



Integrated Children's and Family Services

St Peter's RC Primary School

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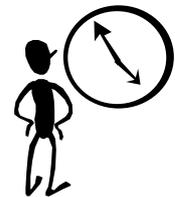
Information for Parents

www.st-peters.aberdeen.sch.uk



We are looking forward to welcoming your child to our school. This booklet has been produced to answer some of the questions that are frequently asked. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any other questions.

What are the school times?



School starts	Playtime	P1 Lunchtime	P2 – P7 Lunchtime	P1 Hometime	P2 – P7 Hometime
9am	10.30am – 10.45am	12.15 – 1.00 pm	12 noon – 1.00pm	3pm	3.15pm

P1 start at 9am and finish at 3pm.

What does my child need to take to school?



A schoolbag



Gym shoes to wear in the classroom and gym hall



A gym bag with dark shorts and a school PE T-shirt



An old shirt or apron to be left in school for art and craft activities.

A coat, preferably with a hood, so that the children can play outdoors.

Pencils, jotters and all art materials are provided by the school.

We also provide a bookbag with the school logo. The bag is only for books and home-school communication. The bookbag is provided when your child starts school.



Where can I buy uniform?

Polo shirts and sweatshirts or cardigans with the school logo can be ordered from the school office or online. A uniform order is sent from school at the end of May and at the end of August.

You can order online at any time – www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com
Search for St Peter's **Aberdeen**.



Please note that our school colour is **BLUE**. The polo shirts are light blue and the sweatshirts are dark blue.

Dark trousers (grey, black or dark blue) and plain pale blue polo shirts can be bought in supermarkets and department stores.



Grey, black or dark blue skirts or pinafores can also be worn. In summer, blue gingham dresses can be worn.

Sensible footwear for outdoors should be provided please. Black shoes are best for most of the year.

Jeans, leggings or brightly coloured tights should not be worn in school.

A clothing grant is available for families in receipt of certain benefits. Please ask for a form at the office.

Please remember to put your child's name on all clothing, lunchboxes and school bags.

What happens on the first day?

Please bring your child to the office at **9.15am**. You will be taken to the classroom to meet the teacher. The teacher will greet your child, show them where to put their things and introduce them to a pupil in their class who will be their "buddy" and help them to learn routines.

Parents are understandably keen to see that their child seems at ease in their new surroundings. We find that the children settle easily as long as their parents are happy to leave them in the capable hands of their teachers. Please try to adopt a positive approach. You are welcome to phone the school later in the morning to be reassured about your child's welfare.

What usually happens at the beginning of the day?

There is a free Breakfast Club available **from 8.15am** and children should not be dropped off before this time as there is no supervision available. Most children arrive around 8.45am and wait in the playground for the whistle to be blown at 8.55am. Then all children line up with other members of their class and class teachers come out to lead them into school.

What happens when the weather is bad?



If it is very cold or wet, children can go to the hall when they arrive at school. Please do not send children to school before 8.45am when the weather is poor (unless they are attending Breakfast Club).

Where can I park my car?



We share our school site with the Aberdeen Scientific Services Lab and the City and Regional Archivists. **There is no parking for parents.** Green walkways have been provided to indicate the safe routes into school for pedestrians. Parents are encouraged to “park and stride.” There is ample free parking in Don Street on the way to Seaton Park or in the Lidl supermarket carpark.

It is crucial that parents do not try to walk their children to school past the entrances to the Science Labs as delivery vans make frequent visits and need to reverse in this area.

Authorised school transport vehicles (minibuses and taxis) and disabled drivers are allowed to park in the area beside the green paths. They must drive **VERY SLOWLY**. Thank you for your co-operation in creating a safer environment for all the children.

Where can I find Lost Property?

We encourage pupils to be responsible but, if your child loses anything, please come to look on the Lost Property trolley in the lobby area of the school. Many garments are never reclaimed! Parents are encouraged to search lost property themselves after 3.15pm any day. **Remember, clearly-labelled clothing is less likely to be lost.**

Do children take a playpiece or snack?

You may send **fruit** for your child to enjoy after playtime. We are a health-promoting school. Milk is provided for all children in P1 every day.



Do you have playground supervisors?

Our Pupil Support Assistants (PSAs) supervise the children during morning break and at lunchtime. They are trained in First Aid and can deal with any minor scrapes and bumps. The headteacher is always informed of accidents and incidents and will contact parents about any concerns.



We have a P1 – P3 Playground Improvement Group that meets regularly to suggest and implement improvements eg zoned areas, toys, sandpit..... Our Pupil Council comprises P4 – P7 pupils who can discuss ways to make our playground a happy place. Older pupils run some games and activities. Pupil Support Assistants meet weekly with the Headteacher to discuss playground safety and general welfare. Routines are adapted and rules are reinforced as necessary to deal with changing circumstances.

Who will look after my child at playtime?



We assign children from P6 or P7 to look after each new P1 child for the first few weeks at playtime. Their “buddies” help them to learn playground games and make friends. Children who join the school in other classes are also assigned buddies, often from within their own class.

What happens at lunchtime?

Most children stay for school lunch or packed lunch. We do not have a kitchen on site but our school meals are delivered from the Seaton kitchen. Menus are sent home and are also available on the school website and playground noticeboard. Three well-balanced choices are offered each day. The children sit with their friends to eat and our PSAs supervise them, helping them to peel fruit, take lids off yogurt pots etc.

Children in P1 – P3 can receive free school meals every day. There are no forms to complete for this. Many of our families are eligible for free school meals from P4 onwards. Forms and information are available from our school office or http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/education_learning/schools/scc_Meals.asp
If you are eligible for free school meals, please apply for them. Each registration for free school meals releases £1200 from the government’s Pupil Equity Fund directly to our school.

How is money collected for trips?

We minimise the additional cost to families but sometimes we have to ask for a contribution towards school trips. If children need to bring in money for a trip, you will receive a letter with full details of the amount required and a request for it to be paid by a certain date. Please send in money in a sealed envelope with your child's name and class on it. Payment by cheque is always acceptable. Cheques should be made payable to 'St Peter's RC Primary School'. *If payment is a problem, please speak in confidence to the headteacher so that we can work something out.*



St Peter's is a Catholic school. What does that mean?

As a Catholic school, we have a mission to develop as a community of faith and learning. This means that we offer the Curriculum for Excellence, teaching all curricular areas and developing the children's capacities as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors. We do this in the context of shared Christian values and using "This is our Faith" and "God's Loving Plan" to deliver the RE curriculum and aspects of relationships education within the Health and Wellbeing curriculum.



All classes have an altar / sacred space as a focus for daily prayers and our school chaplain visits classrooms and celebrates Mass in school on feast days and special occasions.

If parents wish, we can support the children with sacramental preparation, working closely with the parishes. In Aberdeen, children usually receive the sacraments at the following stages:

- P3 Reconciliation (Confession)
- P4 First Holy Communion
- P7 Confirmation

What if my child is ill?

If children appear unwell in the morning, please DO NOT send them to school. **Please phone the school to explain the absence** and follow this up with a written note when your child returns to school. If a child becomes unwell at school, we will contact the parent. If they are not available, we will phone the nominated emergency contact. **It is essential that the office is kept informed of changes to phone numbers, addresses and details of emergency contacts.**



In cases involving sickness and/or diarrhoea, we have been advised that children should be kept at home for 48 hours after the sickness has stopped in order to stop the spread of infection. We appreciate your co-operation in this.

How will I know what goes on at school?

Parents are understandably eager to hear how well their children are settling in school. Class teachers bring the children out to the playground at the end of the school day and pass on any important information.



- *Some children tell their parents everything that happens during the day and other parents hear nothing from their child. Take your cue from your child. If they're bursting with news as they come out, please listen to them. Sometimes children are tired and hungry and in no mood to share news. If you wait until later in the evening and ask them to **tell** you about their day (eg "Tell me about the story you heard today? What's the sound this week?") your child may respond better. You know your child best!*
- *The Reading / Homework Diary is also used as an informal method of communication for parents and teacher to exchange information.*
- *Almost all class teachers make very good use of our school website, uploading news and photos regularly to inform parents and encourage conversations about learning.*
- *This session we have been using the 'Marvellous Me' app to share information about children's learning and achievement. You will receive information about the simple process to register for 'Marvellous Me' messages when your child starts school.*

Please do not hesitate to contact the school by letter, e-mail or phone call if you have questions or concerns. The headteacher and depute headteacher are available at the beginning and end of almost every school day to listen to any issues.

A "meet the teacher" evening will be arranged early in the session (usually in September) to tell you about the curriculum, i.e. reading, maths, language, play etc.



You will receive a written report on your child's progress after Easter and this will be followed by an opportunity for an individual interview with the class teacher in May.

School newsletters keep parents informed of school news, developments, successes and difficulties. Information on class outings, social events and dates for your diaries are all included. The newsletters are also available from the school office and full colour versions are placed on the school website.

Please read the newsletters and check the website regularly for information about events in school. We also use Groupcall texts to let parents know about upcoming events.

Why does my child have different teachers?

As well as the class teachers, we benefit from specialist teachers who work with all the children.

- Mr Dawson, our music teacher, comes on Mondays.
- Mrs Hutton, our drama teacher, comes on some Wednesdays.
- Mr Horton, Catholic Church Choral Director, comes on Fridays.
- Mrs Mair and Mrs Foubister, specialist teachers of English as an Additional Language, work in our school on Wednesdays to support many of our learners.



All full-time class teachers have 2.5 hours of non-contact time and, during this time, we have well-qualified teachers who cover particular aspects of the curriculum. For example, Miss Irvin and Mrs Duncan focus on Art and Literacy.

Does the school use schemes for reading, writing and maths?

We believe in an Active approach to literacy and maths and a variety of strategies are used to engage the children. The children learn the sounds of letters using Jolly Phonics and Active Literacy methods. We use Rigby Star and Big Cat readers in the early stages and children then move on to read Project X and novels. As they gain confidence, they learn to reflect on their reading through tackling a range of Reflective Reading tasks, working as 'Book Detectives' and completing Accelerated Reader quizzes about the books they have read.

We are also fortunate to have well-stocked library corners in every classroom with bright new books that promote reading for enjoyment. A good variety of non-fiction books are also available for the children to borrow.



. Scottish Heinemann Active Maths is the core Maths scheme.

Will my child get homework?

All children get homework appropriate to their needs. Class teachers send out information early in the term about the type of tasks that will be set and about when homework will be set and collected. In addition, we expect children to take their Reading Books home for regular reading practice with parents. Parents are asked to sign and write feedback in homework jotters and reading records.

How can I get involved with the school?

If you are free to help during the school day, we are always pleased to welcome parent helpers to assist in the library, on class outings and with other activities. All volunteers who help regularly have to complete application forms to join the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) Scheme. They are also asked to attend a short meeting with the headteacher to clarify their role and to be made aware of school policies on child protection, promoting positive behaviour, race equality and health and safety.

Is there a Parent Council?

We have a Parent Council which meets about twice each term to support school improvement and to organise social and fundraising events. All parents and carers are welcome to attend all meetings. The photos of current Parent Council members are in the foyer and there is a box which you can use to contact them. There is information on the school website and you can contact the office if you would like more information about the Parent Council.

How do you keep my child safe?

We are vigilant about supervising all children, following Health and Safety policies and procedures, training staff and teaching children how to keep themselves and others safe in all parts of the school building, the playground and on trips. The headteacher is the Child Protection Co-ordinator and any concerns should be brought to her attention please.

What are GIRFEC and SHANARRI and RRS?



GIRFEC stands for 'Getting It Right For Every Child'. To do this, we work in partnership with parents and other agencies.

SHANARRI refers to our responsibilities as adults to support children to be **Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included**.

RRS stands for Rights Respecting School. The United Nations Convention on Human Rights was agreed by governments in 1989. All rights apply to every child and we teach children about their rights –

- to grow as healthy as possible
- to learn at school
- to receive protection
- to have their views listened to
- to be treated fairly



Finally, never be afraid to come and ask anything in person or by phoning or sending an e-mail to the school. We want to work in partnership with you to help your child to feel happy and secure at school.

