



Welcome to  
**New Abbey Primary School**



December 2023

# Information at a Glance

## School Address

New Abbey Primary Main Street, New Abbey  
Dumfries, DG28BY

Email address:

[gw08officenew@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officenew@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)

Parent Council Chairperson Zoe Warbeck

Parent Council email

[parentcouncilnewabbey@gmail.com](mailto:parentcouncilnewabbey@gmail.com)

Head Teacher Helen Anderson

School Roll 36

Denomination Status Non-denominational

Status of Gaelic Not taught

## School Staff:

### Teaching Staff

Principal Teacher Ellaine Monk

Class Teachers Gemma Potts  
Emily Edgar

PE Teacher Gail Currie

Support for Learning Teacher Hazel Robertson

### Auxiliary Staff

Senior Clerical Assistant Heather Cussell

Learning Assistant Gill Wardrop

Learning Assistant Shiona Stairmand

Building Facilities Assistant Robert Robbins

Catering Manager Avril Moffat

Cleaner Elaine Lockerbie

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

## The School Day

9am - 3pm

Break 10.30 - 10.50am

Lunch 12.20 - 1pm

School term dates can be found at:

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/School-term-and-holiday-dates>

## Communicating with home

**Mail Drop Wallet:** This comes home on Fridays and should be returned on Mondays.

**Newsletter:** Emailed and displayed every Friday.

**Email:** In order to save paper, most of our letters will come via email. Please ensure you provide us with an up to date email address.

**Text:** Sometimes we will text information. Our system allows one mobile number per family. Please ensure you provide us with an up to date mobile number.

**Facebook:** We have a public Facebook page called New Abbey Rockstars.





## Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

A warm welcome from all at New Abbey Primary School. The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with all the key information you will need as your child starts at our school. If you have any queries about the content of the handbook, or any questions that it does not answer, please get in touch. We also have a pupil handbook available from the office. I would also encourage you to read our recent inspection results. We look forward to welcoming you to our lovely wee school.

Yours sincerely,

**Helen Anderson**

Head Teacher

For more links and detailed information about how we support parents and work with our schools, please see our [Authority Handbook](#). This also includes a page for financial support for Children and Families.

## School Aims, Values and Ethos

New Abbey Primary sits within the rural village of New Abbey, close to the Solway Firth. Our school is surrounded by countryside and is very much part of the local community. We are partnered with nearby Kirkbean Primary; staff and pupils of both schools collaborate regularly.

Our school building is bright and welcoming with children's work displayed throughout. We have a fantastic outdoor play area and the children regularly learn outside. We have a poly tunnel and raised beds in which we grow vegetables. We also have access to the pitch at New Abbey FC.

We are proud of our recent inspection results. We are an inclusive, 'rights respecting school' (UNICEF).

We worked together as a school community to review and create our Vision, Values and Aims. Pupils, parents, staff and partners were involved throughout the process. We created a memorable, Vision, Values and Aims poster which includes children, 'rising' up in a hot air balloon. It is displayed throughout our school and permeates all that we do. During 2023/24, we reviewed and refreshed our poster so it's looking great!

**Our Vision:** Together, we will create a supportive environment that celebrates individuality and promotes equity, resulting in happy, confident children. We will provide a high-quality education which will help our children to realise their full potential, giving everyone a passion for lifelong learning.

**Our Values:** Resilient, Independent, Supportive and Equal (R.I.S.E.)

**Our Aims** are defined under four categories and can be viewed on our poster: Responsible Citizens, Successful Learners, Confident Individuals and Effective Contributors. Children often win points and certificates for demonstrating our aims..



## 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](mailto:ParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk). At this point an Officer will contact you, discuss the issue and direct your enquiry as appropriate.

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

If you remain dissatisfied, the Education and Learning Directorate operate within the complaints handling procedures for Dumfries and Galloway Council. Information on this can be found at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15382/Complaints-procedure](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15382/Complaints-procedure)

## 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.

For more information, on School class sizes and grouping please visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16646/School-class-sizes-and-groupings](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16646/School-class-sizes-and-groupings)

We have two classes: P1-3 and P4-7. We have two classrooms, a General Purpose (GP) Room and a dinner/PE hall.

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

### Positive Behaviour and Celebrating Success

We have the highest expectations of behaviour at New Abbey Primary. These expectations are reinforced throughout the school. Everyone is encouraged to be ambitious and 'aim high' (our motto). Our children are also encouraged to be supportive of each other, showing kindness and consideration; in fact, Supportive is one of our Values.

Our pupils, parents and staff created a Positive Behaviour Agreement which includes anti-bullying guidelines and is linked to our Vision, Values and Aims. Children understand the meaning of wellbeing and how they can manage their own, building their resilience. If a behavioural concern arises, it is dealt with promptly and fairly using inclusive, restorative methods.

We have a House System and encourage our children to earn House Points. Each week, we celebrate success at assembly and the winning House is rewarded (Abbey, Criffel or Kindar). Certificates and

stickers are earned when children demonstrate our Vision, Values and Aims.

We have a display at the school entrance which celebrates those who have won certificates. Children are also encouraged to share and reflect on the skills they learn in and out of school. These Wider Achievements are also celebrated and displayed.

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](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

At New Abbey Primary we have a smart simple uniform which consists of:

- dark trousers or skirt
- red or white polo shirt or white shirt
- red school sweatshirt/cardigan or plain red sweatshirt/cardigan
- school fleece or outdoor jacket
- sensible shoes
- a PE kit which includes trainers
- you may be asked to provide indoor or outdoor shoes or wellies as the children play and learn outside in all weathers.

The sweatshirts, polo shirts and outdoor jackets featuring the school badge can be ordered and paid for at any time throughout the year directly from the Border Embroideries website:

[www.border-embroideries.co.uk](http://www.border-embroideries.co.uk)

## Financial Support for Children and Families

### Grants and Bursaries

#### Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family. It's a weekly payment of £25 that you can get for every child you look after who's under 16 years of age. You'll get the payment every 4 weeks if your application is successful.

Further information and an application can be made at: [mygov.scot](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://www.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](https://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](https://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 Special Diet Request Forms to allow us to inform the catering team who will discuss your child's requirements in full. For more information contact [DGschoolmeals@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:DGschoolmeals@dumgal.gov.uk) or the Solutions Centre on 01387 271 112 or [solutionscentre@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:solutionscentre@dumgal.gov.uk) to access the Legislation & Nutrition Officer.

**All Children with allergens should register with the catering team as soon as they are aware that their child has an allergen or intolerance to food.**

### 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.

Online pre-ordering of school meals is currently being rolled out to all secondary schools, information will be supplied by your school.

Free school meals can lead to a large saving in each year, nursery and primary school pupils can save £361 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](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmeals)

### Scottish Child Payment and Bridging Payments

The Scottish Government's Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family and, as of 14 November 2022, applications are now open for all children under the age of 16. The weekly value of this award will also increase to £25 as of this point.



## 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](http://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](http://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.

CfE also includes Languages, Expressive arts, Religious and moral education, Sciences, Social studies and Technologies. The responsibility for the curriculum offer in your school sits with the Headteacher.

The curriculum is defined as, 'the totality of all that is planned for children and young people throughout their education,' Education Scotland. At New Abbey Primary, we provide a broad, challenging curriculum as outlined in our pupil-friendly overview which is underpinned by our clearly defined Vision, Values and Aims. We utilise our unique, rural setting to teach the children about the natural world and conservation.

We value opportunities to learn through play. We work closely with partners and members of the local community in order to enrich learning experiences and build relationships. We provide opportunities for our children to achieve and flourish in the school setting and beyond. Our children are aware of their rights and have responsibilities within the life and work of our school. We value individuality, appreciate diversity and foster a sense of belonging. We ensure that our children understand the purpose of education and encourage them to be ambitious, equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need to begin to make informed decisions about their future, giving them a passion for lifelong learning.



## 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

For more information or support for how you can become involved in or to run your Parent Council please visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk/](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/)

For more information on what is meant by parental involvement visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk/](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/)

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

### Our Homework Aims:

- To continue to build on prior learning that has taken place in school
- To provide an opportunity for parents to become more involved in their child's learning
- To encourage each child to develop his/ her skills in various contexts out-with the classroom
- To foster good home/school relations which benefit each child's development

At the start of P1, children are provided with a red, New Abbey Primary book bag. Older children are given a plastic wallet. This should be checked every evening and returned to school each day. The amount and frequency of home learning will vary throughout the year and will be managed by the teacher, with regard to the needs of the children and home setting. Parents are encouraged to seize this opportunity to work alongside their children and learn more about their child's knowledge, skills and abilities. Effective home-school communication is essential so we use a bespoke New Abbey Primary homework diary. We will provide guidance so that parents feel confidently able to support their children with their learning.



## Support for All

### Support for Learners

All children receive support at school and nursery to help them learn. 'Additional support for learning' is how we describe any support that is extra or different to the help that most children receive. Most of this additional support is provided by teachers in mainstream classes, focussed on learning and support to be fully involved in school life. For the majority of children and young people this will be delivered in a mainstream classroom supported by their classroom teacher for a few this will mean some additional support alongside the classroom teacher, and for a very few this will be part-time or full-time provision in a school with a learning centre or an inclusion base.

More information is available at [www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk) 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](http://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](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools)



### School Improvement Priorities 2023/24

- Review Vision, Values and Aims and reintroduce Pupil Parliament
- Rights Respecting Schools Gold Assessment
- Learning and Teaching – Moderation of pathways and assessment evidence
- Increase amount of outdoor learning

All children from across our partnership were included in the creation of our Pupil-Friendly School Improvement Plan. It is linked to UNICEF's Rights and is displayed throughout our schools. The full-version of our School Improvement Plan is also displayed and is traffic-lit as we work through the actions.



## Health and Safety

### Emergency Procedures (including Safer Together Guidance)

If your child feels unwell or have hurt themselves during the school day they must report this to an adult in the school. If we feel that they 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](http://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](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Data-protection) and [www.dumgal.gov.uk/privacy](http://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](#)

