



Welcome to

Dalry Primary School



December 2022



Information at a Glance

School Address

Dalry Primary School, Kirkland Street,
St John's Town of Dalry, Castle Douglas, DG7 3UX

Telephone 01644 430105

Email address
gw17officedalryps@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Parent Council Chairperson Michael Owen

Parent Council email
mikjowen@hotmail.co.uk

Head teacher Paul Scrimshaw

School Roll 61 + 20 place ELC

Denomination Status Non-Denominational

Status of Gaelic N/A

Teaching Staff

Lynda Muir (PT)	Jenna Devlin
Sabine Haynes	Jaimie Houston
Tom Russell	Nadine Sey
Alison Murray (ASLT)	

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

Auxiliary Staff

Learning Assistants	Sue Rothwell
Alison Newbery	Lindsaye Harper
Roger Bardsley	Sue Curtis
Angie Bradford	Chrissy Roberts

Administration	Judith Jowsey
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Playground Assistant	Laura Bell
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Janitorial	David Steward
	Walter Starritt

Cook	Kelly Frank
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The School Day

Start of day	9.00am
Break	10.30 – 10.50am
Lunch	12.15 – 1.00pm
Break	2.05- 2.25pm
End of day	3.25pm

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

Communicating with home

We still use the telephone for quick calls. Newsletters and any other letters are sent home via pupil post. Letters go home to the youngest or the only child in the family. Parents can also be sent these via e-mail on request. The school blog is developing a blog to store important school information. The Xpressions App sends messages and emails direct to you and is free to download and use. Teachers can meet with parents informally before and after school or appointments can be made.



Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Dalry Primary School. Our school is small in comparison to many other schools as it only has three classes and a nursery and around 80 children in total. We work in partnership with Kells Primary. The staff and children show great enthusiasm and motivation for learning. We have a culture of mutual respect and the children are kind and caring. The school works with partners from around the community and looks for opportunities to use the links to enhance our curriculum.

Our handbook should provide you with all the information you should need but if you have any queries that the handbook does not answer, please 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 regardless of circumstances.

Kind regards

Paul Scrimshaw

Headteacher

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

School Aims, Values and Ethos

Vision

Everyone at Dalry Primary; children, adults, parents and our wider community proudly builds on a mutual culture of respect and determination. We grow and learn together in a motivating and safe environment, so that every pupil can reach their full potential.

Values

Determined – Foster a resilient ‘I can’t do that...yet’ attitude.

Actively Learning – All children are engaged in stimulating, innovative and challenging learning experiences to build upon, and develop all of our individual talents and curiosities/interests.’

Respectful Youngsters – Kind and considerate words and actions for all; creating global citizens of the future.

Aims

This vision is embodied in our school’s aims to:

- Create a welcoming and happy environment
- Listen to and consider all points of view
- Provide a variety of stimulating opportunities and experiences to maximise potential
- Equip our children with life skills for the future
- Nurture a healthy and active lifestyle
- Develop and celebrate all pupil’s personalities, talents and physical abilities in a variety of settings.
- Work in partnership within our school and the wider community, communication effectively with all stakeholders.

(The Vision, Values and Aims were reviewed through consultation with the staff, parents and community in 2017/18)



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.

There are roughly 20 children in each of our classes. This year (2022-23) the classes are split into Primary P1 /2, P3/4 and P5/6/7. Our Early Learning and Childcare provision (Nursery) provides places children from Dalry and the surrounding area including those children who may go onto Kells Primary.

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

Positive Behaviour and Celebrating Success

Our ethos works very much on the premise of respect and responsibility. Our three expectations are to be safe, be kind and be respectful. In line with the Scottish Governments Respect Me agenda all members of our community should be treated appropriately. We have a restorative approach towards behaviour management and encourage children to think about the link between actions and consequences. We have a golden nuggets board where we celebrate those children who are being good role models for their peers by being kind, safe or respectful.

We celebrate pupil success in and out of school. At assemblies we share achievements and children have the opportunity to bring in certificates, trophies or just explain to the rest of the school their personal achievement. The pupils' photographs plus brief explanation are then displayed on the Achievement Wall. We also share success at a special leavers' assemblies where all children's successes are celebrated.

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

We encourage all children to wear the Dalry School uniform as it reinforces they are part of the school community and ensures they are dressed appropriately for school activities. Our everyday "Dalry badged" uniform consists of:

- School sweatshirt (Maroon) crew neck
- School polo shirt (blue)
- Dark school trousers
- Dark school skirt, (Gingham dress for summer)
- Shoes (preferred) or dark coloured trainers with as few markings as possible
- A maroon fleece jacket, reversible coat or lightweight showerproof jacket are available

The children receive a book bag, PE kit bag and water bottle when they start school. Replacement items can be purchased from the school office. Some stock is kept in school and can be bought at any time throughout the school year but parents can log onto Border Embroideries and order direct from their [website](#)

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.

Our curriculum follows the Curriculum for Excellence framework and focusses on the four capacities which are to create: Confident Individuals, Successful Learners, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors to society. We follow a framework of progressions in each of the curricular areas and focus our learning on the children, their prior experiences and the development of their world. We have an overall long term plan for learning which allows children and their teachers to focus on their interests as a starting point for each unit of learning. There are six main areas or curriculum organisers we focus our learning around each year. These include:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organise ourselves
- Sharing the planet

Using these curriculum organisers give children and their teachers the opportunity to plan units of work which encompass different subject areas in a coherent plan which lead to a specific goal.

We believe it is important to celebrate each child's strengths and each year look to work with partners to enrich the children's learning through providing opportunities for children to try different sports, environmental activities and clubs.

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

Home learning can be stressful to manage in a busy household and sometimes fitting home learning into the equation can be a struggle. This can lead to disputes, upset and recurring stressful situations. Our home learning policy enables us to work with parents to achieve the best outcomes for parents and children with regard to home learning. Our home learning policy enables flexibility. All we ask is that parents keep us informed through a simple coding system. This is helpful because it gives us a quick message and children do not become anxious when explaining if part or all of a week's home learning has not been completed. As children are motivated by different activities our home learning also uses a menu system so that children can reinforce their learning in school through their activities at home. Ask to see a copy of our home learning policy.



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

Our priorities for school improvement this session are as follows:

Priority 1 – Learning & Teaching and Raising Attainment in Literacy and Numeracy.

- Audit and introduce nurture principles with focus on principle 5 – I feel safe in school
- Link Professional Development to nurture principles and play pedagogy.

- Use assessment timetables to identify gaps for groups of learners and use the data to implement interventions as necessary to support and to support learners.
- Refine and develop numeracy and literacy policies.
- Evaluate the development of nurture and play pedagogy

Priority 2 – Improve basic numeracy skills through the implementation of Developing Number Knowledge.

- Work with colleagues across the Castle Douglas Cluster to introduce D&G Numeracy Framework and "Developing Number Knowledge."
- Teachers to undergo professional Development opportunities to support introduction of strategies.
- School staff to work collegiately to develop consistency across the teaching of numeracy.

Priority 3 – Improve Wellbeing and support Covid Recovery.

- Complete audits in relation to the 6 nurture principles
- Provide questionnaires for parents and children to ascertain views and understanding of nurture principles and the relationships policy.
- Focus school assemblies around nurture principles and the school values.
- "Quarriers" to support school through work with children around resilience.

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](#)

