

NEWTONGRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EDUCATION DIVISION

Head Teacher
Miss V Morgan

**Midlothian**

Our Ref:



May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Primary 1 Transition

As we are progressing through the final term of the session, we know that you and your child will have begun thinking about the move into Primary 1 and we are aware that you will have a number of questions about the arrangements ahead. We therefore hope that this letter will begin to answer some of these matters, with further communication and clarification to follow during the weeks ahead.

Our transition arrangements will be a little different this year with a lot being virtual due to the current Covid restrictions, however, we still aim to give your child the best experience possible following the latest Scottish Government and Local Authority Guidance.

The primary schools within the Newbattle Learning Community have been working together to plan similar transitions so that all children receive an equitable experience.

Our transition programme for session 2021-2022 will begin from Monday 24th May 2021.

With our current guidance we are unable for the children to visit the P1 class rooms this year. However, to ensure all children are given the opportunity to see their new environment and meet their new teacher we have created a Primary 1 Seesaw page to share information with you and your child including;

- Welcome video messages from your child's class teacher and key adults within the school
- A 360 virtual tour of our school
- Mid Mouse transition activities
- A key information regarding starting school.

If you currently attend Newtongrange ELC setting you have already been added to the our new P1 Transition Seesaw page. If you currently attend another ELC setting, attached to this letter is your child's unique Seesaw Login details. Please contact us if you need any support in accessing this.

Class formation and the move to Primary 2

For our new school year, we will have three Primary 1 classes. We hope to be able to confirm with you which class your child will be in and who will be their class teacher, week beginning 7th June 2021.

In connection and for your information well in advance of the time, our Primary 1 children will need to be re-organised into two different classes for Primary 2 and beyond. This is because the nationally agreed ratio of teacher to children changes from 1:25 in P1, to 1:30 in P2. The three classes will therefore be re-organised into two classes of up to 30 children. Much nearer that time, we will speak with you again about exactly when and how this will be done.

Parental information and a chance to talk

Ordinarily, whilst your child was with their classmates and teacher during an Induction Visit, members of our Senior Leadership Team would have welcomed you into school and shared a range of information about school life at Newtongrange Primary School. This would also have been a chance to ask any questions that you may have. As this is not possible, we are arranging two virtual meetings for our new Primary 1 parents: **the first between 4-5pm on Wednesday 9th June**; and the **second at 6-7pm on Thursday 10th June**. It is only necessary to attend one of these as the information provided will be the same, however we hope that the option of times will be helpful for you and parents can attend either. Links for the virtual meetings will be posted on the Seesaw P1 Transition page.

Starting School Induction Pack

In order to help to answer many of the organisational questions that you may have, we have updated our Starting School Induction Pack which we include with this letter. We would also recommend going on to our school website where you will be able to find a wide range of information about life at Newtongrange Primary School - [Newtongrange Primary School \(mgfl.net\)](http://mgfl.net). Our school app and twitter feed will also provide you with key school updates, achievements and successes.

Primary 1 Transition Project

In Midlothian all Early Years settings and primary schools are working together on a joint transition project. Mid mouse is a community based transition project which will help to support your child as they move from their home & early learning & childcare setting into school. Each child will be gifted a mouse which can be used as an object to support and share their journey. Every school and early learning and childcare setting will also have a mouse, similar to your child's. Mid mouse will be a part of this special time of change for your child and can be with them every step of the way. Between now and the end of term, we will posting the stories your child is enjoying in their ELC setting, as part of this project along with some activities to do at home.

I hope that the vast majority of the questions that you may have will be answered through this and our starting school induction pack. However, if you have any other questions or issues that you would like to discuss further at this time, please do not hesitate to contact the school via our main email address. We are excited to get to know all of our new families properly and we very much look forward to the shared learning journey ahead.

Kind regards

Vicky Morgan
Head Teacher