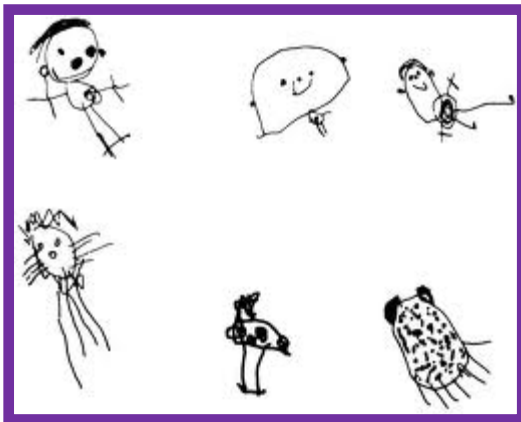




Information for Autism Provision Primary 1 Parents



All parents want their child to have a happy start at school.

This booklet has been produced to let you know about Riverside Primary School and help answer some of your questions.

You know your child best. You have helped your child become more independent - to walk, talk and get dressed. Learning is something children have to do for themselves. At school we will work with you to help your child continue to learn new skills and understand more about the world. Learning to read, write and count are important and we hope we can work together to give your child a good start.

The First Day: Wednesday 17 August 2022

On the first day we recommend that your child comes to school in their taxi, as they will be doing all year. Your child should arrive at school for 9.00am and taxis collect children between 3.00 pm and 3.10 pm.

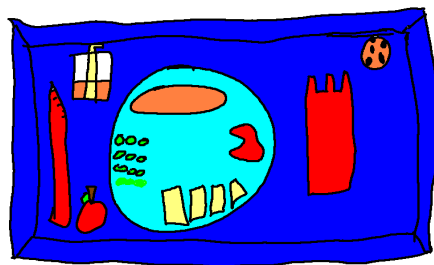
School Lunches

At the moment, Catering Services provide two options for children at lunchtime as follows:

- ◆ Two course lunch ~ (a choice of either 'Red tray' or 'Blue tray')
- ◆ 'Packed Lunch' - children choose four items from a variety on offer each day e.g. sandwich, cake/yogurt, fruit and a drink ~ ('Green tray').

As the children are part of the Provision, their lunch will be paid by Stirling Council. It would be helpful for the first few days if you could let your child's teacher know what their choice is for lunch. The menu is available on the school website and also on Stirling Council website. There is always a vegetarian option available each day.

The AP children go to the lunch hall 5 minutes before the rest of the school. If your child needs a quiet area to eat, he/she will eat in the classroom with a member of staff.



Emergency Contact Details

It is very important that we always have up to date contact information for parents/carers and emergency contacts. Can we please ask you to inform the school if any of this information changes as soon as possible?

Taxis

Most AP children will travel to and from school by taxi. They will have an escort, unless they are able to travel on their own.

If there is a change to the taxi that you know about in advance please let the school know. If it is short notice such as pupils wake up feeling unwell please contact the taxi/escort directly.



Stirling Council makes bus transport arrangements and details, including the eligibility criteria for free transport, can be found at www.stirling.gov.uk or by calling Transport Co-ordination on 01786 442706

Clothing

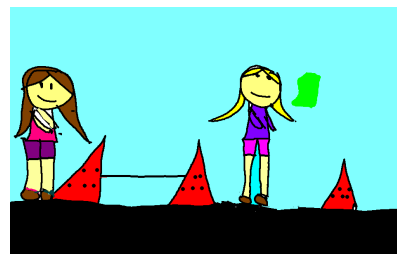
Our policy is to encourage pupils to wear school uniform and this can be ordered from the school office. **We discourage the wearing of football strips and jeans.** If your child is not comfortable in school uniform, we are happy to accommodate sensory issues pertaining to clothing.

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN'S CLOTHING, INCLUDING SHOES AND GYM SHOES ARE CLEARLY MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

At Riverside we encourage outdoor learning. Scotland's weather is unpredictable so we encourage children to bring a coat to school every day. Even on the best days coats may be necessary, therefore if your child does not require a coat in the morning, please put one in their bag just in case.

Gym Kit

Once the timetable has been finalised, and parents have been advised of gym days, children should come to school wearing their gym kit. This will consist of shorts/joggers/leggings, polo shirt/t-shirt and school jumper.



D E



School Bags

Your child will need to carry items to and from school.

A **reasonably sized** school bag, (clearly marked with your child's name) which can accommodate A4 paper, gym kit, etc, is essential.

While your child is at Riverside there will often be occasions when the school needs to keep you informed of events, etc. We may do this by giving the children letters to take home. Sometimes they may forget about them, it would be helpful if you could **check school bags daily** and return any slips as soon as possible.

The children will be provided with pencils etc in class - however, we do understand that some children may wish to bring their own pencil case which they can use at certain times. Please be aware that these maybe damaged or lost.

Homework

We feel the children in the provision work very hard during the day. We do not issue homework to the children. If you would like to discuss this, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Communication

As well as using 'school bag mail', we use a School App to communicate events, updates and Newsletters. Letters of a confidential nature or that require a reply slip will be sent home in the school bag. General notices are on display on the Noticeboards in the school playground. If you have any general queries please contact the school office on 01786 237933 or use our school website which has lots of useful information including our most recent newsletter. www.riversideprimaryschool.co.uk

Primary
School
App

If you have any concerns about your child please contact the class teacher through Learning Journals. You can also contact any member of the Senior Management Team by phoning the school office and leaving a message or arranging an appointment. We try to get back to you as soon as possible.

Healthy Snacks ~ snack time

Children are asked to bring their own snack. We have snack together as a class and practice social skills during this time. We would encourage healthy snacks that are good for your child and their teeth. It would be helpful if

snacks for morning break were brought to school in your child's school bag rather than their lunch box.

Water Bottles

We actively encourage children to drink water throughout the school day. A drinking bottle (plastic) clearly marked with their name or a mark which your child will recognise is recommended. Children may refill their bottles from the classroom taps in school and children will take it home daily for washing.

'Absence Hotline'

We operate an '**Absence Hotline**' whereby we ask parents/carers to report their child's absence on the **first** day of absence, **between 8.45 and 10.00am**, by calling our school number 01786 237933. Please be patient, you may have to persevere depending on the volume of calls. Be prepared to give your child's name, class, reason for absence and likely day of return (if possible). We follow up any unexplained absences by 'phoning contact numbers. This is not a perfect system, but we hope that it helps us support you in keeping your child safe.

Parent Workshops

During the session we hope to give parents opportunities to come into school and work with their child. Given the nature of autism, this is not always possible. We will provide opportunities for parents to come in to school when possible.

Getting Involved in the Life of the School

You can get involved by:

- * Being a parent/carer helper - come in to school to help with Healthy Tuckshop, Making Resources, Reading, Library resources etc.
- * Through our Riverside Active Parent Partnership (R.A.P.P.). If you would like to know more ask any member of staff who will be happy to help you or come along to the Parent Council AGM in September. We will confirm the date in the new session.

How Can You Help your child?

Do give encouragement and support in all your child is asked to do at school.

Do show an interest in your child's efforts.

Do contact the school if you are concerned in any way about your child.

Do let the school know if your child is unable to return to school after lunch.

Do tell the school if you are delayed and cannot meet your child. The school can then do a quick social story to help your child understand the situation.

Do listen to what your child has to say and encourage him/her to speak clearly and confidently.

Do talk about crossing roads safely.

Do tell your child to say "no" to strangers.

Do remember to check her/his school bag for letters and notes.

Most of all - Give your child lots of praise when he/she does something well.