



## Stornoway Primary School

### Information for P1 Parents 2025-26



### **All parents want their child to have a happy start at school.**

This booklet has been produced to help answer some of the questions that you may have and let you know about Stornoway Primary School.

You know your child best. You have helped your child become more independent – to walk, talk and get dressed. Learning is something children have to do for themselves. At school we will work with you to help your child continue to learn new skills and understand more about the world and give your child a good start.

### **First Day Arrangements Session 2025- 2026**

All pupils are back to school on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

We stagger times P1 children enter school **on the first day**, with children arriving at 15 minute intervals throughout the morning. You will be given a time for your child to arrive. Please come to the school's front entrance where a member of staff will meet you and take your child to their classroom. Nursery staff will be supporting the children, in class, for the first half of the morning.

You will receive an e-mail detailing the time that your child should arrive at the school on their first day. If you haven't received information by Wednesday 25th June, please phone the school on 01851703418 or email [kmackay1d@gnes.net](mailto:kmackay1d@gnes.net)

After that first day, the school day starts at 9.10am and ends at 3.25pm. Please drop off and pick your child up at the infant playground at the back of the school (close to Columbia Place carpark entrance).

Our Rise and Shine Breakfast Club is open to all children each day from 8.30am.

## Gaelic Medium Education

Gaelic Medium Education is available in the school from Nursery to P7. Parents/guardians interested in educating their children through the medium of Gaelic are very welcome to meet with the Mrs Peigi Nicolson, Head of School or Mrs Karina Mackay, the Deputy Head Teacher. Support for pupils with additional educational needs will be offered through Gaelic. CNAG currently run a Gaelic Medium After School Club twice a week, Monday and Thursday.



There are many benefits to bilingualism and a Gaelic Medium Education. Many studies have found that it enhances cognitive performance and helps children to become creative thinkers and successful problem solvers. By Primary 7, Gaelic Medium children are fully proficient in Gaelic and English. Learning through two languages, strengthens their understanding of grammar, syntax and how language works. Data shows that being bilingual helps in the learning of additional languages and enhances career prospects and access to university. To gain a fast track to fluency, oral literacy methods are used in GM1. The children are fully immersed in the language and initially, all lessons are conducted through play, stories, traditional song, rhyme, games, art and short projects. This very successful model has shown that children become confident and comfortable with Gaelic before moving on to more formal methods of teaching.

## Play Based Approach

A play based approach to learning is adopted at Early Level.

Research has shown that play based approaches support the development of the individual skills for learning, ensuring that all children are able to successfully engage with learning activities.



‘Curriculum for Excellence (2007) gives prominence to play, particularly across the early level and the transition between Nursery and Primary School. This transition will likely be smoother for the child if play remains and continues as the main vehicle for their early learning in P1 and beyond. As practitioners across Nursery settings and schools we need to work together to plan for progression in learning and for continuity across a child-centred play curriculum.’ **Realising the Ambition: Being Me 2020– Education Scotland**

<https://education.gov.scot/media/3bjpr3wa/realisingtheambition.pdf>





## **School Lunches**

School lunches for P1-5 are free.

Children may bring their own packed lunch or go home for lunch. Lunch time is normally 12.45-1.45pm. The canteen menu will be Group Called weekly out to all parents to be completed on line. There is a section on the online form for parents to indicate the home time arrangements for their child each day. On here, the parents let the school know whether they are being collected, going on the bus or attending after school club. This saves contacting the teacher directly.



## **Packed Lunches**

We promote healthy eating in our nursery and school.

Please ensure that your child's lunchbox is filled with nutritious food. It is very important for your child to have a balanced variety of foods to ensure that they can get all the nutrients they need. This includes:

- Meat, fish or other source of non-dairy protein (e.g. lentils, chick peas, hummus)
- At least one portion of fruit and/or vegetable (this could include a dried fruit)
- A sandwich that includes a savoury filling (e.g. egg, tuna, cheese, cooked meat)
- A starchy food such as bread, pasta, rice, noodles, cous- cous
- Dairy food such as cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais
- A biscuit, preferably plain
- Crisps (baked or other low fat options if possible) or other such snack such as seeds, savoury crackers, etc.
- Include a drink. Healthy options include water, fruit juice or smoothie – but remember, fruit juice and smoothies should be limited to a combined total of 150ml a day. You could always dilute fruit juice with still or sparkling water.

Your child is encouraged to take a water bottle in to school each day. Please ensure that it is filled only with water and not juice.

## **Emergency Contact Details**

It is very important that we always have up to date contact information for parents/carers and emergency contacts. Please inform the school if any of this information changes as soon as possible.

## **Buses**

Some children will travel to and from school by bus and we encourage all children to be well behaved while on the bus and to remain in their seat at all times.

If your child is going home by bus, please inform the teacher. Children are escorted out to the bus at the end of the day.

## **Clothing**

Pupils should wear school uniform. More information is detailed in the school handbook on the school website. School ties can be purchased at No 10, Francis Street.

We have a preowned uniform stall available all year, inside the school's main door. Please help yourselves.

A change of clothes should be stored in school bags.

Pupils are asked to bring in a pair of wellies which will remain in school.

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN'S CLOTHING, INCLUDING SHOES AND GYM SHOES ARE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME**

## **P. E. Gym Kit**

Once the timetable has been finalised, and parents have been advised of gym days, children should bring their gym kit, clearly labelled with their name.

Gym kit: shorts, t-shirt/polo shirt and suitable gym shoes. The t-shirt/polo shirt that they are wearing to school that day will be suitable. Shorts and gym shoes will remain in school in the child's personal shoe bags hanging on their cloakroom pegs.

Pupils can come to school wearing suitable clothing for P.E. on the days that they have P.E. It is essential for the smooth running of the P.E. timetable that all children have their name **CLEARLY MARKED ON ALL ITEMS OF GYM KIT.**

## School Bags

Your child will require to carry items to and from school. A **reasonably sized** school bag, **(clearly marked with your child's name)** which can accommodate and protect an A4 homework pocket, a reading book, water bottle etc. is essential. It is important that drinks do not come into contact with reading books. We ask for your support in caring for books, as they are expensive to replace. The school will provide a homework plastic pocket.

While your child is at Stornoway Primary there will often be occasions when the school needs to keep you informed of events, etc. One of the ways we do this is by giving the children letters to take home, usually in their homework pockets.

Sometimes they may forget about them, it would be helpful if you could **check school bags daily** and return any slips as soon as possible.

The children will be provided with pencils etc. in class – however, we do understand that some children may wish to bring their own pencil case which they can use at certain times.



## Homework

Homework provides a 'learning bridge' between home and school. Parents can comment weekly on their child's homework and this is a valuable opportunity for parents and teachers to regularly communicate about homework and any aspect of the daily life of the classroom.

## Communication

As well as using 'school bag mail', we use e-mail, Seesaw and Groupcall to communicate events, updates and newsletters. Letters that require a reply slip will be sent home in the school bag. We would ask that parents check Seesaw on a daily basis as well as checking your child's schoolbag/zipper.

If you have any general queries, please contact the school office on 01851703418 or use our school website which has lots of useful information.

[www.stornowayprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.stornowayprimaryschool.co.uk)

If you have any concerns about your child, please contact the class teacher by note or ask for an appointment. You can also contact any member of the Senior Management Team by phoning the school office and leaving a message or arranging an appointment. We will get back to you as soon as possible.



## Healthy Snacks

Children may like to bring a snack to eat at break. However, the time is limited and a small amount is all that is required. We encourage healthy snacks that are good for your child and their teeth. Your child is encouraged to take a water bottle in to school each day. Please ensure that it is filled only with water and not juice.



## Absence

We ask parents/carers to report their child's absence to the school office on 01851703418 on the **first** day of absence, **before 10.00am**. Be prepared to give your child's name, class, reason for absence and likely day of return (if possible). We follow up any unexplained absences by phoning contact numbers.

## How Can You Help Your Child

Do give encouragement and support in all your child is asked to do at school.

Do show an interest in your child's efforts.

Do contact the school if you are concerned in any way about your child.

Do let the school know if your child is unable to return to school after lunch.

Do tell your child what to do if you are delayed and cannot meet him/her.

Do listen to what your child has to say and encourage him/her to speak clearly and confidently.

Do talk about crossing roads safely.

Do tell your child to say "no" to strangers.

Do remember to check her/his school bag for letters and notes.

Most of all – Give your child lots of praise when he/she does something well.



This section of the booklet includes some ideas you may like to try to help your child get ready for learning.

## Nursery Rhymes

Learning nursery rhymes can help children with their reading.

They begin to notice the sounds in words and can add a rhyming word if you leave a gap. When children retell a familiar story they are using their memory, developing speech and putting events in order. They are also learning the form of a story. When reading to your child, stop occasionally and ask your child to predict what will come next.

Puppets add a bit of fun. They can be made from paper bags, socks, wooden spoons, etc.



## Making books

Making their own books can help children understand the value of books for storytelling, gathering information and to help remember.

You could make a book about an outing or a holiday. Collect some photographs, leaflets, tickets, objects, etc and stick them in a little book. You could add captions or let your child add some “pretend” writing.

Gather some magazines, postcards, catalogues, etc. Make a zigzag book by folding a long narrow piece of paper one way then the other. Books can be made about anything - the family, pets or favourite characters.



## Signs and Symbols

Reading can begin when children are able to recognise the shape of words.

This is easier if they already recognise some of the signs and symbols they see around them.

When you are out look for signs and ask your child if they can tell you what they mean.

Look at food packets. Can your child guess what is inside? Make a collection of their favourites.



## Collections

You and your child could collect other things: shells, stamps, tickets, etc. If you help with the labelling they will begin to match words with objects.

Have a treasure hunt!

e.g. leaf, feather, key, twig, sweet wrapper, stone - lay each object beside the word.



## Games

Children enjoy games. They can make learning about numbers fun, help with word and picture matching as well as the social skills of turn taking and fairness.

Play games with a number track, snap cards, matching pairs card game, Kim's game as well as I Spy, Spot the Difference, and the many lotto games. Dominoes is another excellent activity which is used a lot in active learning in school.

## Storytelling

Storytelling is a special time with your child. Try to spend time each day reading to your child or telling them stories.

If you can show how you value the written word in magazines, newspapers and instruction leaflets, and also enjoy reading for pleasure, your child will want to be like you and see reading as worthwhile.

If your child sees you writing cards and letters to friends, making lists, leaving notes as a reminder to yourself and others they will want to be able to do the same.



By spending time with your child you will build their confidence. It will give you the chance to share their joy in discovering new things and help make learning fun. We look forward to working with you to continue your child's learning and development.

Please get in touch if you require more information.

Head of School: Mrs Peigi Nicolson

Depute Head Teacher: Mrs Karina Mackay

Nursery telephone number: 01851 822878

School telephone number: 01851 703418

