

St. MacNissi's Primary School



Induction Booklet



 Safe Together Magnificent Ambition Creative 
Nurturing Inspiring Sacred Supportive Inclusive Success



W e l c o m e

Our Vision

Our aim is to provide our pupils with a safe, inclusive and child-centred school community, where each child is nurtured to grow and develop on their spiritual, social, emotional and academic journey. We continue to provide our pupils with a happy, caring and stimulating learning environment where high-quality teaching and learning enables our pupils to become independent, resilient learners. Our pupils are encouraged to develop to their fullest potential and to contribute positively to the world in which they are living.

We are committed to establishing close links with the home, the parish and wider community, and believe the school to be a vital part of the Larne Community.

We are firmly committed to:

- The aims of the school
- Providing effective education for all our children
- Developing pastoral care in the school
- Establishing close links with the home, the Parish and the wider community.

St MacNissi's seeks to establish an educative community centred on Christ so that His values and gospel message permeate the whole life of the school.





Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

A very warm welcome to you and your child as you join the St. MacNissi's Primary School community.

At St. MacNissi's, we are committed to creating a nurturing, safe, and stimulating environment where every child is valued and encouraged to reach their full potential. Our dedicated staff work closely together to ensure that all of our pupils feel happy, supported, and inspired to learn.

This booklet is designed to provide you with key information about your child's transition into Primary One. It complements our School Prospectus, which is shared with all new families, and aims to help you feel informed and confident as your child begins this exciting new chapter.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and we hope that your child's journey at St. MacNissi's will be a joyful and enriching experience.



Mrs J Baxter

Principal



Welcome to Primary One

Miss Nevin is the Primary One teacher, supported by Mrs Ramsey as the Classroom Assistant.

Miss Nevin loves teaching within the Foundation Stage and believes that learning should be fun, active, and exciting! While she enjoys all areas of learning, she has a particular passion for the great outdoors and ensures that there are plenty of opportunities for the children to explore and learn outside.

Our top priority is that your children feel safe, happy, included, and cared for at school. We believe that happy children learn best, and we strive to build strong partnerships with parents to support this. We want you to feel confident each morning knowing that your child is in safe hands, happy, and thriving.

Our curriculum includes phonics, reading, writing, and numeracy, as well as The Arts, The World Around Us, Physical Education (PE), Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU), and Religious Education (Grow in Love). Many of these subjects are taught through a play-based approach, both indoors and outdoors.

PDMU will be a consistent focus throughout the year, with a strong emphasis in Term One as the children settle into their new classroom environment.

We look forward to meeting you again and staying connected throughout the school year. We are always here to listen and support both you and your child. If you have any questions at any time, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Miss Nevin



Mrs Ramsey



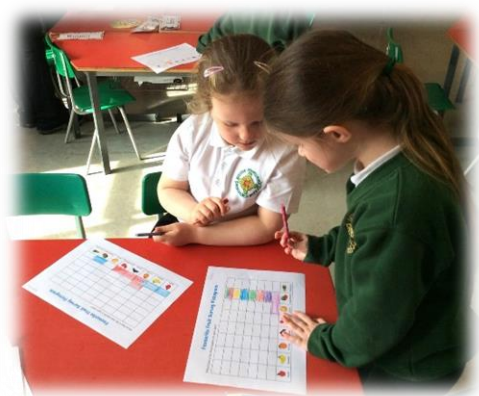
The Foundation Stage

Our approach is fundamentally child-centred, offering a flexible programme that better meets individual needs. We foster an ethos of care and provide explicit teaching aimed at building children's confidence, self-esteem, and independence. Play is our primary teaching and learning tool, as we believe children learn best through play. At our school, we carefully plan play-based learning experiences, recognising their vital role in early childhood development.

READING



MATHEMATICS



LANGUAGE



WRITING



Our School Day

School hours for Primary One:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Gates Open | 8.50am |
| Bell Rings | 9.00am |
| Morning session | 9.00-10.15am |
| Break | 10.15-10.30am |
| Mid-morning session | 10.30-11.40am |
| Lunch | 11.50-12.30pm |
| Afternoon session | 12.30-1.45pm |
| School ends | 2.00pm |



Children enter and exit their classroom via the Primary One gate. Miss Nevin / Mrs Ramsey will open the gate when the bell rings at 8:50am to greet the children in the morning and will open the gate for home time at 2.00pm.

Attendance

Pupil attendance records are kept on our school computer system. It is imperative that any absence is followed by an explanation (our school website has a section to report pupil absence) to ensure the correct information is recorded in the case of the following:

- Absence from school
- Permission to leave school early
- Late arrival in school
- Appointment with the doctor or dentist or other medical appointment

On occasions, it may be necessary to collect children early. If this occurs, parents are asked to inform the school office. Your child will then be accompanied to the main front entrance to meet you.

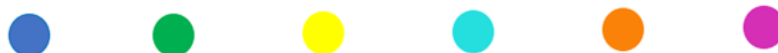
Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club operates every school morning from 8.00-8.45am (Primary One are welcome to come to Breakfast Club from Monday 15th September). The cost is £2 per child, per day. This is payable each morning at sign-in or via our online payment system ParentPay.

Healthy Break

In St. MacNissi's Primary School, we implement a healthy break policy. Children should bring their own healthy snack for morning break. It is helpful for your child if this is packed separately from the rest of their lunch so that there is no confusion over what is for break and what is for lunch.

Please ensure that fruit or vegetables are cut into smaller pieces as required.



Uniform

The school uniform is available from Woodside's Department Store, Main Street, Larne or online from the My Clothing school uniforms website <https://myclothing.com/> (please search via postcode BT40 1RF)

Uniform is as follows: -

Boys' Uniform

- Grey trousers
- White shirt/Polo shirt with school crest
- School tie
- Green school sweatshirt
- Black School Shoes



Girls' Uniform

- Green skirt, pinafore or grey trousers
- White blouse/Polo shirt with school crest
- School tie
- Green school sweatshirt / cardigan
- Black School Shoes



Alternative uniform for Summer term

- Green gingham dress
- Grey shorts

Normal uniform, of course, may still be worn.



Optional school fleeces and raincoats can also be purchased from Woodside's or My Clothing.

It is essential to clearly label all items (especially jumpers!) with your child's name.

Please supply a spare set of clothes in a draw string bag to be kept in school on your child's peg. This is in case of accidents/soiling and messy play.

PE Uniform

- White polo shirt
- Dark blue or black jogging/tracksuit bottoms (these must be plain)
- Trainers (preferably with velcro instead of laces to facilitate independence)

The Primary One teacher will advise which days the children have PE.



What your child will need

- A bottle of water to school with your child's name clearly labelled.
- A change of clothes (pants, socks, spare jogger etc) in case of accidents/messy play. These can stay in a bag on their peg until needed.
- A healthy snack, e.g., fruit (if packed separately to lunch it is easier for your child to recognise as their snack).

When staying until 2pm:

- A packed lunch (unless having dinners)
- Your child's homework/reading folder. These will be sent at the beginning of October however small home tasks/activities may be set before this.

In Primary One, we understand that young children are still developing their sense of responsibility and organisation. To help reduce unnecessary upset caused by lost or misplaced items, we kindly ask that children do not bring their own stationery, pencil cases, colouring materials, or similar resources to school.

All necessary materials will be provided in class to ensure every child has what they need for learning and creativity. However, to support homework tasks, we recommend that each child has a small pencil case at home containing the following items:

- A pencil
- A Pritt Stick (or similar glue stick)
- A pair of child-safe scissors
- A set of colouring pencils

Having these items ready at home will help your child complete homework activities smoothly and independently.



Donations

Instead of individual pencil cases and items, we would greatly appreciate donations of some resources that Primary One will use often throughout the year.

If you would like to contribute to this, we would really appreciate any extra:

- Pritt stick glues
- Black whiteboard dry erase pens
- Rubbers
- Twistable Crayons
- Reams of paper

We would also really appreciate any donations of tissues and baby wipes.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Thank You



Helping your child to prepare for Primary One

You can help your child have a confident and positive start to St.MacNissi's Primary School by supporting them to:

- Get dressed by themselves.
- Put on and take off their own jacket and jumper or cardigan.
- Use the toilet independently and wash their hands.
- Open snacks and eat meals using appropriate cutlery and utensils.
- Catch coughs and sneezes in their elbow or a handkerchief.
- Blow and wipe their nose.
- Recognise their own belongings.
- Tidy away their own toys.

The First Day!



We understand that the transition from home to school represents a significant and important step for young children and their families. You can help children get ready for their first day at school by:

- Reading and following the advice in this booklet and watching our school tour video on our website.
- Making all preparations before the first day of school so children have a calm and relaxed start to their first day.
- Getting plenty of sleep the night before and eating a nutritious breakfast to prepare for the day ahead.
- Choosing a favourite healthy snack together for your child's break and packing a full water bottle.
- Explaining to your child the arrangements for dropping off and collection at school.

We understand that beginning Primary One is a big step - not just for children, but for families too. It's completely natural for some children to feel unsettled when saying goodbye at the start of the day.

However, they usually settle quickly, becoming happily engaged in play and learning.

Our dedicated Primary One staff are here to ensure a smooth and positive transition for every child. We are committed to supporting both children and their families throughout this exciting journey. If you have any questions, concerns, or simply want to chat, please don't hesitate to speak with a member of the Primary One team. We are always here to help!



Intake Arrangements



All Primary One children will start school on **Friday 29th August 2025**.

From **Friday 29th August** until **Friday 12th September**, children will attend for shortened sessions with their induction group.

From **Monday 15th September**, we hope that all children will remain in school for the full day 9.00 – 2.00pm.

Medical information

Please inform the school if your child has a medical condition or any allergies. This can be done by completing the relevant sections in the Data Collection form. You can also speak to your child’s teacher to discuss any specific arrangements required to support your child. Medicine can also be administered at school following completion of the relevant forms. These can be found on our school website in the ‘Parent Area’ under ‘Administration of Medication’.



Links with parents/guardians



At St MacNissi's Primary School we make use of a digital portfolio called Seesaw. Seesaw enables the teachers to record and share what is happening within our Foundation Stage classes, and to provide you with a starting point for discussion with your child about their learning. This is a fantastic platform which will allow you to see all of the lovely things your child has been up to!

Please ensure that you complete the general permissions form which includes a section for Seesaw.

We value the partnership between home and school. We believe that strong, consistent communication with families plays a vital role in supporting every child's learning and wellbeing.

We foster these connections through a variety of channels, including:

- Parent-Teacher Meetings
- Stay and Play Sessions
- End-of-Year Reports
- Pastoral Phone Calls
- Weekly Newsletters
- Our School Website and App
- The School Facebook Page



We warmly invite all parents and carers to become active participants in school life. You can get involved by:

- Engaging in Your Child's Learning

Take an active interest in what your child is learning at school and support them at home.

- Sharing Your Talents

If you have a career, skill, or hobby that could enrich our pupils' learning experiences, we'd love to hear from you!

- Supporting the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The PTA plays a key role in building our school community. You can support its events or even join the team. If you're interested, please speak to Mrs Carmichael in the school office.



Additional Information

Parking Around School

Please be aware of parking restrictions on Agnew Street and refrain from blocking the main school entrance gate when dropping off in the mornings or picking up at home time.

For health and safety reasons, parking in the school car park is **not** permitted. Many parent(s) / guardian(s) / childminders use the Church car park which has been designated for school collections. There is a path leading from the Church car park into the back playground.

There is also a carpark with entrances on Agnew Street and Exchange Road.



School Meals

At present, school dinners will cost £2.63 per day.

School dinner and other payments are made through our online booking and payment system. Registration emails for this will be sent to parents on 29th August, upon official enrolment.

Tickets for the week should be purchased by 9.00am on a Monday morning.

A copy of the school dinner menu is provided with the weekly newsletter, and this is also available to view on the school website.

Application forms for free meals are available online, please visit

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

EA also have a dedicated helpdesk if you have any queries or difficulties accessing the online application, the helpdesk can be contacted on 02890 418044 from 9am to 4.30pm.

Alternatively, you may provide your child with a packed lunch.





Bye-bye teddy! Bye-bye panda!
I'm starting school today.
I've got my coat. I've got my bag,
I just can't stop to play!

Hello school! Hello teacher!
Here's a coat peg with my name.
I hang my coat. I hang my bag,
And others do the same.

Hello classroom! Hello children!
There's so much here to see.
Here's a sand tray and a puzzle,
And a little chair for me.

Hello crayons! Hello paper!
Here's a picture book to read.
Hello play-dough! Hello games!
Here is everything I need.

Hello teddy! Hello panda!
I've come back home to play
And here's a lovely picture
That I drew at school today!

Brenda Williams



Finally...

This is a truly exciting milestone, and we really appreciate the trust you've placed in us to support and guide your child over the next seven years in St MacNissi's Primary School.

We look forward to building strong, lasting partnerships with all our new families and working together to help your child to thrive during their time here.

Wishing you a restful and joyful summer break!

If you have any queries....

Please do not hesitate to contact us:

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BT40 1RF

Tel (028) 2827 3571

Email: info@stmacnissisps.com

Visit our website at: www.stmacnissisps.com

Visit our Facebook page at:
www.facebook.com/StMacNissisPSLarne

