



Carmondean Primary School

Primary 1 Induction Booklet



We are delighted to welcome you and your child to Carmondean Primary School. Starting school is an exciting time and our aim is to help your child settle happily into school life.

This booklet supplements our main School Handbook and concentrates on areas particular to Primary One. Here are some answers to a few of the most frequently asked questions. If there are any we have missed out, please free to ask.

How can I help my child settle into school?

1. Allow your child to practise getting dressed without help. Skills include fastening buttons, zips, tying laces and doing buckles.
2. Label **ALL** of your child's clothes and belongings.
3. Give your child lots of practise holding pencils, crayons, scissors and books properly.
4. Encourage your child to tidy up behind him/her, listen to instructions, play and share with others.
5. Read together – nursery rhymes, stories, alphabet books. Recognise and point out colours. Count together – steps, sweets etc.
6. Play together and talk about the things you do together. Talking is a great educational tool which helps your child communicate thoughts, feelings and ideas.
7. Support your child to be independent in good hygiene when going to the toilet and washing hands. This helps prevent the spread of many illnesses.
8. Make sure there is a spare set of clothing, including underwear, in their school bag in case of accidents.

Play Based Learning

At Carmondean Primary School we aim to work in partnership to create an inclusive and nurturing environment within which children become respectful and respected, resilient, motivated, ambitious and compassionate. We aim to support children to enjoy and accept challenges, to acquire new skills and to prepare them for each stage of their life in an ever changing society.

Play is the highest form of research.

-Albert Einstein

Why a play based curriculum?

Children are naturally curious about the world. They actively explore their environment and the world around them through play. By exploring ideas and language, manipulating objects, acting out roles, or experimenting with materials such as blocks, natural items, playdough and paint, children develop positive attitudes to their learning.



So what does this mean for my child?

At Carmondean we have a predominantly play based curriculum. The areas within the classroom and the playroom are carefully planned for and are adapted to account for learning needs, interests and themes. Children are extracted in small groups for formal teaching before returning to their play. Pupil Support Workers are highly trained and experienced in optimising play situations.

When will my child be getting a reading book?

The early days of school are very much about learning routines and gaining confidence. Much learning takes place through carefully planned play activities. Children learn to read at different rates and previous experience and maturity have a lot to do with how your child progresses. Accordingly, different children will bring home different books at different times. Most children begin on wordless books. These books provide an opportunity for literacy rich



conversations as well as developing imagination and building confidence.

We have a Primary One library area and a central school library. Children will experience a variety of stories in Primary One read by the teacher and will have time to choose their own books.

Remember – Self-esteem and confidence are the keys to learning to read. Praise, encouragement and patience go a long way.

What does my child need for starting school?

1. School uniform – grey/navy or black trouser/skirt, white polo-shirt or shirt and navy sweatshirt/cardigan. Branded uniform can be ordered from www.border-embroideries.co.uk.
2. Sensible shoes – to withstand playground games. If your child can't yet tie shoe laces please buy velcro fastening or slip on shoes.
3. School bag – named.
4. Gym rubbers – preferably slip on – named.
5. PE kit to be worn to school on PE days. PE will be twice a week and on those days your child should come dressed in joggers/ leggings/shorts, a plain white T shirt and school jumper. Teachers will inform you about gym days in August.
6. Pencil case with pencils, rubber, ruler, coloured pencils etc.
7. Waterproof jacket/coat (children will be encouraged to go out in most weathers).



Outdoor Learning

Our P1-3 children will be spending some time outdoors on a Tuesday. This will happen weekly and will be in all weathers so please ensure your child comes prepared for being outdoors.

Should I teach my child to write his/her name?

Your child should be encouraged to write at every opportunity. Cards, notes, messages, letters are all important ways for children to express themselves and then to tell you what they have “written”. It would be appreciated if they can start to learn both upper and lowercase writing.

When does my child start attending full day?

Children will attend school for the full day from their first day in August. Children will be able to enter the school building from 8.50am and our register will be taken at 8.55am. Parents and carers are encouraged to drop their child at the school gate where a member of staff will greet them.

On your child's **first day**, please arrive at the school gate between 9am and 9.15am. There will be a photo opportunity and then a member of staff will take your child from the gate into the main building. On the following days, your child should be brought to school for 8.50am.

A complete list of holidays is available on the school website or by using this link. <https://www.westlothian.gov.uk/school-holidays>.

What about school dinners/packed lunches?

We have included a school menu which explains the three tray system of meals operating in school. (Please note this menu will change after the summer break and you will be issued with a new menu sheet). Alternatively, a packed lunch may be brought to school and eaten in the school dining hall. The menu can also be found online www.westlothian.gov.uk/school-meals-menu



For playtime snacks we encourage fruit or crisps. Sugary snacks and fizzy juice should be avoided as we are a health promoting school. It is only a short break (15 minutes) so they will only need one small snack to keep them going to lunchtime. (Drinks should never be brought to school in glass bottles or cans.)

Please note that School Lunches are free for all Primary 1-5 children.

Breakfast Club



Our breakfast club starts at 8.15am Monday – Friday and is free for all children. You don't need to book a place. Children are welcome to join us any morning and register at the door. Breakfast can include cereal, toast, yoghurt and a drink. Entrance to Breakfast Club is via the P6/7 door.

What do we do if we sleep in and are late for school?

If you sleep in please do not keep your child off school. It is far better to come in a little later than not at all. Please contact the school office to say you will be late and then we make sure that a lunch is ordered for your child as this has to be done by 9.30am. The children should be brought to the School Office and not their normal entry door.

What if I need to chat to the teacher?

On occasion you may need to have a chat with the teacher, which is always welcome. You can catch them at the school gate, message them on Seesaw or call the School office. We are always happy to help and will call you back as soon as we can if we are unavailable when you call.



Bad Weather

Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing and shoes / boots if it is raining or snowing.

Expensive Jewellery

This can easily be misplaced. Also, it is not allowed in school for safety reasons. We respectfully request that jewellery should not be worn to school apart from small, stud earrings.

Seesaw

We use an app called 'Seesaw'. This can be downloaded to any smart device and allows us to upload photos and homework. It also encourages parents and carers to upload photos from home which we can share with the class and comment on. Details about the app will be shared once your child has started school.

Attendance

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please contact us by phone (01506 280281) as soon after 8.30am in the morning as possible. If you telephone before 8.30am, you can leave a message on the answering machine. Please ensure you give a reason as to why your child is absent. You can also text us with a reason on 07860 049699.

We have a duty to try to establish the attendance status of all pupils on a daily basis. If your child is absent and we are not made aware of the reason for this, we have a duty to contact the Safe Arrivals team.

Time Off During the School term

Attendance at school is monitored according to West Lothian Council guidelines.

A child's progress can be damaged by poor attendance at school as he/she misses out on valuable learning opportunities. This prevents him/her achieving their full potential.

We monitor attendance regularly and send out information letters to parents who may not have realised just how often their child has missed school. If attendance does not improve the Children and Young People's Team is contacted.

For continuity of your child's learning, we would ask you to refrain from taking your child out of school on holiday during term time. Where such a holiday is unavoidable please inform the school as early as possible before the event. These absences are recorded as "unauthorised."



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Simply Play After School Club:
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