

WELCOME

TO PRIMARY ONE



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WELCOME

TO THE SCIENNES FAMILY

We would like to start by welcoming all our new families to Sciennes Primary School and hope that it will be a long and fruitful association.

The purpose of this pack is to provide you with general information regarding some of the school's procedures that you need to know once your child starts school.

We hope you find this information pack useful. It covers most of the general questions that parents new to our school usually ask:

- your child's first day
- getting ready for school
- clubs & after school options
- what to expect at school
- lunch-time arrangements
- how to keep in touch

If there is any other information you need, please contact the school as we are always happy to help.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child to help them achieve their best during their time at Sciennes Primary School.

Sharon McGhee
Headteacher





GETTING READY

Uniform

At Sciennes we are grateful for parental support in ensuring all our children wear school uniform. We discourage wearing jeans.

Why We Promote Uniform

- To build a sense of community and belonging.
- To lessen peer pressure to wear designer clothes.
- On a school trip it makes pupils more easily identifiable.
- Our P7 pupils wear a royal blue sweatshirt to indicate they are our senior pupils.

What Can My Child Wear as Uniform?

- Shoes in dark colours
- Plain grey skirts or dresses
- Plain grey or black school trousers
- Plain navy blue jogging trousers
- White shirts (can be worn with our school tie from **Image Scotland**)
- T-shirts and polo shirts in white, red or navy blue
- Red or blue gingham checked dresses
- Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan (with the school emblem from **Image Scotland**)

Uniform can be purchased from supermarkets, department stores, or from **Image Scotland** <https://sciennes.imagescotland.com/> with our School Emblem embroidered on items including polo shirts/t-shirts, cardigans, sweatshirts, fleeces, jackets, school bags, gym bags.

School Badges

As many of the children like to wear clothes with our School Emblem on, we offer **iron-on badges** that you can affix easily to any of your school clothing. This is a cost effective way of having branded clothing for your children. These can be purchased throughout the school year on **ParentPay**, which you will be set up on when you join the school.

PE Kit

Any t-shirt and shorts are acceptable for Physical Education (PE) lessons. Indoor gym shoes, with a non-marking sole, are also required. PE kit needs to be brought to school in a cloth or nylon type bag. PE Kit will be kept at school during term time and sent home regularly for washing.

Where to purchase uniform

The School has regular **Second Hand Uniform Sales** - these are usually in September and March and at the Winter and Summer Fairs. This is a really affordable way of buying good quality clothing.

Many **supermarkets** sell uniform that is acceptable for Sciennes - and during the summer holidays many have 'Back to School' discounts too.

CHECKLIST

- ✓ School bag
- ✓ Uniform
- ✓ Water bottle
- ✓ PE Kit
- ✓ Everything labelled
- ✓ Logged on to ParentPay
- ✓ School lunches ordered
- ✓ Milk ordered
- ✓ After school care booked

GETTING READY

Labelling

Absolutely **EVERYTHING** needs to be labelled with your child's name on it before starting school. Things do go astray, especially when children are getting changed for PE.

Please label:

- all uniform & PE items, including socks / tights
- water bottle
- school bag
- shoes
- packed lunch bags / boxes

It is likely you will find your items again in the Lost Property box (just inside the school entrance that P1's use), if you have labelled them.

There are many places where you can buy labels online - or you can just buy a labelling pen and write your child's name on everything.

FAQ's

We know that that you will have lots of questions when your child starts school in Primary One.

Please see our Frrequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on our **Padlet**.





FIRST DAY

What to expect

Tips from P1 parents

“

On the first day, don't stay in the classroom too long. It's hard to leave somehow, but far better for your child to settle and get on with 'being the big kid' they will feel that day.

”

“

When your child goes in to school - wave for as long as you can ... I used to think they'd gone in and not seen me, only to discover they were upset they hadn't seen me waving. Also, don't be upset if they don't wave back ... there's a lot going on in their heads when they go in to school!

”

All children start school on **Wednesday 12 August 2026** for the **full day**.

Once in school, the children will spend time getting to know their new classroom and their learning environment. Parents are invited into the classroom on the first morning for a few moments, to observe the children settle, see their new classroom and briefly meet their Class Teacher and Pupil Support Assistant (PSA).

The environment in P1 will look like their Nursery environment in many ways. We lay out lots of different activities for the children so they can select what interests them - it could be reading, drawing, dressing up, playing with Lego etc - which is all designed to make them comfortable and relaxed.

Timings for P1

The school day is from 8.50am to 2.50pm Monday to Thursday.

On **Fridays** school finishes at 12.05pm, and for P1's the finish time is 11:55am.

Where to line up

P1s enter and exit the building from the main playground at the front of the school. P1 classes use the **left hand entrance** as you are facing the building (**West** entrance).

The line for each class will be clearly marked with chalk on the ground or a sign post, near the P1 entrance, underneath the shelter.

DURING SCHOOL

Food & snacks

P1 children have two breaks during their day - morning break and lunch - although we often have an afternoon break.

At morning break, children will be able to eat a **healthy snack**, which they will take into the playground with them. We discourage chocolates & sweets for snack time, but promote healthy eating with cereal bars, rice cakes, fruit etc. Since children eat their snacks in the playground, please give these in bags they bring home or packets that will be thrown away - pots and tubs either get lost during playtime, or are cumbersome for the children to carry when they want to play.

At lunchtime, children will be escorted to the dining hall together. The canteen staff will know what their meal choice has been as each child will be given a coloured band depending on their meal order. Those bringing a packed lunch will also go with their class to the canteen at the same time.

If your child is having school lunches, you will need to order these using the **ParentPay** website no later than Wednesday evening for the coming week. You can order in advance if you wish. Parents have found that making the food choices with your children when ordering, leads to more food being eaten!

Home Learning

In P1 & P2, children will only receive minimal homework (also known as home learning). This is mainly based around letter and word recognition, handwriting and reading. **Check your child's bag every day** to see any notes that have been left relating to home learning requirements.

Getting to school

Sciennes is participating in the City of Edinburgh Council's Safer School Streets which restricts motor traffic on Sciennes Road and Livingstone Place at drop off and pick up times. The best way to come to school is by walking or biking. Should you need to come by car, it is recommended to park south of Grange Road and walk from there.

ParentPay

ParentPay is the School's online payment website, primarily for:

- ordering milk
- selecting school lunches
- paying for trips & events

Every parent will receive a letter with your own, unique reference number for ParentPay. You will need to create your account so that you can make these payments online - full instructions how to do this will be in your ParentPay letter.

Although all P1 -P5 children receive free school meals, you will still need to order them through ParentPay, although no money will be taken from you for this.

Remember - you must make your meal bookings no later than Wednesday evening.

Medicine

If any children are prescribed medicine that they need to take during the school day, a **Medical Form** MUST be completed beforehand - these can be requested from the school office.

All other medicines, such as antihistamine, epi pens etc, are locked in the Care Zone (situated near the left hand entrance as you face the school), in labelled boxes.

Any children who have medical plans will be discussed pre-joining to ensure staff can support these effectively.

All medicines will be sent home at the end of each school year and not held indefinitely on the school premises.

Tips from P1 parents

“

Book your after school clubs early - there are more spaces now, but a BIG demand!

”

ACTIVITIES & CLUBS

Parent Council clubs

Pupils at Sciennes benefit from a wide range of clubs and activities outside of school hours, for example Chess, Drama and Mandarin. A list of all of the clubs available, and who to contact, can be found on the Parent Council Website: <https://www.sciennesparentcouncil.com/school-clubs>

Registration and payment of Sciennes Parent Council Clubs is done directly with the club organisers. These clubs are designed for children with a genuine interest in their chosen subject, so please ensure your child is keen to attend before signing them up.

It is worth being aware that Parent Council Clubs and Active School Clubs (see below) do not always start at the same time as the beginning of term, and may finish earlier than the end of term, too.

Active schools clubs

There is also a range of clubs available known as “Active Schools” clubs.

These are sports based, can be at 8am and lunchtime as well as after school and are booked online.

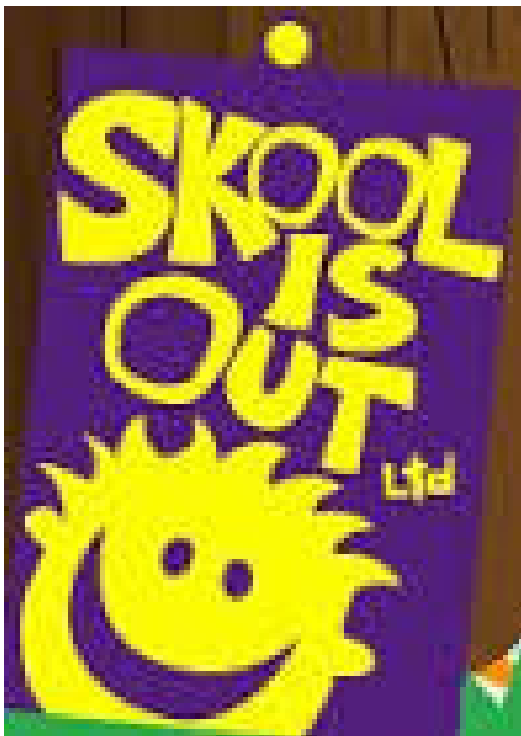
Spaces for Active Schools clubs operating at Sciennes can be booked on the Sciennes Parent School website in the ‘Shop’ section: <https://www.sciennesparentcouncil.com/category/clubs>

After school care

SASCS (Sciennes After School Club Scheme) provides childcare onsite after school hours - contact Sonia or Lindsey on 0131 662 4810 or 07757 978 473. There is also a Breakfast Club before school starts.

SASCS run holiday clubs and new Primary 1 children are able to attend days in the summer holidays before they officially start school.

<https://www.sascs.org.uk/>



KEEPING IN TOUCH

How we contact you

At the **start of each school term**, families receive a **Learning Letter** which gives a detailed overview of key themes, topics and learning experiences your child will have during that term. It will provide dates of key events - for example the Winter show and any trips they may be going on etc. It will also provide details of your class timetable so you know which day to return library books and when PE is happening.

Ad-hoc information updates from the school, for example trip reminders or food ordering, are sent to all parents by **email** as necessary.

The **Parent Council** hosts a wide range of additional activities, clubs and events. These are communicated **by email** being forwarded by your **Class Rep** - usually on a Wednesday - if there is anything to report.

Please look out for these as many of the Parent Council events need volunteers to support and help in some small way.



How, & when, to contact us

If your child is unwell and will not be able to attend school, you must **phone the Office by 8:30am**, to let us know. The school has a rigorous policy of checking that all children are in school and will contact you directly should they fail to attend.

Your **Class Teacher** will always be happy to meet and discuss any questions or concerns you have. The best time to catch them is at the end of the school day. You can also organise a meeting with them via the School Office.

Both Sharon McGhee, **Headteacher** and the **Early Years Depute Headteacher**, are always happy to meet parents. Should you wish to schedule a meeting, you can do so via the School Office 0131 667 1243 or email admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk. Please provide some background so we can prepare anything in advance to help you get the most out of your meeting.

If you wish to discuss anything with the **Parent Council** and do not know who to speak to in the first instance, please send an email to our Chair who will be happy to help: sciennesparentcouncil@gmail.com

Key contacts

School Office:
0131 667 1243
admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk

Sharon McGhee
Headteacher

Early Years Depute Headteacher

Parent Council
sciennesparentcouncil@gmail.com

School website:
www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk

Parent Council website:
scienneschool.wordpress.com