



JAMES AITON PRIMARY SCHOOL

www.jamesaiton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk



Twitter@JPrimary



Primary School App

August 2022

Welcome back!

I am delighted to see all of the children back at school safe and well. I would also like to welcome all of our new pupils and their families to James Aiton Primary School. The children have been settling in well during the first week back and have been getting to know their new teacher(s) and classroom routines.

Classes

This year our school roll has increased, enabling us to retain seven classes.

- Primary 1 - Mrs Miller
- Primary 2 - Miss Wells
- Primary 3 - Miss MacPherson
- Primary 4 - Miss Huskie
- Primary 5 - Mrs Saunders
- Primary 6 - Miss McCormick/Mrs Brownlee
- Primary 7 - Miss Hood

Using Pupil Equity Funding, we also have additionality in staffing once again this year:

- Mrs Caldwell - Nurturing Interventions (Mon-Fri)
- Mrs Gordon - Early Intervention (Mon/Tues)
- Mrs Buchanan - NCCT (Mon/Tues—alternate Wed)
- Miss Imrie (PT) - Responsibility for P1-3/EY Transition
- Mrs McGhee (HT) - Strategic Operations
- Responsibility for P4-7/S1 Transition

BEAT THE BELL BREAKFAST CLUB

We wish to remind parents/carers that our Breakfast Club has been reintroduced for free this term. It opens from 8:15am-8:40am.

To reserve a space, please call the school office on 0141 641 2472 as spaces are now limited.

Attendance Matters!

If your child is well, they should arrive in school for 9am. Every minute counts and parents/carers are responsible for getting their child to school on time.

Arriving late is very disruptive to children's education.

If your child is unwell, please call the school office and leave a message on the school answering machine.

Be Ready! Be Respectful! Be Safe!



Data Checks

Please check, sign and return all data check forms as soon as possible. This information is essential, should we have to make contact with families in emergency situations. It also provides us with necessary consent for your child to use ICT in school and for their photographs to be shared on our communication channels.

Parent Council Meeting

Our first Parent Council meeting of the session will take place at **7:00pm on Wednesday 7th September 2022 via Zoom**. The Parent Council is a fabulous opportunity for parents/carers to become more involved in the life of the school. The Parent Council meet on the first Tuesday/Wednesday of every month. We would welcome new members to support us develop a new Parent Council Group for the new session. Please log on from the comfort of your own home and support us make a difference for your children.

A huge thank you to our existing Parent Council members for co-ordinating two very successful family trips throughout the school holidays. This is just one example of how our Parent Council can contribute to supporting families in our school.

Homework

Homework will be issued from Monday 5th September 2022 in all classes. Parent feedback during a recent survey, suggested that returning to original paper methods was more suitable to families. Please support your child by checking and signing their homework. Homework should be returned to school every week for teachers to correct and monitor.

Communication

We have established many methods for getting in touch with us. Please follow us on **Twitter @JPrimary or @AitonPS** to view regular photographs and updates of teaching and learning. Our Parent Council have their own **Facebook** page which is managed by a group of supportive parents, who can advise parents on matters relating to school life. Our **school website (www.jamesaiton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk)** is regularly updated by Miss Imrie and includes details of events and class information. Our website also contains many links to relevant documents, such as newsletters and to our School Improvement Plan. You also have the opportunity to download our **Parent App (Primary App for Parents)**. You can also call our school office on **0141 641 2472** or email **office@jamesaiton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk** and our staff will direct you to the most appropriate person.

Attendance

If your child is unable to attend school, please call the school before 9:15am and leave a message. If you do not make contact, the office will call you to enquire why your child is not at school. In line with council policy, please inform us in writing if your child has an appointment or will be absent for a particular reason. We monitor attendance on a weekly/monthly basis and refer families to Social Services when there are significant concerns about attendance/punctuality.

Please make sure your child arrives to school on time. If your child arrives late, they must enter via the front entrance and this is recorded on your child's file.

Uniform

I am delighted to see our children wearing their new school uniforms. They are looking incredibly smart. Could I remind you that the school uniform consists of navy trousers/skirts, white shirt and tie and navy sweatshirt/cardigan or jumper. Yellow polo shirts and shorts should be brought to school on gym days (P1 pupils can wear this on their gym day). **Appropriate indoor shoes should also be brought into school to change into.**

Please label all personal belongings to prevent the children losing/mixing up items of clothing.

We are continuing to offer our school clothing bank which parents/carers can access at the end of the school day. We also welcome donations of old uniform items throughout the year.



After-school clubs

A range of after school clubs will be offered throughout the session. I will inform you of what we have available throughout the term. We also welcome parents to become involved in the life of our school. If you wish to get involved/deliver a club, please call the school office or indicate on the return slip.

Promoting Positive Behaviour and Relationships

This year, we have reconsidered our policy for Promoting Positive Behaviour. Our new card system was piloted in Term 4 of last session and will continue this year. Our new approach is built around a Restorative Approach, which encourages the children to reflect on their actions and receive appropriate consequences for not following the school rules—Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe. We would ask that parents/carers support us in the implementation of this new approach to ensure all children are safe and happy at school.

Lunches

We would like to remind parents/carers that every Primary 1-5 child is entitled to a free school meal. Water is provided with every meal. Milk can be purchased via ParentPay for 26p. Primary 6-7 children can purchase a school meal via ParentPay for £2. Parents/carers of those children eligible for free school meals must reapply each year, even if your child receives free meals. If you have not already done so, please visit www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/159/school_clothing_grants_and_free_school_meals

Snacks/Water

As a health promoting school, we would ask that you support us by providing your child with one healthy snack for play-time. We would also like to remind parents/carers that James Aiton Primary is a 'fizz-free zone'. No fizzy juice or energy drinks are permitted at school. Children may bring flavoured water or diluting juice for lunch. We also have children with nut allergies in school, and therefore would ask that children do not bring any nut products into school.

The children are encouraged to bring a bottle of **plain water** to school to hydrate them in class throughout the day.

Improvement Priorities

Following feedback from staff, pupils and parents, we have identified 5 key areas for improvement this year—**Improving Health & Wellbeing, Talk for Writing, Developing our Refreshed Curriculum, Attendance and Parental Engagement**. The staff will be working hard to implement new approaches to ensure we raise attainment and achievement across the school.

Staff will be developing and delivering a range of programmes across the session to ensure we improve outcomes for all learners and attempt to close the poverty-related attainment gap. We value our parents and see them as partners in their child's learning. Parental engagement is fundamental in your child's success at school. Please support us by working with your child at home and through taking an interest in your child's learning. As in previous years, we will continue to offer our parents/carers a range of opportunities to come into school to receive more information on how we deliver our curriculum and to observe your child in their learning environment. We have considered that many of our working parents are unable to manage along to every event, so we intend to add information/links to Apps and websites/leaflets/helpshets onto our website for you to access when you have time.

PE

Children should come fully equipped to participate in gym—T-shirt, shorts, indoor shoes. All items of jewellery must be removed before participating. Football strips are not permitted. The children will continue with 'The Daily Mile'.

Gym Days

P1 — Tuesday	P2 - Wednesday	P3 - Monday	P4—Wednesday
P5—Thursday	P6—Tuesday	P7—Thursday	



We strive to provide parents/carers with as much notice as we possibly can in advance. However, please note that some events may be scheduled at a later date but we will update parents/carers as soon as we have the relevant information.

Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

Term 1—August 2022—October 2022

Friday 26th August 2022	HT Assembly for Pupils
Tuesday 30th August 2022	P6 Swimming
Friday 2nd September 2022	P4-7 Outdoor Learning Day
Monday 5th September 2022	Bouncing Back (P5/P6) - Developing Pupil Mental Health
Tuesday 6th September 2022	P6 Swimming
Wednesday 7th September 2022	Parent Council AGM—7pm via Zoom (ALL WELCOME!)
Friday 9th September 2022	P1-3 Outdoor Learning Day
Monday 12th September 2022	Bouncing Back (P5/P6) - Developing Pupil Mental Health
Tuesday 13th September 2022	P6 Swimming
	P7 Sidekicks Training (PE kit please)
	JRSO Open Day (Chatelheraut)
Thursday 15th September 2022	Flu Vaccine (ALL consent forms must be returned in advance)
Friday 16th September 2022	HT Inclusion Conference (Hamilton)
Tuesday 20th September 2022	P6 Swimming
Friday 23rd September 2022	School Closed—September Weekend Holiday
Monday 26th September 2022	School Closed—September Weekend Holiday
Tuesday 27th September 2022	P6 Swimming
Tuesday 4th October 2022	P6 Swimming
	Parent Council Meeting 7pm via Zoom (ALL WELCOME!)
Friday 7th October 2022	Dress Down Day—Pay £1 via ParentPay
Tuesday 11th October 2022	P6 Swimming
Thursday 13th October 2022	Parents' Evening (Awaiting guidance if face-to-face/telephone calls)
Monday 17th October—Friday 21st October 2022	OCTOBER WEEK HOLIDAY