Maxwellton Primary School

Meet The Teacher

Primary 1

Working together, we are all on the right T.R.A.C.K!

Teamwork Respect Achievement Kindness Care

Hello!

A huge welcome to all our Primary 1 families. I am Mrs McMcKenna and I am the class teacher for Primary 1.

We are really looking forward to a fantastic year of fun and learning with your children.

Our aim is to provide a safe, happy, inclusive and fun place of learning where the children can thrive.

We want all of our children to be happy, achieve and enjoy their time at school!

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Our Class

The children have settled into school life really well and have adapted positively to school routines. They are becoming more confident and independent and are enjoying getting to know new friends in class.

We have 23 children in our class this year.

Mrs McKenna teaches on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. We have a different teacher on a Tuesday afternoon and a Thursday.

We are very lucky to have Mrs Howie as our support assistant.

Mrs Howie will assist the teachers in supporting the children throughout the day with their learning.

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School Vision and Values

At Maxwellton Primary School & Nursery Class we are a Rights Respecting School committed to fostering a positive, nurturing ethos where everyone feels valued, respected and included. We have consistent and high expectations which contribute to a safe and stimulating environment where all children can learn and succeed. We aim to equip children with the skills, qualities and attitudes to contribute effectively to the life of our community.

We have carefully reviewed our vision, values, and aims in consultation with every member of our school community. After thoughtful consideration, we have collectively chosen Teamwork, Respect, Achievement, Care and Kindness as our core values. Our vision is clear: Working together, we are all on the right T.R.A.C.K!"

- Teamwork: "Teamwork means we all work together like a big family. We help each other and celebrate success as a team."
- Respect: "Respect means treating everyone kindly and listening to each other. We respect our school, our teachers and ourselves."
- Achievement: "Achievement is when we work hard and do our best. It means reaching our goals and feeling proud of what we've learned."
- Care: "Care is about being kind and looking out for each other. We care for our friends, our school and our environment."
- Kindness: "Kindness is showing love and generosity to everyone. We should think of others and do our best for them. It's about being friendly, helpful and making others feel happy."

Our Positive Relationships Charter

Our School Rules are Be Safe, Be Respectful and Be Ready and these rules are evident in our Positive Relationships Charter, the cornerstone of our Positive Relationships policy.

Positive Relationships Charter

- I will show respect and manners.
- I will respect everyone's right to be safe.
- I will have a 'can do' attitude.
- I will aim high and always try my best.
- I will make good choices and reflect on my actions.
- I will have kind hands, feet and words.
- I will be honest.

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Our Class Charter

The children read and discussed the story of 'Rapunzel' to discuss our rights.
We identified the key message and the importance of working together and displaying kindness to others. We agreed that in our classroom we all have the right to be heard, be safe, to learn and play.
Everyone made their own little bees, and we have put them up on our charter to display that we will all work together this year to achieve these goals.

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Our Routines

- The children can enter the building in the morning from 8:45am through our own primary 1 door.
- At the end of the day, the children can be picked up at 2:55 from the dining hall door. We will ensure each child goes to a known adult.
- If possible, can you inform us in the morning at the door or leave a message with the school office if it will be someone different picking your child up that day.

- Where possible, could you separate snack and 'fruit and story' from lunch boxes.
- The children can put their snacks in their tray when they come in in the morning.
- Your child can bring a water bottle to school which they can freely drink throughout the day in class and also re-fill if need be. We will encourage them to drink in class.

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Our Routines

- Our gym days this year are a Monday and Wednesday. Children can come to school in their leggings/joggers ready for P.E that day.
- Gym shoes can be kept in school, in the cloakroom, or in their school bags.
- If possible, can the children wear a polo shirt on these days.
- Please can you ensure all children's clothing is named. The children love to take off their jumpers, cardigans and jackets and forget about them!!! If your items are named, they will more than likely make their way back to the rightful owner.

Every day we have a fruit and story session. Please bring a small piece of fruit for this activity if you wish!

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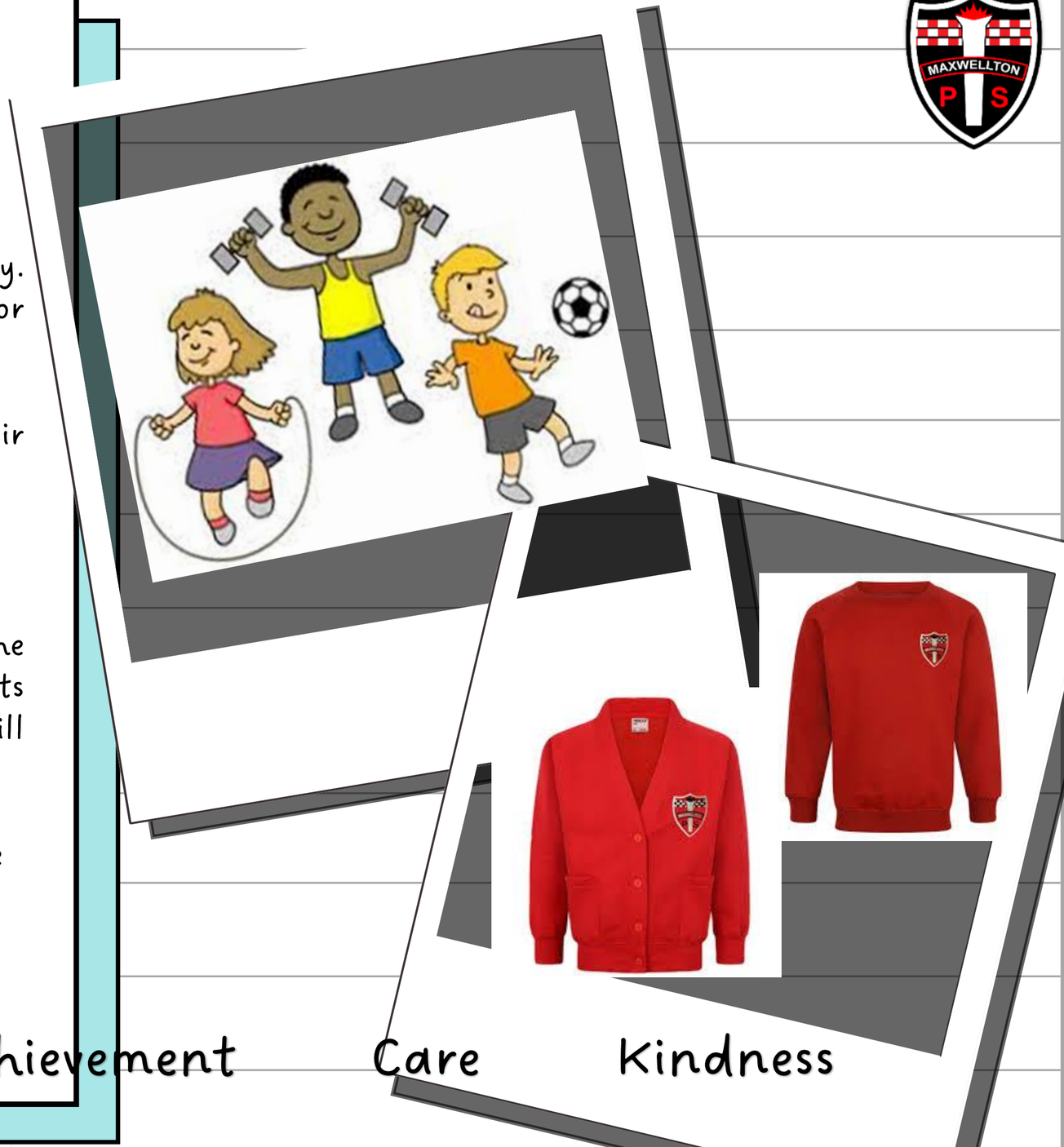

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Our Curriculum

Literacy Focus:

Literacy in Primary 1 is taught in an active learning environment.

First 6 weeks

Phonological Awareness

(this includes the teaching of rhyme, alliteration, syllabification and word awareness)

Phonics

2 individual sounds per week will be taught (not in alphabetical order)

Reading

This consists of fluency, blending sounds, decoding and comprehension.

Reading will begin around September/October.

Spelling

There will be 3 common words per week.

Many of the common words can not be sounded out and therefore require a lot of reinforcement to help remember them.

Writing

This will focus on the formation of letters [starting point is essential] and constructing words into simple sentences with capital letters and full stops.

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Our Curriculum

Numeracy Focus:

The teaching of Numeracy in Primary 1 is delivered in an active learning environment.

The children will be taught Number work on a Monday-Thursday

Shape, Time, Measure and Data Handling will be taught on a Friday.

The Numeracy curriculum will cover the topics:

- Formation of numbers
- Counting
- Addition and Subtraction
- Fractions
- Money
- Shape, Time, Measure and Data Handling

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Our Curriculum

Throughout Primary 1 all areas of the curriculum will be covered either as discrete subjects or as part of an interdisciplinary topic. As well as the core subjects of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing, the curriculum areas include Social Studies, Sciences, Expressive Arts, Technologies and R.M.E.

This term we will start with 'People who help us in school'.

Our science topic will start with 'Day and Night' and 'Seasons'.

Primary 1 have the role of leading the Nativity in December. They will have a busy few months in the lead up practising lines and songs. More information will follow.

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Our Curriculum

Learning through play:

We are very fortunate to have access to a large open area where the children can explore play opportunities.

Through play, the children learn a variety of valuable skills.

Children learn:

- how to negotiate rules and relationships and how to imagine and create.
- to answer their own questions
- new skills and learn to work collaboratively with other children or adult

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How you can help……

- Read as much as you can with your child.
- Sing and recite nursery rhymes and songs.
- Identify rhyming words in books and rhymes.
- Encourage opportunities and experiences to practise numeracy and literacy skills in real and meaningful ways e.g. look for numbers you see around the house and in the shops, play board games which use a dice, point out the time on a clock at breakfast and bed-time etc
- Provide opportunities for fine motor skills e.g writing or drawing – forming letter and numbers, cutting skills etc
- Play games with your child.
- Encourage positive manners and routines at home.

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Home Learning

Every month, we will send home a grid of suggested activities through Parents' Portal that you can cover to reinforce learning at home. Hard copies can be obtained through the office. We understand that home life and afterschool clubs can keep children very busy and appreciate the value of these experiences. If you are able to, we would ask that you prioritise reading, phonics (in the infant stages), literacy and numeracy home learning and complete as little or as much as your family life allows.

Home learning is not compulsory and there will be no consequence if this is not completed (but please read, read, read!! ☺).

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Get in Touch!

We firmly believe that we get the best out of our children and help them reach their full potential if we work together as a team with our families. Please do not hesitate to contact me as first point of contact, through school e-mail marked for my attention:

gw14maxwelltonoffice@glow.sch.uk

or by phone:

01355 222521

You can also send us a letter or make an appointment to discuss any queries you may have.

We will endeavour to get back to you on the same day, but if not, no more than two days later. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

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We are looking forward to a phenomenal year in P1!

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