



# Welcome to Lochmaben Primary School



December 2023

# Information at a Glance

## School Information

### Lochmaben Primary School

Annandale Crescent, Lochmaben DG11 1NR

Telephone: 01387 810208

### Email address:

[gw08officelochmabenp@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officelochmabenp@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)

Parent Council Chairperson: Mrs Katy MacLeod

### Parent Council email:

[lochmabenparentpartnership1@gmail.com](mailto:lochmabenparentpartnership1@gmail.com)

Head Teacher Mrs Jennifer Docherty

School Roll 259

Nursery Roll 32

Denomination Status: Non Denominational

Status of Gaelic: Not taught

## School Staff:

### Teaching Staff

Depute Heads Miss N Graham (0.6)

Mrs S Clark (0.4)

Principal Teacher

Support for Learning Miss N Kerr (0.6)

P1 Mrs S Clark

Mrs S Stankiewicz

P1/2 Miss G Moffat

P2 Mrs S Whitelaw

Mrs D Windsor

P3 Miss A Watson / Mrs S Clark

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

P3/4 Mrs A Brolls  
P4/5 Miss S Coffey  
P5 Mrs C Maxwell  
P6 Miss K Geddes  
P6/7 Miss O McCabe  
P7 Miss B Jaekel

Support for Learning Mr J Dale

Learning Centre

Miss M Love, Mr S Horne & Miss L Montgomery

RICCT Mr W Swan

### Auxiliary Staff

Clerical Staff Mrs L Hyslop Mrs K Common

Facilities Assistant Mr P Byers

### Learning Assistants

Miss K Ellis, Mrs F Houston, Mrs F Gonlag  
Mrs T Green, Mrs N Lynn, Miss K McColm  
Mrs A McEwan, Mrs M Park, Mrs G Parry  
Mrs N Robson, Mrs J Wojcik, Mrs S Bowman  
Mrs A Rae Watson, Mrs H Duncan

### Nursery Staff

Miss SJ Pringle (Nursery Manager)

Miss D Todd, Mrs S Carruthers, Mrs M Jeans,

Miss M Russell

## The School Day

9am School begins

10.30am - 10.45am Interval

12.15pm - 1pm Lunch

3pm School Closes

School term dates can be found at:

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

## Communicating with home

We use a variety of means to communicate out to parents/carers. Regular newsletters, group call texts, emails and through our Facebook page are the most frequently used. You will find us on Facebook: Lochmaben Primary School. Staff may also communicate by making individual phone calls. Each class has a Teams page for the children to access homework & receive communications from class teachers.



## Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

At Lochmaben Primary we take great pride in ensuring that we offer a warm welcome to all pupils, parents / carers and members of the local and wider community.

We as a staff, look forward to working in partnership with parents and carers to provide a rich and stimulating education for all our learners. We make every effort to offer the highest standard of education in a safe, caring and interesting environment. Through a well- balanced curriculum we provide opportunities to allow each child to achieve their full potential.

We hope that children and parents/ carers alike enjoy being with us at Lochmaben and that everyone will take away happy memories from their time with us.

Should you wish further information please do not hesitate to contact me here at the school.

**Jennifer Docherty**  
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

The vision for Lochmaben Primary School is 'believe and achieve. This is underpinned by the local context and association with Robert the Bruce. We take inspiration from Bruce watching the tiny spider trying to spin its web in the cave and not giving up after the first attempt.

We believe all our pupils will achieve great things and we wish our children to participate in a wide range of activities, events and experiences which will allow them to achieve their full potential. We have five core values which we believe provide the basis for life within Lochmaben Primary and we aim to promote these and reinforce them throughout our daily routine, resources, events and activities.

- Courage and Confidence – to be brave and become confident individuals and successful learners
- Hard work – to try our very best at all times
- Honesty and Trust – to always tell the truth and to make everyone feel safe and welcome

- Kind and Caring- to be kind and care for each other, our community and the environment
- Respect – to work together to value everyone in our school and become responsible citizen

We aim to achieve a Nurturing approach within Lochmaben Primary and have adopted the Nurture principles.

### Our School Aims are as follows:-

For everyone in our school community:-

- To be safe, happy and healthy
- To always try, try, try their best and believe that they can achieve their full potential
- To feel confident and know that they can learn by their mistakes
- To understand and respect difference

To prepare for future opportunities and challenges



## 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 ten mainstream classes, including some composite classes. Our class structure varies each academic session according to the number of pupils within each year group.

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

### Positive Behaviour and Celebrating Success

At Lochmaben Primary we have adopted the 'Better Relationships-Better Learning' approach to promote positive relationships where all feel welcomed, valued & respected. This approach has moved away from a punitive approach to a restorative approach & focuses on nurture, restorative practice and is solution focused.

A restorative school is one which takes a restorative approach to resolving conflict and preventing harm.

Restorative approaches enable those who have been harmed to convey the impact of the harm to those responsible, and for those responsible to acknowledge this impact and take steps to put it right.

Teachers will adopt different restorative approaches depending on the level/severity of behaviour and using their professional judgement.

Learners may be asked to take part in a conversation/complete a reflection record if they have been disrupted/harmed or caused disruption/harm.

We expect all our pupils, staff, parent/carers & partners to adhere to our expectations.

- Show manners and respect at all times
- Always follow instructions
- Keep hands, feet and unkind words to ourselves

At Lochmaben Primary we believe children need to be encouraged & praised for their positive actions & behaviours. Children's positive behaviours will be rewarded by earning 'house points'.

Every week children will participate in thirty minutes of free time, if they have not lost any time from this during the week.

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)

In Lochmaben Primary School we recognise our own school uniform as:

- red school sweatshirt
- white polo shirt
- dark skirt or trousers

During P.E. pupils should wear gym shoes or trainers, shorts / joggers and a T-shirt.

Clothing which is unacceptable in our school under any circumstances would include items which:

- Could potentially encourage factions e.g. football colours
- Could cause offence e.g. anti-religious or political slogans
- Could cause health and safety difficulties (loose-fitting clothing, dangling earrings)
- Are of flammable materials which may be a danger in certain classes
- Could cause damage to floors
- Carry advertising, (such as alcohol or tobacco)

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

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.

There are eight identified Curricular Areas within Curriculum for Excellence.

- Health and Wellbeing
- Literacy and English (including Modern Languages)
- Numeracy and Mathematics
- Sciences
- Social Studies
- Expressive Arts
- Religious and Moral Education
- Technologies

Sometimes these subject areas will be taught as a discrete subject area and at other times the subject area may be included as a Curricular Area within an Interdisciplinary Learning Plan, i.e. as part of an identified theme or topic.

Within each subject area a variety of learning and teaching resources are used as is a variety of resources as appropriate.

The Experiences and Outcomes are 'bundled' together to create our programmes for learning.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Our pupils are usually offered a varied selection of extra-curricular activities and clubs throughout the school session. Some activities last for a specific

period of time e.g. a term or a block of 6-8 weeks, while others continue throughout the session. The targeted age group for pupils varies accordingly throughout the year.

## **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**

Through homework we aim to:

- Help reinforce and extend children's learning
- Provide opportunities to work independently thus developing good study habits and self-discipline
- Encourage ownership and responsibility for learning
- Consolidate work in school and therefore raise attainment levels
- Promote partnership between school and home
- Provide opportunities for parents to become involved in children's learning

- Keep parents aware of their child’s educational progress
- Help children develop good work habits for the future

Time spent on homework will vary according to age, ability and the child’s pace of work. (Full details can be seen in the school Homework Position Statement).

Usually parents/carers are invited into School several times a year to participate in our Family Learning activities with their children.

## 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)

Each year the school publishes a School Improvement Plan outlining key priorities for the school during the year ahead, following consultation. The plan indicates the expected impact of priorities, as well as providing brief information about key tasks to be taken forward.

Our three main priorities for session 2023/2024 are:-

- Raising Attainment in Writing and Numeracy/ Maths through further implementation of PM Writing and DNK approach
- Raising Attainment through high quality, inclusive learning and teaching strategies, approaches and environments.
- Developing skills for life and work including digital literacy and technologies

In addition each year, the school publishes a Progress Report providing all stakeholders with a comprehensive summary of the school’s work and learners’ achievements over the last year. This provides an overview of the school’s progress in addressing its key priorities and 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.

Full copies of both can be found by searching for Lochmaben Primary on [www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools)



## 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](#)

