



Nether Currie Primary School

*Valuing ourselves, each other, our community and
our learning.*

Starting Primary One

November 2021



Nether Currie Primary School

Starting School

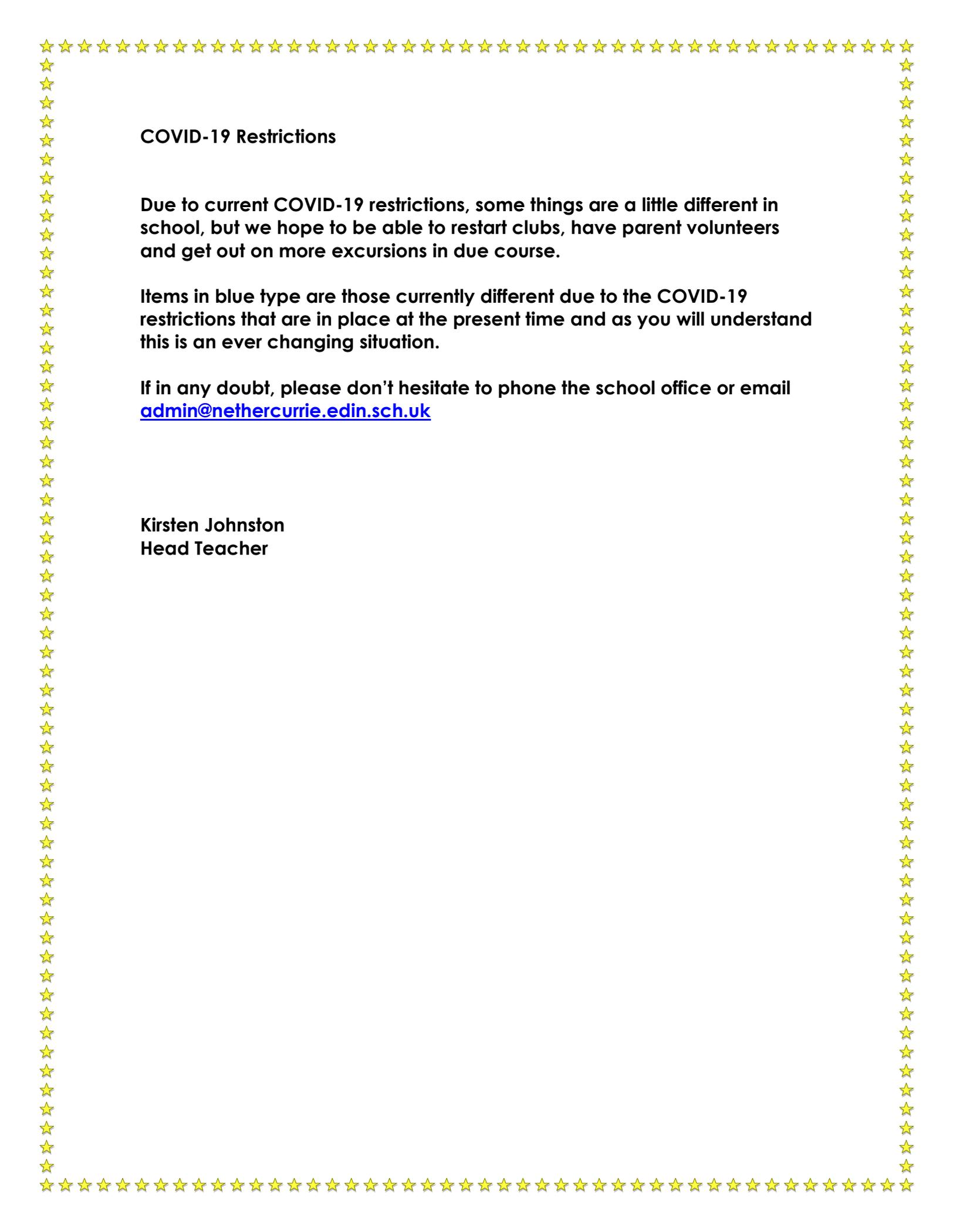
The staff and pupils at Nether Currie Primary School welcome you to our school. We hope that you find this booklet helpful as you begin to learn about us.

As the transition from Nursery to Primary One is a progression in your child's learning through the Curriculum for Excellence Early Level, there will be many similarities in the approach to learning. At Nether Currie Primary School, we are developing a 'play-based' approach which emulates the experiences that your child will have had at Nursery. Our Primary 1 team will plan learning which provides active learning experiences with lots of choice, opportunities to explore and develop Literacy and Numeracy in a sensory and stimulating environment as well as allowing the children to take the lead and direct their learning according to their own interests and experiences. This approach allows the team to work with your child either as an individual or as part of a small group. There will also be times when the children will work together as a whole class group. It is important to remember that children all develop at different rates and using the play-based approach allows the team to get to know your child and their needs as an individual and ensure that the learning is targeted to help them to reach their potential.

As with every new experience, you will have questions to ask about your child starting school. In this booklet we have tried to answer some of the most frequently asked questions. We hope that this information will help you as you guide your child through this important next step in their life.



Kirsten Johnston
Head Teacher

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COVID-19 Restrictions

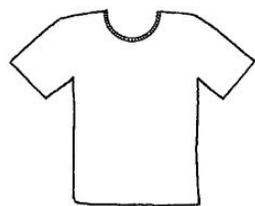
Due to current COVID-19 restrictions, some things are a little different in school, but we hope to be able to restart clubs, have parent volunteers and get out on more excursions in due course.

Items in blue type are those currently different due to the COVID-19 restrictions that are in place at the present time and as you will understand this is an ever changing situation.

If in any doubt, please don't hesitate to phone the school office or email admin@nethercurrie.edin.sch.uk

Kirsten Johnston
Head Teacher

What your child will need



What should my child bring to school in their school bag?

1. A gym bag containing shorts, a t-shirt and gym shoes or indoor trainers for PE activities - no football strips or brand names please. This should remain at school for the whole term if possible, taken home weekly on a Friday to be washed and brought back in on Mondays.

Some of the PE sessions will take place outside and we will ask the children to bring in a pair of outdoor trainers for these activities. A letter will be sent letting you know when they're required. Long hair should be tied back for PE lessons.

Currently children are coming dressed for physical activity on 'PE days' but we hope to return to a position of changing for PE in the future.

2. An overall for painting. We find an old adult size t-shirt or shirt is best.
3. A pencil case with two pencils and any other stationery resources you would like your child to have (optional as we will provide all school supplies.)
4. Water bottle which can be filled throughout the day in school.
5. Snack for morning break (see page 5 for details).

What about school uniform?



We actively promote the wearing of school uniform at Nether Currie Primary School as we feel that it helps foster a positive ethos and create our school identity. Our school colours are royal blue for P1-6 and navy for P7 and our uniform selection consists of:

- grey skirt, pinafore dress, shorts or trousers
- a school polo shirt or white shirt and school tie
- a royal blue Nether Currie sweatshirt or a royal blue Nether Currie Zoodie or a plain royal blue sweatshirt

or

- a plain grey cardigan, or plain royal blue cardigan
- In summer, blue checked dresses may also be worn.

We ask that no tracksuit trousers or leggings are worn, please, except on PE days.

We encourage our children to wear footwear which is sensible for school and ask that a pair of trainers for outdoor use are kept in your child's gym bag.

Our branded school uniform is available to purchase from BE Uniforms in their Fountainbridge store (From April 2022.)

School polo shirts and sweatshirts are also available to buy online from the Fairtrade Cotton school uniform provider, 'Koolskools.' The link below will take you directly to our section of their website.

<https://www.koolskools.co.uk/product-category/nether-currie-primary-school/>

We also hold a stock of second-hand uniform which is available for anyone who would like to make use of this. We are keen to continue our exchange of school uniform as a way to promote a more sustainable future.

Assistance with clothing is available to some of those on Working Families' Tax Credit. Application forms are available from our school office.

Please name all articles of clothing and other belongings that your child brings to school. This ensures all lost items can be easily returned to their rightful owner. Any unnamed items will be kept for one month and then disposed of if not returned.

Who looks after my child in the playground?

Adult supervision is provided in the playground during both morning and lunchtime breaks. Currently our breaks are split, and Primary 1 and 2 play in the front playground where our Pupil Support Assistants look after them.

Pupil Support Assistants are in the dining hall at lunch time to supervise and support the children. Mrs Milne, our Administrator, is in the school office on hand to deal with any bumps or cuts that occur. We have designated members of staff who are fully first aid trained as well as a dedicated First Aid Station within the school.



We operate a buddy system whereby our P6 and P7 pupils are available to interact with and support all of our P1 and P2 children. The younger children always look forward to some special time either in class or in the playground with their 'big buddies.'

Do children bring a playtime snack?

Many children bring a small snack to eat at morning break. This should be brought to school in the child's school bag or in their lunch box. We kindly request the snack is not put in their reading bag to avoid accidental damage to their reading books.

We recommend that children bring only one item to eat so that they still have time to play during their break time. We are a health promoting school so would encourage you to help your child make healthy choices for their snack, for example a piece of fruit, a biscuit, crackers or oatcakes.



Due to the severe allergies of some of our pupils, we are a nut free school. This includes spreads and chocolate bars that contain nuts. Please check the ingredients of all snacks you send in to school. Thank you.

What should I do if my child wants milk?



Milk is paid for termly and payment is made via ParentPay. It is important for administration purposes that milk money is paid on the date it is due. Any child who does not wish to have milk may bring a bottle of water which can be refilled in school. For safety reasons, no cans or glass bottles please.

If your child is lactose intolerant or lactose free, we are happy for you to provide them with an alternative, such as soya milk, although we would respectfully ask that you do not send in almond milk given that we are operating a nut free zone. Please feel free to check if you are unsure.

What happens about lunch?



There are a number of options available.

Predominantly children either bring a packed lunch or eat a school lunch. School lunches and packed lunches are eaten in the dining room, except in warm weather when packed lunches may be eaten outside. Primary 1 and 2 children eat at 12:05pm. Primary 3 to Primary 7 children eat at 12:30pm. There is an option for children go home for lunch, please speak to school staff for details.



School lunches are free for all pupils in Primary 1 to 4.

These must be ordered by 12pm on a Wednesday evening for the following week, as we now use ParentPay, an online method of payment and ordering system. If you are not familiar with this system from nursery, please ask the office staff for more information. There is more information later in the booklet on ParentPay. This is an online system for ordering and paying for lunches and school trips etc.

Menus for lunches are available from the school office.

Free meals and milk are available to those whose parents or carers are in receipt of Income Support or income based Job Seekers Allowance. If you are in any doubt, please speak to the school administrator about this.

It is good practice to involve your child in the process of choosing their school lunches as this will help to help encourage them to make healthy choices. Even if you do not pay for school lunches, you must still order them online.

How do I send money to school?



The preferred method of payment is via *ParentPay*. If you need to send any money into school for trips etc, please send it in an envelope, clearly marked with your child's name and class, including a note of the amount of money enclosed and what it is for.

School clubs are paid direct to the PTA using cash or cheque.

ParentPay - Benefits of ParentPay

We are now well established using ParentPay, the online payment system which is used across all schools in the City of Edinburgh Council. We are encouraging all parents and carers to sign up to use this system.



The benefits of using ParentPay are that you can make payments

- whenever and wherever you like using any device
- for multiple items in a single transaction
- for large items in instalments
- for all your children in one place, even if they go to different schools
- there is no need to worry about your child carrying cash
- you can see your full payment history

You will receive an activation letter during the first week of term via your child's school bag (known as 'pupil post'). This will enable you to activate your Nether Currie Primary School account.

ParentPay security

ParentPay will never ask you for confidential information like passwords or card numbers. If you are contacted by someone claiming to be from ParentPay, call ParentPay immediately 0247 699 4820.

Free school meals

Pupils in receipt of free school meals will have their ParentPay account credited centrally by City of Edinburgh Council.

Pupils who are in receipt of free school meals will be anonymous, as they are ordered in exactly the same way as pupils who pay for meals.

What should I do if my child is ill or unable to come to school?



We ask that you please tell us **as early in the day as possible**. You may phone the school or send a message with a sibling or a note with a neighbour's child.

An answering machine will take your message if you phone early in the morning and will be picked up by administration staff upon their arrival.

When your child returns to school please send a short note explaining the absence.

If you do not inform us before 9.30am that your child will not be coming to school, we will telephone you to ask the reason for their absence. If we cannot reach you, we will send an email to you. If by 12 noon, we still have not been able to establish contact with you, we will begin to telephone your emergency contacts. If at this point we still have no success in reaching you, a member of our Senior Leadership Team will make a visit to your house to check that everyone is safe and well.

If your child is not returning to school after being home for lunch, please tell us immediately.

If your child becomes ill while at school and needs to be sent home we will contact you. In the event that we are unable to do so we will contact the emergency contact which you gave us. It is therefore crucial we have up to date accurate contact details for you.

If your child sustains a knock to their head, we will tell you either in person or by telephone or by sending a note home so that you can watch out for any signs of concussion.

What do I do if my child needs to take any medication while at school?



If you wish a member of staff to give your child medication, you must complete a form which is available from the school office. All requests for the giving of medication must be made in writing.

Medicines must be given to the School Administrator for safe keeping during the school day, regardless of whether you have requested the medicine to be administered to your child or for your child to self-administer.

The only exception to this is for Asthma inhalers, which some children, more usually older pupils, carry themselves. Even in these instances we ask that a spare inhaler is kept in the school office.



What do I do if I wish to take my child on holiday during the school term?

The City of Edinburgh Council has a very clear policy with regards to children being absent during term time. This states :

“A directive from the Scottish Government states that permission for family holidays in term time can only be granted in exceptional circumstances. These are as follows:

- Where the family holiday is important to the wellbeing and cohesion of the family, following serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic events.
- Where evidence is provided by an employer that leave cannot be accommodated during school holidays without significant consequences.”

Permission is needed for holidays during term time.

A letter requesting time off with the reason why should be sent to the Head Teacher. Any requests for more than ten days' holiday will be sent by the Head Teacher to the City of Edinburgh Council, Communities and Families Department. You will then receive a letter from the Head Teacher either granting or denying permission for the absence to be classed as 'Authorised.'



You are strongly encouraged to take holidays during the school holiday period as time taken off during term time can be disruptive to your child's education progress in their learning.

Do I need to tell the school if there is any change in my family circumstances?

Any change in family circumstances may result in a change in your child's behaviour or application to school work, so it is important that you tell us of anything significant so that we can respond appropriately to your child's needs.

Is there any After School Care available?



We have an onsite After School Care Club and a Breakfast Club which is run by Spring OSCARS.

Here is a synopsis of the company and the service they provide:

Spring OSCARS @ Nether Currie OSC opened in November 2015. Based from the spacious dining hall at Nether Currie Primary School, the club provides out of school care for up to 40 children on a daily basis. The club is open to all children attending Nether Currie Primary School in classes P1 – P7. The After School Club is open until 5.45pm from Monday – Thursday and 5.30pm on a Friday.

Our Care Inspectorate Registration Number is CS2015340051. As a registered service, we can accept childcare vouchers.

Location

Spring OSCARS @ Nether Currie OSC is based from the main hall within Nether Currie Primary school. Being based from within the school, provides children with a familiar environment in which they can play, while also giving parents/carers the peace of mind that their child does not have to leave the school grounds. Children in primaries 1-3 are collected from their classrooms by a member of Spring OSCARS' staff, while older children make their own way to our base in the school dining hall, where they are welcomed by our staff team.

Leaflets are available from the school office or from Spring OSCARS directly.

More information can be found on their website:

www.oscarschildcare.com/after-school-clubs/nether-currie

Are there any after school activities available?

Nether Currie Primary School have a range Active Schools Clubs for after school. Many of these clubs are 'Currie Cluster' clubs and are located at Currie High School.

For Primary 1-4, we offer Bumblebee Sports on a Thursday afternoon. This is a new club for us and teaches children a range of sports skills through fun and games.

What skills can I help my child to develop so that they are able to be as independent as possible in when they start school?

We would encourage you to work on the following skills with your children.

1. The ability to recognise their name
2. The ability to dress and undress themselves - for PE
3. The ability to fasten zips, buttons and tie laces as appropriate for going out into the playground and PE
4. The ability to go to the toilet on their own and deal with clothing as necessary

PSED - How can you help?

- You can help by encouraging your child to use the toilet independently, wash their hands, put on and fasten their coats.
- Playing games which encourage sharing and turn taking will help your child to build their social skills.



Please do not worry if they haven't managed to achieve these skills yet. They are something we will look to develop throughout their P1 year.

What and how will my child be taught?

All staff plan and organise the learning and teaching experiences guided by the Curriculum for Excellence using the experiences and outcomes and Education Scotland Benchmarks. More information can be found on the Education Scotland website – www.education.gov.scot



Children will learn through a variety of ways such as a whole class, in a group and individually. The core skills in literacy and numeracy will be taught through play and by using a range of strategies to develop and challenge them in their learning.

Early in the first term you will be invited to a meeting at school. At this we will tell you about the teaching at Nether Currie Primary School. We will show you some of the books and activities with which your child will be working and you will have the opportunity to ask any questions about the curriculum.

We hold Parents' and Carers' Consultation meetings twice a year when you will be able to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher.

There are termly Curriculum Overviews sent home at the beginning of each term and a report will be provided towards the end of the final term, reporting on English and Literacy, Mathematics and Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing and a general update on other areas of the curriculum taught.

Will my child have home learning tasks to do?

Your child will have some home learning tasks to complete between Monday to Friday.

In the early stages, this may be recognition of their phonic sounds and tasks linked to their Numeracy focus. Additionally, we ask that you spend a little time each day reading to or with your child. You may choose to read their own books or those from the local Currie Library.

You will be given links to websites and resources which enable you to support the development of their Maths and Numeracy skills.

In what other ways can I be involved in my child's education and the wider life of the school?

We are very proud to have a very active PTA (Parent Teacher Association) which enjoys tremendous parental involvement and participation. The PTA committee helps to organise events for children, such as Christmas parties and events for whole families. It undertakes fund raising for the school to ensure our children have access to quality resources and learning experiences.



We have a very supportive Parent Council who take a real interest in the school and compliment the work of the PTA. Their main foci are about the curriculum development and supporting the school to ensure there is high quality learning and teaching experiences taking place at Nether Currie Primary School.

In the past, we have invited parents to help with baking and craft activities for Primary 1 and 2 children on Friday mornings, during the autumn and spring terms. A letter about Friday Parent Helpers will be issued early in the new term in line with current COVID-19 guidance.

We ask for parent helpers to come along to support out-of-school educational excursions.

We value parental help with our traffic trails which we operate for Primary 1 and 3 children in the Summer term.



How am I kept informed of any meetings and events?



Communications are sent mainly by ParentPay. Please check emails on a regular basis and you can respond from the same platform. We ask you to check your child's schoolbag for any permission slips for up-coming class trips.

We continue to develop our school website and Twitter feed as we are moving towards a more 'eco-friendly', efficient electronic approach to communication using ParentPay.

There is also the Head Teacher's monthly newsletter which gives information about events which have taken place in school, shares the children's achievements, both in and out of school and lets you know about up and coming events as well as the latest news from around Nether Currie. This newsletter is available on the last day of each month and will be emailed to you via ParentPay.

The PTA and PC run Facebook pages where you can find lots of information and ask any questions. Most classes also have their own page on Facebook. Members of the PTA will be able to let you know what to search for.

Online Learning Portal

Within our school website, sits our Online Learning Portal. This is a secure system on available to children at Nether Currie Primary School. You will be given a login for you child's own 'Learner' page and for access to the 'Class' page.

The Online Learning Portal is used to support our home learning and is a place where photographs and work can be shared with the class teacher and other classmates, should you choose to post these. Your child's class teacher/s will give you more instructions and details on how best to use this system.



How do you look after my personal data at school?

Information about how we manage pupil data in schools.

Nether Currie Primary School has a legal responsibility to deliver an effective educational programme to its pupils. In order to do this, we need to collect personal data about our pupils/children and their families so that we can help them learn, and keep them safe. The type of personal data we will collect include:

- **Data about our children and their families**

This will include the name, address and contact details of the pupil/child and relevant family members. It will also include information about relevant medical conditions, any additional supports which are needed, and their family situation. We need this

information to ensure we know our pupils/children and their families, and to ensure we are able to educate them appropriately, and keep them safe.

We will also collect personal data relating to personal characteristics, such as ethnic group to enable statistics to be reported. We need this information so the Council can ensure it is delivering education appropriately to all its citizens.

- **Data about children at school**

This will include data about progress, assessments, and exam results. It will also include records of attendance, absence, and any exclusions. We need this information to understand how our pupils/children are progressing, and to assess how we can help them to achieve their best.

- **Data about when and where they go after they leave us**

This will include information about their next setting/school, career paths or intended destinations. We need this information to ensure we support our pupils/children in all their transitions and do all that we can to help their future be a success.

There will be times where we also receive information about them from other organisations, such as a pupils' previous school, the previous local authority where that school or ELC setting was based, NHS Lothian, Police Scotland, Social work, Additional Support Services, and sometimes other organisations or groups connected to a pupil's education. We use this data similarly to the above: to support our pupils' learning, monitor and report on

their progress, provide appropriate pastoral care; and assess the quality of our services

When we collect and use personal data within school/ELC setting, and for the reasons detailed above, we will normally be acting in accordance with our public task. Occasionally we are also required to process personal data because the law requires us to do so, or because it is necessary to protect someone's life.

We will also take photographs in school and display them on our walls, and in newsletters and other communications. We do this in order to celebrate and share what we have done, including individual achievements and successes. We consider this use of images to be part of our public task as it helps us build an effective community which supports learning. We will

not, however, publish these photographs on social media or in newspapers without permission. Consent for this use will be sought when a pupil/child joins Nether Currie Primary and will be kept on record while they are with us. Consent can be withdrawn at any time, please just let us know.

Sometimes we need to share pupil information with other organisations. We are required, by law, to pass certain information about our pupils to the Scottish Government and the Council. This data is for statistical purposes, and will normally be anonymised. It is normally required to enable the Council, and the Government, to understand how education is being delivered and to help them plan for future provision.

If a pupil/child moves schools/ELC settings, we have a legal obligation to pass on information to their new school/education authority about their education at Nether Currie Primary School

When we record and use personal data, we will only collect and use what we need. We will keep it securely, and it will only be accessed by those that need to. We will not keep personal data for longer than is necessary and follow the Council's Record Retention Schedule and archival procedures when records are identified to be of historical value and require to be retained in the Edinburgh City Archives.

For more information on how the Council uses personal data, and to know more about your information rights including who to contact if you have a concern, see the [City Of Edinburgh's Privacy Notice](#).

Sharing personal data to support Wellbeing

In addition to the above, Nether Currie Primary School has a legal duty to promote, support and safeguard the wellbeing of children in our care. Wellbeing concerns can cover a range of issues depending on the needs of the child.

Staff are trained to identify when children and families can be supported and records are kept when it is thought that a child could benefit from help available in the school, community or another professional. You can expect that we will tell you if we are concerned about your child's

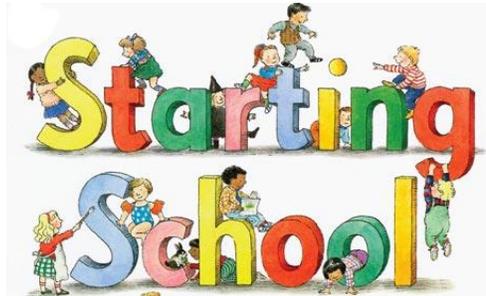
wellbeing, and talk to you about what supports might help in the circumstances. Supports are optional and you will not be required to take them up.

If it would be helpful to share information with someone else, we will discuss this with you and seek your consent before we share it so that you know what is happening and why. The only time we will not seek consent to share information with another organisation is if we believe that a child may be at risk of harm. In these situations, we have a duty to protect children, which means we do not need consent. On these occasions, we will normally tell you that information is being shared, with whom, and why – unless we believe that doing so may put the child at risk of harm.

We will not give information about our pupils to anyone without your consent unless the law and our policies allow us to do so.

What date and time does my child start school?

Your child will start school on either Wednesday 17th August 2022 or Thursday 18th August 2022 for a half-day visit, including lunch. Further information will follow with regards to timings.



What happens on the first day? (Arrangements may look different in August 2022)

As the first day of P1 is a really important day for your child and you, we would like to make sure that it is as special and positive a start as possible.

We invite all parents and children to arrive at the school at 9am on the first day, coming in the main door and meeting in the Dining Hall where the Head Teacher and the P1 Team will be there to welcome you.

The P1 staff will then take the class, with their parents or carers into the infant corridor where you will be able to help your child find their pegs, hang up their belongings and change into their indoor shoes.

You will be welcome to come into the classroom for a brief time to see your child and to take their 'first day at school' photographs. We would respectfully ask that you only photograph your own child. During the

morning, the P1 Team and myself will take lots of photographs of your children exploring their new learning environment to share on the school Twitter account (with your consent).

The P1 team will tell all parents and carers when it is time to leave in order for the children to get on with their first day at school.

The children will finish their first day at 12 noon and will be brought out to the playground by their class teacher. Their teacher will then bring them to the infant playground gates and hand them over to their parent or carer one by one.

We politely request that you please wait outside the railings so that your children quickly get used to the regular routine.

For the Thursday and Friday of the first week, we would ask that you bring your children at 8.45am to the same gate that you collected them from on the Wednesday and let them join the line independently. They will finish school at 12 noon on both those days.

We look forward to them having a fantastic start to Primary 1 and thank you for your support.

What happens from Monday 22nd August 2022?

From Monday 22nd August, please let your child come into the playground by themselves to play with their friends, then line up for class independently when the bell rings, as this will help them settle into the daily routine of school.

Initially it is a good idea to time your arrival to just before the bell but once children have made friends and are well settled into school they sometimes like to arrive a little earlier to play with their friends in the playground.

At the end of the school day, 2.40pm, please wait just outside the school gate for your child.

The children will be lined up in class, with one line for those going to Spring OSCARS and a second for those being picked up at the gate.

The Spring OSCARS staff will come to the classroom just before the bell to pick up those going to the After School Care club. These children will not

go out of the school building. The rest of the children will be led outside by the class

teacher who will then hand over each child directly to the adult collecting them.

If it is someone different collecting your child, then please inform a member of staff in the morning so that time can be made to let the class teacher know in advance of the end of the day.

Any child who does not have someone to meet them will be taken back into the school and up to the office. The office staff will then call the parent or carer to check where they are.

If you know that you are going to be delayed, please telephone the school so that we can inform your child and their teacher in advance of the children leaving the building.

Any child arriving late to school or returning from a medical appointment should enter by the main entrance and press the 'visitor' button for access.

Please note that any child leaving early, other than to go home for lunch, must be collected from school by an adult. In both instances we would require either a letter or a phone call to inform us prior to the day.

If you have any questions about your child or the school, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If we are not able to deal with this immediately then an appointment will be made for you to speak to the class teacher or Head Teacher as appropriate.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to Nether Currie Primary School and engaging with you as part of our Nether Currie family!

Kind regards,

Kirsten Johnston
Head Teacher

