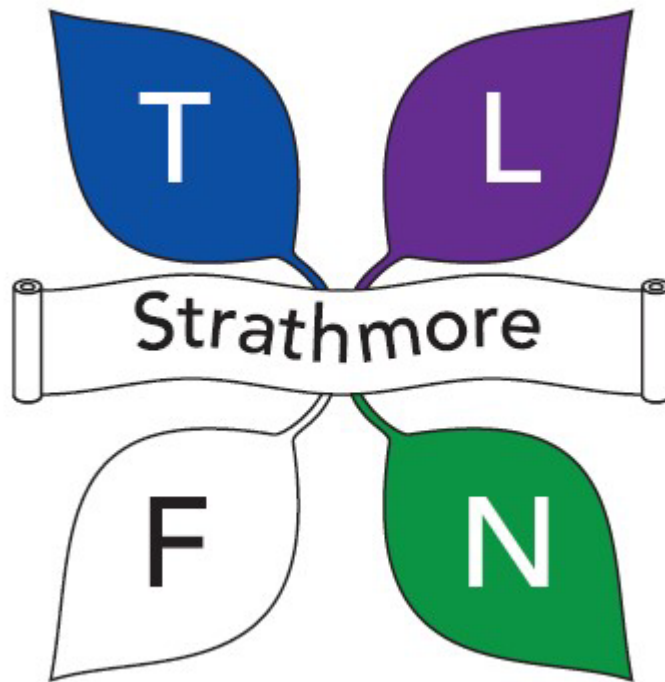


STRATHMORE
PRIMARY SCHOOL
HANDBOOK 2024/25



**This document is available in alternative formats, on request
(Please contact the school office)**

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CONTACT DETAILS

Strathmore Primary School

St James Road

FORFAR

DD8 1LE

Tel: 01307 494276

Website: www.strathmoreschool.co.uk

Twitter: @StrathmorePS

Email: Strathmore@angusschools.org.uk

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Head Teacher Mrs Garnes

Depute Head Teacher Mrs Craig

Principal Teachers

Mrs Marr

Mrs Reid

Class Teachers

P1B Mrs Bruce

P1N Mrs Noonan

P2S Ms Szpanko

P2C Miss Cassidy

P3/4 Miss Page

P3/4 Miss Oliphant

P3/4 Miss Crockett

P5O Mrs Ord

P5M	Mrs McIntosh
P6M	Miss McCartney
P6O	Mr Ollerenshaw
P7S	Mrs Smith
P7H	Mrs Henderson

Early Learning and Childcare:	Ms Ferrera (Senior Early Years Practitioner)
	Miss Duncan (Early Years Practitioner)
	Miss Moir (Early Years Practitioner)
	Ms Ewen (Early Years Practitioner)
	Miss Kerry Myles (Early Years Practitioner)
	Ms Smilie (Early Years Practitioner)
	Miss Gail Zamparini (Early Years Practitioner)
	Miss Sam Baxter (Early Years Officer)
	Miss Jessica Yeoman (Early Years Officer)

School and Pupil Support Assistants (SPSAs)

Mrs Crighton
Mrs McGibbon
Ms Patullo
Mrs O'Brien
Mrs Prophet
Mrs Reid
Mrs Wilson

Clerical Staff

Mrs Stewart
Miss Drossel

School Roll

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THE SCHOOL DAY

Stage	Start	Break	Lunch	Close
Primaries 1 and 3	9:00am	10:20am-10:40am	12 noon – 1:00pm	3:20pm
Primaries 4 to 7	9:00am	10:40am-11:00am	12:30 – 1:30pm	3:20pm
Pre-School	9:00am			3.00pm

VISITS OF PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

[Choosing a school: a guide for parents \(Scottish Government\)](#)

Please contact the school office if you are interested in visiting our school. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will be happy to meet with you and show you around our school.

Once your child has been allocated a place, you will be invited to visit the school to find out more about the curriculum and to share information about your child. We also take this opportunity to introduce your child to their prospective teacher.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

We appreciate the cost of school uniforms and have done our best to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum. We encourage all pupils to take pride in their appearance by wearing the appropriate school uniform and we value the support given by parents on this issue.

To develop a sense of belonging and identity, pupils are encouraged to wear school uniform which consists of:

- Blue, black and silver tie
- White polo shirt with school sweatshirt or white shirt/blouse with school tie and black

- cardigan/pullover jumper
- Black trousers/skirt/pinafore
- Green checked dress
- Black shoes

Our school uniform supplier for embroidered items is My Clothing. Orders can be made at any time using their website <https://myclothing.com/>

All clothing brought to school should be named or marked in some way, as it is difficult for children to distinguish their own clothing from others.

Any items of unlabelled lost property are kept in school for children to collect. Any unlabelled items left in school at the end of each term are collected by St Margaret's Church, Forfar who have a pop-up school uniform shop during the summer school holidays

(www.facebook.com/stmargaretsforfar).

PE KIT

Teachers will inform pupils of the days for PE. Children should arrive at school on their allocated day in appropriate PE clothes. **No jewellery, particularly earrings should be worn during PE learning.**

All clothing brought to school should be named or marked in some way, as it is difficult for children to distinguish their own clothing from others

PARENTAL CONCERNS

Parents should contact the school immediately they have a cause for concern. It is our wish to deal with all matters as early as possible preventing them from growing into significant concerns. Please contact your child's class teacher in the first instance or if you would prefer to discuss the issue with a member of the Senior Leadership Team, please contact:-

Mrs Reid- ELC to P1

Mrs Craig - P2-P4

Mrs Marr- P5-P7.

The staff will listen to your concern and agree a way forward with you. They will follow-up with a telephone call approximately one week later. This is to ensure all matters have been resolved.

THE COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

BECOMING INVOLVED IN SCHOOL

The school values the important part that parents play in their children's education and sees partnership with parents as an effective way of enhancing children's achievements and promoting better school ethos and communication.

Opportunities for Parental Involvement:

During the school day:

- Helping in the Early Learning Centre
- Art/Craft activities
- Sharing knowledge and expertise in some aspect of the curriculum, e.g. topic talk, history, science, health
- Practical activities in science, maths, social subjects, health education (e.g. first aid) or technology
- Reading stories to groups of children, playing reading/phonics games
- Supervising board games
- Teaching playground games
- Golden Time activities e.g. board games, art and craft in small groups
- Running or assisting to run a Lunch Club
- Supporting educational visits/trips
- School concerts – making costumes, props, supervision of children
- Road safety – Cycle Training

Out with the school day:

- Fundraising events
- Trips e.g. sporting events, concerts
- Extra-curricular activities e.g. coaching, sports/art clubs/country dancing/school grounds – maintenance of garden/allotment areas

If you wish to be a regular parent helper, PVG (Protecting Vulnerable Groups) checks have to be completed. Please discuss this with a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

All parents are invited to attend two Parents Evenings in October and February. At these meetings parents will have the opportunity to meet their child's class teacher for a 10 minute interview and hear about their child's progress. This is also an opportunity for parents to hear how they can best support their child's learning. Parents are also encouraged to look at the Termly Overview which is sent out at the beginning of each learning block (4 times per year) and support as appropriate the completion of homework tasks as advised by the school.

Throughout the school year there will also be several opportunities to visit the school to see how new initiatives and resources are being used, and for parents to share what pupils

have been learning. We value your participation and support at these events and welcome feedback on how we can improve.

SCHOOL ETHOS

At Strathmore we are committed to providing appropriate opportunities for the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural values through both the ethos and the curriculum. This will be undertaken in partnership with parents and will take account of the individual needs of pupils and the views of parents.

Our school welcomes and encourages diversity and individuality, while emphasising our common commitment to moral values such as honesty, respect for others, compassion and justice. It is a fundamental principle of our school that all who are involved in the life of our school both has the right to be respected as individuals and carry the responsibility to act in a considerate and respectful manner towards others. We implement the Council policy for Equal Opportunities and Racial equality and ensure that all pupils have access to the full range of educational experiences available within the resources of the school. We are firmly committed to the elimination of any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, gender or disability.

We have links with East and Old Parish Church and our chaplain, is involved with school assemblies regularly throughout the session.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY LINKS

Strathmore Primary School is an integral part of the community of Forfar. Children develop skills and learn to be better citizens as they engage with and support the work of the local community. Our pupils participate in community events and competitions organised by the churches, and Rotary Club. They visit the elderly during the year and participate in sporting and cultural events.

- **ASDA** have been involved in helping in a variety of ways; World Book Day, and carol singing for fundraising, providing our learners with IT equipment.
- **TESCO** support our fundraising through allowing us sing carols at Christmas.
- **Sports Clubs** - we often have visits and sessions with local sports clubs.
- **Guide Dogs for the Blind** – we have sponsored a Guide Dog and visited the Guide Dog Training Centre.
- **Nursing Homes** – we have special performances of our shows for some of the older members of our community.
- **Forfar Rotary** – supporting our learners with the provision of IT equipment.
- **East and Old Church** – supporting our families with vouchers.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

[Angus Council anti-bullying policy](#)

Good behaviour is essential to good learning. The general aim of the school is to provide

an atmosphere of mutual respect and collective responsibility. Pupils, parents and staff all have an important part to play in this. The rules of the school are of a common sense nature, bearing in mind the interest and safety of all concerned.

Our school rules are as follows:-

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

Children work hardest when they know their work will be appreciated and praised. All staff encourage pupils at all times and in all activities to give their best. Their effort may be rewarded verbally by praise, or non-verbally by a smiley face or sticker.

The whole school celebrates achievement on a weekly basis by the giving of 'hot chocolate Friday' to award pupils for good work, effort, kindness shown to others. Awards are given on Fridays when Mrs Garnes, Head Teacher, visits each classroom.

At the end of each session, there are a variety of prizes that are awarded at our annual prize giving.

We regularly collate information from parents and carers about out of school achievements (e.g. sports, Scouting, Guiding, Boys Brigade, community awards).

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

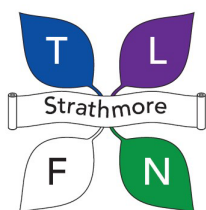
Day	Time	Club	Age Group	Supervisors and Leaders
Monday	12.45-1.15	Scottish Country Dance	P3-P5	Mrs Kerr, Mrs McIntosh. Miss McCartney, Mrs Henderson
Monday	3.30-4.30	Football	P5-P7	Mrs Smith
Tuesday	1-1.30	Chess	P4-P7	Miss McIntyre
Tuesday	3.30-4.20	Cross Country	P5-P7	Mrs Milne
Wednesday	1-1.30	Colouring	P5	Mrs Henderson
Thursday	1-1.30	Card Games	P5	Mrs Henderson
Thursday	3.30-4.30	Badminton	P6-7	Mr Ollerenshaw

PUPIL PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

At Strathmore Primary we are developing our Learner Voice through more opportunities for pupils to participate in decision making groups.

House Captains

We have four Houses: Fyne; Lomond; Ness and Tay. Two Primary 7 pupils are elected for each House at the beginning of the session. They have responsibility for ensuring that the tokens which are awarded in recognition of following the school rules are collected. They are developing the role of the House system through events and supporting pupils to achieve the vision of the school to grow, learn and achieve together.



PUPIL VOICE

This decision making group consists of pupils from P4-7 although we consult all pupils as we are looking at self-evaluation in order to improve, using the 'How Good Is Our School' learner framework. The group meets regularly with senior leaders and have an action plan based upon the five themes of Relationships, School and Community, Learning and Teaching, Health and Wellbeing and Wider Achievements. The information which they gather and the suggestions they make help to inform school improvement. This group are a conduit for questions and information sharing from and too their classes

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Your child will learn in a variety of different contexts and groups throughout their week. Classes are encouraged to share their learning with each other through wall displays, assemblies and opportunities to visit other classes to talk about learning.

THE PUPILS' AND PARENTS' VOICES

Personalisation and choice is one of the seven principles of curriculum design and children and young people throughout their education will have the opportunity to discuss with their teacher the context in which they learn and how they will approach the learning. Staff will discuss new learning with the children at the beginning of a new topic and plan together the areas of specific focus e.g. Mary Queen of Scots. This will be shared with

parents through our SeeSaw app and parents may be invited to support the learning by sharing resources from home e.g. books or visit the school to share a talk. Parents will be invited to share comment regarding the planned work for their child at various points throughout the year and are encouraged to feedback comment at any time through the SeeSaw app.

THE CURRICULUM AT SCHOOL, LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVEL

Open learning sessions are an excellent opportunity for parents to learn about the curriculum we offer at Strathmore Primary. Throughout the year, each class or year group will invite parents/carers to come and find out about the learning that has been taking place. During these events the children will describe and share their first-hand experience of the curriculum in school. National information can be found from the numerous sources listed at the back of the handbook. The school website, X page and termly SWAY newsletter and the class' termly SWAYs are also sources of information, illustrating the work of classes across the school.

EARLY LEARNING AND CHILDCARE –

In Scotland all three and four year olds, and some two year olds, are eligible for up to 1,140 hours a year of funded early learning and childcare (ELC). Our ELC class offers sessions between 9am – 3pm, 5 days a week, term time only. Other attendance patterns are available in other Angus Council settings and in our wide range of partner nurseries, playgroups and childminders. To find out more about the benefits of ELC and the options available, visit our dedicated ELC web pages at www.angus.gov.uk/earlyyears.

LIAISON WITH SECONDARY SCHOOL

The school maintains close links with Forfar Academy (Forfar Community Campus, Kirriemuir Road, Forfar DD8 3TG, 01307 492200) and other Primary Schools within the Angus area. Our teachers and in some cases our pupils visit other schools and establishments and other teachers and pupils visit us. This process is necessary for the professional development of staff, reciprocal understanding and the establishment of curricular consistency.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

We have an ambitious three-year plan which will run for three years from 2022/2023 – 2026/2027. Parental involvement is a key component of our plan.

Learners

By session 2026/27, our learners will be:

- **Responsible Citizens** by undertaking important roles within the school supporting their peers and improvements in the school.
- They will develop as **Confident Individuals** through sharing their learning in class, school and across the school community.
- By knowing that they are listened to and their opinions valued, our learners will be **Effective Contributors**. They will contribute to group, class, school and community initiatives.
- **Successful Learners** as they will be able to articulate where they are in their learning, how they know, what they have to do to improve and what support they need.

Values

- Our Vision, Values and Aims will be an integral part of our daily interactions within our community, with stakeholders actively engaged.
- The Strathmore Standard will be reflected in the work and life of the school community.
- Parents will share responsibility for raising attainment / school improvement.
- Parents will be supported to fulfil the role of co-educator with parents leading the support.
- We will work as a community to determine our next steps.
- A Relationships Policy will have been implemented and evaluated.

Totality of the Curriculum

- A Relationships and Sexual Health Policy is implemented in school and shared with families.
- Outdoor learning is embedded within learning and continues to be developed with our learners
- 1+2 for learning languages will be embedded throughout the school.
- Improved methodologies for teaching literacy, numeracy and mathematics will be embedded.
- There will be increased STEM opportunities for learners and staff. Teaching of Science skills will have improved. Teaching of food technologies introduced across the school. Accreditation for Digital Schools Award will have begun to be worked towards.
- We are working towards further accreditation as a Reading School.
- We are working towards further accreditation as an Emotion Works school
- We are working towards further accreditation as a Rights Respecting School
- Restorative relationships will be embedded.
- Methodologies for teaching PE will have improved.
- There will be an increased engagement with 'Developing the Young Workforce '(DYW) agenda.

Learning and Teaching

- There will be engagement with aspects of STEM through CLPL and practice.
- We will have increased attainment in literacy, and numeracy and mathematics.
- Moderation will positively impact on learning, teaching and attainment.

Experiences and Outcomes

- Curriculum progressions are embedded in planning, and are used to support pace, challenge and depth of learning across the school.

Entitlements

- With support, learners are resilient, flexible and adaptable in preparation for life in society in Scotland, and beyond.
- The Progression in Career Education (3-18) Standard is evidenced in the teaching cycle.
- Learning for Sustainability has begun to be explored.

Personal Support

- Connect is used to deliver and evaluate family learning programmes.
- Effective transition processes are in place.

Principles of Curriculum Design

- **Depth, breadth** and **challenge** are embedded through the use of progressive pathways and benchmarks in all areas of the curriculum.
- Self, peer and teacher feedback ensures **relevance, challenge** and **progression** for learners.
- **Coherent** connections are made by pupils within their learning.
- Pupils are involved in **personalising** the planning and assessment of their learning, and are encouraged to **choose** strategies which enables them to progress.
- Staff have a sound understanding of the Principles for curriculum design, and discuss these during PDAMs and Planning Discussions.

Arrangements for Supporting the Purposes of Learning

- Learners have developed the capacity to be assessment capable for themselves, peers and the work of the school
- Teachers have well developed skills of data analysis which are focused on improvement for all learners and families
- Staff are teacher leaders, identifying and evidencing the impact of professional learning on their practice and outcomes for learners
- The impact of strengths, development needs and actions are identified for our school community through effective self-evaluation
- Professional judgement is embedded through moderation.



HEALTH CARE

You can contact your school health staff at: -

Ann MacLauchlan, Whitehills Health Centre, Forfar. Tel: 01307 475274

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Angus Council
Angus House
Orchardbank Business Park
FORFAR
DD8 1AN
Tel: 03452 777 778
Email: ACCESSSchoolsLearnBSU@angus.gov.uk

ANGUS COUNCIL WEBSITE

Visit angus.gov.uk/schools for information that applies to schools across Angus on topics including:

- holidays
- meals
- school payments
- attendance and absence
- assessment and reporting
- transport
- drugs education
- religious and moral education
- transitions
- ...and more

FINANCIAL ENTITLEMENT DIRECT LINKS

- [Free School Meals and Clothing Grant](#)
- [EMA \(Secondary Schools\)](#)
- [Welfare Rights/Benefit Calculator](#)

OTHER WEBSITES

Find useful links to other websites at angus.gov.uk/linksforparents