



Junior School

Information for Parents – Year 1 & 2

Introduction

Welcome to the Junior School; we are thrilled to welcome new pupils to our early years classes, complete with the important experiences of outdoor learning, character development and challenge, both inside and outside of the classroom setting.

The Teachers

Our Year 1 and 2 classes are taught by the wonderful Mrs Annalee Horton and Mrs Renton, who are qualified and experienced Early Years teachers. Mrs Karen Macpherson is also fully involved with the support of your children as our amazing and expert Classroom Assistant. Mrs Horton or Mrs Renton are your child's 'form teacher' and are responsible for the day-to-day teaching and learning of the class, they are also your first point of call if you have any queries about anything to do with your child at school. Other teachers give specialist lessons in subjects such as music and art and there are also times when older pupils in the school are involved with supporting children alongside teachers in certain activities - which our younger pupils love and which provides wonderful learning opportunities for younger and older students alike.

The Curriculum

Years 1 and 2 are known as Key Stage One in the English National Curriculum which is the programme of learning we follow at Gordonstoun. There is an emphasis on phonics, reading, numeracy and problem solving as well as topic-based learning of all subjects and essential skills through an inquiry-based learning programme. Throughout our curriculum the children are actively learning and working collaboratively, experiencing challenges and forming their teamwork skills. There is a great deal of fun and adventure and Mrs Horton and Mrs Renton will keep you up to date with the topics and programme of study so that you can talk about them at home.

The Classroom

Year 1 and 2 classes are located next to the assembly hall and the science garden as well as having easy access to our pitches and woods. The classroom is their base every day and this is where they keep their belongings and school equipment. You will have the opportunity to visit the class during the first half of the Autumn Term.

The Uniform

We like the day uniform to be comfortable and unrestrictive. The curriculum allows for a multitude of outdoor learning opportunities, so we want the uniform to allow for movement and be warm which is why the day kit is a tracksuit. Also, the children have a brilliant dry suit 'overall' which they need to wear when we enjoy learning outside in all weathers.

Arriving at School

When children arrive at school they are met by the Assistant Head Pastoral, and you can pass on any messages through Mrs Warren or Mrs Hughes at this time if you need to. The children are allowed to play outside for a little while before joining their class for registration with Mrs Horton or Mrs Renton. This is an important time when they can communicate messages and the class teacher is able to address any worries or questions, ensure they are all included and settled in the daily routine and can start the day positively and engaged.



Timetable

The Timetable provides the opportunity to learn Literacy and Numeracy in the morning when younger children are more alert to learning, with more activities and inquiry-based learning in the afternoon.

To ensure a successful start to the school, for the first week, Year 1 go home at 1215. This is important to ensure a pastoral progression from nursery and allow time to adjust to the new surroundings and routine in a shorter, more manageable period.

The end of the teaching day is at 1530 and children are free to go home at this time. With the days being longer than the children are used to, it is sensible to allow them to go home at 1530. It may be that you need your child to stay on at school longer, and for those who do, there will be a less structured reflective learning time, when children practise reading, spelling and other skills. All children should be collected by 1730.

To summarise:

	Year 1	Year 2
Drop-off at school	0815	0815
Early Collection time	1215 First week, then 1530	1530
Late Collection time	1730	1730

Break Times

It is very important that lessons are punctuated with break times for refreshment and to improve concentration in the classroom. There are four break times in the day - morning piece, lunch, afternoon piece and a short break in the morning between lessons. There is an optional fifth break included in the reflective learning time if your child is at school at that time. The morning break and fifth break are free-flow play, left unguided, and adults can support role play, questioning, gather resources children may want (writing a story/painting a picture/construction etc. During break times, a snack (we call it 'piece') is available which will include fruit in the morning and homemade cake in the afternoon.

Lunch Time

Children are escorted to lunch with a teacher or an assistant. They are guided through the lunch choices with a teacher/senior students who are there to help cut up the food, ensuring a balanced diet is eaten and all children feel safe and happy.

Swimming

We believe that swimming is a life skill we should give to all children and therefore all children in Year 1 and 2 receive a swimming lesson once a week. This takes place in the School pool with qualified swimming coaches and life guards, it starts with water confidence and moves quickly on to swimming at the child's level.

Movement around Campus

All children are encouraged to take exercise and move around using sustainable transport. However, for our younger children, this may be a tall order on a campus the size of ours. Therefore, minibus travel is provided for the longer journeys.

Reporting your child's progress

During the first half term you are invited to school to meet Mrs Horton and Mrs Renton who will give you feedback on the progress of your child. Their learning journey is recorded and will be shared with you at these times. In addition, you will receive written reports at the end of each term.

