables and in **handwriting lessons**.



The ultimate aim is for your child to develop a good handwriting style which means;

- They can produce and maintain a good speed
- Have a fluid hand movement that is comfortable
- Letters are of a consistent and appropriate size, positioned correctly
- Handwriting is legible (so others can read it easily).



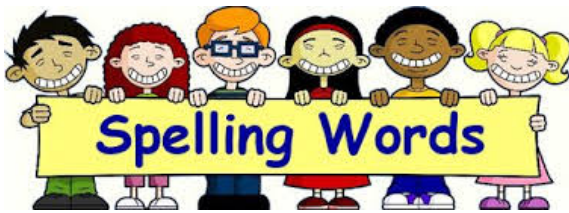
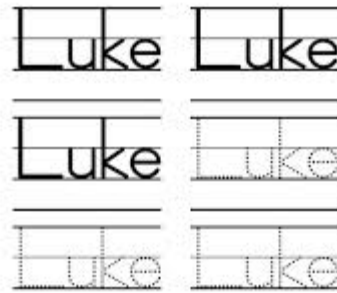
Young children may not favour one hand over the other; however, when they do settle on their **right or left hand** we will support left handed children with strategies such as the position of the paper; position of the arm and wrist, and the grip on the pencil.



Encourage your child to write at home. Involve them when writing cards to friends, ask them to help write shopping lists, or write labels.

Please help your child write their names with a capital letter at the beginning and the rest in lower case.

Name: _____ Date: _____



The best way for your child to practise their handwriting is through their weekly spellings.

This could be writing out the spellings using 'Look, Say, Cover, Write and Check' or placing the spelling in a sentence.

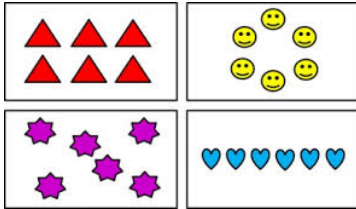
a	can	I	go
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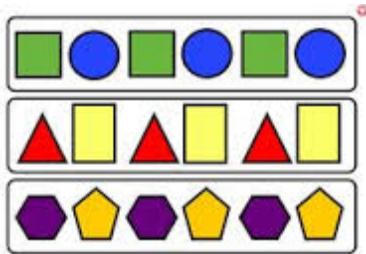
Magnetic boards are very useful in helping children practise phonic patterns and spellings.

Numeracy

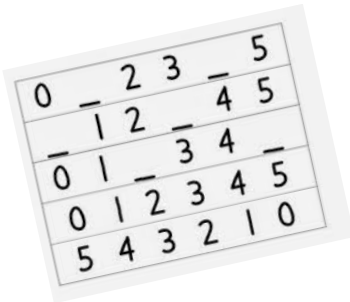
The Primary 1 classroom is busy with numbers, colours and shapes on wall displays, in games and activities.



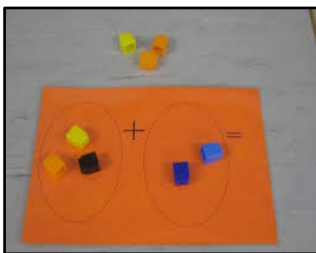
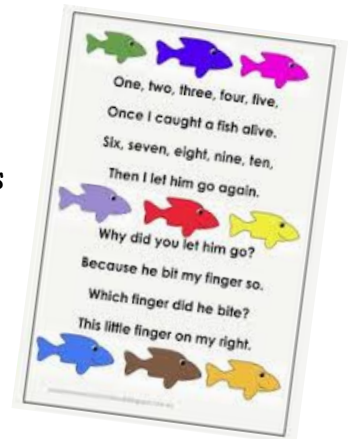
The children will be **sorting objects** by shape, colour or type. Moving onto recognising sets of numbers up to 6 without counting the objects. Extending children's counting skills to enable them to count up to ten objects, accurately.



They will complete and **make patterns** of increasing difficulty with shapes and numbers.

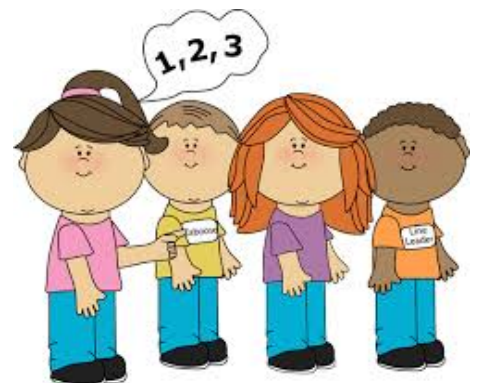
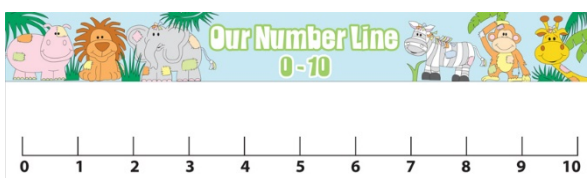


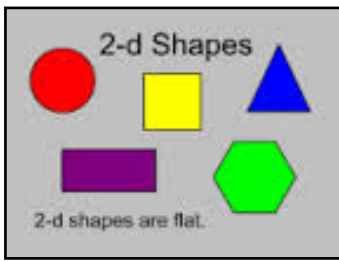
Ordering numbers is an important skill that allows children to understand the relationship between numbers and how the number system works.



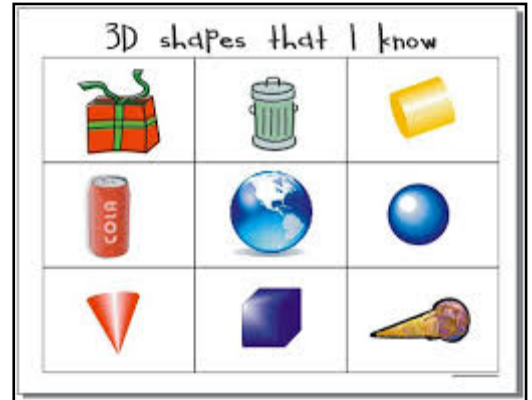
Using **concrete materials** children will understand the meaning of **addition** by working with objects. Children continue to use physical resources that they can touch, move, sort and count, for as long as it helps them to understand the calculations they are doing.

Children learn about **subtraction** from an early stage, by "taking away" from groups of items. They will **count back** on number lines and number tracks, and begin to explore the idea of the difference between two numbers.





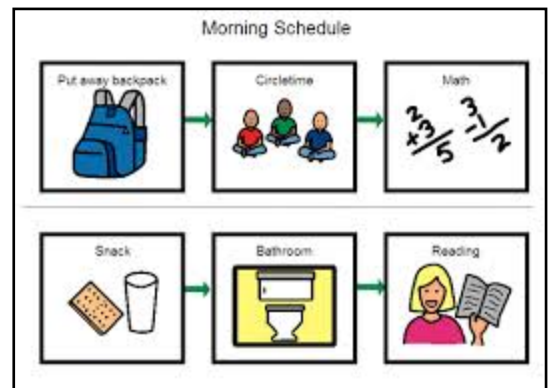
Children in maths and art and craft activities will investigate the properties of 2D and 3D shapes



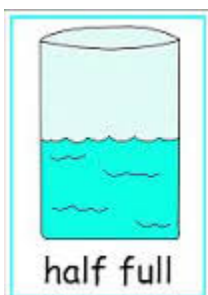
They will be able to sequence the days of the week and recognise the months of the year and seasons.



They will use clocks to record the o'clock time and become aware of the routines and sequence of the class day.



In play activities and topic related work children will be introduced to a range of coins and understand their value. They will have opportunities to measure and weigh.





We will continue to build on the work of home and nursery and teach the children how to **share** and **take turns** so that they can **co-operate** well with other children and adults and **form relationships**. Sharing is a difficult skill to learn and one that has to be modelled clearly and consistently before children will do it independently.



Encourage your child to resolve situations by having a **dialogue** and refrain from using physical strength. While, support staff monitor the playground, sometimes small incidents can occur which upset a child. If you have any concerns we will always be happy to investigate or explain what has happened.

RESILIENCE



It is important that children **develop a positive attitude to learning** that will continue with them during their time at school and throughout life. We will encourage the children to engage in a range of different activities that will **motivate them to make choices, develop curiosity and extend concentration**.

The children will continue to **develop an awareness of their needs, views and feelings** and also **consider the needs, views and feelings of others**. We will teach them to understand a range of emotions and how to express them appropriately through circle time activities in class the school's positive behaviour reward scheme and school assemblies.



Homework

Children will start bringing home their **Jolly Phonics sounds** from the first week! It is important that you regularly practice the sounds with them. They will then move onto **word jotters** which will have the sight vocabulary from *Bug Club* to practice at home. There will also be the option of completing online Bug Club activities for homework, your child will be provided with information on how to access this. In time there will be other homework, including **reading books and some online number homework!**



Class teachers will send out covering letters explaining the homework procedure but if you are ever unclear or there is a problem with homework please contact the class teacher.



As a **Catholic School** we value our links with the Parishes of St Andrews' in Bearsden and St. Joseph's in Milngavie. The Parish Priests Father Mackle and Father Currie offer us great support in holding **Mass** in the school on Holydays of Obligation. We also have a **yearly calendar of prayer services and special services** to which you are most welcome to attend.



Throughout the year there will be opportunities for you to visit the classroom and take part in **workshops**. You will be invited to join your children in **prayer services** and to see them in school events.



The school welcomes partnership with parents and welcome your help in classroom activities, school trips and in the wider life of the school as a helper in the school library, a member of the PTA or Parent Council.

We hope you find this booklet helpful but if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Grogan or Mrs Murray.