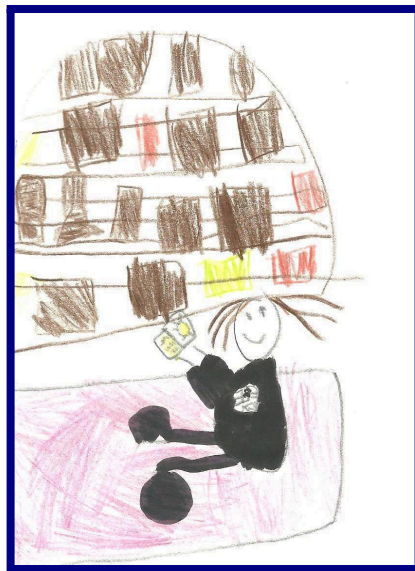




Primary 1: Booklet for families



June 2026

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A positive start to school

This booklet has been produced to help answer some of the questions that you may have and let you know about Riverside Primary School. You know your child best. You have helped your child become more independent. 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 Week: Wednesday 12 August 2026 to Friday 14 August 2026

On the first week you bring your child to school we find it better if Primary 1 pupils come in after the other classes. Please follow the tips below:

- You should bring your child along at 9.15am
- All children and parents/carers should assemble at the Alexandra Place entrance to the infant building. You will be met by the class teacher who will take you and your child to the classroom on the first day.
- From the second day the children will be collected from the Alexandra Place entrance by the class teacher.
- By the end of the first week we hope that the children will be able to line up at the door in the morning and walk in with their teacher.
- Children will attend for the full day from Wednesday 12 August 2026.
- Children should be collected at 3.00pm for the first week.

From Monday 17 August 2026...

- After the first week, your child should arrive at the usual time of 9.00am.
- Children will be accompanied by a member of staff to the Alexandra Place entrance of the infant building at 3.15pm for collection.
- Primary 1 children will be supervised by staff in an allocated area of the playground at morning break and lunch time for the first few weeks. Their Primary 7 'big buddies' will join them for this.

School Lunches

The primary school menu has a three-week cycle. Within each week, many of the items change from day to day. You can find more details and copies of the menus here -

<https://www.stirling.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-menus/primary-school-menus/>

We operate ParentPay here at Riverside, whereby you can select the lunch option for your child, pay for lunches and pay for school trips online. You will be issued with a ParentPay username shortly after your child begins. ***Please note that as P1 children are entitled to free school meals you do not need to send any money for your child's lunch.***

Classes will be brought to the dining room one at a time to avoid a long queue. We would appreciate you encouraging your child to use a knife and fork independently and to be able to tidy up after themselves.

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.

Buses

Some children will travel to and from school by bus and we encourage all children to be well behaved while on the bus and to remain in their seat at all times. This is a public service and the school has no responsibility for it. There is **no adult supervision** on the bus. If your child is going home by bus, please inform the teacher by note of the regular arrangements and of course of any changes made during the year. Children should carry their bus fare in a purse/wallet clearly marked with their name.

Stirling Council makes bus transport arrangements and details, including the eligibility criteria for free transport, can be found at www.stirling.gov.uk.

Clothing

Our policy is to encourage pupils to wear school uniform. Please see our school website for details on how to order school uniform. We discourage the wearing of football strips and jeans.

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 in August, and parents have been advised of P.E. days, children should come to school wearing their gym kit. This will consist of shorts/joggers/leggings, polo shirt/t-shirt and school jumper. Please do not worry about gym clothes until the class teacher has let you know about P.E. days. This will be communicated via the SeeSaw App.

School Bags

Your child may need to carry items to and from school. A reasonably sized school bag, (clearly marked with your child's name) which can accommodate and protect a reading book, etc, is essential. It is important that drinks do not come into contact with reading books. We ask for your support in caring for books, as they are expensive to replace, and regret that we may have to ask parents to pay for damaged or lost books.

While your child is at Riverside there will often be occasions when the school needs to keep you informed of events, etc. One of the ways we do this is by giving the children letters to take home, usually in their school bag. 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 may be damaged or lost.

Home Learning: Learner Conversations

At Riverside Primary, our Home Learning takes the format of weekly Learner Conversations shared the class teacher and provides a 'learning bridge' between home and school. Families can comment weekly on their child's learning via their Seesaw learning journal and this is a valuable opportunity for parents and teachers to regularly communicate about homework and any aspect of the daily life of the classroom.

Communication

As well as using 'school bag mail', we use the Seesaw 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

If you have any concerns about your child please contact the class teacher by note or ask for an appointment. 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 will try to get back to you as soon as possible.

Healthy Snacks

Children may like to bring a snack to eat at break. However, the time is limited and a small amount is all that is required. It is unfortunate if children have so much to eat that there is no time left to play. 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 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 8.45am 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/Carer Workshops

Throughout the year there are opportunities to connect with school and engage with your child's learning. Further communication regarding this will come out in August.

Assemblies

Throughout the year classes are given the opportunity to share their learning with the rest of the school and with parents at assemblies. The children really look forward to their turn and to having you as their audience. Look out for information about dates for Primary 1 assembly later in the year in the 'dates for your diary' section of the newsletter. **Again, please remember, these dates are always subject to change.**

Getting Involved in the Life of the School

There are many ways to get involved with the wider life of the school. You can get involved by:

- Being a parent/carers helper;
- 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.

Supporting your child's journey at Riverside

Starting school is a big milestone for the whole family, and we're here to support you every step of the way. Here are a few ways we can work together to make this transition a happy one:

- **Celebrate the Small Wins:** Giving your child plenty of encouragement with their new school activities builds their confidence. Simply showing a keen interest in what they've tried each day makes them feel proud of their efforts.
- **Keep the Conversation Flowing:** We love hearing what our learners have to say! You can help by listening to their stories and gently encouraging them to share their thoughts clearly and confidently.
- **Check the "Bag Post":** It's a good idea to have a quick peek in your child's school bag each evening for any little notes, drawings, or letters we've sent home.

- **Stay in Touch:** Your peace of mind is important to us. Please never hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or concerns about your child—no matter how small.
- **Safety First:** We'll be learning about the world around us in class, but it's always helpful to chat at home about crossing the road safely and how to stay safe around people they don't know.
- **Keeping Us Informed:** If your plans change—for example, if you're running a little late for pick-up or if your child won't be returning after lunch—just give the school office a quick call. It helps us ensure your child feels settled and secure.
- **The "Backup Plan":** It can be really reassuring for a child to know exactly what to do (like waiting with a teacher) if you are ever delayed. Having that little chat beforehand helps them stay calm.

Getting Ready for Learning

The transition to P1 is a magical time of discovery. You are your child's first teacher, and many of the things you already do at home—like chatting, playing, and reading together—are the building blocks for their success at school.

Here are some simple, playful ways to help your child get "school-ready" while having fun together:

The Magic of Rhyme & Story

- **Rhyme Time:** Singing nursery rhymes is a fantastic way to help children notice the sounds in words. Try leaving a "gap" at the end of a line and see if your child can shout out the rhyming word!
- **Be a Storyteller:** When reading together, try stopping to ask, "*What do you think happens next?*" Retelling favorite stories helps with memory and speech.
- **Puppet Play:** Bring stories to life with homemade puppets! A simple sock, a paper bag, or even a wooden spoon can become a main character.

Little Authors

- **Memory Books:** Help your child see the power of stories by making a book together about a recent outing or holiday. Stick in photos, tickets, or leaves, and let them add some "pretend" writing or captions.
- **Zig-Zag Books:** Fold a long strip of paper back and forth to create a concertina book. These are great for collections of favorite things—like pets, superheroes, or family members.

A World of Signs & Symbols

- **The "Reading" Detective:** Reading often begins with recognizing shapes and logos. When you're out and about, look for familiar shop signs or road signs and ask, "*Do you know what that one tells us?*"
- **Kitchen Cupboard Fun:** Look at food packets together. Can they guess what's inside from the picture? Making a "favorites" collage from old labels is a great way to link images to words.

Tiny Treasures & Collections

- **Curated Collections:** Collecting items like shells, stamps, or stones is a great way to practice labeling.
- **Go on a Treasure Hunt:** Create a simple list with words like *Leaf*, *Feather*, *Twig*, or *Stone*. Your child can hunt for the items and lay them next to the matching word. It's like a puzzle where the world is the board!

Games & Turn-Taking

- **Playing Together:** Classic games like *Snap*, *Dominoes*, *I Spy*, and *Matching Pairs* are secret weapons for learning. Not only do they help with numbers and patterns, but they also teach the very important "school skills" of taking turns and playing fairly.

Leading by Example

- **The Power of Watching You:** Children love to mimic the adults they look up to. When they see you reading a magazine, writing a shopping list, or sending a card, they learn that reading and writing are useful, everyday skills.
- **Special Time:** Above all, spending a few quiet minutes each day sharing a story builds your child's confidence and shows them that learning is a joyful experience you share together.

We can't wait to hear all about the "treasures" and stories your child brings with them to Riverside!