



**Wellington**  
SCHOOL

# Early Years Transition Programme

**Transitions are a fundamental part of school life: moving from primary to secondary school and then from school to further or higher education. These are daunting milestones that mark significant progression in a child's development, but there is another that is perhaps the most intimidating, not only for children but for their parents too.**

The step from Nursery to Primary 1 is an experience that is often fraught with uncertainty. Wellington School understands this and has spent three years honing an impressive Transition Programme that is unsurpassed in South Ayrshire. The programme is managed by Deputy Head of Wellington's Junior School, Sally Lomas, who spends time each day getting to know the needs of every child.

Comprehensive in its approach, the programme starts from a child's first day in nursery and continues throughout P1. Children who are coming to Wellington from other

nurseries are incorporated into the programme, allowing both pupils and parents the opportunity to acclimatise to the Junior School in a non-threatening way. As a result, children who progress to Primary 1 at Wellington do not experience the fear of unfamiliar surroundings and faces. Through careful and sensitive planning tailored to each individual, we find that children quickly adapt to the longer school day; that their P1 teacher is a familiar, friendly face and that wearing the school uniform is a badge of honour rather than a discomfort!

Early Years children are immersed in the life of the school through specialist teaching from Wellington's Director of Music and Senior School Physical Education teachers. They become accustomed to their surroundings by eating lunch in the communal Dining Hall and by using school facilities such as the Junior School library.

Children follow the early level Curriculum for Excellence programme which flows seamlessly from Nursery into P1.

**“Wellington's Transition Programme is the very best I have seen in my many years in education. It is truly outstanding and I am very proud of our achievements thus far. In saying that, we seek to improve every year in order to enhance each child's experience.”**

Mr Cox, Head of Wellington Junior School



# Nursery

## What Can My Child and I Expect?



**Wellington's Transition Programme offers children a smooth progression to Primary School. It starts from your child's very first day in Nursery and continues throughout the year until the summer term when you will be offered the opportunity to register for dedicated transition sessions.**

The Transition Sessions run parallel with the Transition Induction and details are provided here below.

### **Transition Induction**

Induction takes the form of 6 key sessions for parents and children. These include:

- A meeting for parents attended by Mr Cox, Mrs Lomas, P1 teachers and Mr McColgan (Bursar).
- Primary 1 teachers visit Wellington Nursery
- Nursery children visit their new classroom.
- Children spend a morning in their P1 classroom with their new class teacher.
- A meeting for parents hosted by the P1 teachers who run workshops aimed at providing parents with as much information as possible and to address any concerns or worries.

### **Summer Term Transition Sessions**

The afternoon sessions take place one afternoon a week for around 2 months and the principal aims

are delivered through activities structured around play. The aim is to take the mystery out of P1 and this is achieved by:

#### **Introducing children to the concept of school.**

This will involve discussion about the longer school day and children will participate in 'good listening', 'good looking' and 'good sitting' activities.

#### **Developing the skills and vocabulary needed to facilitate their first year in school.**

Gross and fine motor skills (such as holding a pencil) are developed so that children feel confident expressing themselves both in the classroom and in the playground. Amongst other activities, they will learn the names of items of their uniform (blazer, shirt, jumper etc.) and will also become familiar with the use of question words.

#### **Alleviating children's concerns**

Children are 'buddied' with P5 children who will explain what school is like and show their buddies round the Junior School. Nursery children will have the opportunity to ask questions - in previous sessions, they have asked "who do I tell if I don't feel well?" and 'what do I do if no one will play with me?' We have found that buddies often remain friends throughout school.

Nursery children will also meet the school auxiliaries and have tea with Mr Cox. Children are encouraged to ask questions and to feel at ease in their new environment.



# Primary 1

## What Can My Child and I Expect?



**The Primary 1 classrooms at Wellington Junior School are stimulating and engaging places, where children learn through focused teaching, purposeful play and investigation.**

### **Literacy and English**

Children learn to read and write letters by making sounds and words in engaging and active ways, such as singing songs with actions; manipulating magnetic letters and letter stampers to match pictures; building words tracing sandpaper letters and shaping letters and words with playdough. A highlight of the day in Primary 1 is “Funky Fingers” time, when the children are given a range of tasks to promote their fine motor development. Activities include sorting beads or pompoms with tweezers, threading beads, pasta or cards, building with Lego, working with plasticine. Such activities help to strengthen the finger muscles which are necessary for holding a pencil and writing.

Children explore stories and rhymes through the use of puppets, masks and other props. They also have opportunities to write and illustrate their own stories and books.

### **Numeracy and Mathematics**

Maths time is a favourite time of the day for many pupils in our Primary 1 classes. We have an inquiry-based approach to teaching numeracy and mathematics in Primary 1. Children are presented with a problem and use their own strategies to solve it. Problems can involve counting, addition, subtraction, division, measure, shape, sorting, pattern, money, time and data handling. At ‘share time’, children have the opportunity to explain their thinking to others and to learn from others. In addition, every day, we count how many days we have been in school. When we reach our 100th day, we celebrate. This daily activity helps children to develop their understanding of our number system.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

The wellbeing indicators – safe, healthy, achieving, nurtured active, respected, responsible, included, - are explored through Circle Times and other activities. In particular, we talk about:

- feelings – our own and those of others
- sharing and caring
- looking after our bodies through exercise, healthy eating, washing hands, brushing teeth
- staying safe – at home, outdoors and on the internet

### **Interdisciplinary Learning**

Social Studies, Science, Technologies and the Expressive Arts are explored through various





interdisciplinary topics, such as 'Marvellous Me', 'Food from the Farm', 'Traditional Tales', 'Toys in the Past', 'Amazing Animals/ Marvellous Minibeasts', 'The Seashore' and 'Space'.

### **Religious & Moral Education**

Topics include: Harvest, Christmas (including a Nativity performance), Easter and Bible Stories.

### **Outdoor Learning**

P1 pupils enjoy regular outdoor learning opportunities both in the woods at Doonside and on the seashore. Meanwhile, excursions enhance the interdisciplinary topics and an example may include visiting a farm or attending a workshop led by the seashore ranger at Culzean.

### **Specialist Lessons & Swimming**

Weekly PE and music lessons are delivered by specialist Senior School teachers. P1 also receive weekly swimming lessons in small groups.

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# Transition Sessions Q&A

### **Who organises the sessions?**

The key contact is Mrs Lomas who coordinates the Transition Programme. She is supported by teaching staff (specifically Mrs Simmons) and Nursery Key Workers.

### **How long do the Transition Sessions last?**

Transition Sessions run for three and a half hours, one afternoon per week.

### **Do I have to pay for my child to take part?**

The current cost for the full 8 week block is around £150. There is also a £16 insurance charge for children who are not already in Transition at Wellington.

### **Do you provide lunch for children taking part?**

A school lunch can be provided at a cost of £2.50 per day. Alternatively, children may bring a



packed lunch. Lunch will be eaten in Wellington School's Dining Hall.

### **How do I register my child for the Nursery or for the Transition Sessions in the Summer Term?**

Please contact Mr Cox, Head of the Junior School (details here below).



# Testimonials

**Mrs Lomas and her team adapt and improve the programme every year so as to give every child the very best transition experience. Here are just a handful of glowing reviews from parents.**



'A super programme of work - my daughter has thoroughly enjoyed her time in the Nursery! We are impressed with the activities on offer and now feel that she is well-prepared for the transition to primary 1. Thank you for making this such a positive experience for our family'

'Great preparation for P1! My son has thoroughly enjoyed his time 'transitioning'. It has been extremely beneficial not just for him but for me too.'



'My daughter has very much enjoyed coming along to try out Primary 1 on the Transition Programme. It has been a confidence builder and to be able to experience some of the new aspects in advance has alleviated any fears she had. She now can look forward to her new adventure with confidence and excitement. Thank you so much.'

'The programme provided my son with all of the answers to his 'pre-school questions and dealt with many anxieties. It also gave him a chance to make new friends and spend the afternoon playing, as well as experiencing whole days - a very positive experience!'

**Are you a prospective parent interested in Wellington Nursery and/or our Nursery Transition Programme?**

If so, please contact Mr Jimmy Cox, Head of the Junior School, directly:

[jcox@wellingtonschool.org](mailto:jcox@wellingtonschool.org)  
or 01292 269321







## Dear Parent

It will soon be time for your child to start Primary 1 and we are delighted to be part of this important and very personal transitional process. Moving from Nursery to Primary 1 can cause anxiety both in children and for you as parent/guardian. We are well aware of that here and every effort is made to put you and your child at ease. I hope you enjoyed reading about our unique Transition Programme which boasts numerous benefits and which will equip your child for the exciting year ahead.

Let me enumerate some of the very positive reasons to take part: steady preparation for Primary 1, the development of key skills and confidence and an opportunity for your child to dispell any anxieties. Children will also make new friends (including their P5 'buddies') and learn about the more practical side of Primary 1 (wearing their uniform and adapting to a longer school day, for example). For those children moving up to Primary 1 at Wellington, there are even greater benefits: children will continue to benefit from transitional guidance; they will develop strong relationships with their new teacher; they will feel even more a part of the Wellington family and they will reap the benefits of an all-through school. The relationship with their buddy will continue into P1, giving pupils the added advantage of peer support from children who become Junior School Prefects.

As a parent, you will be invited to participate in our Induction Programme (a number of meetings and workshops throughout the summer term which are led by Mrs Lomas , the Primary 1 teachers and me). These meetings range from information sessions on classroom content and uniform to simply having a cup of tea with other new parents. Our Induction Programme has been described by current parents as having been invaluable. We also run very productive Focus Groups which gives you the opportunity to shape your child's education and environment.

Thank you for considering our Transition Programme and before you decide to register, please let me draw your attention to the result of our recent Care Inspectorate inspection. Wellington's Nursery Transition Programme was very highly praised - and deservedly so! Read about it here: [wellington-school.org/our-school/nursery/](http://wellington-school.org/our-school/nursery/).

I look forward to seeing you throughout next term - and beyond!

Best wishes,

**Jimmy Cox**