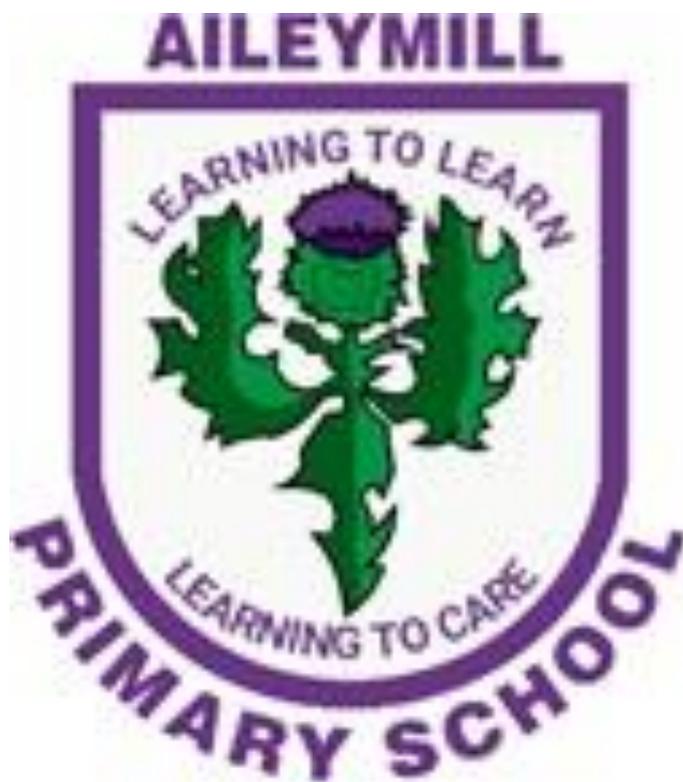


Welcome to Aileymill Primary



A Guide To Starting School
The School Day

9am - School Starts

10.35am - Playtime

10.50am - Playtime ends

12.30am - Lunchtime

1.15pm - Lunchtime ends

3pm - School Ends



Getting Settled- the first few days

On the first day of school Primary 1 children enter the school through the main entrance. They will then make their way to the Primary 1 classrooms. From the second morning onwards you may bring your child, through the entry door, into their classroom. Doors open at 8.50 a.m. (no earlier please)

Once you have settled your child it is best to leave. If your child is upset, a member of staff will help him/her to settle. Nine times out of ten the crying quickly stops when the parent has left. If your child remains upset we would contact you.



At the end of the first day the children will come out to meet their parents at the dining hall gates at 3pm.

After the September weekend, (Tuesday 8th September) in the mornings, parents are asked to leave their child at the school gates. Members of the staff will be at the gates and in the playground to supervise the children as they arrive. Children will line up outside with the rest of the school.



School Lunch

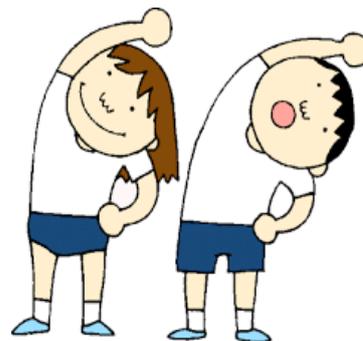
All pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 4 are entitled to a free school meal. The lunch menu will be sent home at the beginning of term so that lunch choices can be discussed with your child. The children will choose what they want first thing in the morning and be given a coloured band to match the tray that their lunch will be served on.

What do I wear?

- Grey/black skirt or trousers. We also have a tartan pinafore or kilt.
- White shirt/ Aileymill polo shirt
- Purple sweatshirt/jumper/cardigan
- School fleece/jacket
- School tie
- Outdoor shoes

Most items can be purchased locally. (Smiths keep a supply of Aileymill polo shirts, sweatshirts and fleeces.)

Clothing grant application forms are available from the school office, if you think you are eligible.



For P.E.

Shorts and sandshoes. The easiest gym shoes are the traditional black with elastic (no Velcro gym shoes please, the Velcro stops working really quickly). Children may not wear any jewellery while taking part in PE, this includes earrings for pierced ears. When ears are pierced, the sleepers have to remain in for six weeks. We therefore suggest that if your child is going to have ears pierced, if it is done in the last week of June, the earrings will be able to be removed for PE by the time the term starts in August. If piercing was done in term time your child would miss six weeks of PE. Hooped earrings may not be worn AT ANY TIME.

Preparing for school

Please put your child's name **on everything**, including ties, PE kit and shoes, especially sweatshirts and gym shoes.

Remember that after a few washes names often disappear!

School uniform can be difficult for young children to put on. Please choose clothing which your child can manage by him/herself.



Every Primary 1 pupil will be given an Aileymill homework bag at the beginning of term. This means they can carry their books home without them being squashed or damaged.

What happens at playtime?

If bringing a play piece from home, please try to make it healthy. Only one drink and one playpiece per day please - children need time to play. Glass bottles and fizzy drinks are not allowed and sweets are not encouraged. We would really appreciate your support in this. The children are supervised in the playground by members of the support staff. Unless the weather is very bad the children will benefit from playing outside at break times.

In bad weather children may stay in class and be supervised by monitors and the support staff.



ATTENDANCE

If your child is not coming to school you must telephone the office (715647) and tell us why. If you do not do this then the office staff will contact you. A letter explaining absence is required as well as a phone call.

LATECOMING

Please make every effort to ensure that your child is on time for school each day. It really affects children's learning when they have missed the start of the day.



PARENT PAY

Parents of children in the school will be given an activation code to access their ParentPay account. The account allows you to make payments for trips, dinners etc. at a time convenient to you. There is no need for your child to be bringing large sums of money into school.



Twitter

Every class at Aileymill Primary has a class Twitter account. Class teachers will use it to share information, photos and videos about the pupils' learning. Please request to join and keep up to date with current learning.

Primary 1 Curriculum

Within Primary 1, children will get the opportunity to experience a wide range of learning across the curriculum. Our core curricular areas are Maths and Numeracy, English and Literacy and Health and Wellbeing

Literacy

Reading

All of the following activities will help your child to develop reading skills.

Talking - develop your child's vocabulary. Talk about/discuss books, today's events, what's happening around you, names of animals, etc

Reading - read stories/picture books to your child, talk about the pictures and the story. Ask questions e.g. "What do you think happens next?" "How do you think he/she felt?" Ask your child to retell the story to you. Ask what happened first, next, etc.

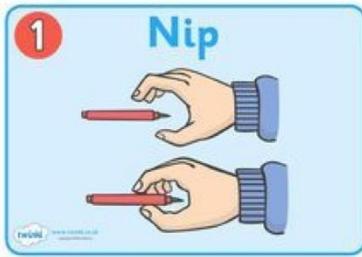
Picture Snap, Spot the Difference, Jigsaws help develop visual awareness and memory.

Not all children acquire skills necessary for reading at the same rate and so it follows that they may not all receive a reading book at the same time. To ensure success we make sure that a child can cope before giving him/her a reading book.

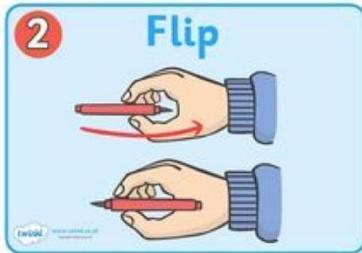


Writing

If helping at home with writing please ensure that only small letters are practised. Encourage your child to use the proper pencil grip as bad habits are hard to change later. The children will be taught to - nip, flick, grip.



Here are some examples of pre-writing activities you can do with your child.



- Drawing - encourage lots of detail
- Colouring, painting, modelling
- Copying patterns
- Tracing or drawing on top of patterns
- Using Lego or similar building toys
- Handling jigsaw pieces
- Cutting and sticking



Please allow your child to use scissors, with supervision if need be. The children do lots of cutting out in P1 and need to be able to use scissors safely.

Phonics/Sounds

To begin with, in the early stages we start by teaching the sounds the letter makes, NOT letter names. In Primary 1 we use North Lanarkshire Active Literacy Programme. Once the first 6 individual sounds are recognised we go on to simple 3 letter word building almost straight away, e.g. pin, sat, tan. Magnetic boards and letters are used with children following the Five Finger Strategy - say, make/break, blend, read, write.

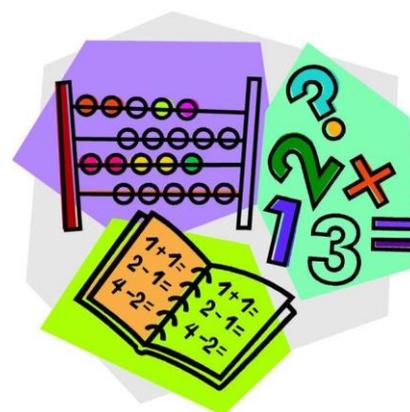
There is great emphasis on rhyming words when teaching phonics, e.g. cat/hat/, mat/sat, hill/pill, man/can. A good knowledge of Nursery Rhymes will give your child a headstart and a feeling for rhyme.

Mathematics

The children do lots of practical work and problem solving in number, shape, measure and information handling.

Any of the following activities, practised at home would be a good preparation for maths work.

- Sorting into sets by colour, size, shape, etc.
- Setting the table - give one knife, one fork and one spoon, etc to everyone
- Counting 1 - 10 and beyond if able.
- Number before/after
- Counting objects 1 - 5 and beyond if able.
- Recognise numbers 1 - 5 and beyond if able.
- Play games such as Snakes and Ladders, taking turns.



For further information about supporting your child in reading, writing and counting go to the following website:

www.readwritecount.scot

Health and Wellbeing

This covers personal and social development, understanding of health, physical education and physical activity. Certain aspects of health and wellbeing will be taught through focussed programmes such as Pathways to Alternative Thinking (PATHs) and Inverclyde's Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood lessons.

Throughout the year children will explore the other curricular areas - Expressive Arts, Religious and Moral Education, Technologies, Science, and Social Studies through a number of curricular focus weeks and topic

based tasks. A structured and progressive programme of work is offered to suit your child's needs.

Please remember that all children learn at different rates so try not to compare with others as this may place undue stress on both you and your child.

How can you find out about school?

- Some little problems can be sorted out quickly and informally at the beginning or the end of the day when you pick up your child.
- Homework books have space for comments and concerns can be noted here.
- You may wish to phone or write for an appointment if you need a meeting to discuss matters.
- Parents' evenings are held twice a year. Progress reports are sent home over the course of the year.
- Family Workshops for parents/carers will be held during the session and are enjoyed by both adults and children.

Mrs Miller and Mrs Ferrier are also in the playground every day before school. Please do not hesitate to see them if you have any questions or concerns.



Every Friday your child will come home with their "Friday Folder". This will contain important information about the following week and may include letters that need to be signed or forms to be completed by you. Folders should be emptied and returned to school on a Monday. The weekly "What's Happening" is also posted on the Aileymill Facebook Page.



Aileymill Facebook

Share in the learning experiences of our pupils and keep up-to-date with school information and events. Search for the group - Aileymill Primary School - and request to join.

Twitter

You can also follow us on Twitter - **@Aileymill**

Contact Details

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Greenock
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