

Stracathro Primary School



**This document is available in alternative formats, on request
(Please contact the school office)**

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CONTACT DETAILS

Stracathro Primary School
Inchbare
Brechin
Angus
DD9 7QE

Telephone: 01356 648334

Email Address: stracathro@angusschools.org.uk

Head Teacher: **Mrs Sheena Farquhar**

School Roll: Nursery (12) P1-7 (21)

School Day: 9:00am-3:20pm
Morning interval – 10:30am-10:50am
Lunch – 12:30pm-1:30pm

Nursery Day: Drop-off: between 9,00am and 10.00am
Core learning: between 9.45am and 1.35pm (includes morning snack and lunch)
Pick-up: between 1.35pm and 3pm

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 can be ordered on-line from **BE Schoolwear** (www.beschoolwear.co.uk). Please contact the office for further details.

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
<p data-bbox="301 271 687 300">Parent Information Evening</p> <p data-bbox="150 342 839 481">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.</p>	<p data-bbox="1075 342 1235 371">September</p>
<p data-bbox="336 524 652 553">Term Overview Sheets</p> <p data-bbox="150 595 798 734">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.</p>	<p data-bbox="1107 595 1203 624">Termly</p>
<p data-bbox="389 777 600 806">Learning Folios</p> <p data-bbox="150 848 807 987">An opportunity for your child to share some of the work completed in school. You are encouraged to comment and give your feedback.</p>	<p data-bbox="940 777 1374 806">November, February and May</p> <p data-bbox="916 848 1398 920">(sent home three times during the school year)</p>
<p data-bbox="416 1030 572 1059">Homework</p> <p data-bbox="150 1102 730 1173">Work given to support the learning in the classroom.</p>	<p data-bbox="1051 1030 1259 1059">Daily / Weekly</p> <p data-bbox="911 1102 1402 1173">(as appropriate to the age of your child)</p>
<p data-bbox="360 1240 628 1270">Google Classroom</p> <p data-bbox="169 1312 823 1413">A digital platform where homework, photographs and class achievements can be shared.</p>	<p data-bbox="987 1312 1326 1341">Throughout school year</p>
<p data-bbox="373 1449 616 1478">Parent Interviews</p> <p data-bbox="150 1520 833 1621">10 minutes appointments will be given three times a year to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher.</p>	<p data-bbox="940 1487 1374 1516">November, February and May</p>
<p data-bbox="389 1630 600 1659">School Reports</p> <p data-bbox="150 1702 753 1774">A summary of the progress made over the course of a term.</p>	<p data-bbox="940 1668 1374 1697">November, February and May</p>
<p data-bbox="264 1812 724 1841">Curriculum Information Evenings</p> <p data-bbox="150 1883 788 1955">A chance to find out more about how, what and when the curriculum is taught in school.</p>	<p data-bbox="1091 1850 1219 1879">Annually</p>

Concerns	An appointment should be made at the earliest opportunity
Any issue, no matter how small, that you feel you would like to discuss with the class teacher or head teacher.	

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.

We are committed to developing pupils' moral, social and cultural values. We do this through the ethos and the curriculum, taking account of the needs of pupils and the views of parents.

We welcome and encourage diversity and individuality, while emphasizing our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, respect for others and compassion and justice. All who are involved in the life of our school have the right to be respected as individuals and carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner towards others. We implement council policy on equal opportunities and racial equality. All pupils have access to the full range of educational experiences available within the resources of the school. We are committed to eliminating discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability.

The positive ethos we promote is captured in our one simple school rule, 'Be Kind'.

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](#)

At Stracathro School, we pride ourselves on the behaviour and positive attitude of our pupils. We strive to ensure all pupils feel safe, happy and included in our school. We recognise that good behaviour is essential to good learning. Pupils, parents and staff all have an important part to play in this. Our school rule is simply 'Be Kind' and we regularly discuss how focusing on this can influence the decisions we make and how we act in all aspects of school life.

All staff and pupils can nominate individuals who they 'catch' performing acts of kindness. These are recognised and rewarded with a certificate at the weekly assembly.

The school has an Achievement Wall and all pupils are encouraged to share their achievements with others whether they happen outside of school or within.

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 have shown effort and improvement in 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 their progress individually with their teacher at set points throughout the school year. During these learning conversations, the children are encouraged to evaluate their own learning and are assisted to identify targets for the term ahead. Staff will discuss new learning with the children and plan together the areas of specific focus. The learning planned for each term is shared with parents in a Term Overview and they are invited to support the learning by sharing resources from home, coming into school to share knowledge and skills they may have in a particular area as well as supporting homework activities. Feedback is always welcome to ensure good communication between home and school.

The Pupil Council and Parent Council also offer opportunities for discussion on all aspects of school life.

THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

One of the best ways to find out more about the curriculum is by attending the Information evening held annually in September. At this event you will have the opportunity to speak to the teacher about the curriculum your child will experience in the year ahead, view resources and find out more about the different approaches used to help your child to be actively involved in their own learning. Other curricular information evenings may be held throughout the school year.

More local and national information can be accessed from the numerous sources listed in the back of the Angus Council Information section of this handbook.

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 9am-3pm, 5 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 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 have the opportunity to spend a week at Brechin High following their S1 timetable.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

Pupils have been able to participate and experience success in many areas. Some of these are listed below:

The children in both classes planned, prepared and performed in a Scottish evening for parents, friends and invited guests in the local community.

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. The children have the opportunity to learn to play the recorder and the ukulele and pupils in Primaries 5 to 7 have the opportunity to have string lessons with the visiting specialist weekly.

A very successful Health Week was planned which covered a range of topics such as physical and mental wellbeing and neurodiversity.

Pupils who are members of the charity committee have planned different events to support chosen charities. These have included Poppy Scotland and Children in Need.

All children continued to walk / 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 where the children performed well.

Children in the upper stages participated in Bikeability training and were successful in achieving their Level 1 Award.

IMPROVING STANDARDS

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for all our children. To do this, we recognise the need for all staff to continually engage in professional learning to ensure we keep abreast of all the latest research and developments. We plan a well-considered programme of development activities to support any new school improvement we aim to implement in the school. This ensures we are well informed and confident to take changes forward and ensures the improvement is sustainable.

Careful consideration is given to learners' needs when planning the curriculum. We make effective use of assessment to regularly evaluate the progress of each pupil to ensure that the planned learning addresses children's additional support needs in a timely manner. Robust arrangements are in place to ensure all learners have regular communication and discussions with their class teacher to review their learning and plan next steps. We report pupil progress to parents at three points in the year and we encourage working with parents and pupils in partnership to ensure identified learning needs are met.

We track pupil progress in numeracy, reading, writing, listening and talking at identified points throughout the school year. A range of evidence, including standardised tests, is used well to inform professional judgements. The data gathered is analysed, and with the support of professional dialogue during tracking meetings, next steps are identified for groups and individual learners.

Children are supported to review their own learning through learning conversations with their teacher focused on the evidence gathered in their learning folios. All children are encouraged to identify their next learning goals as a result of this shared discussion.

We have positive relationships with our cluster school colleagues and there is a desire to work together to support the needs of all the children in our area. This school session, we have piloted a transition project for pupils moving into S1. A comprehensive and well planned programme of visits across the school year has helped learners to feel supported and confident about their move to secondary school. Teachers in the primary and secondary settings have planned collaboratively to develop a shared understanding of progress across the two settings. There has been increased opportunities for ensure that children's mental, emotional, social and physical needs are communicated and taken into account during the transition process. 83% of the P7 cohort reported feeling that the regular visits have helped them feel more confident about starting secondary school.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The school has a rigorous plan for self- evaluation in place and works with pupils, parents, school staff and partners to identify priorities for improvement on an annual basis. Our current focus is on the raising of attainment in both numeracy and writing. Our plans include the following actions:

Pupils, parents, partners and staff will be involved in a review of the vision, aims and values of the school.

Information Evenings planned for parents / carers to share school priorities and provide ideas to help parents support learning at home.

Parent information leaflets will be developed to support parents' understanding of the benchmarks in numeracy and writing at each stage.

Parent helpers to be invited into classes to support active learning in numeracy.

Teaching staff will engage in professional learning related to best practice in learning and teaching of numeracy and writing and revisit features of a quality maths lesson

We will investigate new resources to support improvement in mental maths.

Outdoor Learning providers will be employed to support children achieve John Muir award and authors will be invited into school as a means of motivating children to write.

Teachers will use pre-test scores in numeracy to effectively plan for all pupils with careful consideration of strategies to be used to support children who are not making expected progress.

New 'pupil friendly' writing tracker will be implemented at all levels.

Opportunities for moderation will be planned within school, across cluster schools and with neighbouring authority schools to support teachers to make informed professional judgements about pupil progress.

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 assistance 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