



to the Reception Class at
Macosquin Primary School
2023-24





Dear Parent/Guardian



We are so delighted to welcome you to Macosquin Primary School Reception Class! This will be the beginning of a wonderful journey in your child's learning. Your child will have lots of fantastic experiences in learning and make lots of friends many of which will be lifelong!

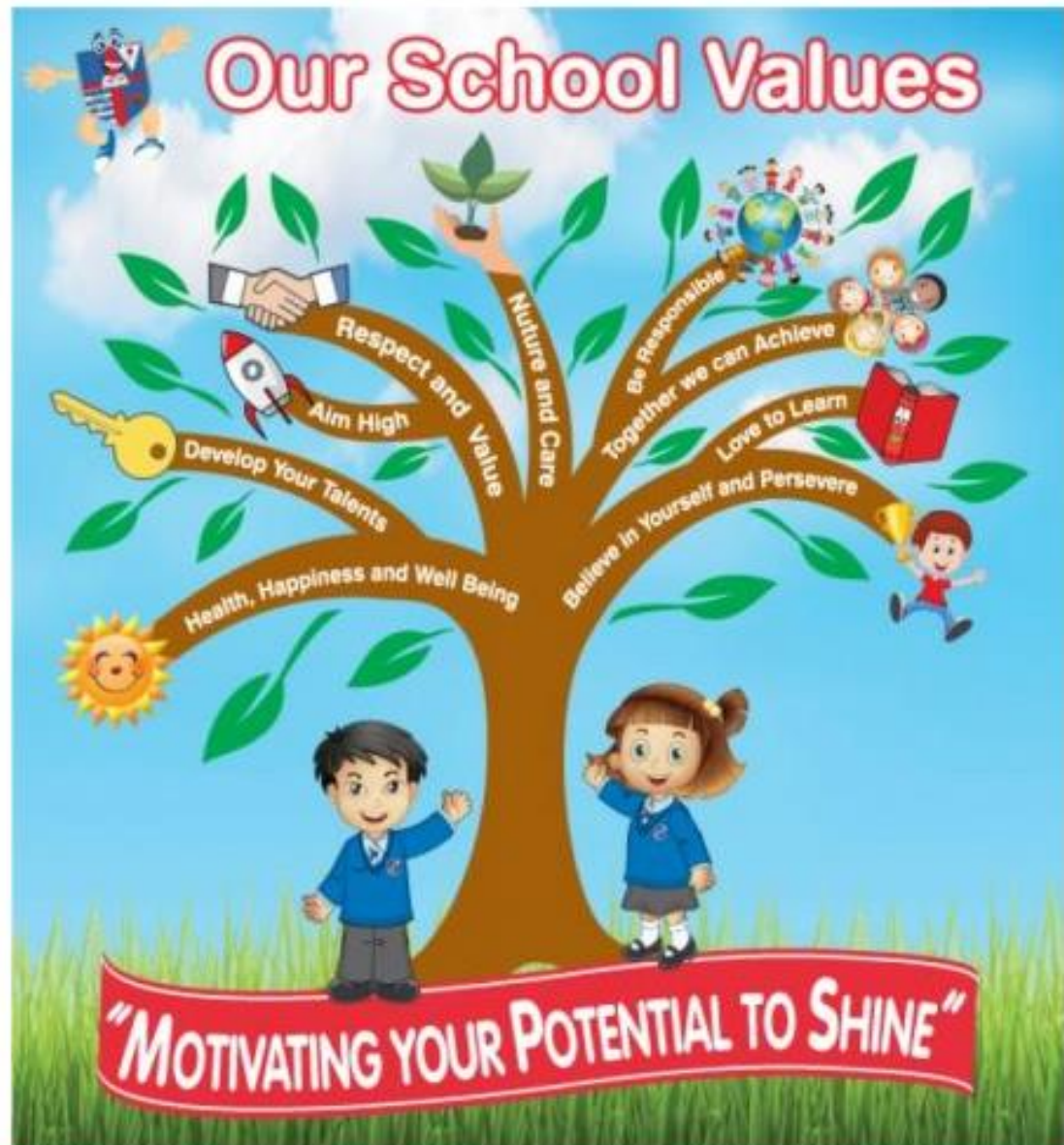
We completely understand that the beginning of school can be a very exciting experience but likewise an overwhelming one. Therefore, your little one will be invited to attend our play day (date/time to be confirmed). We feel that this will be helpful in introducing each child to their classmates as well as getting to meet both the class teacher and their classroom assistant in person.

We hope that this induction booklet will act as a guide to answering any questions that you may have about our school. Please don't hesitate to get in contact with us via the school office if there are any further questions you would like to discuss (02870344317 or email info@macosquinps.coleraine.ni.sch.uk).

We are very excited to meet you all!



Macosquin Primary School Values



To read more about our school vision and values visit our school website:

www.macosquinps.co.uk



Key Information about life at Macosquin

What will my child eat at school?

Toast, fruit, water and milk will be provided by school and will be available for the children at snack time. Parents can make **a voluntary contribution of £5 a month towards snack time via SIMS Pay 360. If there are any specific dietary requirements, please ensure the school is aware of this.**



Children can bring a packed lunch or have a **school dinner** at a cost of **£2.60 per day**. The dinner menu is available on the school website <http://macosquinps.co.uk/parents-area/dinner-menu/>.

School dinners must be pre-booked and paid before 12 noon on Friday for the week ahead via SIMS Pay.

Our school is a nut free zone- no nut products may be brought into school at any time.

How do I make payments?

We operate a cashless payment system in school. SIMS Pay 360 is our online payment system which enables you to pay for school meals, trips and extra-curricular activities etc. from home. You will receive information on setting up a SIMS Pay account from the school office via email before September. If you have any difficulties in accessing SIMS AGORA, please contact the school office (02870344317 or email info@macosquinps.coleraine.ni.sch.uk).

How do I keep up to date?

As well as Seesaw, you can keep up to date with the goings on in school via our school website monthly news and Facebook page. You will find key information including dates, dinner menus and other information on the website. You will see snippets of our learning on Facebook and/or Seesaw.



What if my child is absent or needs to leave school early?

Should your child have to leave school early e.g. for an appointment please contact the school office. Your child should always be collected and signed out at the main office. If your child is absent from school, an absence slip should be completed and given to me on the day that your child returns. These are available on the school website.

Please note all absence from school is recorded and any child with less than 85% attendance is automatically referred to the Education Welfare Officer.

How will my child's injuries/sickness be dealt with?

Staff are trained and qualified to deal with sickness and injuries. If your child is particularly unsettled and/or upset, or should they require further treatment, the parent/carer will be contacted.

Should your child have an existing medical condition or develops one at any point and as a result requires the administration of medication etc. please inform the class teacher immediately and you will be advised what essential paperwork should be completed.

Pupils who are given prescribed medication from their doctor must have an AM2 form filled out by their parent/carer for this medicine to be administered by staff in school. **Non-prescription medicines are NOT allowed to be administered by staff in school.**



Should your child sustain a bump to the head, the parent/carer will be contacted immediately. It is therefore essential that contact details provided to school care are regularly updated.

Do you have after school provisions?

Yes. We provide After School Care from 1-5:30pm daily.

If you would like further information about Afterschool Care, please contact the school office (02870344317 or email info@macosquinps.coleraine.ni.sch.uk).

Is there anything else I need to know?

Change of clothes – Should your child have any toileting accidents or be wet from water play, we ask that you provide a change of clothes (top, bottoms, socks and underwear) in a labelled bag. This bag will stay in school if a situation like this arises.

School funds are £10 per child or £20 per family per year, payable on SIMS Pay360. This money is used for essential school resources.





Please contact the school office with any other questions you may have.

Macosquin Reception Uniform

What does my child have to wear?

Tracksuits or leggings should be worn. Please ensure all uniform is clearly named. Please check names regularly throughout the years as washing tends to cause labels to fade. Uniform is available to purchase from S & T Moore, Coleraine.

School Uniform

-  Navy tracksuit bottoms/leggings
-  White polo shirt
-  School sweatshirt
-  Velcro fastened trainers



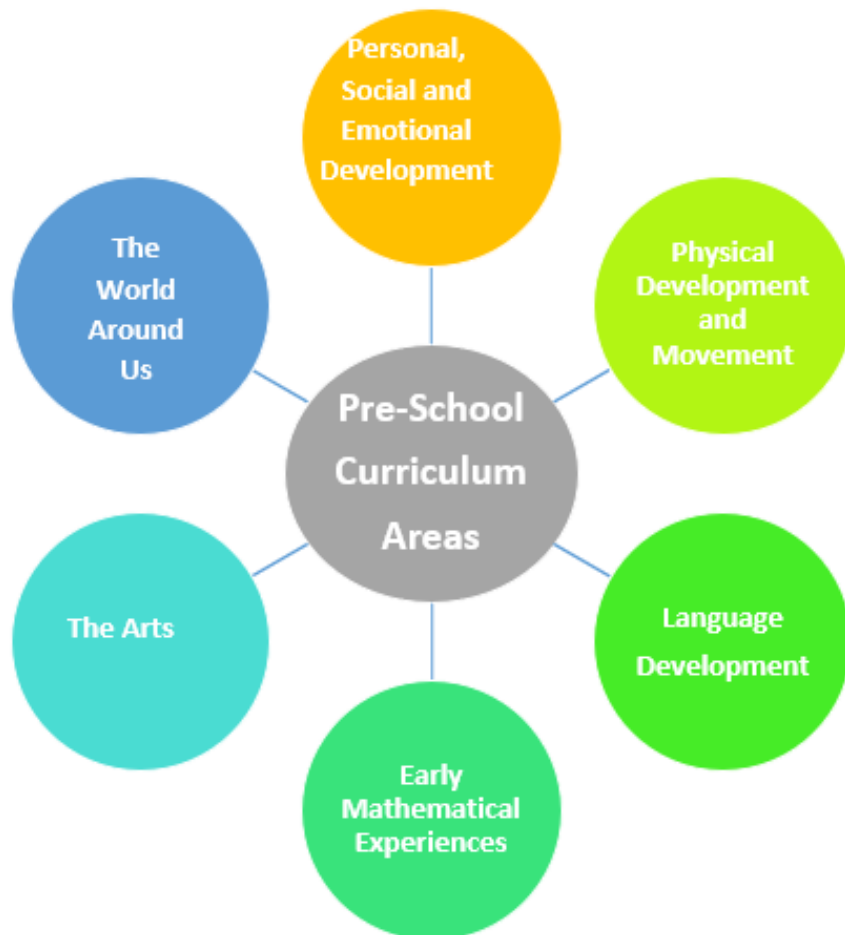
A significant amount of our children's play-based learning is outside and therefore wellies are required and should remain in school:

A waterproof coat should be brought every day.



The Curriculum for Pre-School Education

“Children develop at different rates and their achievements vary; however, all children should have the opportunity to the curriculum that enables them to make appropriate progress in learning and to achieve their full potential” (CCEA, 2018).



The curriculum is the framework that structures our children’s learning experiences and holistic development within pre-school. Please note that all children will be given the opportunity to extend within and beyond the pre-school curricular guidance. For full details see:

[Curricular Guidance for Pre-School Education.pdf \(ccea.org.uk\)](https://www.ccea.org.uk/curricular-guidance-for-pre-school-education.pdf)



Activities to Experience

There are lots of activities which each child will experience some of which will be: drawing, painting, imaginative play, building, investigating sand and water, talking, listening, iPads, scientific exploration, music, dance, drama, cutting out and lots more!

Learning in the Great Big Outdoors

Learning outdoors is a pivotal place in broadening our children's learning experiences in pre-school. It is the perfect place for each child to explore both authentic and natural materials and where they feel the freedom that inside does not replicate. Learning outdoors is an integral part of our day which will provide endless opportunities for each child to be creative, imaginative, improve muscle strength and motor skills. There may be an odd mucky trouser leg or damp sleeve. After reading these benefits, we can assure you the extra washing is for a fantastic cause!

The



Playful Learning

Learning through play is at the heart of what we do in reception. We endeavour to deliver purposeful play experiences that teaches each child to 'learn to co-operate and share', 'persevere', 'explore emotions' and 'experience the 'exhilaration that exuberant play can bring' (CCEA, 2018). We believe play can achieve many things particularly promoting fantastic language development and concreting early mathematical concepts. It is a process which intrinsically motivates all our children and motivates them to be influential learners for the primary setting. We just love it and so do the children!



Learning Environment

The learning environment is the pinnacle to our children's learning. We are so blessed in Macosquin to have a fantastic range of great quality learning resources which our children just love using. We have a beautiful Sensory Garden, a mud kitchen, sand and water play, outdoor role play and an amazing boat to play on to name just a few of our wonderful resources. We also have a polytunnel where we will have opportunities to see seeds grow into plants.

Outdoor learning has never been more exciting!



A Sample Timetable of our Day

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| 8:45-9:00 | Drop off time <i>Breakfast Club available from 8.05am- contact school office for more information</i> |
| 9:00-9:20 | Together Time (register and story time) |
| 9:20-10:30 | Indoor Play |
| 10:30-10:50 | Together Time (social snack) |
| 10:50-12.00 | Outdoor Play |
| 12:00-12:30 | Lunch time |
| 12:30-12:50 | Together Time (music and rhyme time) |
| 12:50-1:00 | Goodbyes |
| 1:00 | Home time <i>Unless attending After School Care</i> |



Encouraging Positive Behaviour in a Nurturing Environment

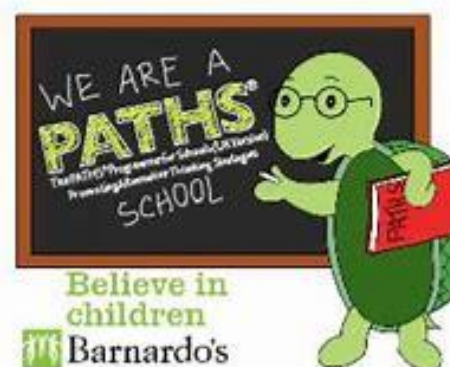


At Macosquin Primary we aim to nurture each of our children in an open and safe environment to be kind and respectful to each other, to have a love of learning and to work collaboratively. Our team are very focused on each child's happiness and wellbeing in school which we believe will help them achieve their full potential.

Macosquin Primary is a PATHS school and in reception we will be delivering pre-school PATHS, a wonderful nurturing programme which explores emotions, resilience, and relationships.

We will ensure that:

- + children are actively challenged in their learning.
- + golden rules are displayed, used and spoken about regularly with our children.
- + children are promoted to think of alternative thinking strategies through circle time.
- + children are encouraged to build resilience and develop conflict resolution with support from adults.
- + we develop a warm and accepting atmosphere that encourages children to be open, trusting, and honest with each other.



Reminders

These are some reminders of how you can help your child get ready for school.

Getting ready each day, I will need:



- ✚ a lunch box if I am not taking dinner.
- ✚ a coat with a hood regardless of the weather.
- ✚ my folder (will be provided by my teacher when I start school).
- ✚ Change of clothes and wellies (named). These items stay in school)
- ✚ School bag (optional). This may be useful for them to carry their artwork and other items home with them.

Please encourage me to:

- ✚ begin to learn to dress myself.
- ✚ look after my own belongings.
- ✚ become more independent by encouraging me to tidy away my toys and listen to and carry out simple instructions.
- ✚ use the toilet independently.

General Preparations for School

- ✚ talk about starting school regularly and what to expect/who they will see.
- ✚ show them and talk about Seesaw, the website and this booklet.
- ✚ read positive stories about starting school.
- ✚ allow your child to try on their uniform and organise their belongings.



First Day of School

(Wendy Silva)



*I wonder what you're doing right now,
And if everyone is treating you kind.
I hope there is a special person,
A nice friend that you can find.*

*I wonder if the teacher knows
Just how special you are to me.
And if the brightness of your heart,
Is something she can see.*

*I wonder if you are thinking about me,
And if you need a hug,
I already miss the sound of your voice,
And how you give my leg a tug.*



*I wonder if you could possibly understand,
How hard it is for me to let you grow,
On this day know that my heart breaks,
For this is the first step in letting my baby go.*



We are very aware and empathetic that coming to school is a huge step for both **you and your child**. We want to assure you that we as a team are completely focused on creating a wonderfully stimulating, nurturing and happy environment for each child in our care. Let this be the start of an amazing adventure!

See you in August!

Macosquin Primary School ☺