



Welcome to  
**Kells Primary School**



December 2024

# Information at a Glance

## School Address

Kells Primary School, Braeside, New Galloway,  
Castle Douglas, DG7 3RU

Email address:

[gw08officekells@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officekells@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)

Parent Council Chairperson: Alan McMillan

Head Teacher Mrs Brogan Murray (Acting)

School Roll 25

Denomination Status Non-denominational

Status of Gaelic Not taught

## School Staff:

### Teaching Staff

Mrs Heuchan	(PT)
Mrs Welsh	P1-P4
Ms Wheeler	P1-P4
Mrs Heuchan	P5-P7
Mrs Houston	(RICCT)
Mrs Callander	(ASLT)

**If you would like some help understanding this or need it in another format please contact 030 33 33 3000.**

## Auxiliary Staff

Learning Assistants:	Ms Lindsay Harper
Administration:	Mrs Kerry Renwick
Janitorial and Cleaning:	Mrs Jacqueline Povall
Kitchen:	Mrs Jacqueline Povall

## The School Day

Start of day	9.00am
Break	10.30 – 10.45am
Lunch	12.30 – 1.15pm
End of day	3.00pm

School term dates can be found at:

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/School-term-and-holiday-dates](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15239/School-term-and-holiday-dates)

## Communicating with home

We still use the telephone for quick calls. Newsletters and any other letters are sent home via pupil post. Letters go home to the oldest or the only child in the family. Parents can also be sent these via e-mail on request. Class Teachers use a closed Facebook group to share learning with families and an open one to communicate to the community. The Xpressions App sends messages and emails direct to you and is free to download and use. Teachers can meet with parents informally before and after school when appointments are made.

## Intimate care

From time to time “accidents” involving soiling or wetting do happen. If this happens to your child, the staff will endeavour to deal with the situation as sensitively and discreetly as possible, and to keep you informed.

The action taken might include:-

- Nursery staff will clean and change your child into their spare clothes.
- Offering the child fresh clean clothes from a stock held in school, and the chance to wash or wipe themselves in private.
- Helping the child to clean up, if they are happy for this to happen, and if there is a suitable adult around to assist.
- Contacting parents or emergency contact to come to come into the school, or to take the child home, to clean up.

If your child has an ongoing condition or problem which is likely to make “accidents” an issue, do please discuss it with your child’s Class Teacher, Head teacher or the School Nurse.

## Welcome from the Head Teacher

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome to Kells Primary School. Our school is small in comparison to many other schools as it only has two classes and around 25 children in total. We work in partnership with Dalry Primary. The staff and children show great enthusiasm and motivation for learning. We have a culture of mutual respect and the children are kind and caring. The school works with partners from around the community and looks for opportunities to use the links to enhance our curriculum.

Our handbook should provide you with all the information you should need but if you have any queries that the handbook does not answer, please get in touch.

In line with the Education Bill (2015) and the National Improvement Framework the schools aim is to ensure that all children are able to reach their full potential regardless of circumstances.

Kind regards

**Brogan Murray** (Acting)  
Head Teacher  
Yours sincerely

**For more links and detailed information about how we support parents and work with our schools, please see our [Authority Handbook](#). This also includes a page for financial support for Children and Families.**

## School Aims, Values and Ethos

### Kells Primary School's Vision, Values and Aims

#### Vision:

At Kells we understand that the curriculum must be exciting, relevant and creative. We recognise that every child is different and learns in their own way. It is our duty to listen, question and adapt in order to reach and engage children in learning. We will always aim to provide a fun, child centred, cooperative curriculum that promotes pupil voice and encourages individuality. We provide a safe, supportive and inclusive learning environment where everyone has a valid contribution to school life. We value sustainability, and promote values such as tolerance, humility, kindness and curiosity. We strive to nurture, encourage, and challenge each individual along a path to lifelong learning. Kells endeavours to develop happy, healthy, respectful, inquiring minds - independent thinkers who are a strong foundation of the community and wider society. We aim to foster a strong sense of community and belonging to it. It is our responsibility to be a positive influence in an ever changing world. Kells will provide an environment that stimulates progress - based in hard work, enthusiasm, collaboration and participation. We will embrace ambition, imagination, excellence and fun. We will celebrate our successes and achievements with shared joy. Working together to make a happy place! This aim was reviewed through consultation with the staff, parents and community in December 2017

#### Values:

Kind  
Enthusiastic  
Lifelong  
Learning  
School

#### Aims:

- This vision is embodied in our school's aims to:
- Foster a strong community
- Foster good relationships
- Be inclusive with all our stakeholders
- Embrace fun, learning & achievement
- Celebrate success
- To care for our environment and the wider world
- To be eco-friendly in our actions
- To work together towards a happy place.



## Contact Us

The school welcomes suggestions and enquiries from parents and carers.

### If you need to find out something

We can be contacted by e-mail, telephone, group call text messages or face to face. Where it is not possible to resolve enquiries straight away, we will make arrangements to follow up as necessary with the most appropriate member of staff.

### Comments, Complaints and Compliments

A comment might be some brief feedback about how we have handled a situation or delivered a service. It is best to pass a comment straight to the school so that we can take any necessary action.

If you are not happy with the response you receive or a decision that has been made, you can 'Ask us to Look Again'. You can do this by contacting [ParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:ParentalInvolvement@dumgal.gov.uk). At this point an Officer will contact you, discuss the issue and direct your enquiry as appropriate.

Remember you can also access Dumfries & Galloway Have Your Say at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/17349/Have-your-say>

If you remain dissatisfied, the Education and Learning Directorate operate within the complaints handling procedures for Dumfries and Galloway Council. Information on this can be found at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15382/Complaints-procedure](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15382/Complaints-procedure)

## How the School Works

### Class Organisation

For organisational purposes, schools are structured into classes. Each year it is the responsibility of the Headteacher to organise the class structure.

For more information, on School class sizes and grouping please visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16646/School-class-sizes-and-groupings](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16646/School-class-sizes-and-groupings)

There are approximate total of 12/13 children in each of our classes. This year (2024-2025) the classes are split into Primary P1/2/3/4 and P5/6/7.

For more information please see the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

### Positive Behaviour and Celebrating Success

Our ethos works very much on the premise of respect and responsibility. Our three expectations are to be safe, be kind and be respectful. In line with the Scottish Governments Respect Me agenda all members of our community should be treated appropriately. We have a restorative approach towards behaviour management and encourage children to think about the link between actions and consequences. We have a golden nuggets board where we celebrate those children who are being good role models for their peers by being kind, safe or respectful.

We celebrate pupil success in and out of school. At assemblies we share achievements and children have the opportunity to bring in certificates, trophies or just explain to the rest of the school their personal achievement. The pupils' photographs plus brief explanation are then displayed on the Achievement Wall. We also share success at a special leavers' assemblies where all children's successes are celebrated.

For more information please see of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

## School uniform

All Dumfries and Galloway schools have a dress code which encourages pupils to dress in a way appropriate to attendance at school. For more information on School Uniform, Dress Code, and School Clothing Grants visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

We encourage all children to wear the Kells School uniform as it reinforces they are part of the school community and ensures they are dressed appropriately for school activities. Our everyday "Kells badged" uniform consists of: School sweatshirt (bottle green) crew neck, School polo shirt (yellow), Knitted sweater up to 36", Grey school trousers Grey school skirt, (Gingham dress for summer) Shoes (preferred) or dark coloured trainers with as few markings as possible, A Green fleece jacket, Storm Dry Jacket or Lightweight showerproof jacket are available for formal occasions such as concerts and festivals: White school shirt and school tie.

The children receive a book bag, PE kit bag and water bottle when they start school. Replacement items can be purchased from the school office. Some stock is kept in school and can be bought at any time throughout the school year. Parents can log onto School Trends and order direct from the website [www.schooltrends.co.uk](http://www.schooltrends.co.uk)

## Financial Support for Children and Families

### Grants and Bursaries

#### Scottish Child Payment

Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family. It's a weekly payment of £25 that you can get for every child you look after who's under 16 years of age. You'll get the payment every 4 weeks if your application is successful.

Further information and an application can be made at: [mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot) website or call us on 0800 182 2222.

#### Best Start Grant

Best Start Grant and Best Start Foods are payments that help towards the costs of being pregnant or looking after a child. Best Start Grant is made up of 3 one-off payments:

- Pregnancy and Baby Payment
- Early Learning Payment
- School Age Payment

Best Start Foods is a prepaid card that can be used in shops or online to buy healthy foods like milk or fruit. The payments you can get now will depend on:

- how far along in your pregnancy you are
- how old your child is

Further information and an application can be made at: [mygov.scot](https://mygov.scot) website

#### Clothing Grant

The award of clothing grants is to assist with the cost of school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on low income. The current award is presently £134 per primary school child and £150 per secondary school child.

Further information and an application can be made at: Free school meals and associated payments - Dumfries and Galloway Council ([dumgal.gov.uk](https://dumgal.gov.uk))

Education and Learning Directorate are committed to supporting families through their Anti-Poverty Strategy – details of which can be found at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/poverty) Schools should also make parents aware of the School Uniform Bank Project. Donation and Collection information can be found at the above link.

**For more information on financial support please visit the Authority Handbook (pages 8,10 and 34)**

### School Meals

The Naturally D&G local provenance for a sustainable future ensures that meals are freshly prepared with seasonal ingredients and are free from undesirable additives.

Detailed information on school meals is available at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmenus](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmenus)

#### Free School Meals

Free school meals are provided for all pupils in Primary 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Confirmation of when this will be rolled out to Primary 6 and Primary 7 from the Scottish Government has yet to be confirmed.

In Nursery, eligible children can receive up to 1140 hours a year of Early Learning and Childcare. As part of this funded offer, the child will be entitled to one free meal and a snack each day.

Online pre-ordering of school meals is currently being rolled out to all secondary schools, information will be supplied by your school.

Free school meals can lead to a large saving in each year, nursery and primary school pupils can save £361 and secondary school pupils can save £370. You'll also be helping your child's school if you qualify for free school meals. Some Scottish Government funding provided directly to schools is linked to the number of pupils who are entitled to free school meals.

For more information visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmeals](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmeals)

#### Special Dietary Requirements

Facilities Services – Catering provide special dietary requirements for food allergy and intolerances; medically prescribed diets; or diets for religious or cultural reasons specific meals for children of different ethnic origin. Simply ask the school for a Special Diet Request Forms to allow us to inform the catering team who will discuss your child's requirements in full. For more information contact [DGschoolmeals@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:DGschoolmeals@dumgal.gov.uk) or the Solutions Centre on 01387 271 112 or [solutionscentre@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:solutionscentre@dumgal.gov.uk) to access the Legislation & Nutrition Officer.

**All Children with allergens should register with the catering team as soon as they are aware that their child has an allergen or intolerance to food.**

#### Scottish Child Payment and Bridging Payments

The Scottish Government's Scottish Child Payment helps towards the costs of supporting your family and, as of 14 November 2022, applications are now open for all children under the age of 16. The weekly value of this award will also increase to £25 as of this point.

## School Transport

Free school transport is available for some school children attending primary or secondary school if they live within the school catchment area and if they meet certain criteria. For more information and guidance visit <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15245/Free-school-transport>

## Free Travel for 5 - 22 year olds

From 31 January 2022 all children and young people aged 5-22 will be entitled to free bus travel in Scotland. You can apply for free travel online from today at [www.getyournec.scot](http://www.getyournec.scot) (This cannot be done through your school)

For more information on Active Travel which is about making journeys in physically active ways like walking, wheeling and cycling, we encourage parents and pupils to walk, wheel, cycle and scoot all or some of the journey to and from school, where it is safe to do so. Please click on this link: [www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

## Attendance

It is your responsibility as parents to ensure that your child/children attend school regularly. For the safety of all children it is important for you to telephone the school office prior to/at the beginning of the absence. Absences are recorded in class registers and frequent or irregular absences not supported by a reasonable excuse, will be notified to parents and the matter may be referred to the Opportunities for All Service. If possible please, try to make dental/medical appointments outwith school hours. However, if this is not possible please inform us in writing or by telephone of the appointment and arrange to collect your child from class.

For more information on Attendance, Absences, Lateness and responsibilities of parents please visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk)

## Absence from School

Pupils who need to leave school during the school day ie doctor /dentist appointments, must be collected by a named contact confirmed with the school office. They must also report to the school office on their return to school.

## Curriculum for Excellence

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE), now known as 'Scotland's Curriculum,' is bringing learning to life in the way education is delivered for all 3-18 year olds in nursery, primary, secondary, at college and via workplace or community learning. It aims to respond and adapt flexibly to meet the needs of an ever changing and evolving world and Scotland's place within it. At its heart lies a constant commitment and drive towards excellence and equity, to raise standards, improve knowledge, develop skills for all learners and close the gap between the lowest and highest achievers by ensuring everyone has an equal opportunity to be successful, no matter what their background or circumstances. Ultimately, it aims to nurture children and young people as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

## Broad General Education

Children and young people work their way through Experiences and Outcomes in each of the five Curriculum Levels (Early, First, Second, Third, Fourth) and in each of the eight Curricular Areas. The five Curricular Levels span pre-school to the end of S3. This is the Broad General Education. Pupils progress at their own pace, working through the Experiences and Outcomes of the most appropriate level for them. Pupils will be supported in collecting evidence of their achievements, with a profile of these being produced in P7 and S3.

CfE also includes Languages, Expressive arts, Religious and moral education, Sciences, Social studies and Technologies. The responsibility for the curriculum offer in your school sits with the Headteacher.

Our curriculum follows the Curriculum for Excellence framework and focusses on the four capacities which are to create: Confident Individuals, Successful Learners, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors to society. We follow a framework of progressions in each of the curricular areas and focus our learning on the children, their prior experiences and the development of their world. We have an overall long term plan for learning which allows children and their teachers to focus on their interests as a starting point for each unit of learning. There are six main areas or curriculum organisers we focus our learning around each year. These include:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and time
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organise ourselves
- Sharing the planet

Using these curriculum organisers give children and their teachers the opportunity to plan units of work which encompass different subject areas in a coherent plan which lead to a specific goal.

We believe it is important to celebrate each child's strengths and each year look to work with partners to enrich the children's learning through providing opportunities for children to try different sports, environmental activities and clubs.

## Parental Involvement and Engagement

### Parent/Carers and the Parent Council

Every parent who has a child at our school is a member of the Parent Forum. The parent council is a group of parents who have chosen to represent the parent forum. As a member of the Parent Forum, each parent can expect to:

- Receive information about the school and its activities
- Hear about what partnership with parents means in our school
- Be invited to be involved in ways and times that suit you
- Identify issues you want the parent council to work on with the school
- Be asked your opinion by the parent council on issues relating to the school and education it provides
- Work in partnership with staff
- Enjoy taking part in school life in whatever way possible

For more information or support for how you can become involved in or to run your Parent Council please visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk/](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/)

For more information on what is meant by parental involvement visit [www.dumgal.gov.uk/](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/)

More information and support for Parents/ Parent Councils is available at <https://connect.scot/>

Parentclub Scotland <https://www.parentclub.scot/> provides support information and guidance to expectant parents, baby, toddler, Child, Pre-teen and Parents and Carers.

The National Parent Forum of Scotland's (NPFS) Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell series. Free Downloads for parents/carers: <https://www.npfs.org.uk/downloads/category/in-a-nutshell-series/nationals-in-a-nutshell-series/>

### Parentzone Scotland

<https://education.gov.scot/parentzone> information about the Curriculum and how you can be involved in your child's learning.

### How is my child doing?

There will be several opportunities for you to discuss your child's progress. This may be through informal discussion with the teacher or at Parents' Nights/ Learning Conversations, formal reports or for some it may be through more formal, focussed meetings with other agencies.



## Helping Your Child and Family Learning

Within the Partnership, we understand that parents / families / carers are the main educators of their child / children from birth onwards. All the things parents do with their children can be described as educational in that they will learn how to behave around others, learn / practice / perform skills and adapt to situations based on parental guidance. Family learning is actively encouraged as sharing a learning experience supports understanding. Learning together can raise self-esteem and confidence and can positively impact on family relationships. We aim to facilitate opportunities for families to learn together throughout the year. Homework expectations will be shared by your child's class teacher. Homework should secure a child's knowledge and understanding of a concept which has been previously taught in class and will be nothing new. As a school we fully understand that learning happens in many different ways. We will provide opportunities for home learning, but these are not compulsory.

## Support for All

### Support for Learners

All children receive support at school and nursery to help them learn. 'Additional support for learning' is how we describe any support that is extra or different to the help that most children receive. Most of this additional support is provided by teachers in mainstream classes, focussed on learning and support to be fully involved in school life. For the majority of children and young people this will be delivered in a mainstream classroom supported by their classroom teacher for a few this will mean some additional support alongside the classroom teacher, and for a very few this will be part-time or full-time provision in a school with a learning centre or an inclusion base.

More information is available at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/) and on page 18 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

### Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC)

You are the expert on your child and what you think matters. Getting it right for every child (GIRFEC) means that the School will always seek to involve you, to listen to your opinions and take them seriously.

More information is available at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/girfec](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/girfec) and on page 20 of our [Education Authority Handbook](#)

### Child Protection

All children have the right to be protected from harm, abuse and neglect. The vision for all children and young people in Dumfries and Galloway is that they should be: safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured, active, respected and responsible and included. Schools and front-line education and child care services will play an important role in ensuring all children and young people are safe and well.

Further information can be found at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/16640/Support-for-children-and-families>

Parents, carers and pupils have a key role in keeping the school community safe. We would therefore urge parents to share any information which would keep everyone safe, and to support and encourage their child(ren) to do the same.

### Enrolment in Schools - School Places

Information on enrolment in school and catchment areas is available at <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15241/School-places> Information regarding catchment areas can be found on the Council's website by accessing "Find My Nearest".

### School Improvements

Each year the school will publish a School Improvement Plan which outlines the key priorities for the school during the year ahead, following engagement with staff, pupils and parents. The plan indicates the expected impact of priorities on pupil learning, as well as providing brief information about the key tasks to be taken forward. Both the report and the plan are published on the school's web-site and are also available in hard copy, on request. A copy can also be found by searching for your school at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/schools)

Our priorities for school improvement this session are as follows:

#### Priority 1 – Raising Attainment through High Quality Learning and Teaching

- Review of planning formats in Literacy and Numeracy in line with Council progression Frameworks.



- IDL plans and rich holistic assessment introduced with one completed termly.
- Pupil voice groups to be established with monthly meetings taken and lead by pupils, engage parent/ carers in this where appropriate. .
- Assessment table to be shared with staff and an assessment timetable created, showing when and how classes are assessed.
- Termly Attainment meetings staff working on next steps and inputting data.
- HT to create Quality assurance timetable focusing on T and L.
- Time spent with staff- What a good lesson looks like. Teaching and Learning policy created by Easter 2025.
- RRS Silver achieved by June 2025.
- Sports Scotland Award began with help of Active Schools
- Cluster writing moderation events.
- Hold Curriculum Evenings, By Easter 2025 which include parent/ carers, autism outreach and other agencies so that parents understand the support available to them.



- Ensure communication is reaching most parents, in terms of dates, well enough in advance and photos to share learning, Parent feedback to be taken into consideration from September questionnaire.
- Introduction to digital technology cluster. Regional planning tools. Use of technology to enhance teaching and learning.
- Review parent, teacher child communication and understanding of levels and where children are in their learning.
- Work with stake holders to create a planning rationale, and a contents list for planning folders.
- Digital Leader complete train the trainer and deliver to all staff to increase engagement and use of new promethean boards.
- Play leaders continue termly meetings to build on Play.

## Priority 2 – Improve Child Protection and Health and Safety Procedures

- For children to always feel and be safe in school through improvement of pupil voice, working from parent and child feedback.
- For Parents/ Carers to have increased confidence in the safety of their children whilst in school and understand the Child Protection Procedures that the school has in place. Communication of the school's role in Child Protection to go out and be part of parent events.
- Review Better Relationships/ Better Behaviour policy with all stakeholders including Anti Bullying Policy.
- Review playground safety regularly, ensuring staff are supporting children to manage dysregulated behaviour in the playground.
- Review of building entrance and exit.

## Health and Safety

### Emergency Procedures (including Safer Together Guidance)

If your child feels unwell or have hurt themselves during the school day they must report this to an adult in the school. If we feel that they would be better at home we will telephone you or your emergency contact. Minor accidents, e.g. cuts, bruises, are dealt with by the school staff. Serious accidents are few, but should one occur your child will be immediately taken either to your doctor or to hospital, if necessary, and you or your emergency contact will be notified. We cannot stress enough the importance of supplying the school with the relevant information we require in such a situation, i.e. your own home and work number and a telephone number of an emergency contact. **Please remember that if your child stays in more than one home setting contact details should take account of this.**

### Health Care (inc First Aid)

Many children will require their health care needs to be met at sometime within the nursery/school environment, for most children this will be for short periods of time only, but for some children this may require more long-term planning and support. If your child has any health care needs, please contact the school to discuss arrangements. Full details of the support available and your role as a parent and the role of your child are contained within Health Care in Schools 3-18 (NHS and Dumfries and Galloway Council) which is available from the school.

For more information see our [Authority Handbook](#)

## Severe Weather and School Closure Arrangements

Headteachers are authorised to make an emergency closure when the state of the weather or any other exceptional circumstance make it necessary in the best interests of the pupils. In these circumstances parents will be communicated with in a variety of ways including text messages/ phone calls and emergency contact arrangements. All school closures will be notified on the Council Website.

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15240/Emergency-school-closures](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15240/Emergency-school-closures)

## Data Protection

Information on how the Council uses personal data is available at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Data-protection](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/article/15129/Data-protection) and [www.dumgal.gov.uk/privacy](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/privacy)

## ICT in Schools

For more information on ICT in school please see page 14 of the [Education Authority Handbook](#)

## Use of the Internet, Social Networking Sites

As part of the process of learning we allow our children supervised access to the Internet and e-mail. The authority runs its own filter system to ensure that young people are not at risk from exposure to inappropriate material. This filtering system is regularly being upgraded. We have a policy for use of the Internet and a contract for responsible use, which we ask parents and young people to sign up to.

For more information visit our [Education Authority Handbook](#) and [Safe Digital Learning and Social Media Leaflet](#)