



Welcome to

Gatehouse Primary School



December 2022

Information at a Glance

School Address

Gatehouse Primary School
Dromore Road
Gatehouse of Fleet
DG7 2JX

Telephone: 01557 814262

Email address:

gw08officegatehouse@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Parent Council Chairperson: Mrs Rebecca Vasey

Head Teacher Mr John Riley

School Roll Primary 87
Nursery 15

Denomination Status None

Status of Gaelic Not currently taught

School Staff:

Teaching Staff

P1/2	Mrs S. Murray
P3/4	Mr J. Cruickshanks
P4/5/6	Mrs. C. Clark Mrs. R. Hunt
P6/7	Mrs J. Irving
Learning Support Learning Assistants	Mrs A. Scrimshaw Mrs J. Middleton Mrs S. Ritchie
Nursery Manager	Mrs N. Smith
Nursery Nurses	Mrs L. Frankland Miss A. Rennie

If you would like some help understanding this or need it in another format please contact 030 33 33 3000.

Early Years Support Assistant	Mrs E. Carr
Senior Clerical Assistant	Mrs. N. Corvin
School Education Support Officer	Mrs. L. Waugh

Auxiliary Staff

Janitor and playground supervisor	Mrs. H. McQuarrie
Catering	Mrs D. Docherty Mrs. K. McKie
Cleaning	Mrs Harvey Mrs Hannah
School Transport	Mr L. Hunter Mrs C. McLeod

The School Day

The school gates are opened at 08.45

Primary School:

9am	Begin school with the Daily Mile
10.30am - 10.45	Morning interval
12:15pm - 1pm	Lunchtime
3pm	End of school day

Whilst in the playground, children are supervised from 8.45am daily.

School term dates can be found at:

[http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/
School-term-and-holiday-dates](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/School-term-and-holiday-dates)

Communicating with home

Gatehouse Primary school promotes parental involvement and engagement in their children's education through:

- Curriculum overviews detailing the work that will be covered are sent home at the start of every term.
- Twice yearly learning conversations between the parent, child and class teacher.
- Twice yearly updates on progress and next steps.
- Regular newsletters.

Parents are welcome at any time to contact the school with any suggestions /concerns /questions by e-mail, telephone, group call text messages or by face to face visits. Where it is not possible to resolve enquiries straight away, we will make arrangements to follow up as necessary with the most appropriate member of staff.



Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to our school from all at Gatehouse and Twynholm. The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with all the key information you will need as your child starts at the school. If you have any queries about the content of the handbook, or any questions that the handbook does not answer, please do not hesitate to get in touch. In line with the Education Bill (2015) and the National Improvement Framework the schools aim is to ensure that all children are able to reach their full potential through: Raising attainment particularly in literacy and numeracy and weakening the link between attainment and socio-economic disadvantage. Ensuring early intervention. Supporting children to be healthy and active. Using data gathered from school, the local authority, children, parents and national organisations to find out what makes a positive difference to children's learning and health and wellbeing.

Yours sincerely

John Riley
Head Teacher

For more information about how we support parents and work with our schools please see our [Authority Handbook](#)

School Aims, Values and Ethos

Our schools aim to nurture all individuals in their journey to achieve their full and unique potential. We are committed to developing a respectful, welcoming, safe and stimulating learning environment that will enable our pupils to become responsible citizens and lifelong learners. We encourage co-operation, care for themselves, others and the wider world of which they are part. Working outdoors is an important part of our curriculum, the schools have large and productive gardens, and all children have regular opportunities to work outside. A clear and easy to follow positive behaviour policy based on children's rights encourages the children to take responsibility for their actions and to consider the effect of their behaviour on others.



Contact Us

The school welcomes suggestions and enquiries from parents and carers.

If you need to find out something

We can be contacted by e-mail, telephone, group call text messages or face to face. Where it is not possible to resolve enquiries straight away, we will make arrangements to follow up as necessary with the most appropriate member of staff.

Comments, Complaints and Compliments

A comment might be some brief feedback about how we have handled a situation or delivered a service. It is best to pass a comment straight to the school so that we can take any necessary action.

If you are not happy with the response you receive or a decision that has been made, you can Ask us to Look Again. You can do this by contacting ParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk. At this point an Officer will contact you and discuss the issue and direct the enquirer as appropriate.

Remember you can also access Dumfries & Galloway Have Your Say at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17349/Have-your-say>



How the School Works

Class Organisation

For organisational purposes, schools are structured into classes. Each year it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to organise the class structure.

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For more information please see the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Positive Behaviour and Celebrating Success

To promote positive behaviour all children and staff have a shared understanding of well-being and children's rights and responsibilities. All staff model behaviour which promotes and supports the well-being of all, consequently, an environment of trust exists within the school where children know that they will be listened to, and their thoughts and opinions will be respected. Staff and children work within the framework of GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) and are familiar with the well-being indicators (Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible, Included). The school is aware of the benefits of outdoor education and physical activity to promote both physical and mental well-being. Regular opportunities exist for the children to work outdoors and take part in a wide variety of physical exercise. The children's success is celebrated in class and in whole school assemblies, including a monthly achievement assembly. Achievements are shared on the school tree in the entrance and through the school social media account.

For more information please see page 13 of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

School uniform

All Dumfries and Galloway schools have a dress code which encourages pupils to dress in a way appropriate to attendance at school. For more information on School Uniform, Dress Code, and School Clothing Grants visit www.dumgal.gov.uk

Prior to drawing up the dress code, parents, pupils and staff should be fully consulted, and it is the expectation of Education Services that parents will be supportive of the dress code

School Uniform is as follows:

- White, blue or grey shirt / blouse
- Black, dark blue or grey school trousers / shorts/ skirt
- Navy blue school sweatshirt or navy blue / grey v neck sweater or cardigan
- Black school shoes wherever possible

For P.E. the children will need:

- Gym shoes (for indoor and outdoor use)
- Plain t-shirts. House colours are: Anwoth=Blue, Cally=Green, Fleet=Red, Girthon=Yellow.
- Shorts or Track suit bottoms

School uniforms are available from Banks and Braes in Kirkcudbright.

Financial Support for Children and Families

Grants and Bursaries

Scottish Child Payment

The Scottish Child Payment is a payment for families on certain benefits or tax credits. Eligible families will get £40 every four weeks for each child under six.

Further information and an application can be made at: mygov.scot website or call us on 0800 182 2222.

Best Start Grant

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments:

- Pregnancy and Baby Payment
- Early Learning Payment
- School Age Payment

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit. The payments you can get now will depend on:

- how far along in your pregnancy you are
- how old your child is

Further information and an application can be made at: mygov.scot website

Clothing Grant

The award of clothing grants is to assist with the cost of school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on low income. The current award is presently £134 per primary school child and £150 per secondary school child.

Further information and an application can be made at: Free school meals and associated payments - Dumfries and Galloway Council (dumgal.gov.uk)

Education and Learning Directorate are committed to supporting families through their Anti-Poverty Strategy – details of which can be found at www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty Schools should also make parents aware of the School Uniform Bank Project. Donation and Collection information can be found at the above link.

School Meals

The Naturally D&G local provenance for a sustainable future ensures that meals are freshly prepared with seasonal ingredients and are free from undesirable additives.

Detailed information on school meals is available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmenus

Special Dietary Requirements

Facilities Services – Catering provide special dietary requirements for food allergy and intolerances; medically prescribed diets; or diets for religious or cultural reasons specific meals for children of different ethnic origin. Simply ask the school for a registration form to allow us to inform the catering team who will discuss your child's requirements in full.

For more information contact the Solutions Centre on 01387 271 112 or solutionscentre@dumgal.gov.uk to access the Legislation & Nutrition Officer.

Free School Meals

Free school meals are provided for all pupils in Primary 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Confirmation of when this will be rolled out to Primary 6 and Primary 7 from the Scottish Government has yet to be confirmed.

In Nursery eligible children can receive up to 1140 hours a year of Early Learning and Childcare. As part of this funded offer the child will be entitled to one free meal and a snack each day.

All primary schools are now operating a pre-order system for school lunches for paid and free school meals. Parent / Carer will receive a letter informing them of how to create and set up an account for their child.

Free school meals can lead to a large saving in each year, nursery and primary school pupils can save £360 and secondary school pupils can save £370. You'll also be helping your child's school if you qualify for free school meals. Some Scottish Government funding provided directly to schools is linked to the number of pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

For more information visit

www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmeals

Visit the school meal website for further information

www.dgschoolmeals.co.uk



School Transport

Free school transport is available for some school children attending primary or secondary school if they live within the school catchment area and if they meet certain criteria. For more information and guidance visit <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15245/Free-school-transport>

Free Travel for 5 - 22 year olds

From 31 January 2022 all children and young people aged 5-22 will be entitled to free bus travel in Scotland. You can apply for free travel online from today at www.getyournec.scot (This cannot be done through your school)

Attendance

It is your responsibility as parents to ensure that your child/children attend school regularly. For the safety of all children it is important for you to telephone the school office prior to/at the beginning of the absence. Absences are recorded in class registers and frequent or irregular absences not supported by a reasonable excuse, will be notified to parents and the matter may be referred to the Opportunities for All Service. If possible please, try to make dental/medical appointments outwith school hours. However, if this is not possible please inform us in writing or by telephone of the appointment and arrange to collect your child from class.

For more information on Attendance, Absences, Lateness and responsibilities of parents please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk

Absence from School

Pupils who need to leave school during the school day ie doctor /dentist appointments, must be collected by a named contact confirmed with the school office. They must also report to the school office on their return to school.

Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), now known as 'Scotland's Curriculum,' is bringing learning to life in the way education is delivered for all 3-18 year olds in nursery, primary, secondary, at college and via workplace or community learning. It aims to respond and adapt flexibly to meet the needs of an ever changing and evolving world and Scotland's place within it. At its heart lies a constant commitment and drive towards excellence and equity, to raise standards, improve knowledge, develop skills for all learners and close the gap between the lowest and highest achievers by ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to be successful no matter what their background or circumstances. Ultimately it aims to nurture children and young people as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Broad General Education

Children and young people work their way through Experiences and Outcomes in each of the five Curriculum Levels (Early, First, Second, Third, Fourth) and in each of the eight Curricular Areas. The five Curricular Levels span pre-school to the end of S3. This is the Broad General Education. Pupils progress at their own pace, working through the Experiences and Outcomes of the most appropriate level for them. Pupils will be supported in collecting evidence of their achievements, with a profile of these being produced in P7 and S3.

Like all schools in Scotland, Gatehouse and Twynholm follow the Curriculum for Excellence. You can find out more about the curriculum at <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/learning-in-scotland>

The purpose of the curriculum is to enable every child to be a:

- Successful learner
- Confident individual
- Responsible citizen
- Effective contributor.

As well as the usual class lessons the school provides a range of extra-curricular activities across the year including badminton, sewing and cookery.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in the life of the school through membership of pupil groups, such as House captains, Pupil Council or JRSO. Through these groups, pupils have a say in the day to day running of the school. Pupils are also included in the writing of school policies such as the school behaviour and anti-bullying policies.

Wider achievements are shared on the school website and Twitter account. Monthly assemblies, to which parents and carers are invited, are held to celebrate children's wider achievement and these are displayed on the school tree.



Parental Involvement and Engagement

Parent/Carers and the Parent Council

Every parent who has a child at our school is a member of the Parent Forum. The parent council is a group of parents who have chosen to represent the parent forum. As a member of the Parent Forum, each parent can expect to:

- Receive information about the school and its activities
- Hear about what partnership with parents means in our school
- Be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you
- Identify issues you want the parent council to work on with the school
- Be asked your opinion by the parent council on issues relating to the school and education it provides
- Work in partnership with staff
- Enjoy taking part in school life in whatever way possible

More information is available at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17608/Parental-Involvement>

More information and support for Parents/ Parent Councils is available at <https://connect.scot/>

Parentclub Scotland <https://www.parentclub.scot/> provides support information and guidance to expectant parents, baby, toddler, Child, Pre-teen and Parents and Carers.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland's (NPFs) Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell series. Free Downloads for parents/carers: <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/in-a-nutshell-series/nationals-in-a-nutshell-series/>

Parentzone Scotland

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone> information about the Curriculum and how you can be involved in your child's learning.

How is my child doing?

There will be several opportunities for you to discuss your child's progress. This may be through informal discussion with the teacher or at Parents' Nights/ Learning Conversations, formal reports or for some it may be through more formal, focussed meetings with other agencies.



Helping Your Child and Family Learning

The aims and purposes of setting homework are:

- to support and build on classwork
- to make parents aware of the work children are doing in school
- to encourage children to work independently
- to develop perseverance and self-discipline
- to promote good study habits
- to train pupils to plan and organise their time effectively
- to allow preparation for future classwork
- to provide information for parents
- to provide opportunities for individualised work
- to encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning
- to create channels for home-school dialogue

Homework is always given out with plenty of time to enable the child to complete the exercise without any pressure. Any child not completing homework at home will be expected to complete the work in their own time at school.

Curriculum evenings, to help parents better understand what their child is being taught, are held every year.

Open afternoons are held regularly to enable parents to come in to see what and how the children are learning.

Support for All

Support for Learners

Dumfries and Galloway Council is committed to the well-being and educational development of all learners. The process of inclusion requires all involved in the business of learning and teaching to demonstrate commitment, innovation and flexibility to ensure that all children and young people have access to quality learning opportunities and experiences.

More information is available at <https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16163/Support-for-Learners> and on page 18 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

You are the expert on your child and what you think matters. Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) means that the School will always seek to involve you, to listen to your opinions and take them seriously.

More information is available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/girfec and on page 20 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Child Protection

All children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect. The vision for all children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway is that they should be: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible and included. Schools and front-line education and child care services will play an important role in ensuring all children and young people are safe and well. Further information can be found at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16640/Support-for-children-and-families>

Parents, carers and pupils have a key role in keeping the school community safe. We would therefore urge parents to share any information which would keep everyone safe, and to support and encourage their child(ren) to do the same.

Enrolment in Schools - School Places

Information on enrolment in school and catchment areas is available at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15241/School-places> Information regarding catchment areas can be found on the Council's website by accessing "Find My Nearest".

School Improvements

Each year the school will publish a School Improvement Plan which outlines the key priorities for the school during the year ahead, following engagement with staff, pupils and parents. The plan indicates the expected impact of priorities on pupil learning, as well as providing brief information about the key tasks to be taken forward. Both the report and the plan are published on the school's web-site and are also available in hard copy, on request. A copy can also be found by searching for your school at www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools

Improvement planning and priorities

In May/June of each year, the school publishes a Standards & Quality Report providing all stakeholders with a comprehensive summary of the school's work and learners' achievements over the last year. The first part of this report provides an overview of the school's progress in addressing its key priorities, while the second part gives information about, for example, how well pupils are learning and achieving; how well the school is supporting children/



young people to develop and learn. In June, we publish a School Improvement Plan which outlines the key priorities for the school during the year ahead, following engagement with staff, pupils and parents. The plan indicates the expected impact of priorities on pupil learning, as well as providing brief information about the key tasks to be taken forward. Both the report and the plan are published on the school's website and are also available in hard copy, on request.

Wider Achievements

Wider achievements are shared on the school website and Twitter account. The school holds monthly achievement assemblies and invites parents / carers to send in information about any achievements made by pupils out with school. All are welcome to attend these assemblies which usually take place on the last Friday of each month. Dates are listed in advance on the school newsletter and also on the website.

Health and Safety

Emergency Procedures (including Safer Together Guidance)

If your child feels ill during the school day and we feel that he/she would be better at home, we will telephone you or your emergency contact. Minor accidents, e.g. cuts, bruises, are dealt with by the school staff. Serious accidents are few, but should one occur your child will be immediately taken either to your doctor or to hospital, if necessary, and you or your emergency contact will be notified. We cannot stress enough the importance of supplying the school with the relevant information we require in such a situation, i.e. your own home and work number and a telephone number of an emergency contact. **Please remember that if your child stays in more than one home setting contact details should take account of this.**

Health Care (inc First Aid)

Many children will require their health care needs to be met at sometime within the nursery/school environment, for most children this will be for short periods of time only, but for some children this may require more long-term planning and support. If your child has any health care needs, please contact the school to discuss arrangements. Full details of the support available and your role as a parent and the role of your child are contained within Health Care in Schools 3-18 (NHS and Dumfries and Galloway Council) which is available from the school.

For more information see our [Authority Handbook](#)

Severe Weather and School Closure Arrangements

Headteachers are authorised to make an emergency closure when the state of the weather or any other exceptional circumstance make it necessary in the best interests of the pupils. In these circumstances parents will be communicated with in a variety of ways including text messages/ phone calls and emergency contact arrangements. All school closures will be notified on the Council Website.

www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15240/Emergency-school-closures

Data Protection

Information on how the Council uses personal data is available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Data-protection and www.dumgal.gov.uk/privacy

ICT in Schools

For more information on ICT in school please see page 14 of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Use of the Internet, Social Networking Sites

As part of the process of learning we allow our children supervised access to the Internet and e-mail. The authority runs its own filter system to ensure that young people are not at risk from exposure to inappropriate material. This filtering system is regularly being upgraded. We have a policy for use of the Internet and a contract for responsible use, which we ask parents and young people to sign up to.

For more information visit our [Education Authority Handbook](#) and [Safe Digital Learning and Social Media Leaflet](#)

