



Welcome to
Brydekirk Primary School



December 2023

Information at a Glance

School Address

Brydekirk Primary, School Street, Brydekirk, DG12 5LX

Telephone: 01461 202 449

Email address:

Gw08officebrydekirk@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Parent Council Chairperson Rachel McCreary

Parent Council email

brydekirkparentcouncil@yahoo.com

Head Teacher Mrs Melinda Clark

School Roll 26

Denomination Status Non-denominational

Status of Gaelic Not taught

School Staff:

Teaching Staff

P1 - P3 Miss J Primrose (PT)

P4 - P7 Miss K Scott

RICCT/Management Cover Miss H Urquhart

Support for Learning Teacher Mr M Kay

Auxiliary Staff

Senior Clerical Assistant Mrs S Howe

General Assistant Mrs R McGearry

Janitor Mr W Wyllie

Catering Mrs M O'Neil

Cleaner Mrs T Cordley

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

The School Day

The school gates open at 08.30.

Pupils can access the building from 08.50.

9am School day starts.

10:45 - 11:00am Morning Interval - whole school.

12:15 - 1pm Lunchtime - whole school.

3pm End of school day.

School term dates can be found at:

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

Communicating with home

School Offices are not manned on a full-time basis. Where office staff are not available the telephone answering machine will be activated. If your enquiry is not urgent please leave a message, if your enquiry requires an immediate response please contact one of our partnership schools and your call will be redirected appropriately.

Office Times

Brydekirk: Monday – Wednesday 09:00 – 2:30pm Tel 01461 202 449

Hoddom: Monday to Friday 9.00am to 3.00pm Tel 01576 300613

Group Call is used to communicate with parents. We also operate a text messaging service which parents can use to communicate with school. The text messaging numbers across our partnership are: Brydekirk 07860 029328 and Hoddom 07860 029381.



Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

At Brydekirk we have a clear vision for learning. Staff strive to create a happy, nurturing and safe learning environment, where everyone is respected and included. Through positive learning experiences at school, at home and in the wider community, pupils are supported on their journey to achieving their goals and realizing their full potential. We aim to help all our pupils become: Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors.

This handbook gives you information about our school, our aspirations and our shared values. I hope that it provides you with all the information needed. If you have questions that remain unanswered please call and we will be more than happy to help with your query.

Close working relationships between pupils, parents and staff build a spirit of teamwork and trust. We value partnership and community links and welcome the creativity and support of local people. We also aim to contribute to our local community and enjoy participating in local initiatives which make us proud of our local heritage and culture.

I look forward to working in partnership with you, to provide your child with a very positive learning experience at Brydekirk and look forward to their many achievements and successes.

Mrs Clark

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

Ethos

Our shared vision across the school community is to support all our children and staff to meet the high expectations set at Brydekirk Primary School. We expect high levels of participation, attainment and achievement, celebrating learners as individuals. Our values are underpinned by a strong sense of equity for all and include: respect, kindness, honesty, resilience, discipline, positivity and good manners. Our children particularly value imagination and curiosity; respect and pride in our school. We aim to provide a safe and nurturing environment in which children develop as successful readers, literate and numerate. The importance of self-esteem and self-confidence underpins our aim to build resilient, self-motivated learners. Overall wellbeing of children and staff is valued and is our starting point for managing school improvement planning. We have achieved our Gold Rights Respecting UNICEF Award.

Aims

- Stay safe and healthy.
- Stimulate enjoyable experiences and opportunities for all.
- Challenge ourselves and one another to reach our potential.
- Succeed in reading, writing and mathematics.
- Encourage confidence and the right attitude.

Values

Our School Values:

- Respect
- Love
- Kindness
- Friendship
- Determination
- Honesty
- Positivity and Trust are at the heart of everything we do.



Contact Us

The school welcomes suggestions and enquiries from parents and carers.

If you need to find out something

We can be contacted by e-mail, telephone, group call text messages or face to face. Where it is not possible to resolve enquiries straight away, we will make arrangements to follow up as necessary with the most appropriate member of staff.

Comments, Complaints and Compliments

A comment might be some brief feedback about how we have handled a situation or delivered a service. It is best to pass a comment straight to the school so that we can take any necessary action.

If you are not happy with the response you receive or a decision that has been made, you can 'Ask us to Look Again'. You can do this by contacting ParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk. At this point an Officer will contact you, discuss the issue and direct your enquiry as appropriate.

Remember you can also access Dumfries & Galloway Have Your Say at www.dumgal.gov.uk/

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/

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

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

Positive Behaviour and Celebrating Success

Children are expected to develop acceptable standards of behaviour, courtesy & respect to everyone at Brydekirk. Adults adopt a positive approach to the question of discipline & the relationship between children & adults is based on mutual consideration & respect. Staff work co-operatively & diligently to develop & maintain a positive climate for learning. Good behaviour is promoted through the provision of appropriate, interesting learning & teaching experiences, within the school.

Parental support & co-operation in avoiding & eliminating instances of indiscipline will be sought as needed. Whenever appropriate we work co-operatively with parents, Psychological Services, School Inclusion & other agencies in order to promote positive behaviour & support pupils.

Staff are committed to providing a caring, friendly & safe environment, where pupils learn in a secure atmosphere in which bullying is considered to be unacceptable.

A whole school policy exists which aims to:

- Give clear messages that bullying is not acceptable.

- Treat any form of bullying seriously & deal with it in a calm & effective manner.
- Maintain a climate of openness where children & parents can raise issues of bullying.
- Reassure children & parents that all matters of bullying are taken seriously & dealt with effectively.
- Raise awareness of bullying through the curriculum, adopting strategies such as no-blame common concern, peer support, Circle Time discussions & Restorative Practice.

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

The school uniform is fully supported by all our parents and pupils. Uniform order forms are sent home once a year and requests for further order forms can be made through the school office. Our uniform consists of a white/blue/navy polo-shirt, navy sweater/cardigan with a school badge, black/grey trousers/skirts. In summer many girls wear a navy school summer dress and many boys prefer black/grey school shorts.

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 website or call us on 0800 182 2222.

Best Start Grant

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments:

- Pregnancy and Baby Payment
- Early Learning Payment
- School Age Payment

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit. The payments you can get now will depend on:

- how far along in your pregnancy you are
- how old your child is

Further information and an application can be made at: mygov.scot website

Clothing Grant

The award of clothing grants is to assist with the cost of school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on low income. The current award is presently £134 per primary school child and £150 per secondary school child.

Further information and an application can be made at: Free school meals and associated payments - Dumfries and Galloway Council (dumgal.gov.uk)

Education and Learning Directorate are committed to supporting families through their Anti-Poverty Strategy – details of which can be found at www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty Schools should also make parents aware of the School Uniform Bank Project. Donation and Collection information can be found at the above link.

School Meals

The Naturally D&G local provenance for a sustainable future ensures that meals are freshly prepared with seasonal ingredients and are free from undesirable additives.

Detailed information on school meals is available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmenus

Special Dietary Requirements

Facilities Services – Catering provide special dietary requirements for food allergy and intolerances; medically prescribed diets; or diets for religious or cultural reasons specific meals for children of different ethnic origin. Simply ask the school for a 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 or the Solutions Centre on 01387 271 112 or 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

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 (This cannot be done through your school)

Attendance

It is your responsibility as parents to ensure that your child/children attend school regularly. For the safety of all children it is important for you to telephone the school office prior to/at the beginning of the absence. Absences are recorded in class registers and frequent or irregular absences not supported by a reasonable excuse, will be notified to parents and the matter may be referred to the Opportunities for All Service. If possible please, try to make dental/medical appointments outwith school hours. However, if this is not possible please inform us in writing or by telephone of the appointment and arrange to collect your child from class.

For more information on Attendance, Absences, Lateness and responsibilities of parents please visit www.dumgal.gov.uk

Absence from School

Pupils who need to leave school during the school day ie doctor /dentist appointments, must be collected by a named contact confirmed with the school office. They must also report to the school office on their return to school.

Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), now known as 'Scotland's Curriculum,' is bringing learning to life in the way education is delivered for all 3-18 year olds in nursery, primary, secondary, at college and via workplace or community learning. It aims to respond and adapt flexibly to meet the needs of an ever changing and evolving world and Scotland's place within it. At its heart lies a constant commitment and drive towards excellence and equity, to raise standards, improve knowledge, develop skills for all learners and close the gap between the lowest and highest achievers by ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to be successful, no matter what their background or circumstances. Ultimately, it aims to nurture children and young people as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

Broad General Education

Children and young people work their way through Experiences and Outcomes in each of the five Curriculum Levels (Early, First, Second, Third, Fourth) and in each of the eight Curricular Areas. The five Curricular Levels span pre-school to the end of S3. This is the Broad General Education. Pupils progress at their own pace, working through the Experiences and Outcomes of the most appropriate level for them. Pupils will be supported in collecting evidence of their achievements, with a profile of these being produced in P7 and S3.

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.

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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/

For more information on what is meant by parental involvement visit 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

Homework

We operate a regular homework programme:

- To reinforce and revise class work
- To promote responsibility for pupils' own learning
- To promote home/school links

All pupils follow a weekly homework programme, which may include reading, spelling, maths and additional activities related to class work. Children are given reading throughout the week. This should be heard by an adult until the child starts to read longer more complex books. At this point parents should ask the child about their reading once they are finished. This encourages children to think about what they have read and improves their comprehension skills.

We really appreciate the time parents spend encouraging and supporting their child with homework. This helps build up a routine and attitude which will help them greatly in life beyond primary school. We encourage you to work with your child to ensure work is neat and well presented, giving your child help and support when needed. It's important to be encouraging without pressurising.

Some children will require some additional support. Where this is the case we will be in touch to discuss the supports that we are putting in place and how we can work together to ensure the best possible outcome.

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/ and on page 18 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

You are the expert on your child and what you think matters. Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) means that the School will always seek to involve you, to listen to your opinions and take them seriously.

More information is available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/girfec and on page 20 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Child Protection

All children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect. The vision for all children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway is that they should be: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible and included. Schools and front-line education and child care services will play an important role in ensuring all children and young people are safe and well.

Further information can be found at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16640/Support-for-children-and-families>

Parents, carers and pupils have a key role in keeping the school community safe. We would therefore urge parents to share any information which would keep everyone safe, and to support and encourage their child(ren) to do the same.

Enrolment in Schools - School Places

Information on enrolment in school and catchment areas is available at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15241/School-places> Information regarding catchment areas can be found on the Council's website by accessing "Find My Nearest".

School Improvements

Each year the school will publish a School Improvement Plan which outlines the key priorities for the school during the year ahead, following engagement with staff, pupils and parents. The plan indicates the expected impact of priorities on pupil learning, as well as providing brief information about the key tasks to be taken forward. Both the report and the plan are published on the school's web-site and are also available in hard copy, on request. A copy can also be found by searching for your school at www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools

Each year the school, in partnership with parents and staff, create school improvement targets.

This year we are focusing on the school curriculum. We are investigating and implementing elements of enquiry based curriculum. This will involve class teachers considering how to encourage pupil curiosity using the classroom environment. Children



will be involved in this process through designing the classroom which is inspiring for them.

Interdisciplinary Learning will also be an area for school improvement. We will be working with Education Scotland staff to develop and creativity, critical thinking and problem-solving techniques which can be used in all areas of the curriculum.

As a cluster our focus will be to upskill our teachers in listening and talking teaching. Children need to be able to share ideas orally in order to be able to share them in written form. This development will enhance all areas of the literacy curriculum.

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

Data Protection

Information on how the Council uses personal data is available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Data-protection and www.dumgal.gov.uk/privacy

ICT in Schools

For more information on ICT in school please see page 14 of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

Use of the Internet, Social Networking Sites

As part of the process of learning we allow our children supervised access to the Internet and e-mail. The authority runs its own filter system to ensure that young people are not at risk from exposure to inappropriate material. This filtering system is regularly being upgraded. We have a policy for use of the Internet and a contract for responsible use, which we ask parents and young people to sign up to.

For more information visit our [Education Authority Handbook](#) and [Safe Digital Learning and Social Media Leaflet](#)

