

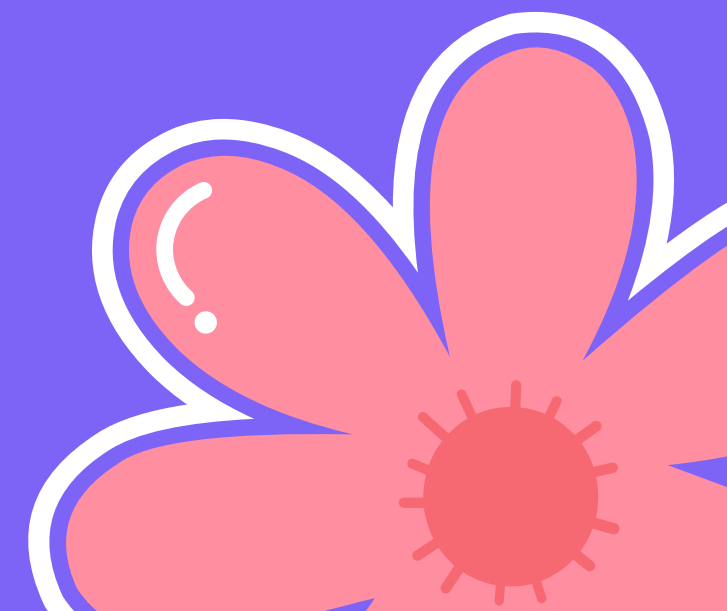
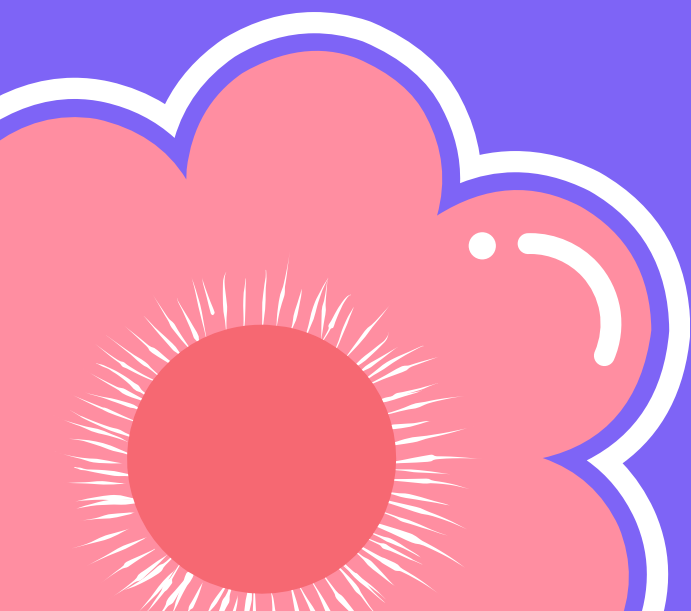


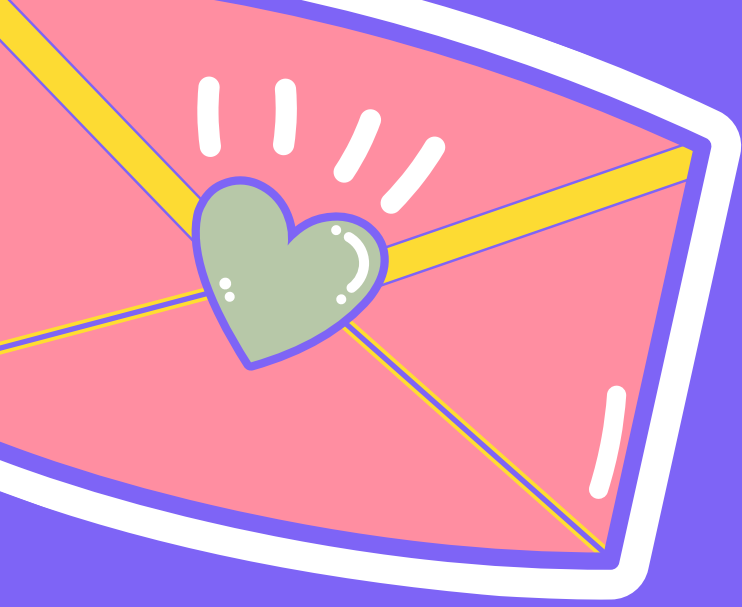
ST GEORGE'S
EDINBURGH

NOVEMBER 29, 2024

GETTING READY FOR PRIMARY 1

MY JOURNEY TO SCHOOL

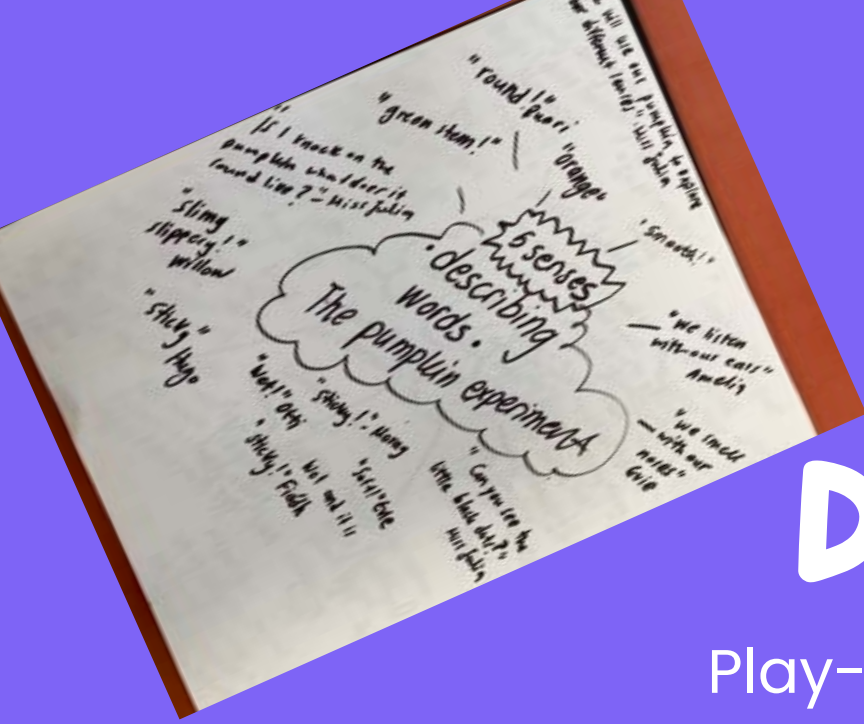




INTRODUCTION TO PRESCHOOL LEARNING

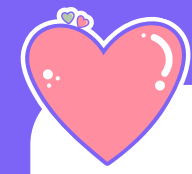


- 1 Preschool provides play-based experiences in early literacy, numeracy, movement, and social skills.
- 2 We place a great focus on learning greater independence and self-care skills.
- 3 These key areas support children's overall development and help them get ready for a more structured learning environment in Primary 1.



DEVELOPING EARLY LITERACY

Play-based language activities encourage communication and literacy skills



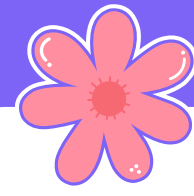
1

Storytelling, rhyme, role-play, and music teach vocabulary, language patterns, and communication skills.



2

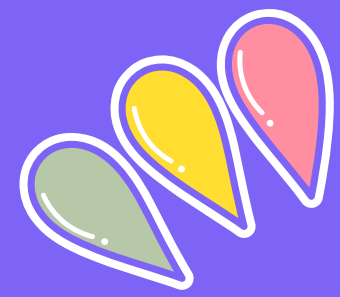
Discussion activities encourage children to share thoughts, listen to others, and ask questions ("Who, What, When, Where").



3

Mark-making activities (using fingers, chalk, paintbrushes, etc) help children explore writing skills naturally.





SUPPORTING LITERACY WITH MOTOR SKILLS

Strong motor skills are essential for writing readiness



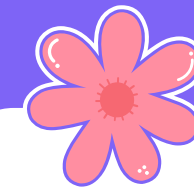
1

Before focusing on letter formation, children need strong fine motor skills.



2

Activities like playdough, climbing and using scissors build hand strength and coordination needed for writing.



3

Practicing hand-eye coordination through activities like threading or using small tools (like tweezers to pick up objects) builds precision needed for writing.



BUILDING NUMERACY AND MATHEMATICAL THINKING

Learning mathematical concepts through everyday play prepares children for real-life problem-solving.



Numeracy includes counting, sorting, measuring, and pattern recognition.

It also includes understanding concepts of time, shape, spatial awareness and money.

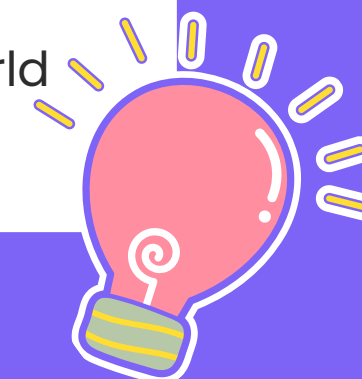


Pretend play (e.g. shopping, daily routines) and seasonal learning experiences introduce concepts of money and time.



Through play, children use math concepts practically – e.g. sorting toys, measuring during baking, comparing sizes.

It extends their understanding of the world and sharpens their observational skills.



THE PYRAMID OF SKILLS FOR PRIMARY 1 READINESS

LITERACY AND NUMERACY & MATHEMATICS

While early literacy and numeracy are crucial, they rest on self-care, social-emotional, and independent functioning skills.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, SELF-CARE AND INDEPENDENCE SKILLS

Nursery teaches children to:

- Manage their belongings, follow routines, and be independent at meal times
- Build emotional vocabulary, deal with difficult emotions and resolve conflicts.
- Learn to use the toilet independently, dress and undress, manage zips and buttons and ask for help when they need it.

These skills provide a solid base for adapting to the increased pace and increased expectations of Junior School.



ENCOURAGING INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-CARE

Simple self-care tasks prepare children for the autonomy needed in Primary 1



1

Toileting and Hygiene: Using the bathroom independently, washing hands, and understanding personal hygiene are important for a busy school environment.

Eating Independently: Practicing with utensils (knife, fork, spoon) helps children manage school lunches with ease.

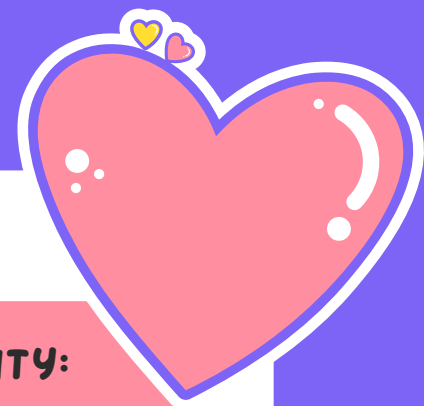
Dressing and Undressing: Putting on coats, shoes, zipping jackets, and managing buttons builds motor skills and boosts self-confidence.

2

Encouraging Responsibility for Personal Belongings:

In preschool, children learn to carry their own water bottles, organise their belongings, and take responsibility for personal items.

Being responsible for their items helps them develop organisational skills and prepares them to handle the fast-paced school routine without missing important learning.



**ACTIVITIES AT HOME
REINFORCE RESPONSIBILITY
AND SELF-RELIANCE**

SIMPLE HOUSEHOLD TASKS ENCOURAGE RESPONSIBILITY:
Activities like setting the table, putting away toys, or feeding a pet help children develop a sense of duty and routine.
Taking on small chores builds self-confidence, as children feel like valued contributors to family tasks.

BUILDING RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH PLAY AND HOME ACTIVITIES

PROMOTING PATIENCE AND RESILIENCE:
Encouraging children to try tasks that may be a bit challenging fosters perseverance and resilience. By allowing children to make small mistakes and find solutions, they build problem-solving skills and learn to cope with frustration—a valuable life skill.

DEVELOPING FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS THROUGH PRACTICAL ACTIVITIES:
Involving children in tasks like baking, where they measure ingredients, stir, and pour, helps strengthen fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination. Tasks that require carrying items (e.g., helping with groceries) support gross motor skills, balance, and strength, which are also beneficial for classroom activities.

ENCOURAGING EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING SKILLS:
Simple chores teach children planning and organization, such as deciding the order of steps when tidying up. These activities develop memory and sequencing abilities, which help with following multi-step directions in a classroom setting.



PREPARING EMOTIONALLY FOR PRIMARY 1



Moving to Primary 1 can feel exciting and overwhelming—open discussions can help children process these feelings.

Involve children in selecting school items (like uniforms and bags) to help them feel ownership of the change.

Establish morning routines now to ensure a smooth transition when school starts.



PARTNERING WITH US FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION



Stay connected with nursery and Junior School about your child's progress, and let us know of any changes that may affect their learning.

Look out for key dates and school events to ensure you and your child are prepared.

We're here to support you and your child through every step of their journey to Primary 1.



Learning actively in Primary 1!



In Primary 1 the children are fully involved in their learning. The learning activities are varied to meet the needs of all learners.





Our outdoor classroom provides wonderful scope for the children to learn with the seasons.



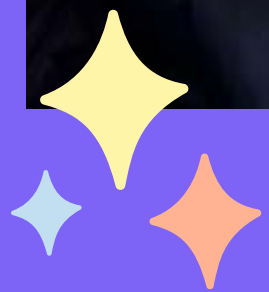
Our teachers take an interdisciplinary approach when weaving learning together from across the curriculum. Learning is meaningful and fun!



Learning is exciting and memorable in our Junior School!



Our teachers look for ways to bring learning to life!





Developing numeracy and literacy skills in Primary 1 is a key focus of learning. At this stage, children are building the basic skills they will need for academic success and everyday life.



Recognising letters, understanding phonics, and developing a love for reading helps children become confident readers and writers.



Counting, recognising numbers, and understanding basic math concepts, lay the groundwork for more advanced problem-solving and critical thinking.

Our pupils have many opportunities to develop their confidence through taking part in performances. Through acting, singing, or dancing, they learn to express themselves and embrace teamwork.

“ Thank you so much for the wonderful Nativity performance today. I thought it was absolutely fantastic with brilliant singing and acting. It really was a delight to watch as a parent My oldest daughter is in P6 at another school and has never had the opportunity to be part of anything like this.

I know an incredible amount of hard work goes on behind the scenes and I am really grateful to you all. It was fabulous!

Thank you very much and very well done! ”

PI Parent



These performances not only foster a sense of accomplishment but also encourage children to take risks, think on their feet, and problem-solve in real-time.





! Learning takes place beyond the classroom too!



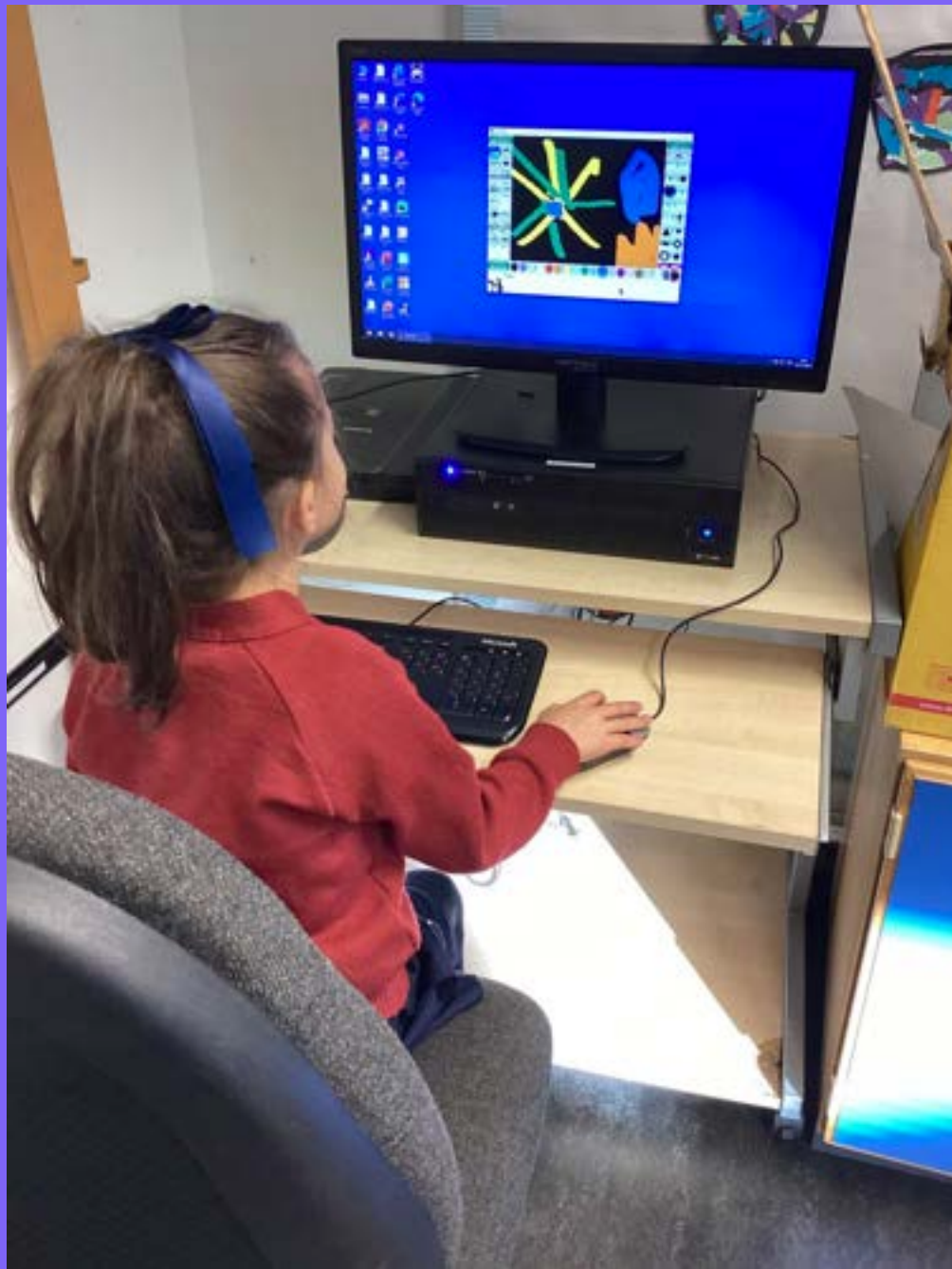
The children have opportunity for educational visits and trips through each year, which enhance their learning and extend their knowledge.



Teaching digital skills and confidence is an important aspect of learning in Primary 1.



These can take place in our ICT suite, or within the classroom itself through use of ipads and programming beebots.



Teaching digital skills and confidence is an important aspect of learning in Primary 1. The children are supported in their learning through our ICT programme of lessons.



Our links within the local community are strong, and allow us to extend learning for the children at every stage.



THANK YOU!

