



ST GEORGE'S
EDINBURGH

Guide for Parents of Primary 1 Pupils

Welcome to Primary One!





Junior School

First Day of Autumn Term	Wednesday 23 August 2023
Junior School Welcome Evening	Monday 4 September 2023

Junior School and Nursery Leadership Team

Head	Mrs Carol Chandler-Thompson
Senior Deputy	Mrs Jill Bryce
Head of Junior School and Nursery	Mrs Lisa Nettleton
Deputy Head of Junior School	Mrs Laura Buchanan
Business Director	Mrs Fiona Duncanson
Teacher of Preschool	Miss Eirini Chasomeri
Lead Early Years Practitioner	Miss Rachel Meadows

Junior School Secretary: Mrs Laraine Housley
Nursery Administrator: Miss Iris Koglberger

Junior School office email: jsoffice@stge.org.uk

Junior School and Nursery phone number: 0131 311 8005

Teaching Team

Miss Gibson is the teacher of Primary 1.
She is supported in the classroom by a Classroom Assistant.

School Hours

The Primary 1 school day is from 8.30am – 3.00pm.

Arrival

On the first day, the Primary 1 teacher will come to meet the children outside the Junior School Reception at **8.45am**. Children will be asked to line up and she will take the children to the classroom.

Thereafter, each morning, the teacher will collect the children from the playground at 8.30am, although children may arrive between 8.30 and 8.45am. Children arriving after 8.30am should go to Reception where they will be taken along to their classroom.

Dismissal

Your child will be escorted by the class teacher to the exit door at the Junior School Reception for collection.

Should your child not be collected by 3.00pm, they will be chaperoned to our St George's+ After School Care, where our wrap around care costs will apply.

For safeguarding reasons, parents are asked to inform our Junior School secretaries (tel/email/in person), or class teacher, if their child is going home with someone other than themselves or the regular collector.

Partnership with Parents

It will be possible to convey short pieces of information to the class teacher at morning drop off or afternoon collection time. However, if you wish to discuss any issues at length, please simply make an appointment to meet the class teacher at a mutually convenient time.

The Junior School Parents' Welcome Evening will take place at the beginning of the Autumn term. This will provide you with key information regarding the Primary 1 school year.

If you need to contact us, then please email using the addresses below or you can speak with our Junior School Secretaries by telephone on 0131 311 8005 or email her at jsoffice@stge.org.uk.

Classroom Equipment

Each child should bring to school a small pencil case containing:

- at least 5 triangular shaped pencils
- a good quality rubber (e.g. Stabilo - legend or legacy rubber)
- a pencil sharpener (to fit all sizes of pencils)
- a glue stick (preferably Pritt stick- no coloured ones)
- a pair of good quality, metal rounded, efficient paper-cutting scissors (left-handed if required)

a *second* small pencil case containing:

- a set of colouring pencils

Please ensure that **all** items are named, and that they are checked regularly in case anything needs to be replaced. All items provided must be able to fit securely inside each child's classroom tray.

Homework

All children in Primary 1-5 are required to do homework. All homework tasks and activities are age and stage appropriate. For Primary 1, homework tasks are expected to last no longer than 20 minutes.

The purpose of homework tasks are to reinforce key learning which takes place in class, ensuring appropriate pace, challenge and consolidation.

Each child in Primary 1 will be provided with their own personal homework folder. The homework folder will contain all homework tasks and resources needed for your child. The class teacher will provide details of homework tasks on a printed homework sheet each week.

The class teacher will inform you at the Welcome Evening about the nature of homework at the Primary 1 stage.

Reporting

During each school academic year, families and guardians will be invited to attend two individual parent meetings. These take place in the autumn and summer terms. This provides an opportunity to meet with the class teacher to discuss progress, effort and next steps for learning.

A full, detailed written report, covering all areas of the curriculum, is provided in the spring term.

Assessments

All children are assessed continuously throughout the school year using a range of formative and summative methods. We closely monitor the progress of each child and keep a tracking record of each child's strengths and areas for development.

All children in Primary 1 will complete an entry level baseline assessment, to allow us to better

understand the starting point for their learning journey.

Class teachers will have discussions with you if we are concerned about any aspect of your child's progress.

Morning break

Milk is provided for those children who wish it. Children should bring their own named, filled water bottle each day. Water is also available throughout the day. St George's Junior School eco committee have designed our own school water bottles, which are available for purchase from Reception for the cost of £3.

Children may bring a healthy snack (such as fruit, raw vegetables, or cheese) to school for their morning break. Alternatively, a packet of crisps or a plain biscuit may be brought. **Please note that neither chocolate nor sweets should be brought to school.**

We would also appreciate parents' co-operation in supporting the whole school to maintain a **nut-free environment** for all our children, to ensure that those with nut allergies are protected to the best of our ability. **Nut based snacks are not permitted anywhere on our School campus.**

Lunch

Lunch is provided in the St George's Centre, with a wide range of fresh and healthy foods from which to choose.

Information on lunches can be found on our website: <https://www.stge.org.uk/about/lunch-menu/>. We encourage you to discuss the menu with your child in advance, to help them make confident choices each day.

The Primary 1 team will assist the children in their choice of food and sit with them during lunch.

Please notify the school if your child has any specific allergy or dietary requirements.

Absence

It is important that children attend school regularly if they are to benefit fully from the learning opportunities provided daily.

If your child is absent through illness, please phone the school absence line (0131 311 8030) on the first day of absence.

If you require a day's absence or longer, please put this email request in writing to Mrs Nettleton, Head of Junior School and Nursery. School advises all parents that travel arrangements during term time are kept to a minimum, to allow for a focus on learning and progress.

A record is kept of all pupil absences and these are monitored to ensure safeguarding of children.

St George's + Wrap Around Care: Breakfast Club and After School Care

Breakfast Club is available from 7.45am in the St George's Centre. Our Breakfast Club staff team will escort the children to their classroom collection at 8.30am, and wait for their teacher to arrive.

After School Care is available by the half hour every day until 6.00pm. It is possible to book a light tea in advance.

Breakfast Club and After School Care sessions must be booked in advance using our weekly booking SchoolPost email system.

Further details on these provisions, including costs, can be found on the school website.

Primary 1 clubs

You will receive a list of available clubs and activities early in the Autumn term. Primary 1 children take part in activities as part of their school day, at 2.30pm on Tuesdays. Some clubs are also available for Primary 1 as part of the co-curricular programme after school.

Most of our clubs are included in the school fees, while a few are extras charged to your end of term account. You will know in advance if there is a cost attached.

Uniform

At St George's we believe that our School uniform creates a sense of unity, belonging and pride which strengthens our School community and identity.

All children must wear uniform as prescribed for Primary 1-5 on the uniform list, which can be found at www.stge.org.uk/admissions/uniform.

Please note that all scarves, hats and gloves should be navy in colour.

It is essential that all items of uniform are named.

Hair

We recognise the natural beauty of hair across all cultures. We ask that children come to school with appropriately maintained hair, styled in a fashion which is conducive to good learning habits.

For hygiene reasons long or shoulder length hair must always be tied back in school. All hair accessories worn must be in school colours.

Lost property

Please ensure that all items brought to school are clearly named. In Junior School, lost property items are routinely collected and taken to the Junior School Medical Room, which is close to Reception.

Cars

School users are asked to note that, in the interest of safety, **no cars are allowed within the school grounds between 8.15am and 4.15pm – pedestrian safety barrier in operation.**

As we encourage families and guardians not to bring cars onto the school grounds at certain points of the school day, we would like to highlight that parking is available in the surrounding neighbourhood streets, or at Ravelston Park (and then a short walk through the school grounds).

Holiday Club

Holiday Club is for all Nursery and Junior School children. It runs during most school holiday periods (apart from Christmas, Good Friday, Easter Monday and staff in-service days).

We will email you full details of holiday club each term. There is a booking email sent each term for those requiring this facility.

Parent Teacher Forum (PTF)

The PTF exists to provide opportunities for families, guardians and teachers to meet informally and to exchange views about matters of educational interest.

Each class in Junior School has an allocated, voluntary representative. The 'rep' will ensure that all families and guardians have an opportunity to become part of a friendly, supportive network with one another. We will share details of the Primary 1 class 'rep' at the Welcome Evening.

Primary One Curriculum

Miss Gibson will talk to you about a more detailed outline of our curriculum at the Welcome Evening near the beginning of the session.

The children have three specialist PE lessons a week. Remember to bring in kit on Mondays and to take it home on a Friday. (Remember to practise putting your PE kit on independently over the summer holiday).

The children go to the Library once a week. Library time will be on the homework sheet so please remember to pack and return your child's library book.

The children will have two music lessons a week with Mrs Morrison, the Junior School music specialist.

There will be Drama every fortnight with a specialist, and also a Languages lesson each week with a specialist teacher.

My checklist for my first day! 😊

I can.....

- get dressed and undressed
- fasten my clothes after using the toilet
- care for my own personal hygiene after using the toilet
- turn on a tap
- put on my uniform (such as pinafore or trousers)
- fasten/zip up my own coat or cardigan
- put on my own tights, socks and shoes
- take care of my hair
- carry my own school bag (make sure it is not too heavy)
- hold my pencil correctly
- use a pair of scissors
- look after my belongings, sometimes with a little help!



We hope that your child has a smooth start to their journey through Junior School!