

School Handbook

December 2015

Forthill Primary School



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Section 1: Welcome and Vision

Dear Parents,

Forthill is a non-denominational primary school and has been open since 1965. Over the following 50 years, the school has undergone a series of additions and annexes as the roll has grown. It is currently the largest primary school within the city with a primary role of around 640 and a nursery class with 40 available places for both morning and afternoon sessions.

Forthill is a non-denominational school situated in a residential area, within walking distance of local amenities and leisure facilities in the Broughty Ferry area. Forthill is a part of the Grove Cluster.

At Forthill we aim to develop our children's capacity to be responsible citizens, effective contributors, successful learners and confident individuals who will be well equipped for their role in the ever changing society of which they are a part. Central to this, is our commitment to developing strong and purposeful partnerships between home and school.

I look forward to working with you throughout your child's time here.

Alison Macgregor
Head Teacher

Section 2: School Ethos

Our Mission Statement: 'Dream it, believe it, achieve it!'

Our school aims to:

- maintain a happy, safe and supportive environment in which each child, parent and staff member is valued and works co-operatively
- provide a stimulating, appropriate, progressive and balanced curriculum which promotes independence and meets the needs of each pupil
- through a process of continuous self-evaluation, maintain a high quality of learning and teaching
- encourage responsible, self-disciplined, well-mannered pupils with positive, caring attitudes towards others and the environment
- encourage good health in all pupils through strategies which promote physical and mental wellbeing and self-esteem
- equip pupils with the foundation skills, attitudes and expectations required to prosper in a changing society and to encourage creativity and ambition
- prepare pupils for responsible citizenship by developing values, beliefs and attitudes compatible with living in a modern, democratic and multicultural society
- build and maintain effective partnerships between the school and its parent body, external agencies and its wider community
- recognise and appreciate personal strengths and achievements
- promote equality and fairness

Section 3: School Information

School Address: Fintry Place, Broughty Ferry,
Dundee DD5 3BE

Telephone: 01382 436935

Fax: 01382 436936

Email Address: forthill.primary@dundeecity.gov.uk

Website: forthillprimary.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Alison McGregor

Depute Head Teacher: Ms Clair Peterson, Mrs Nicola Munro

Principal Teacher: Mrs Lesley Butler

School Status: Non denominational

School Roll: Primary 638 / Nursery 80

School Hours: 9.00am - 12.15pm, 1.15pm - 3.15pm

Parent Council Contact Info: Doreen Phillips, Chair

Parish Priest or Minister: Rev Brian Talbot

Parish Address: Broughty Ferry Baptist Church
86 St Vincent Street
Broughty Ferry DD5 2EZ

Section 3: School Information

For the first three weeks in the first term (August – early September), Primary 1 will be dismissed at 12.15pm.

Office Hours

The school office is open from 8.45am - 4.30pm.

Please help us by making routine telephone calls within office hours. The answering machine is switched on for your convenience when the school office is unmanned. Please do leave a message and we will return your call as quickly as possible.

School Entry System: Visitors should enter via the main entrance, where there is a secure entry system. Please report to reception, where staff will be pleased to help.

Class Organisation

The organisation of classes may vary from year to year dependent upon certain factors such as the school roll and the number of teachers allocated to the school that session.

At any stage of the school, pupils may be in a straight class which comprises of pupils from the same stage e.g. all Primary 2 pupils or they may be part of a composite class which comprises of pupils from more than one stage, for instance a class with some Primary 2 and some Primary 3 pupils.

You should be confident that the professionalism of the staff in the school will ensure that your child will always work within a programme appropriate for his/her age, ability and aptitude.

Section 4: School Policies & Practical Information

AUTUMN TERM

Monday 15 August 2016 - Staff resume
Tuesday 16 August 2016 - Pupils resume
Friday 7 October 2016 - Mid Term, All break

WINTER TERM

Monday 24 October 2016 - All resume
Thursday 10 November 2016 - In service day, schools closed
Friday 11 November 2016 - In service day, schools closed
Monday 14 November 2016 - All resume
Friday 23 December 2016 - Term ends

SPRING TERM

Monday 9 January 2017 - All resume
Thursday 9 February 2017 - In service day, schools closed
Friday 10 February 2017 - Mid term, all break
Monday 13 February 2017 - Mid term, all break
Tuesday 14 February 2017 - All resume
Friday 31 March 2017 - Term ends

SUMMER TERM

Monday 17 April 2017 - All resume
Monday 1 May 2017 - May Day, schools closed
Tuesday 2 May 2017 - All resume
Friday 26 May 2017 - In service day, schools closed
Monday 29 May 2017 - Victoria Day, schools closed
Tuesday 30 May 2017 - All resume
Thursday 29 June 2017 - Term ends

Section 4: School Policies & Practical Information

School Uniform

There is an expectation for all pupils to wear the correct school uniform. This helps us in our aim of encouraging children to take a pride in their appearance and to have respect for their school.

BOYS	GIRLS
grey / navy trousers white school shirt school tie school jumper	grey / navy skirt or trousers white school blouse school tie school jumper blue checked summer dress
Please note that football strips are not to be worn. All items of clothing should be labelled. This assists greatly in recovering lost property.	

School Clothing Grants

If parents are in receipt of Income Support, Income based Job Seekers Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit and an annual income of less than £16,105, the Authority will consider one application per year for a grant towards the cost of purchasing essential clothing to enable their children, up to the age of 16, to attend school.

The school clothing grant payment will be made through BACS transfer into a nominated bank account or paid by cheque.

Application forms can be made online at:

<https://mydundeeaccount.dundee.gov.uk/secure-info> or are available from the school office or from Dundee House.

Section 4: School Policies & Practical Information

School Meals

School lunches cost £2.00 per day and all children are provided with a lunch menu by Tayside Contracts.

All children staying for lunches within school will eat in the dining hall. Safety flasks containing hot food may be brought to school, but not the glass vacuum type, which may be dangerous, as they are liable to break. Glass bottles should not be brought to school.

Please inform us in writing if your child has any special dietary needs so that arrangements can be put in place to accommodate their needs.

The dining room is supervised by support staff at all times. Please note that the school does not approve of pupils going out of school to buy their lunch due to safety reasons.

Free School Meals

Free school meals are available to all pupils in Primary 1 – 3 from January 2015. For all other stages, free school meals are available to pupils whose parents are in receipt of Income Support, Income based Job Seekers Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance, Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, Guaranteed Pension Credit, or in receipt of Child Tax Credit only and have an annual income of less than £16,105 or Working Tax Credit and have an annual income of less than £6420.

Application forms can be made online at <https://mydundeeaccount.dundee.gov.uk/secure-info> or are available from the school office or from Dundee House.

Instrumental Tuition

Tuition fees are currently free and instrument hire is £83.00 per year.

Section 4: School Policies & Practical Information

Emergency School Closure Procedures

In exceptional circumstances the school may be unable to function normally. The school may be affected by severe weather or power failures. We shall do all we can to let you know about the details of closure and re-opening through the local radio, press, text messages and letters home. You can be assured that we will never send a child home without first checking that there is an adult at home.

Enrolment & Placing Requests

Parents of prospective Primary 1 pupils who reside in the school's catchment area are asked to register their child's name at the school office between December and the February of the year the child starts school. The child's full birth certificate and a proof of address, in the form of a Benefit Book, Council Tax letter or recent (within two months) utilities account must be shown.

Parents of children living out with the school's catchment area, who wish their child to attend the school, are asked to make a placing request. Forms can be obtained from Customer Services, 50 North Lindsay Street, Dundee.

Parents making a successful placing request for the school will be notified of this by Dundee City Council. A planned transition programme, with opportunities for new Primary 1 pupils and parents to learn more about and become familiar with the school, takes place in the summer term.

Parents of children other than Primary 1 beginners may make an appointment to see the Head Teacher regarding enrolment procedures, however all placing requests must be made to the Education Department. Customer Services, 50 North Lindsay Street, Dundee.

Prospective parents who wish to come to see the school are invited to telephone the school office to make an appointment to visit.

Section 4: School Policies & Practical Information

School Absence procedures

Please contact the school as soon as possible if your child is absent. Please send a note to school with your child on their return explaining the reason for the absence.

If your child is absent and no contact is made by you, a text message will be sent from the school. If three days pass without explanation for an absence an Education Welfare Officer will arrange to visit you and your child at home.

The following points are included in the Education Authority's Attendance Initiative

- If your child is ill and cannot attend school please contact the school before, or as soon as possible after 9.00am on the first day of absence.
- If the absence is planned, e.g. a hospital appointment, we ask you to let us know prior to the absence.
- If your child is absent for more than three days please call again or write to tell us.
- If you have not contacted the school to say your child is absent and have received a text message please contact us as soon as possible.

Regular attendance at school ensures your child is receiving the continuous education they are entitled to. Dundee City Council asks that, where possible, parents do not take children out of school for family holidays during term time. In accordance with Scottish Executive guidelines for pupil attendance, most holidays are recorded as unauthorised unless there is proof from an employer that this is the only time when holidays could be taken.

A guide for parents about school attendance explains parental responsibilities with regard to children's attendance at school – <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/12/04134640/0>

Section 4: School Policies & Practical Information

Appointments

If your child has an appointment during the school day or needs to leave school for any other reason, please put this in writing. We would appreciate it if routine appointments could be made outwith school hours but understand that this isn't always possible.

If your child does need to leave school during the school day they must be collected by a parent/carer at the main reception. In the interest of safety we cannot allow children to leave the school unaccompanied.

Accidents/Illness at School

In the event of a child having an accident or becoming ill at school we will attempt to contact the parents so that they can collect the child from school. However, if we cannot contact the parents, we will contact the Emergency Contact whose name and telephone number should be given to us by the parents.

Therefore it is very important that parents inform the school of the name, address and telephone number of the Emergency Contact and advise the school immediately of any changes that occur.

General Safety

1. Pupils are not allowed to leave the school grounds during interval
2. Pupils staying for school lunches or packed lunches must not leave the grounds during lunch time
3. To ensure the safety of all children, children should behave responsibly both in the playground and within the school

Section 4: School Policies & Practical Information

Promoting Positive Behaviour

At Forthill, high standards of behaviour contribute positively to a safe, happy and welcoming learning environment. The following are the aims of our policy and practice:

- to promote positive behaviour in the classroom, playground and wider community
- to encourage respect and a sense of responsibility towards others
- to develop partnerships in promoting positive behaviour with pupils, parents and staff

A whole school policy is in place for the school, as a consistent approach helps to embed high standards across all stages.

School Concerns and Complaints Procedures

If you want to talk to your child's teacher or a member of the senior staff it is generally better to make an appointment. This ensures that the member of staff is available, that classes are not disturbed and that pupils' lessons are not affected.

If you have made a complaint to the school and you are not satisfied with the outcome, you can have your complaint reviewed by a senior officer in the Education Department.

Education Department publications can be found at:

<http://www.dundecity.gov.uk/department-publications/Education>

Section 5: Parental Involvement

All parents / guardians of Forthill Primary School pupils are automatically members of the Parent Forum. The Parent Council is a group of parents who have been selected in accordance with the Parent Council constitution to represent all the parents of children at our school. Parents of any child at Forthill Primary School can seek to be part of the Parent Council in line with arrangements set out in the constitution. The Parent Council can co-opt other members as it sees fit. Our Parent Council meets at least approximately once each term and meetings are open to all parents.

The aims of the Parent Council are:

- to work together with everyone involved in school life - parents, learners, teachers, school staff and the wider community.
- to allow all parents to have a say in their children's education and to express their views and wishes
- to build links between the school, parents, pupils, nurseries and pre-school groups and the community

If you would like more information about the Parent Council please contact the chair, Doreen Phillips, at the following address: forthill@dundeparentcouncil.org

Friends of Forthill

The school is extremely well supported by Friends of Forthill, a group of parents and staff which meets to plan and support fund-raising and social events for the school. All parents are welcome to come along.

Section 6: The Curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence 3-18

Curriculum for Excellence has been introduced to raise standards of learning and teaching for all pre-school to 18 year olds. It aims to help prepare children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need in a fast changing world. As part of Curriculum for Excellence all children from pre-school to the end of S3 will receive a rounded education known as a Broad General Education. Curriculum for Excellence is all about bringing real life into the classroom and taking lessons beyond it.

Through the experiences we provide we want our children to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors. We are committed to providing children with a broad general education and focus on eight curriculum areas.

Expressive Arts	Health & Wellbeing	Languages	Mathematics
Religious & Moral	Sciences	Social Studies	Technologies

Progress in learning is indicated through curriculum levels as detailed below.

Level	Stage
Early	The pre-school years and P1 or later
First	To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some
Second	To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some
Third & Fourth	S1-S3, but earlier for some

Expressive arts: The inspiration and power of the arts play a vital role in enabling our children and young people to enhance their creative talent and develop their artistic skills.

Health and wellbeing: Learning in health and wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge, understanding and skills which they need now and in the future to help them with their physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

Section 6: The Curriculum

Science: Science and its practical application in healthcare and industry is central to our economic future, for our health and wellbeing as individuals and as a society.

Social Studies: Through social studies, children and young people develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and places both past and present, societies, their beliefs and values.

Religious and moral education: Religious and moral education includes learning about Christianity, Islam and other world religions, and supports the development of beliefs and values.

Languages: Knowing other languages and understanding other cultures is a 21st century skill set for students as they prepare to live and work in a global society.

Mathematics: Mathematics equips us with the skills we need to interpret and analyse information, simplify and solve problems, assess risk and make informed decisions.

Technologies: The range of subjects in technical education has changed significantly over the last two decades and now includes craft, design, engineering and graphics.

Further curricular information can be found at:

www.curriculumforexcellencescotland.gov.uk

www.educationscotland.gov.uk/parentzone/index.asp

Section 6: The Curriculum

Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC)

The GIRFEC approach is about how staff in all children's services meet their needs by working together to ensure that children reach their full potential.

www.scotland.gov.uk/gettingitright

Religious Observance

Through the ethos and curriculum, we provide opportunities for pupils to explore morals and values. We help learners develop their own beliefs, values and a responsible attitude to others. Pupils are encouraged to develop an understanding of Christianity and other religions. Pupils develop skills of reflection, critical thinking and how to act when making moral decisions. The school welcomes diversity and individuality while emphasising our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, respect for others, compassion and justice. It is a fundamental principle of the school that all who are involved in the life of the school have the right to be respected as individuals and carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner towards others.

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 "any pupils may be withdrawn by his/her parents from instruction in religious subjects and from religious observance" Parents wishing to exercise this right should discuss with the Head Teacher.

Sensitive Issues

Part of our curriculum involves teaching the children about issues which could be considered sensitive i.e. sexual health and relationships education or drugs and alcohol awareness. Parents should be assured that whenever these topics arise, we will communicate as appropriate with home. On some occasions we may send a letter just to raise awareness that specific issues are to be covered, on other occasions we will actively seek permission to include your child/ children in a series of lessons. If any parent is concerned about what is being covered within the curriculum however, they should feel free to speak to a member of staff about this.

Section 6: The Curriculum

Assessment

Assessment takes place continuously in every classroom within a process known as formative assessment. Teachers observe and talk to children and read their written work to build up a picture of where each child is in their learning. From this, the children are given information about and helped to see how they can improve and what they need to practise. Pupil performance is also measured using standardised assessments which allow measurement of value added by the school as well as giving diagnostic profiles of pupils' strengths and development needs.

Baseline Assessment is carried out in Primary 1 using the PIPS computerised assessment, and this is repeated at the end of P1. In P4 and in P6 pupils undertake INCAS assessments, another computerised assessment which gives standardised information about pupil progress which teachers use to plan next steps in learning.

Every pupil has an individual Work Folio started in Primary 1. This contains examples of work from a wide range of activities and is added to as a child moves through the school.

Reporting to parents

Throughout the year, teachers report to parents in a number of ways relating to the progress of the children. This takes the form of Parents' Evenings, Primary 7 Profiles, formal reports at the end of the school year and also opportunities for further meetings with staff throughout the year if required.

Building the Curriculum 5: a framework for assessment provides guidance around the assessment framework –

http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/BtC5Framework_tcm4-653230.pdf

Information about Curriculum for Excellence levels and how progress is assessed <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/thecurriculum/howisprogressassessed/stages/index.asp>

Information on recognising achievement, reporting and profiling –

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/learningteachingandassessment/assessment/achievement/index.asp>

Section 6: The Curriculum

Transition to Primary 1

Whether your child is transferring from nursery to Primary 1 or from Primary 7 to secondary school or indeed transferring stage through school they will be entitled to support during this process. School staff make every effort to ensure that important information about your child, their learning and progress and any additional support they require is communicated to the teacher at the next stage of learning.

The school encourages parents to discuss these changes and the senior management team will be happy to meet with you to allay any concerns you may have over the new arrangements for your child.

Transfer to secondary school

When your child is due to leave the school at the end of Primary 7, he/she will be allocated a place at their catchment school. The move from primary to secondary school can be a daunting step for pupils and parents. To make this time in the pupils' school career more comfortable, we work closely with secondary schools to provide a range of transitional activities throughout Primary 7. These include Primary School visits from secondary school staff and also a 2 day visit to the secondary school where pupils follow a secondary school timetable. Around this time, secondary staff meet with the Primary 7 teachers to discuss the needs of the children.

Section 7: Support for Pupils

Most children make satisfactory progress in school and their education can be fully supported by their class teacher. Some children may, however, need additional support to help them access learning in the classroom. Assessment and planning for their needs will be done through a Child's Plan which identifies their strengths, barriers to learning and what action or support required to meet their additional needs. A very small number of children with significant and long-term additional support needs may meet the criteria for a Co-ordinated Support Plan. These will be children who receive a lot of support from people outside education; for example, from health and social work staff.

Support for learning takes place in every class and is the responsibility of all staff in the school. All of our pupils are encouraged to work to the highest level of their ability and extra help is available for children who may require it to help them achieve their potential. The Head Teacher, teachers and other staff work closely to ensure that children and young people's individual learning needs are met.

The work of Support for Learning staff is co-ordinated by the Head Teacher, is regularly reviewed and is based upon pupil need. Support may be given within the class or within another setting, and may be within a group although it is always based upon the needs of the individual child.

The procedures and processes by which an individual child's needs are identified and addressed are set out in Dundee City Education Department's policy on Supporting Learners. Central to this is the assessment of need using a staged intervention model and the involvement of parents. We also maintain very valuable partnerships within education and with agencies beyond to support pupils who have additional needs of any kind.

To help assess the specific needs of any pupil who may require extra help the school is able to call upon the services of an Educational Psychologist from Dundee Educational Psychology Service. Before such a step is taken, parents are always contacted and the reason for such a referral is fully explained and parental co-operation sought.

Section 7: Support for Pupils

As a parent/carer you can access a wide range of information with regard to additional support needs. The information is available both at your local school and on the Dundee City Council website on this internet page <http://www.dundee.gov.uk/education/support/>

The following are available for you at the above internet page.

- Assessing Additional Support Needs
- Attending Pupil Support Planning Meetings
- Co-ordinated Support Plan
- Dispute Resolution
- Dispute Resolution Referral Form
- Mediation - Parent to Parent leaflet
- Supporting Learning (Dundee City Council Education Department, Support for Learning Policy)
- Supporting Learning in Dundee

This internet page also has many other leaflets on related topics which might be of interest to you.

If you cannot access the internet, please ask the School Office if you would like a copy of any of these documents.

The Additional Support for Learning (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended by the 2009 Act came into force on 15 November 2010. The recommendations of the Children and Young People's Act (2014), in particular the Child's Plan and the responsibility of the Named Person, also affects how we assess and plan for all children and young people.

Section 7: Support for Pupils

Information on additional support needs is also available to you from outside Dundee City Council:

Enquire - The Scottish Advice Service for Additional Support for Learning

Operated by Children in Scotland, Enquire offers independent, confidential advice and information on additional support for learning through:

a telephone helpline - 0845 123 2303

an email enquiry service - info@enquire.org.uk

an online enquiry service

two websites - www.enquire.org.uk (for parents/carers and practitioners) and www.enquire.org.uk/yp (for children and young people)
Enquire also provide a range of clear and easy-to-read guides and fact sheets explaining everything from 'additional support in the early years' to 'what planning should take place for moving on from school'.

Let's Talk ASN

Let's Talk ASN is a free service for the parents of children with additional support needs who may require support in relation to a dispute or potential dispute with an education authority. It is a joint initiative of Govan Law Centre (Charity No. SC030193) and Kindred Advocacy (Charity No. SC000264). It provides support for parents and young people from the time they have grounds to make a reference to the Additional Support Needs Tribunal for Scotland (ASNTS).

Advice and information regarding this service can be obtained by email or phone-call:

letstalkasn@edlaw.org.uk 0141 445 1955

Scottish Child Law Centre

The Scottish Child Law Centre is a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SCO12741." It offers advice and support for families in regard of additional support needs.

Section 7: Support for Pupils

The Scottish Government website's Additional Support for Learning page also provides links to relevant legislation and guidance, including the arrangements that should be in place to support pupils with additional support needs: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/Schools/welfare/ASL>

The 'Supporting Children's Learning Code of Practice (Revised edition)' - provides Statutory guidance relating to the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 as amended: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2011/04/04090720/21>

'Getting It Right For Every Child and Young Person', is essential reading for anyone involved or working with children and young people, including practitioners working in adult services with parents and carers. Find it at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

'Supporting Learners - guidance on the identification, planning and provision of support' is at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/supportinglearners/>

Section 8: School Improvement

The main focuses for School Improvement over the last 12 months in Forthill have been:

- to improve attainment in literacy
- to improve attainment in numeracy
- to introduce restorative practices in Forthill

The main focuses for improvement for this session are:

- to increase parental involvement and improved communication
- to review and revise our positive behaviour management policy and practice
- to review our curriculum structure
- to continue to raise attainment in literacy and numeracy

Section 9: Extra Curricular Activities

Various sports training and activity clubs take place in the school hall after school hours and at lunch times on arranged days, taken by our Active Schools Co-ordinator and coaches from Dundee College.

The Active Schools Co-ordinator for Forthill Primary School is Samaan Akel. Active Schools Co-ordinators assist in the provision and coordination of a range of physical activities for all age groups.

A variety of extra-curricular activities are also held during lunchtime, often organised and run by senior pupils and overseen by school staff, as well as after school clubs.

An example of the types of activities on offer are:

- Cross Country
- Athletics
- Football Clubs
- Gymnastics
- Rugby
- Netball
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Multi Sports
- Funky Feet Dancing



...you can do so much more **ONLINE** at...
dundeecity.gov.uk