

Learning, growing, caring, sharing

Primary 1b
Information booklet for Parents/Carers

UNCRC Article 1: Everyone under the age of 18 has all the rights in the convention.

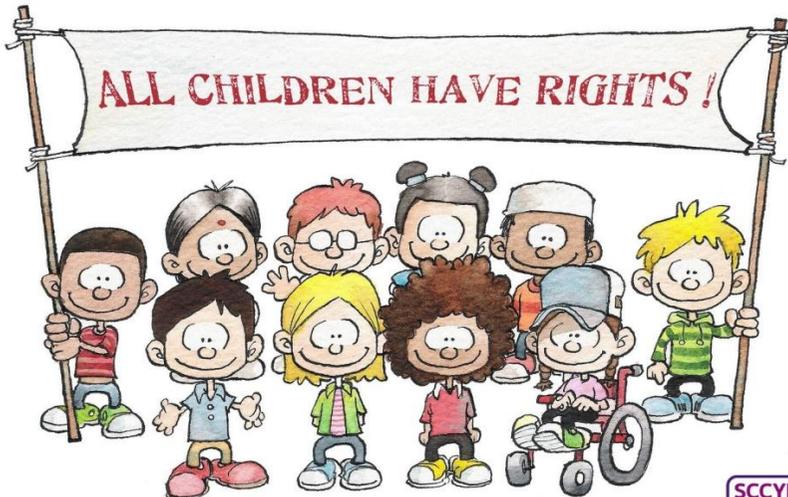


Illustration : alex leonard

U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 1



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family have had a great summer holiday and are ready for the start of the new session. This leaflet is to inform you of routines and procedures in Primary 1b at Mayfield Primary School this coming year.

Teaching staff

Miss Mhairi Smith

Mrs Karen Malko

Plus support from Speech, Language and Communication (SLC) staff.

Attendance and time of arrival

UNCRC Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.

We do expect children to attend school each day unless illness prevents this. Please don't forget the start of the school day is 8.50am and children need to be in the playground at the time of the bell.

School dinners

UNCRC Article 6: Every child has the right to life.

School lunches are free for children in P1. Please have a look at the menu and talk through the choices with your child.

Snack

UNCRC Article 6: Every child has the right to life.

Mayfield Primary School is a health promoting school, so with that in mind we would appreciate it if children only brought fruit or vegetables to school as a snack. This is both a healthy and non-messy option. **P1 children** are provided with **fruit on Wednesday** so on these days it is not necessary for you to send any snack at all. We hope you will support us in developing healthy eating habits by encouraging our healthy snack policy. Fridays are 'treat' days in school, so any snack of your choosing can be brought on this day only.

Please note, we are a 'Nut aware school' and some pupils in school are allergic to nuts. Any exposure to nuts may cause life-threatening allergic reactions, requiring emergency medical treatment. To reduce the chance of this occurring, we ask that you do not send any products containing nuts to school with your child.

Water bottles

UNCRC Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health.

We encourage children to drink water. If you would like your child to have water (which helps avoid dehydration), please send a sports bottle labelled with your child's name which can be kept in class.

Uniform

We aim for all children to wear school uniform every day. The school uniform consists of navy blue sweatshirt, dark trousers or skirt, and a white polo shirt. Children may also choose to wear a shirt and school tie. Please ensure all uniform, especially jumpers, are clearly labelled.

School staff will monitor and reward pupils for wearing full school uniform and we appreciate your support with this.

Jewellery

For safety reasons, looped/dangle earrings must not be worn in school, and all jewellery must be removed during PE lessons. Teachers cannot take responsibility for looking after these items during lessons and no compensation will be made if they go missing. Please help us by insisting that your child adheres to our policy.

Curriculum for Excellence

UNCRC Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.

The Early Level of Curriculum for Excellence is for Nursery and Primary 1, and is based on active learning. Active learning means that children learn through their own play both planned and spontaneous. Children learn through exploring and investigating their own life experiences and events from each other through their socialising and playing imaginatively.

Adults in early years settings support and enable children with their learning through their careful observation of children, sensitive interaction and detailed planning to develop and extend each child's development and learning.

Active learning also challenges children's thinking and engages children in an interest in, and a responsibility for, their own learning.

In school we are all working towards the four capacities of A Curriculum for excellence, where we hope to encourage:

Successful Learners - using imagination and creativity, tackling new experiences and learning from them and developing important skills including literacy and numeracy through exploring and investigating while following their own interests.

Confident Individuals - succeeding in activities, having the satisfaction of a task accomplished, learning about bouncing back from setbacks and dealing safely with risk.

Responsible Citizens - encountering different ways of seeing the world, learning to share and give and take, learning to respect themselves and others and taking part in making decisions.

Effective Contributors - playing together in leading or supporting roles, tackling problems, extending communication skills, taking part in sustained talking and thinking and respecting the opinions of others. The four above capacities will be addressed through eight curriculum areas:-

Health and Wellbeing

Language

Mathematics

Expressive Arts

Religious and Moral Education

Science

Social Studies

Technologies

Curriculum for Excellence values the individual and the contribution that each and every one of us can make to society. It is the curriculum that your child will follow throughout their school career. It should allow for seamless transition from nursery to primary and primary to secondary.

Rights Respecting Schools

Mayfield Primary School aims to be a school where every aspect of a child is focused on and developed. As part of our school's mission to be a learning, growing, caring, sharing school, we are working towards **Level 2 as a Rights Respecting School**. This is an award which is given to schools on behalf of UNICEF.

UNICEF



UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and our rights. In 1989, governments worldwide promised all children the same rights by adopting **the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**. These rights are based on what a child needs to survive, grow, participate and fulfil their potential.

Rights Respecting School Award

The 'Rights Respecting School' award (RRSA) will help us be, and continue to grow as confident, caring, successful and responsible young citizens both in school and within the wider community. By learning about our rights we also learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others i.e. our responsibilities.

The Rights of a Child

At Mayfield Primary School we are encouraged to reflect on how our behaviour and actions affect those around us, which allows us to build and maintain a positive and safe learning environment for all, both in the classroom and community.



It would be great if you could spend a few minutes reading through the key principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, listed below:

The right to a **childhood** (including protection from harm).

The right to be **educated** (including all girls and boys completing primary school).

The right to be **healthy** (including having clean water, nutritious food and medical care).

The right to be **treated fairly** (which includes changing laws and practices that discriminate against children).

The right to be **heard** (which includes considering children's views).



Level 1

So far, we have reached Level 1 of becoming a Rights Respecting School, which is a great achievement. This shows that:

- a knowledge of the United Nations Convention (UNC)
 - A rights respecting ethos
 - Empowerment of children
- are becoming embedded in our school.



We really hope that you will feel able to support us in working towards our goal of being a Level 2 'Rights Respecting School'. We'd love you to become involved and look forward to sharing our work, whether at assemblies, in newsletters, classroom displays or the school website.

If you would like more information about the work of UNICEF or a Rights Respecting School then please visit: www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa.

Thank you, The Rights Respecting Steering Group

How your child will learn

Children have opportunities to engage in different types of learning activities which may be experienced within the classroom, or outdoors.

In Primary 1 we use our topics throughout the year to stimulate and motivate learning.

Our topics this year will include:

Block 1	August - October	Bears, People Who Help Us
Block 2	October - December	Discovery Dog, Nativity
Block 3	January - April	Scotland, My Family
Block 4	April - June	Bugs and Butterflies

These topics take on an interdisciplinary approach which encompasses several areas of the curriculum.

Literacy

Phonics

Children learn their sounds through the Read Write Ink programme which will include correct letter formation, word building and blending. Children use magnetic boards, white boards, interactive whiteboard resources, games and songs to ensure a strong foundation.

Reading

Children are involved in reading activities each day so please ensure they bring their blue reading bag with them every day. When your child is ready to read they will follow a core scheme which will be sent home with key words to learn and a reading record, allowing parent/carer and teacher to comment.



We encourage a love of books through weekly visits to Mayfield library. Our time at Mayfield library is Thursday. Please share books and other reading opportunities with your child at home.

Writing

Children learn to write in sentences using capitals, full stops and joining words. Different types of writing will be covered throughout the year, such as writing a letter or a personal story. Children are encouraged to use correct spelling of common words. Special effort in writing is celebrated by 'Star Writer' award certificates!

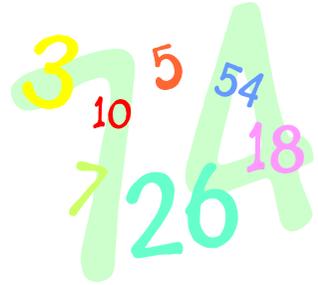
Handwriting

The emphasis in Primary 1 is on the correct formation of the letters and correct pencil grip as a strong foundation at this stage is a skill for life. We learn formation of lower case letters only using capitals at proper nouns. A high standard of presentation is expected at all times!

Numeracy and Maths

Numeracy

Children learn how to count and order numbers to 20 as well as adding and subtracting numbers to 10. Children experience a range of learning styles through games, whiteboards, ICT and group work.



Maths

Children relate mathematical processes to real life situations e.g. using money at a shop, recognising shape of street signs and telling the time.

Problem Solving

Children develop a range of strategies throughout the school which they can use to tackle problems with confidence. They work independently, in small groups or whole class for these tasks.

Health and Wellbeing

UNCRC Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health.

Children identify ways of keeping themselves safe and healthy in different aspects of their life. e.g. water safety and fireworks.

Physical Education

P.E. covers skills such as balance and movement, ball skills, games and athletics.

P.E. takes place on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please make sure your child has a P.E. kit in school. Kit should contain labelled shorts, T-Shirt and gym shoes, and stored in an appropriately named gym bag. Football tops should not be worn. P.E. kits will be sent home at the end of each term to be washed.

Expressive Art

Art and Design, Music, Drama and Dance are taught mainly through our topics. Primary 1 performs a Nativity play at Christmas. All children are involved in some aspect of this performance and we hope you will join us to share this special time.

RME

UNCRC Article 30: Every child has the right to learn and use the language, customs and religion of their family.

We explore feelings, friendships and attitudes during circle time and begin to understand the significance of special celebrations such as Christmas and Easter. We will also learn some of the stories from the life of Jesus.

Golden Time

UNCRC Article 31 Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a range of cultural activities.

Golden Time is a reward for those children who have showed a consistent level of good behaviour. Golden Time takes place on a Friday morning and pupils are given the opportunity to experience a variety of activities.

Home/school tasks

Home/school tasks should not take in excess of 15mins each night. Your child will have worked hard throughout the day, therefore the emphasis is on fun learning and sharing experiences with your child.

Phonics homework is issued once a week and the specific pages will be dated. Phonics homework should be returned on a Monday.

Other home activities linked to topic work are issued throughout the year.

Please sign your child's work so that we know you have seen it.

Signing



UNCRC Article 23: A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and independence.

Midlothian's Speech, Language and Communication provision is based at Mayfield. Therefore we use some sign language across school to support vocabulary building and language development.

Recycling

We send off inkjet printer cartridges for recycling. The money we receive from this boosts the school fund. Cartridges must be original Canon, Hewlett Packard or Lexmark. We also send off used stamps to help RHSC (Sick Kids). If you can help with either of these please, send items into the school office. **THANK YOU!**

School Growth Plan (SGP)

Our developments for the coming year in school are written in a document called the School Improvement Plan. Information on this can be found in the main corridor.

Websites

Useful websites for you are:

School: <http://mayfield.mgfl.net>

Parentzone:

www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone



Meetings

If you have any concerns regarding your child, I will be happy to speak to you. It is better to arrange an appointment with me through the office, so that a mutually convenient time can be sought, rather than speaking when the children are coming into school at the start of the day or going home at night. Your support with this is greatly appreciated. I look forward to working with you this year.

Miss Mhairi Smith
Class Teacher