

Stracathro Primary School



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(Please contact the school office)

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CONTACT DETAILS

Stracathro Primary School
Inchbare
Brechtin
Angus
DD9 7QE

Telephone: 01356 648334

Email Address: stracathro@angusschools.org.uk

Head Teacher: **Mrs Sheena Farquhar**

School Roll: Nursery (12) P1-7 (19)

School Day: 9:00am-3:20pm

Morning interval – 10:30am-10:50am

Lunch – 12:30pm-1:30pm

Afternoon interval (P1 & P2 only) – 2:30-2:50pm

Nursery Day: Drop-off: between 8.45am and 9.45am

Core learning: between 9.45am and 1.21pm (includes morning snack and lunch)

Pick-up: between 1.21pm and 2.45pm

VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

[Choosing a school: a guide for parents \(Scottish Government\)](#)

Parents wishing to enrol their children as entrants to Primary 1 should contact the school before the end of January. Information regarding enrolment appears in the local press. When enrolling, please ensure you bring your child's birth certificate and two forms of proof of address. If your child is starting in August, he / she will be invited in on a number of occasions during the summer term to join in class activities. You will also be invited to school to meet your child's teacher and find out general information which will be helpful as you prepare for your child starting Primary 1.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Printed sweatshirts and polo shirts are ordered through the school office.

Boys

Grey trousers
White polo shirt
Green printed sweatshirt
*Indoor gym shoes

Girls

Grey skirt/trousers
White polo shirt
Green printed sweatshirt
*Indoor gym shoes

Nursery

Play clothes
Purple printed polo shirt
Purple printed sweatshirt.
Indoor shoes/slipper

Special Clothing P1-7

For ART/CRAFT: A painting overall or a large old shirt.

For PE: Shorts, T-shirt, socks and indoor gym shoes.
Warm jogging bottoms/leggings & top and outdoor gym shoes.
These should be named and in a draw-string bag suitable for hanging on a peg.

Jewellery Pupils are discouraged from wearing jewellery of any sort, especially earrings, which must not be worn for gym.

**The children can wear their indoor gym shoes to change into when they are in class; they do not need separate shoes for this.*

All clothing brought to school should be named or marked in some way, as it is difficult for children to distinguish their own clothing from others.

A school bag should be provided, large enough to take a homework pack, PE kit and lunchbox.

PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents should contact the school immediately they have a cause for concern. It is our wish to deal with all matters as early as possible preventing them from growing into significant concerns. Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance or if you would prefer to discuss the issue with the Head Teacher, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see Mrs Farquhar.

As Mrs Farquhar has responsibility for both Edzell and Stracathro Primary Schools, she may not always be immediately available; however a meeting will be arranged at the earliest possible opportunity.

The staff will listen to your concern and agree a way forward with you. They will follow-up the initial conversation with a telephone call approximately one week later to ensure all matters have been resolved satisfactorily.

THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

[Angus Council complaints procedure](#)

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

BECOMING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL

There are many ways that parents and carers can get involved in school life. Parents are welcomed into school to help in a variety of different ways. These include:

- helping in the nursery class making school resources
- helping with activities at the maths and language clubs
- sharing knowledge and expertise on some aspect of the curriculum
- reading stories to groups of children
- assisting in the school library
- supporting extra-curricular activities e.g. sports clubs, eco group
- maintaining school garden
- accompanying children on school outings
- parent council

We welcome any other suggestion you may have for activities that you think would be beneficial to the school that you can help out with!

If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks have to be completed. Please discuss this with staff.

For any information on the scheme or any other aspect of helping out in school, please do not hesitate to call in and ask.

Parental involvement is not just about coming in and helping out in school. We welcome your involvement in the day to day aspects of your child's education. Through the partnership we build between home and school, we can all help encourage our children to achieve their potential.

At Stracathro primary school we provide a number of ways in which you can be involved in building a partnership between home and school.

The table below gives an overview of the opportunities that you will have throughout the school year to gather information about what your child is working on in school and to support your child's learning at home:

Partnership Opportunity	Timing During School Year
Parent Information Evening An open event to meet informally with the class teacher and visit the classroom to see examples of the type of work and activities that will be on-going throughout the school year.	September
Term Overview Sheets Issues early each term to give a summary of what your child will be working on in the term ahead so you can support the learning at home.	Termly
Learning Folios An opportunity for your child to share some of the work completed in school. You are encouraged to comment and give your feedback.	November, February and May (sent home three times during the school year)
Homework Work given to support the learning in the classroom.	Daily / Weekly (as appropriate to the age of your child)
Parent Interviews 10 minutes appointments will be given three times a year to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher.	November, February and May
School Reports A summary of the progress made over the course of a term.	November, February and May
Curriculum Information Evenings A chance to find out more about how, what and when the curriculum is taught in school.	Annually
Concerns Any issue, no matter how small, that you feel you would like to discuss with the class teacher or head teacher.	An appointment should be made at the earliest opportunity

SCHOOL ETHOS

At Stracathro Primary we take great pride in the caring, friendly ethos of our school. All members of our school community treat each other with respect and are encouraged to value each person as an individual.

The pupils are paired in a buddying system which reinforces the need for everyone to look out for others and to ensure all feel safe and happy at school.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS

Parents are encouraged to assist the school in any way they feel they are able. They are particularly welcome to help in the school for example in art, craft or musical activities and at sporting or social events like concerts, parties and visits. Many local families with no continuing school connections still support Stracathro ventures with their presence at functions. Stracathro School has close links with the surrounding community and helps out with fund raising for the local hall and various local charities. It is hoped that the links between the school and the community will continue to grow steadily.

Children develop skills and learn to be better citizens as they engage with and support the work of the local community. The pupils frequently participate in competitions run by local organisations and are regular visitors at Stracathro Hospital where they entertain patients with a variety of different performances. The children attend sports festivals and competitions with other children from neighbouring primary schools.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

[Angus Council anti-bullying policy](#)

Good behaviour is essential to good learning. The general aim of the school is to provide an atmosphere of mutual respect and collective responsibility. Pupils, parents and staff all have an important part to play in producing and sustaining this positive ethos. The rules of the school are of a common sense nature, bearing in mind the interest and safety of all concerned. High expectations of pupil behaviour are reinforced through discussion about our one over-arching school rule:

We are kind

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Pupil achievement, in and out of the school setting, is recognised and celebrated. In school, positive behaviour and hard work are rewarded by adding stickers on a card. Once complete, a certificate is presented by the head teacher at assembly and pupils are encouraged to take their card home to share their success with parents. Achievements are further recognised on wall displays as you enter the school building.

Pupil of the Week certificates are also awarded by the head teacher in recognition of children who are demonstrating one of the five learner qualities that we try to encourage in school:

- Enthusiastic
- Determined
- Reflective
- Deep thinker
- Resourceful

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Although Stracathro is a small school, we are still able to offer a range of after school activities as we work closely with Edzell Primary which is located only three miles away. This allows our pupils to get involved in a number of team sports with children of a similar age. We have a very committed Active Schools Co-ordinator, James Colhoun, who creates many opportunities for our pupils to get active in and out of school hours. Clubs vary from year to year depending on the availability of coaches and teachers and the interests of our pupils. Below is a list of some of the after school activities that have been on offer in recent years;

- Coding Club
- netball
- athletics
- cross country
- football
- Lego club
- recorder group
- choir
- loom band club

If you have an interest, skill or talent that you feel you can share, why not contact the school and offer to help to organise a new club. We are always open to new ideas and the children would love it! Depending on the activity, the club could take place at Edzell or Stracathro.

PUPIL COUNCIL

(Written by members of Pupil Council)

The Pupil Council is a group of children from all stages in the school who meet from time to time with the Head Teacher to discuss different school matters. Members of the council find out what the children in the school would like to happen in school and discuss this with Mrs Farquhar.

We have worked with Mrs Farquhar to plan school outings and special events. We also agreed which charity events we would like to support and have organised different fundraising events throughout the year.

We also suggested that there should be some kind of award for good behaviour in the playground and for trying hard in class. We now have a weekly 'Pupil of the Week' award. The person receiving the award gets a certificate from Mrs Farquhar and their photograph is displayed on the Achievement Wall.

We help Mrs Farquhar to think about ways to make our school even better and then work together to make it happen.

We look forward to another busy year ahead as we help Mrs Farquhar run the school.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Your child will learn:

- in a variety of different contexts and groups including ability, co-operative and social
- to work as individuals
- in groups and as part of the whole class
- with other schools and in different settings.

THE PUPILS' AND PARENTS' VOICES

Pupils will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children and plan together the areas of specific focus. Parents will be invited to share comments regarding the planned work for their child at various points throughout the year and are encouraged to give feedback at any time through their child's homework diary.

THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

Pupils will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children and plan together the areas of specific focus. Parents will be invited to share comments regarding the planned work for their child at various points throughout the year and are encouraged to give feedback at any time through their child's homework diary.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE

In Scotland all three and four year olds, and some two year olds, are eligible for up to 1,140 hours a year of funded early learning and childcare (ELC). Our ELC class offers sessions between 8:45am-2:45pm, 4 days a week during term time. Other attendance patterns are available in other Angus Council settings and in our wide range of partner nurseries, playgroups and childminders. To find out more about the benefits of ELC and

the options available, visit our dedicated ELC web pages at www.angus.gov.uk/earlyyears.

LIAISON WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL

We are part of the Brechin High School Cluster. Brechin High School can be contacted as follows: Brechin High School, Duke Street, Brechin. Telephone: 01356 237100.

Moving from a small rural school to the larger secondary setting can seem a very big step for some pupils. However we work very closely with Brechin High School to make this move as smooth as possible. In recent years, a number of arrangements have been put in place which helps to build pupil confidence during their final year in primary school.

Pupils from across the cluster attend a number of transition days throughout their P7 school year. This session, all Primary 7 pupils have had regular visits to the High School from term 1 of their Primary 7 year. During these visits, the children have been able to experience break times, lunchtimes and finding their way around the larger school environment. They have worked with teachers from various departments and become familiar with the movement between classes. Primary and secondary colleagues have worked together to ensure that important information relating to pupil progress is shared. This information takes account of academic progress, personal achievements, outside hobbies and interests, attitude to work, friendship groups and any other information which will help staff prepare for the pupils as they move on to secondary school.

Later in the summer term, Pupil Care and Support staff visit our pupils to let them know which classes they will be in and answer any questions they may have about the move to secondary school.

In early June, pupils have the opportunity to attend a residential trip to Dalguise Adventure Holiday Camp with all the P7 children in the Brechin area.

Following the residential trip, the children will begin their time at Brechin High School, spending the last three weeks of the summer term following their S1 timetable.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Now that restrictions put in place due to the pandemic have lifted in schools, pupils have been able to participate and experience success in a wide range of areas. Some of these are listed below:

- The children entertained family and friends as they took part in a 'Trip through the Decades' to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee.
- Assemblies, planned and performed by each class, informed the school community about aspects relating to the 'Rights of the Child'.

- Children from across all stages participated in the annual Burns competition by learning and reciting a Scottish poem. The standard was exceptionally high again this year.
- Music continues to be one of the strengths of the school. Pupils in Primaries 5 to 7 have had the opportunity to have string lessons with the visiting specialist weekly. All children learn to play the recorder from Primary 2 onwards.
- Children across all stages participated in our school nativity which was well received by all.
- The school enjoys a strong partnership with the local hospital and the children have been invited to entertain the patients by performing their nativity at Christmas and sharing a programme based on Scottish songs, poetry and verse at the start of the year.
- Pupils have planned different events to support chosen charities. These have included Poppy Scotland, Children in Need and Comic Relief. The pupils have donated items for the local Foodbank at various intervals throughout the school year.
- Children continued to run a mile several times each week and have competed in a number of sports events with other schools in the area. These have included Fun in Athletics and Cross Country competitions.

IMPROVING STANDARDS

As a result of an increase in school roll, the school now has two small classes rather than one larger multi-composite class. SPSA hours have also been extended through PEF funding to support pupils in the school with identified needs. All staff have reported positively on the impact these changes have had on meeting children's needs appropriately and in a timely manner.

Responses in a recent pupil survey indicated that almost all pupils in primaries 5 to 7 feel that they are treated fairly and with respect by staff. All felt that they were supported to understand how they were progressing with their schoolwork and that their work in school was appropriately challenging some or all of the time.

Feedback given to all teachers in the school following class visits highlighted the very positive relationships between staff and pupils.

100% of parents attended the recent face-to-face parent interviews with their child to discuss progress and next steps in learning.

All teaching staff agreed that they were able to use information, including data, effectively to identify and reduce inequalities in children's outcomes.

Findings from a recent questionnaire show that all parents agree, and over 90% strongly agree, that their child is making good progress and that their child is receiving the help he/she needs to do well. All strongly agree that the staff know their child as an individual.

All teaching staff have participated on a series of training sessions working to improve attainment in literacy. The school progression pathway for writing was reviewed and updated.

All children were observed to be motivated and engaged in the writing process.

Tracking data highlights that a number of children working in first level are making exceptional progress in writing. A small number of pupils in primary 5 with additional support needs are now showing improvement and all pupils in primaries 6 and 7 continue to meet the expected standard of writing for their stage.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- Precision Teaching training will be delivered to all schools SPSAs and teaching staff so this strategy can be employed as needed throughout the school.
- Closing the attainment gap in reading will continue to be a focus as the Cluster Reading Initiative continues into next session.
- Improvements in planning, delivery and assessment of interventions will continue through the 'Team Around the Child' approach
- Whole school community to be involved in reviewing school purpose, aims and values.
- All teaching staff will engage in training focussed on developing a consistent approach to providing quality feedback.
- Learner conversations to be further developed to support pupils to identify appropriate learning targets.
- Literacy and numeracy resources to be developed to support pupils with target setting.
- School to work towards achieving the Bronze Award in the Rights, Respecting Schools programme

HEALTH CARE

You can contact your school health staff at: -

Brechin Health Centre, Brechin. Tel: 01356 624411 [or through school].

School Nurse

Lilliann Aitken: 01674 675115 extension 67158

DOGS IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

We understand walking your child(ren) to and from school/nursery is an ideal opportunity to walk dogs. However, the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, families, staff and community is paramount. Also, some children feel intimidated or unsure of dogs.

So, please ensure dogs (except for service dogs) are not brought into school grounds.

And if you are walking your dog to and from school, please remain at a reasonable distance from the school gate.

This will enable children and adults to enter and exit safely.

We'd ask you to pass this information on to other adults who bring and/or collect your child(ren) from school.

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Angus Council
Angus House
Orchardbank Business Park
FORFAR
DD8 1AN
Tel: 03452 777 778
Email: ACCESSSchoolsLearnBSU@angus.gov.uk

ANGUS COUNCIL WEBSITE

Visit angus.gov.uk/schools for information that applies to schools across Angus on topics including:

- holidays
- meals
- school payments
- attendance and absence
- assessment and reporting
- transport
- drugs education
- religious and moral education
- transitions
- ...and more

OTHER WEBSITES

Find useful links to other websites at angus.gov.uk/linksforparents