

**Udston Primary School**

**Primary One Transition Handbook for Parents/Carers**

**2021/22**

**A Very Warm Welcome to Udston Primary School!**

Welcome to Udston Primary School. We are delighted that you have chosen to become part of our school community and we are looking forward to working together to support your child as they begin this new and exciting chapter of their learning journey.

We hope you find this Transition Handbook helpful and the information within it allows you to support and prepare your child for starting our school. If you would like any further information about the school or South Lanarkshire Council’s policies and procedures, please visit our school website to access our School Handbook. We have found ourselves in a very unique set of circumstances again this year, which means at present, we have been unable to deliver our normal transition programme in school. If restrictions remain the same throughout this term, then we will aim to provide some virtual welcome sessions as an alternative to our in-school sessions – more information will be provided regarding this. We hope the range of transition materials available to you and your child are the next best thing and we would advise families to spend time going through these together, noting down any questions or worries you or your child have.

The following transition materials have been created to support you, electronic copies of these can be found on our school website ‘New Starts’ section. Please visit [www.udston-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.udston-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk). The resources highlighted in yellow were provided in your initial Transition Packs which were collected from school at the end of February.

* ‘My Starting School Handbook’ for pupils
* ‘Primary One Transition Handbook’ for parents/carers
* ‘All About Me’ Booklet for pupils
* ‘I Can…’ Skills Sheet
* Early Literacy Learning Ideas
* Early Numeracy Learning Ideas
* ‘Virtual Tour of Udston Primary School’ video

If, after reading this Transition Handbook and the other materials provided, you still have any general questions or queries, please submit these via our Google Form using the following link (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeamDKK7WkEk0cU2b6V2F1UQQiBpWZ4AkzCay6fT99q0bLtxA/viewform?usp=sf_link>). The questions submitted will be collated and shared with families. If you have any personal questions or queries relating directly to your child, please email Mrs Turnbull - [gw11turnbullrebecca@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw11turnbullrebecca@glow.sch.uk). Throughout the month of May, we will be phoning families to introduce ourselves and to gather more information about your child. We will also be in contact with your child’s nursery to collect transition information.



**Our Vision & Values**

At Udston, our vision is that everyone in our school community can LEARN TOGETHER ~ LAUGH TOGETHER ~ ACHIEVE TOGETHER; this is our school motto. We all share the same values of Trust, Teamwork, Respect, Effort and Kindness.

Not only do we provide our children with high quality learning experiences which develop knowledge and skills for life, learning and work, we also pride ourselves in developing and nurturing positive relationships and put these at the heart of everything we do. The Health and Wellbeing of our learners is at the centre of our curriculum. Children learn best when they feel safe and happy, therefore we work hard to create an ethos based on kindness, trust and teamwork, in which everyone feels respected and included, and where our pupils can thrive, reflect on their successes and be the best they can be. We place a strong emphasis on celebrating and recognising the individual successes and talents of all children, and encourage maximum effort to ensure everyone succeeds and meets their goals. We have high expectations for each and every one of our learners, encouraging them to contribute and reminding them that making mistakes helps us all learn and grow. By working in partnership with families, and through our ongoing commitment to our shared vision and values, we strive to support our children to achieve and reach their highest potential.

**Our Aims**

Our aims are to:

* Enable pupils to learn and grow in every aspect of their development: academic; personal; physical; social and emotional.
* Create and maintain a positive school ethos that supports learner behaviour and celebrates success.
* Build open, positive and supportive relationships with children and families based on mutual respect and shared expectations.
* Create a safe environment and maintain appropriate structure and routines.
* Be sensitive and responsive to the wellbeing of each child.
* Support children to develop a variety of social and emotional skills, which help them to regulate their emotions and develop appropriate coping strategies.
* Provide relevant and meaningful learning opportunities, which reflect the wider context of the school, and develop learners’ knowledge and skills across the four contexts of the curriculum.
* Use high quality teaching methodologies, which promote effective learning for all children.
* Raise standards of attainment, behaviour and attendance for all pupils.

The relationship between pupils and school staff is based on mutual respect, trust and kindness. The positive ethos of our school is maintained by all children and adults demonstrating consideration for one another, supporting our school vision, values, and aims.



**Any form of bullying will not be tolerated in Udston Primary School**

**The Curriculum**

At school, your child will follow a broad programme of education known as the ‘curriculum’. Curriculum for Excellence is the name given to the curriculum in Scotland for all children and young people aged 3-18. The curriculum is divided into 8 areas:

1. Languages including modern languages

2. Health and Wellbeing



3. Maths and Numeracy

4. Expressive Arts

5. Religious and Moral Education

6. Sciences

7. Social Studies

8. Technologies

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| --- | --- |
| Level | Stage |
| Early | The pre-school years and Primary 1 or later for some. |
| First | To the end of Primary 4, but earlier or later for some. |
| Second | To the end of Primary 7, but earlier or later for some. |

We are continually reflecting upon and reviewing our curriculum to ensure it provides learners with the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to flourish in life, learning and work, now and in the future.

The Curriculum for Excellence aims to enable all children and young people to become:

* Successful Learners
* Confident Individuals
* Responsible Citizens
* Effective Contributors

For more information about Curriculum for Excellence, visit <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/>.

Children will experience a broad, general education with a wide variety of experiences and outcomes. They will learn in a variety of contexts and through the use of a range of learning and teaching approaches. Children will participate in discrete subject lessons, as well as experiencing Interdisciplinary Learning opportunities, where teachers will make links between curriculum areas to provide interesting learning opportunities. Through all of these learning experiences, children will develop skills for learning, life and work.

This session, we will begin to implement a more play-based approach to learning in Primary One. This will include active learning through carefully planned play opportunities and practical experiences. Play is a fundamental process in children’s development and a life-enhancing experience. It builds children’s capacity to thrive despite stress and adversity in their life. As they grow and develop, play offers children the opportunity to develop a range of physical, emotional and social skills, helping them make sense of the world they live in. Your child will also engage in more formal learning opportunities through whole-class and small group teaching sessions.

**Health and Wellbeing**

Health and Wellbeing is at the centre of our curriculum and is a priority and strength of our school. We use innovative approaches to empower our pupils to make positive decisions regarding their personal Health and Wellbeing. Children’s rights are at the heart of our school’s ethos, policies and planning in Health and Wellbeing and beyond. Learning in Health and Wellbeing aims to develop the knowledge and understanding, skills, capabilities and attributes, which children need for mental, emotional, social and physical wellbeing now and in the future. Health and Wellbeing is developed through the ‘Healthy in Schools’ Programme which links to the wellbeing indicators from Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC). These are that all children should be:



* Safe
* Healthy
* Achieving
* Nurtured
* Active
* Respected
* Responsible
* Included

We pride ourselves in our child-friendly approach to learning about the GIRFEC wellbeing indicators through our ‘SHANARRI FAMILY’. Once they start school, you may hear your child talking about the characters from the SHANARRI Family – Safe Sam, Healthy Harry, Achieving Alfie, Nurtured Natalie, Active Annie, Respected Ruby, Responsible Rebecca and Included Ian.

In addition to our more formal programme of learning, we develop children’s Health and Wellbeing through our nurturing and positive relationships. As a staff, we understand that the children’s Health and Wellbeing is the responsibility of all of us and we work hard to create and promote an inclusive ethos based on trust, mutual respect and kindness. All staff have received training on Attachment Theory and The Solihull Approach and apply their knowledge and skills when promoting positive relationships and managing behaviour.

**Physical Education**

Physical Education (P.E.) is a core part of our Health and Wellbeing provision. Usually, all classes participate in two hours of P.E. every week through a range of indoor and outdoor sports and physical activities, however, owing to COVID restrictions, all P.E. is currently delivered outdoors. Dance, Gymnastics, Ball Handling and Athletics are just some of the focuses usually covered over the course of a year. Under normal circumstances, our annual Sports Day takes place in the final term – this is something many of our children look forward to participating in!

**Literacy & English**

Literacy skills empower children to unlock their potential as independent, lifelong learners. They have a significant impact on self-esteem, motivation and aspirations for the future. Being literate equips children to be proactive in their own learning and to communicate their thoughts and feelings.

We use the Hearsay approach throughout the school to ensure children develop the complex set of skills required for effective Listening and Talking. This approach focuses on the three common skills of ‘content’, ‘delivery’ and ‘body language’.

Our teaching staff are trained in North Lanarkshire Council’s Active Literacy Programme. This approach is based on educational research and is used to develop children’s knowledge and skills in Phonics and Spelling, Listening and Talking, Reading and Writing. In the early stages of Phonics and Spelling, children use a magnetic board and letters and are taught the ‘five finger approach’ - Say, Make/Break, Blend, Read, Write. Children also learn and identify strategies which help them read and spell common and tricky words. As they progress through the school, the programme builds on what has been taught before and children are encouraged to continue to develop strategies for help with spelling and are also introduced to spelling rules.

In the infant stages of the school, a book banded approach to Reading is adopted. Books from a range of publishers and authors, covering fiction and non-fiction, are graded using a colour system. This allows children to be exposed to a wide variety of books which are individually tailored to suit their current reading level. As children move up the school, the reading programme focuses on developing their Higher Order Thinking and Comprehension Skills using novels and non-fiction texts. You can find out more about the Active Literacy approach in the parental leaflets on our school website.

In Writing, teachers currently use either the Active Literacy or Talk for Writing approach. Implementing the Talk for Writing approach throughout the school remains a priority in our School Improvement Plan and we have a number of staff involved in the authority’s leadership group.

Once your child starts school, we will provide you with more information regarding our curriculum programmes through leaflets and workshops.

**Reading for Enjoyment**

Our fantastic Library is home to thousands of fiction and non-fiction books covering a range of genres, themes and interests. Under normal circumstances, classes visit the Library on a weekly basis and borrow books to take home, however, current restrictions mean only our Primary 1 pupils can visit the Library and books must remain in school. Once restrictions ease, your child will be asked to purchase a re-usable bag for 50p to keep our books safe when travelling between school and home; these bags are durable and should last for a while! The Library provides all children with the space and resources required to read for enjoyment and research their interests in an engaging and stimulating environment.

**Numeracy & Mathematics**

Numeracy & Mathematics are important in our everyday life, allowing us to make sense of the world around us. They give children access to the wider curriculum; knowledge and skills learned in Numeracy & Mathematics play an important role in other areas such as Science or Technologies.

Teachers employ active learning strategies to teach Numeracy & Mathematics concepts in order to engage children in their learning. Teacher-made resources; Smartboard programmes, including Education City; and Scottish Heinemann, TeeJay, Number Talks and Numicon materials are the core resources used to support children. At all stages, on a daily basis, oral number skills are practised with whole class groups using the Number Talks Programme. Number Talks is a short, daily routine that provides learners with meaningful ongoing practice with the four number operations. Number Talks recognises that not all children see numbers and problems the same way, which means that learners need access to a range of approaches to allow them to choose the one that works best for them. By following the Number Talks programme, children progressively learn and develop a range of strategies, which they can apply to their Numeracy programme and in real life contexts. As each child progresses through the school, their teacher will introduce different strategies, which they can apply to assist them in their learning. This gradual approach means that there is no need for children or parents to overload themselves with all of the strategies and information at once. This allows children to experience a depth of learning before moving onto further strategies in the next school year.

**Learning Across the Curriculum**

Teachers carefully plan a breadth of learning experiences across the curriculum in other subjects such as Social Studies, Science, Technologies, Expressive Arts and RME, making natural links between these areas where possible.

Last year, teachers created a ‘rolling programme’ for Social Studies, which ensures children develop their skills and knowledge in each area of study - History, Environment and Business - over a three-year period. We have a progressive Science programme in place, which allows children to deepen and broaden their knowledge as they move through the school and apply their investigative and inquiry skills in a range of contexts. Learning experiences in Expressive Arts, including Music, Art and Drama, provide our children with opportunities to express themselves and develop skills in each of these areas. Our whole-school Religious and Moral Education (R.M.E.) programme covers Christianity and other World Religions, and aims to develop children’s awareness of, and respect for, the beliefs of other cultures as well as their own. Learning about morals and values is also an important aspect of the R.M.E. programme; we hope to foster a spirit of kindness towards each other, and everyone else in the school community.

Under normal circumstances, our ICT suite is timetabled throughout the day, with all classes getting the opportunity to visit during the week. We have iPads, Chrome Books and Laptops which enhance and ‘bring to life’ the learning experiences of all of our children. All pupils have access to the internet and have e-mail facilities. Every classroom has an Interactive Smartboard and internet access.

**Learning, Teaching & Assessment**

Your child will be assessed on an on-going basis in class using what they have previously been taught and learned as a starting point. This will inform the teacher’s future planning for learning and teaching. Teachers use assessment techniques as part of their daily teaching activities and are very skilled at doing this in a subtle and engaging way. They use a range of formal and informal strategies, which allow the children to become reflective learners. Children become involved in the setting and reviewing of learning targets, where they have the opportunity to discuss progress, strengths and development needs with their teachers.

We also monitor and track pupil progress at regular points throughout the year. This information is based on a range of learning evidence and professional teacher judgement. Additionally, we administer the Scottish National Standardised Assessments for P1, P4 and P7, as currently required.

In Primary One specifically, identified children are assessed using the Phonological Awareness Screening Test (PAST) in December. This assessment identifies any Early Literacy difficulties and allows appropriate interventions to be put in place to support children. The Regular Word Reading Assessment (RWRA) is also used to assess identified children in March. All children will also be assessed using the PM Benchmarking resource to ensure they are reading at the correct level to match their reading ability.

**Homework**

Primary One Homework is uploaded to your child’s Google Classroom on a Monday and is returned on a Thursday – more information will be provided regarding Google Classroom access. Homework usually consists of a phonics task, number task and reading every night. We strongly encourage all children to complete their assigned homework tasks as it allows them to revise what they have been learning in class.

**Reporting**

Under normal circumstances, reporting is ongoing and comprises of a range of activities which includes; Meet the Teacher session, curriculum workshops, Showcases, Sharing the Learning Events twice yearly, final reports, and twice yearly parent/carer visits, however, owing to current restrictions, we have been unable to go ahead with any ‘in-school’ activities. Our school website and Twitter page are regularly updated with class information and school news. We also have our school app, which is very well used by families.

We provide parents with reports to update you with how your child is progressing in their learning. In addition, our parents’ meetings, which took place via phone conversation this session, offer you the opportunity to discuss how your child is doing in school and what your child has been learning. You can contact the school at any time to discuss any matter that you wish to raise. Our ‘pupil reports’ will help you to get to know more about the curriculum which each child follows and will describe strengths and areas for development so you know what encouragement and support you can give.

We welcome any comments or additional information from parents to help us provide the best possible education for your child.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

Usually, we have a varied extra-curricular programme delivered either by staff in their own time, by local sports coaches or our P7 Sports Leaders. At the beginning of each school year, we ask our pupils which activities they would like to be included in our programme and try our best to cater to their needs and interests. We believe that school provides an excellent opportunity for children to develop an interest and passion for sport and physical activity. We have excellent links with our Active Schools Coordinator and local clubs in the community to ensure a clear pathway into sport should children wish to progress further. Under normal circumstances, we also provide a range of other extra-curricular activities including our annual school show club and choir. Extra-curricular clubs for Primary 1 children do not start until Term 2 or 3 to give the children a chance to settle.

**Promoting Positive Relationships & Understanding Distressed Behaviours**

In session 2019-2020, we reviewed our approach to managing pupil behaviour following extensive training and learning by staff about Attachment Theory and the Solihull Approach. Our approach to promoting positive relationships and behaviour is underpinned by the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and the Wellbeing Indicators outlined in Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC). Learners should be aware of the rights to which they are entitled and fully supported in making positive choices, which ensure these rights, and the rights of others, are respected. Every class displays our shared Values along with clear expectations for behaviour in their Class Charter. These are:

1. Be safe at all times



2. Use kind words and actions

3. Be respectful

4. Listen and follow instructions

5. Join in and make an effort

There is no public display within classes relating to the management of individual pupil behaviour, staff approach this in a subtle and sensitive way. In August, all new families will be provided with a copy of our Position Statement.

**Celebrating Success**

Each week, one child per class is recognised for being a positive example of one of the Four Capacities – Successful Learner, Responsible Citizen, Confident Individual or Effective Contributor - or Masterpiece of the Week. This reflects behaviour, effort or achievement in class and the wider school. Award winners’ photographs or masterpieces are proudly shared on our display boards in our main corridors. We encourage children to share any out of school achievements too and these are celebrated on our ‘Amazing Achievements’ display. At the end of the school session, two children per class are recognised for demonstrating outstanding commitment to our School Values.

**House System**

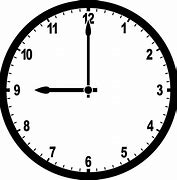
There are four Houses in Udston Primary – Belhaven, Fleming, Kelvin and Wellcroft. Each House elects a House Captain and Vice-Captain from Primary Six and Seven at the start of the session. Your child will be allocated to a House when they start school. If they have an older sibling, they will be placed in the same House as them. Children sit in their Houses at assemblies and are awarded Tokens for behaviour and teamwork. They can earn House Tokens both in class and the wider school. Our School Charters link to our House System and children can be awarded Tokens from staff for demonstrating respectful attitudes and responsible actions. House Tokens are displayed in the open areas and the main foyer. Tokens are counted at the end of each term with the winning team receiving the House Trophy and a special prize.

**Buddy System**

Our Primary 1 children are matched with a Primary 6 Buddy at the start of each school session. The Primary 6 Buddies take on a mentoring role as they help the new children settle into school life at Udston. Under normal circumstances, the Buddies and the Primary 1 children have opportunities throughout the year to engage in a range of activities together, such as paired reading. The Buddy System is an excellent way of developing our Primary 6 pupils’ leadership skills, as well as helping our new children feel comfortable and safe in their new environment. You will find a photograph of your child’s Buddy in their *‘My Starting School Handbook’.*

**Important Information**

**School Hours**



* School Starts 9.00
* Morning Interval 10.30-10.45
* Lunchtime 12.15-1.00
* Home Time 3.00

School starts promptly each day at 9am. It is important that children are dropped off and picked up on time. If your child is late, this will result in them missing important teaching input, which can have a negative impact on their learning. If you are running late to collect your child, please contact the School Office as soon as you can.

Children in Rooms 1, 3, 5 & 7 should enter and exit through the MUGA Gate, Rooms 2, 4, 6 & 8 via the Front Gate (Thornhill Road) and Rooms 9, 10, 11 & 12 via the Back Gate.

**Toast to Go**

Owing to current restrictions, we are unable to safely provide our usual Breakfast Club service. As an alternative, we recently started a ‘Toast to Go’ service in which children can collect some toast from outside the Dining Hall doors at 8.45am. If children are using this service, they should enter school via the Front Gate (Thornhill Road) and go straight to the Dining Hall doors to collect their toast. You will be sent a Google Form link to complete in August if you would like to make use of this service for your child.

**School Lunches**

All children in Primary 1-3 are entitled to a free school lunch or they can choose to bring a packed lunch. The school lunch menu consists of a three-course meal and all meals include fresh chilled drinking water. Milk is available for those pupils entitled to free school meals through the free school meal eligibility scheme at lunchtime and is also available to purchase for 20p for those pupils wishing to buy at lunchtime. The children also have access to unlimited bread, salad and vegetables to supplement their meal. You will receive a paper copy of the school lunch menu when your child joins us in August, an electronic version is also available on our school app and website.

Pupils in:

• Primary 1 - 3 receive a free school lunch.

• Primary 4 - 7 meal cost is £1.95

Children of parents who receive the following benefits are entitled to a free lunchtime meal for their child:

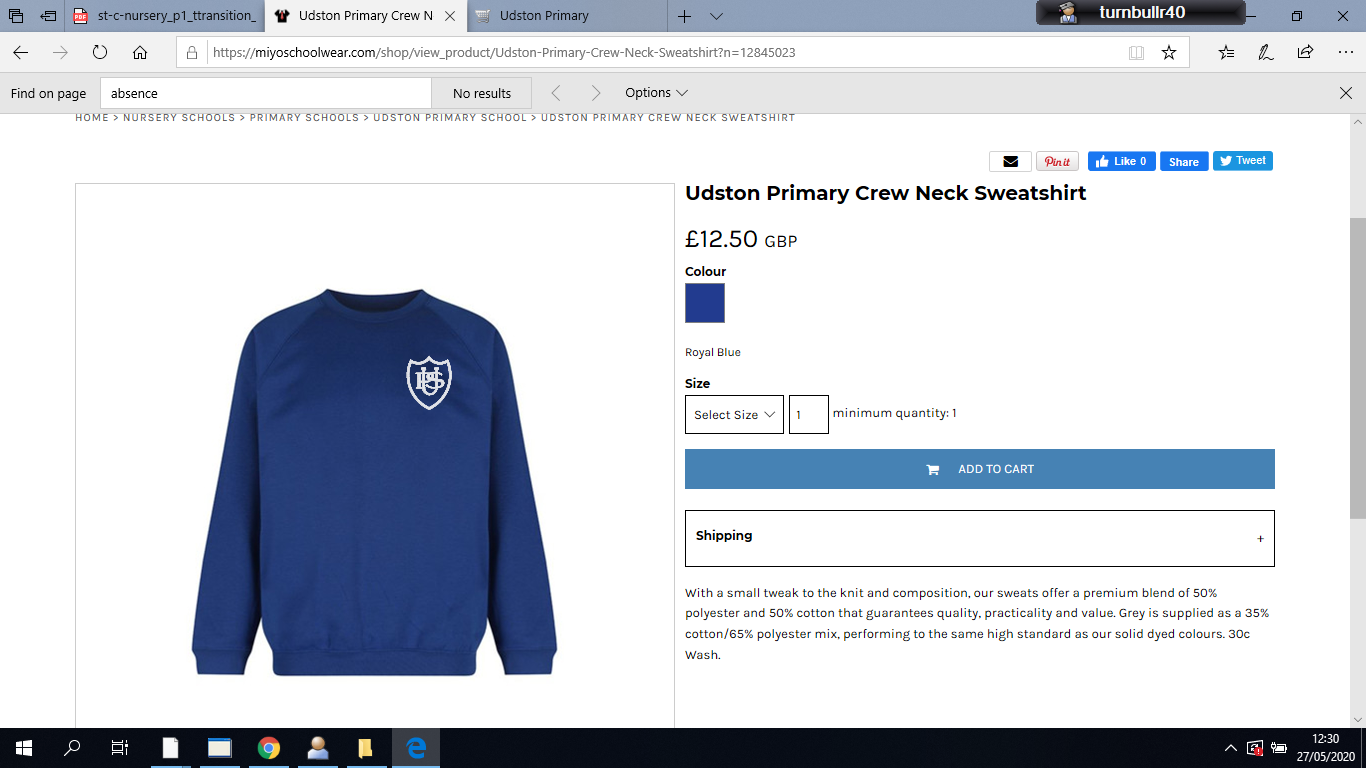
• Income Support, Universal Credit (and your earned income is less than £610 as assessed by the Department for Work and Pensions in the assessment period immediately preceding the application for free school meals), Job Seekers Allowance (income based), Employment and Support Allowance (income related), Child Tax Credit only (with a gross annual income less than £16,105 as assessed by HM Revenues and Customs on your Tax Credit Award Notice TC602), Working Tax Credit and Child Tax credit (with a gross annual income less than £7,330) as assessed by HM Revenues and Customs on your Tax Credit Award Notice (TC602), Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction from SLC there is no need for you to apply online, they will use the information they hold to automatically award free school meals (P4 to S6) and/or school clothing grants (P1 to S6) to eligible families.

We would encourage parents of children who are in receipt of any of the above benefits to apply for means-tested Free Meal Entitlement when your child starts Primary 1. You can apply online using the following link <https://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/forms/form/306/en/clothing_grant_and_free_school_meals_application> Arrangements are in place so that children who receive free meals are not singled out and we encourage all children to remain in school at lunchtime.

**School Uniform**

We ask all parents/carers to support the school by encouraging your child to adhere to the agreed dress code and the wearing of our school uniform. Wearing school uniform helps promote the identity of the school in the local community and creates an ethos of pride. In addition, school uniform helps protect all pupils as it allows us to distinguish between those who belong to the school and those who may be visitors. This enables staff to approach and identify visitors more readily and helps ensure a safer environment for pupils and teachers alike. Our school uniform consists of:



* Grey skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts.
* Royal blue or white polo shirt
* White shirt and school tie
* Royal blue or grey jumper/sweatshirt or cardigan
* Blue and white checked summer dress
* Black gym shoes
* Optional: Royal blue blazer

You will find photographs of pupils wearing their school uniform in your child’s *‘My Starting School Handbook’.*

School uniform can be purchased from Scotcrest in Hamilton or MIYO Apparel in Motherwell. Owing to the current COVID-19 restrictions, Scotcrest and MIYO Apparel are asking families, where possible, to order online from <https://scotcrestschools.co.uk/Find-Your-School/South-Lanarkshire/Udston%20Primary> or <https://miyoschoolwear.com/shop/category/Udston-Primary-School?c=2689703>. Alternatively, many other shops and supermarkets also sell school uniform, including Marks & Spencer, ASDA, Sainsbury’s, etc.

**Clothing Grant**

In certain circumstances, the Council provides support to parents/carers for the purchase of school wear.

Applications can be made online at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk. If you are required to submit evidence of your Tax Credit income it is important that a copy of this evidence is attached to your online application. Should you require further information or you are unable to submit an application online then please contact the helpline number 0303 123 1011 (option 5).

**Healthy Snacks**

We are a Gold Standard Health Promoting School and strongly encourage families to provide their child with a healthy snack for playtime rather than crisps or sweets. Children have a long day at school and benefit greatly from a nutritional morning snack, which will provide them with enough energy to see them through to lunchtime. This might include a piece of fruit or some vegetables, a breakfast bar, etc. Please ensure any foods which pose a choking risk, e.g. grapes or cherry tomatoes, are cut into halves or quarters. Please provide your child with a bottle of plain drinking water each day, we would recommend a re-fillable one since we are an Eco School! There is a water fountain available for your child to re-fill their bottle during the day.

**Allergies**

If your child has any allergies, please notify the school about these prior to them starting. If your child has an allergy with moderate to severe symptoms, they will likely have a Health Care Plan drawn up by the NHS. This will detail symptoms and appropriate interventions and it is vital that parents share this information with the school and continue to provide any updated information. Where symptoms are mild and a Health Care Plan is not in place, parents should still continue to liaise regularly with the school on any new triggers, medications and actions required. In all cases, our staff need to know your child’s symptoms, treatments and any actions required to help prevent exposure to the allergen and minimise the risk of allergic reactions. Employees in schools will receive training on allergies and will liaise with parents and the NHS on any additional specialist training required.

Please note, we have a number of children and staff with severe nut allergies, therefore we are a **NUT-FREE ZONE.** Please ensure you do not provide your child with any nut-based products for their snack or in their packed lunch.

**Medicines**

Please speak to a member of our Senior Leadership Team about any aspect of your child’s health which may concern you. If your child requires medication to be administered in school then you must come into the building to complete the relevant forms and hand the medication into the School Office. Please do not send your child to school with medicine and a note of instructions as the medication will not be administered.

**Appointments**

Please inform the School Office by phone or letter beforehand. If possible, please provide the School Office with a copy of any appointment letters to allow the staff to keep a copy for our records. No child is allowed out of school unless they are collected by an adult.

**Absences**

Attendance at school is crucial to allow your child to make maximum progress in their learning and achieve everything they are capable of. Even occasional days off or late comings can add up and result in lost teaching time, therefore we ask for your full support in ensuring your child attends school every day and on time. There will be times, however, when your child may be unwell and will be absent from school. On these occasions, we would ask that you contact the school from 8.30am to advise the Office Staff of your child’s absence. This is extremely important to ensure the safety and welfare of your child.

**Illness**

If your child becomes unwell at school, we will contact you immediately. If we cannot contact you, we will try your emergency contact. It is therefore very important that we have up to date contact details, particularly mobile telephone numbers. Your child will be supervised until an adult comes to collect them.

Parents and Carers should follow the NHS Guidelines for the control of infection, which can be found at [www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-andconditions](http://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-andconditions).

In accordance with these guidelines we insist that children do not return to school for 48 hours after the last episode of sickness or diarrhoea. These measures are in place to ensure the health and safety of all children.

For more information about COVID-19, including what to do if someone in your household is showing symptoms, please click on the following link <https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/infections-and-poisoning/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-covid-19-general-advice>.

**After- School Provision**

Many of our children attend after-school provision and a range of companies are currently used by our families. These include:

Childcare in the Community - 01698 477 622

Barnehage - 01698 710 941

Future Stars - 01698 200 020

Hopscotch - 01698 891 173

**Top Tips for Starting School**

**Please refer to the ‘I Can’ Skills Poster included in your child’s Transition Pack. Now is the time to work on these skills. Display the poster somewhere in your home so you can refer back to it, track your child’s progress and celebrate their success!**

* Can your child recognise their own name? If not, make signs to display on their bedroom door, etc.
* If you are teaching your child how to write their name, please only use a capital letter at the beginning of their name. In your child’s Transition Pack, you will find a letter formation worksheet. This should help your child practise the correct way to form their letters.
* Please label all items of clothing and belongings – now more than ever this is SO important. We really do not want children’s personal belongings to be mixed up. As we say to the children in class, “it all looks the same, so remember to write your name!” Permanent marker on the labels is ideal! Remember to label packed lunches, pencil cases, water bottles and Tupperware too.
* Please buy shoes with either Velcro or buckle fasteners. It would take too long for Class Teachers and Support Staff to tie 25 pairs of shoes before playtime and lunchtime and the children wouldn’t get to enjoy maximum time outside playing! Laces can also be a tripping hazard in the playground.
* Encourage your child to put on and zip up their own jacket.
* Please give your child a small healthy snack to enjoy at playtime. We are a Health Promoting School and we need families to support us with this.
* Encourage your child to open their own snacks so they are able to do it at playtime and lunchtime.
* Please provide your child with a re-usable water bottle to bring to school each day – plain water only.
* When buying your child’s schoolbag, please ensure it is BIG enough to hold an A4 homework folder along with a PE Kit, water bottle, pencil case, healthy snack, etc.
* Please check your child’s schoolbag every night for letters, homework, etc.
* Please promote independence by encouraging your child to pack their schoolbag the night before and check they have all their belongings for the next day.
* All children receive 2 hours of Physical Education each week. Owing to current restrictions, your child can come to school wearing their P.E. kit, this should include clothing which will keep them warm and dry outdoors. You will be provided with details of your child’s PE days when they start school.
* A lunch menu for each season will be sent home for families. Please display this somewhere and allow your child to choose what they would like to order for lunch on any given day. There is a choice of 2 hot meals and 2 cold meals. These meals are colour coded and match the tray that the meal is served on. Please ensure your child knows what they are ordering and what colour that meal is. An electronic version of the lunch menu will be uploaded to our app and website in August.
* Can your child use the toilet, wash and dry their hands independently? Now is a good time to work on this, especially the importance of proper handwashing.
* This is such a special milestone for you and your child. They will take their lead from you – please talk positively about starting school and your own school experiences. The past year has been an exceptional set of circumstances and your child has been by your side throughout. It is entirely normal for them to worry about leaving you and to feel anxious. Please reassure them that you will look forward to being reunited at the end of the school day and hearing about what they have learned and the new friends they have made.
* This year is unique as there haven’t been any Welcome Sessions in school. All P1s are in the same situation and we will work together to support the children to settle into school life. It is really important that you take the time to sit down with your child and look through the materials in the Transition Pack. Please send your completed ‘All About Me’ booklet into school or, if preferable, send photographs via email of the completed booklet. Please remember to send us a photograph of your child to allow us to start putting faces to names!
* Please also share our ‘Virtual Tour of Udston Primary’ with your child, this is available on our New Start Twitter page @UdstonS.
* Finally, if you or your child have any questions, worries or concerns – no matter how big or small – please get in touch with Mrs Turnbull [gw11turnbullrebecca@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw11turnbullrebecca@glow.sch.uk).

**How to Help Your Child at Home**

**Numeracy & Mathematics Tips & Ideas (Family Maths Toolkit Website)**

There's Numeracy & Mathematics in all of the everyday activities you already do together with your child. There are plenty of opportunities to play with numbers, and help your child feel positive about maths. Please refer to the Early Numeracy Ideas materials in your child’s Transition Pack. Always point out that you are doing Numeracy & Mathematics - this helps children understand that it isn't scary.

* Cooking. Measure ingredients and set the timer together.
* Practise counting up to twenty and then back to one.
* Find the same amount of different items to help your child understand what numbers mean. For example, find 3 spoons, 3 hats, or 3 socks.
* Talk about the shape and size of objects, e.g. big car, round ball, rectangular box. Ask questions like "pass me the biggest box", or "which is the smallest shoe?".
* Play with items like shells, bottle tops, beads, Lego and compare them. Try making patterns with them together.
* Put items in order. You could do this by weight, height or size. Ask your child to help you organise items around the house.
* Make patterns with objects, colouring pencils, paint or Play-Doh.
* Build structures with Duplo, Lego or boxes.
* Solve problems. Work out "how many altogether" and "how many more". As your child questions such as "We have 3 red apples and 2 green apples, so how many apples do we have altogether?”

**Literacy & English Tips & Ideas**

Developing Early Literacy skills at home can be done in lots of simple and fun ways, through singing songs and nursery rhymes, chatting to your child, reading a story, etc. Please refer to the Early Literacy Ideas materials included in your child’s Transition Pack.

**Reading (Literacy Trust website)**

* Make time to read: research shows that reading with your child for as little as 10 minutes a day can significantly boost how well they do at school. Set aside a regular time every day to read with your child, whether it’s for 10 minutes when they get in from school or reading a bedtime story together. Little and often works best.
* Let your child choose what to read: your child is more likely to enjoy reading if they get to choose what they read. Join your local library for free and help your child explore a wide variety of books from animals and sports to cooking and wizards.
* Explore different reading materials: as well as fiction there is a whole world of comics, smagazines, ebooks, audio books and non-fiction for your child to discover.
* Get the whole family involved: encourage your child to read with other family members, such as grandparents, brothers and sisters, and aunts and uncles.
* Bring stories to life: when you read stories aloud with your child, give characters different voices and mannerisms. Try pausing the story and asking your child what happens next. You could also act out parts of the story together.
* Create fun reading challenges at home: on a rainy day, you could organise a treasure hunt around the house by giving your child a list of things to find and seeing how quickly they can read the list and collect all the items.
* Be positive: praise your child for trying hard at their reading and let them know it’s alright to make mistakes.
* Be a reading role model: your child learns from you, so seeing you enjoying and valuing books can be a great inspiration!

**Listening & Talking Tips (NHSGGC Website)**

Try these simple tips to get the most out of talking times with your pre-school child:

* Wait and give them time



* Slow down when you are talking
* Listen and comment
* Repeat new words
* Talk about what your child is doing
* Say it back the way they would if they could!
* Try not to question too much
* Talk about everyday activities
* Focus on what they say not how they say it!
* Have fun!

**Writing Tips**

For a child to hold a pencil with the correct pencil grip they will need good fine motor skills – this will allow writing to be more efficient and less frustrating for a child. Fine motor skills are the coordination of small muscles giving us the ability to make movements using the small muscles in our hands and wrists. These skills are best developed by playing with smaller objects, enabling the actions of picking, pushing, pulling, turning, twisting, ripping etc.

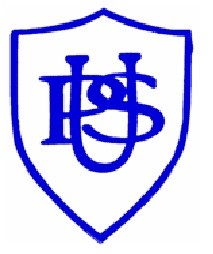
There are lots of fun and simple ways to develop your child’s fine motor skills, especially through everyday play activities such as:

* Making jigsaws
* Playdough modelling
* Building bricks e.g. Duplo or Lego i.e. Pulling Lego pieces apart
* Drawing and painting
* Colouring in pictures
* Threading objects onto a piece of string
* Colouring and cutting activities.
* Weeding the garden
* Using tweezers to pick up small objects
* Playing with stickers
* Peg boards
* Picking up small objects e.g. peas

Allow your child to scribble and draw using crayons, felt pens, chalk or pencils. Let them use whichever hand they prefer. Create real opportunities for your child to write, such as signing cards, letters or invitations. Many children love to ‘write’ their own stories and what looks like a scribble to adults can be important ‘writing’ which has meaning to a child. Please do not use capital letters when writing for your child - apart from the beginning of a name.

**Staying up to date (Newsletters, website, app, etc)**

If you have any specific questions relating to your child, please email Mrs Turnbull on [gw11turnbullrebecca@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw11turnbullrebecca@glow.sch.uk) or use our Google Form for any general questions (<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeamDKK7WkEk0cU2b6V2F1UQQiBpWZ4AkzCay6fT99q0bLtxA/viewform?usp=sf_link>). Please also follow our ‘Udston New Starts’ Twitter page @UdstonS, as well as our main school Twitter page @udston\_primary. Please download the ‘School App for Parents’ and search for Udston Primary School. This is our main form of communication and is where we post regular news and updates. ITunes link - <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/psa/id1309721219?ls=1>



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