



Onthank Primary School

Session 2021/22

Handbook

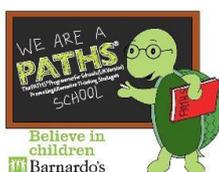




Onthank Primary School
Meiklewood Road
Kilmarnock
KA3 2ES



Telephone No:	01563 525477
Email:	alison.wright@eastayrshire.org.uk
School Blog:	https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/onthankps/
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/onthankprimaryschool/
Twitter:	@OnthankSchool
Parent Council Blog:	https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/onthankparentcouncil/
School App:	Please download the 'School App' onto your mobile device and select 'Onthank Primary School'. Available on appropriate mobile devices.
Denominational Status (if any):	Non-Denominational
School Roll:	Co-educational school with a roll of 600 pupils.
Further information:	www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/schoolhandbooks



Dear Parent/Carer,



On behalf of the staff team I would like to warmly welcome you and your child to Onthank Primary School. I hope you will find this handbook helpful in preparing you and your child for their learning and life journey at #OurOnthank.

In partnership with you, we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum that allows each child to reach his or her potential both in formal learning and in wider aspects of life. Our aspiration for all children is that they become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors within our community.

We believe that all children and adults should enjoy learning, experience success and have high expectations of what they can achieve. As a school we collaborate with our children to create an environment and ethos which celebrate Pupil Voice and reflects our values:



We aim to ensure that all children are Safe, Healthy, Active, Nurtured, Achieving, Respected, Responsible and Included while promoting our values as Onthank Ambassadors.

At this time, during the COVID-19 pandemic we have ongoing measures to protect your child and your family, reviewing guidance to ensure the best possible outcomes for our young people. As this is an on-going situation please consult our School App and Blog for the most up to date information.

I hope that your child has an enjoyable and successful experience with us and we look forward to welcoming you into #OurOnthank Community.

Alison Wright

Alison Wright
Head Teacher

#AnythingIsPossibleEvenTheImpossible



SECTION 1

Ethos, Vision and Values



Onthank Vision Statement

To provide educational experiences in a nurturing environment and community for all pupils to reach their maximum potential.

Aims:

- Enable children to operate as independent learners and thinkers
- Inspire a love for learning through learning experiences responsive to children's needs and interest
- Provide a relevant, broad curriculum for all
- Provide a stimulating, challenging and inclusive learning environment
- Enable all children to value themselves and recognise their place and value in the local community
- Foster a sense of belonging to the community by working with wider partners
- Recognise and respect cultural and social diversity within society

We do this through promoting health and wellbeing throughout the curriculum and through a series of stimulating learning experiences which are planned with all children in mind at every stage and as mixed groups.

School Roll 2021/22

Total Roll: 600

Parents should note that the working capacity of the school may vary dependent upon the number of pupils at each stage and the way in which the classes are organised.

Respectful Relationships @ Onthank

Promoting an ethos of Respectful Relationships across our full school and wider community is central to our vision. We deliver pupil and parent workshops throughout the year in collaboration with East Ayrshire, Scotland's Anti-Bullying Service 'Respect Me' and our Parent Council to share this vision as well as strategies, techniques and information to support our pupils and families.

We believe that for our children to be Successful Learners and take their valued place in society as Responsible Citizens, they must be part of a supportive, caring ethos in which relationships are managed positively and consistently. It provides children with a secure framework in which they will develop skills and strategies to help them take responsibility for their own behaviour. Subsequently, the relationship between pupil, teacher and wider staff will be built on mutual trust and respect, allowing pupils to be honest.



Aims:

- to show respect for self, others and property: treat others as you would wish to be treated
- be responsible for your own and the safety of others
- be honest, kind and caring



Pupils are encouraged to achieve these aims through the Class Charter which all pupils are included in designing at the beginning of term. This is based on the Rights of the Child as outlined in the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child). Adults in our school work with children to ensure they are aware of their rights and fully respect the rights of others. Our work on Rights Respecting Schools is at the heart of this and our policy sits alongside East Ayrshire's Anti Bullying Strategy and Relationships Framework.

Our Parent Council actively support this vision, contributing to, and leading our Respectful Relationships focus group encouraging a sense of responsibility and respect at home and in the local community.

Although instances of bullying at Onthank are relatively infrequent, children are always encouraged to report any allegation of bullying to staff where this is dealt with appropriately and parents are informed. Our Social, Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing Curriculum incorporates planned anti-bullying and equality lessons at every stage, as well as Respect Me Respectful Relationships lessons.

During 2021, our work with Anti-Bullying partners 'Respect Me' was recognised across East Ayrshire and used as best practice during school parental engagement sessions.

Parental Engagement

The importance of the family on children and their learning is crucial, therefore as a school we wish to actively involve you, the families and parents, more in your children's education and our community. Our establishment thrives on the partnership we build with you and our community. It is, however, very difficult to convey atmosphere and feeling in writing and we would extend an open invitation for you to meet our young people and staff team and learn about us first-hand (virtually or distanced)!



In Onthank Primary, we would like to encourage the involvement and participation of parents in their children's experiences at school. You are automatically part of the wider Parent Forum at Onthank Primary School and you can become more involved in the life of the school through the following means:



- **Online Partners:** During lock down all our ICT skills improved. Parents and carers supported children in their online learning as well as taking part in online community events such as our Burns' quiz.

- **Sharing our Learning Afternoons:** One way you can become more involved is by attending 'Sharing our Learning' events held by your child's class. It is an opportunity to find out what they have been learning about and share in some learning activities with your child.

- **Parent Council:** The Parent Council are a smaller body of parents who provide support and feedback ideas and opinions on behalf of the wider parent body. In addition, the Parent Council organises fundraising events and encourages links between the school, parents, pupils and the wider community. Visit our school blog for more information on how you can join our Parent Council.

- **Parent Workshops:** Opportunities across the year to learn about how to support your child's learning. Parents also form sub groups, creating and delivering bespoke workshops based on the need of our community.

- **Parent Helpers/ Volunteers:** Parent helpers/volunteers are welcome, and we will advise across the year on the opportunities available to assist at events and activities. To get involved as a regular volunteer, you will have to undergo a Disclosure Scotland PVG check before you can help in the school.



Parent/Carer Testimonials

The testimonials below aim to give you a real insight into our school, the way we work and the outcomes you can expect.

“

My son is in Primary 1 and he's had an amazing first year at Onthank Primary School. The school went over and above to ensure the children got their transition visits and to see their friends. Parents are kept up to date with information and events and it's great to be a part of the Onthank Primary community. #TeamOnthank!

Kelly Brown
(P1 Parent)

“

During lockdown there were home learning activities provided which allowed us to be flexible yet still achieve the curriculum within our own home. The support was invaluable from the teachers who, as always, went above and beyond. My children enjoy the community feel the school has. Despite COVID-19 challenges, the school has kept up all the exciting things for the pupils which has been great. Communication from the school is exceptional. We can see from Blog and App information and photos from school events.

Go Team Onthank!

Claire Haggerty
(P1 & P2 Parent)

“

Onthank Primary looks at the whole and bigger picture - in terms of each individual and the wider community. Academic learning is combined with a real focus on emotional intelligence, with a view to instilling confidence and empathy. I'm proud of seeing my daughters' confidence grow as they progress through the school and of all the staff, as I can see they work hard to create an atmosphere to maximise learning.

I would describe Onthank as:
Progressive, Encouraging & Spirited.

Lindsay Cairns
(P3 & P6 Parent)

”

“

I cannot speak highly enough of the Learning Centre within Onthank and its wonderful staff. The team has a wonderful rapport with my child, and he has relied upon and benefited from their support a huge amount. They are flexible and happy to make the necessary adjustments so that the school day is a manageable experience but also an enjoyable and fulfilling one.

To all of the staff members who contributed during my son's time at primary school, I cannot emphasise enough what a massively positive impact they have had on my child and in turn the rest of our family. Thank you.

”

Rae Wilson
(P7 Parent)

“

Our family are very proud of the Onthank family concept and the links to the wider community. We feel welcomed, heard, and listened to while being included in all aspects of school life.

Onthank cares – for the young people, staff, and community. This is a lifelong lesson that young people will always have and one that cannot be taught but needs to be experienced.

I would describe Onthank as:
A Family, Inclusive & Welcoming.

Elaine Paton
(P4 Parent)

“

They work with the whole community, not just the pupils. There are family nights, quiz nights and even Zumba classes! The best part of Onthank is the dedication of the staff and the brilliant impact they have on each of the children attending. They are producing confident, happy, and engaged children, and making the world a wee bit better for everyone.

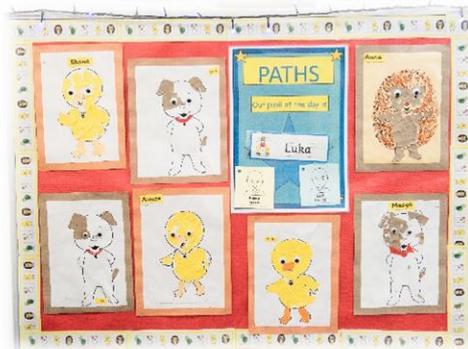
I would describe Onthank as:
Dynamic, Inclusive & Safe.

Laura Brown
(P5 Parent)

”

Partnerships

Onthank Primary School is situated in the North West of Kilmarnock. We work in partnership with a wide range of partners to plan and deliver enhanced learning experiences and in delivering improved outcomes for our children and families. Some of our partners include NHS, Morrisons, St John's Church, Active Schools, Dean Park Rangers, TESCO, SSPCA, Kilmarnock Football Club, Clydesdale Bank and Vibrant Communities.



Kilmarnock Tenants and Residents Association award Onthank Primary School £5,200 last year to enhance #OurOnthank Community initiatives and events, providing opportunities for our wider community to unite.

Wider Achievement

Wider Achievement is an essential part of a child's learning. It promotes skills for life and work as well as skills for learning, and can help in our young people being confident, highly motivated and engaged in their wider community.

We celebrate pupils' wider achievements and successes at our assemblies and in each class throughout the week. Our young people (and their family) are encouraged to share anything that they feel is an achievement and have this positively recognised by staff and peers alike. These achievements are shared on our school Blog, Class Blog and on our 'Celebrating Success Wall' in school.

We seek to provide opportunities for our pupils to learn in real life contexts and promote positive relationships with families to build strong learning teams to meet outcomes and build on positive outcomes for all.

Parents, carers and family members are important partners in children's learning and generating a strong sense of community. We make use of technology to promote home-school dialogue, provide opportunities for family learning and encourage families to participate in school events.

Some of these include our well attended Community Nights, Tea Dances, annual Santa Dash, Zumba sessions and Race For Life as well as our diverse After School Activities programme, built on Pupil Voice, to name but a few!



SECTION 2

Meet Our Senior Leadership Team

We want to create an open environment where families feel at ease, feel welcomed and feel valued. If you ever have any queries, please contact a member of our Leadership Team who will be more than happy to help!



Head Teacher
Alison Wright



Depute Head Teacher
Glynis Findlay



Depute Head Teacher
David McIlwraith

Communication

We are keen to maintain excellent and open communication links with our families and have several ways in which we do this:

- Via the 'School App'
- Newsletters which are posted on the school 'Blog' throughout the year and on a regular basis
- Posts via all our social media platforms
- Letters in school bags

We will contact you by telephone if there is every anything specific that we wish to discuss with you. Should you ever wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or development, please phone the school office on **01563 525477** and an appointment to meet will be arranged at a mutually convenient time.

Our Senior Leadership Team and wider staff may not always be available during teaching hours, however, will return any call requests after 3pm.



Transitions

Transitions are the moves children and young people make from home to nursery, nursery to home, from stage to stage, from primary to secondary, between schools and from secondary to further education and beyond.

Transitions work well when children are supported before, during and after the process and where transfer of information is seamless.

In Onthank Primary School we have an effective, robust transition process between the different stages in our school and a programme of events to support children make the transition from ECC into Primary 1. These processes allow for professional dialogue and the passing on of information to ensure coherence and progression across the curriculum. The needs of children with identified additional support needs are discussed at a PRESCAT or school-based meeting prior to starting school to ensure all necessary arrangements are in place.



We have strong links with Onthank ECC, Kilmarnock Academy, our associated secondary school and other educational destinations. A programme of transition events is organised at the beginning of the session. Children on our additional support needs log will have a Trans 1 meeting in P6 and Trans 2 meeting in P7. Secondary staff are invited to these meetings to ensure needs are identified and catered for at the beginning of S1.

Additional Support

Occasionally, a child may face a variety of challenges preventing them from positive engagement, choices and effective learning. Following robust interventions and assessments, we identify them as having an additional learning support need, which may be short term, or for their whole school journey.

Supports put in place include: the class teacher, classroom assistant or other school staff providing support. We also have support from the East Ayrshire Support Team.

Through the daily work and observations, class teachers may identify a child who is requiring additional support for learning out with what the school can provide. A referral to the Additional Support Needs coordinator would be made. As a team the Head Teacher, class teacher, EAST teacher, and parents will agree a course of support tailored to the individual needs of the child. Dependant on the child's needs classroom assistants, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Educational Psychology, teacher for visually or hearing impairment, English as an Additional Language Teacher, etc. may join the team.

If you believe your child has additional support needs, please contact Mrs Wright. Specific information on Additional Support Needs can be found on our website: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/SupportForPupils/AdditionalSupportforLearning.aspx>

SECTION 3

Our School Day

During COVID-19, our school hours are staggered to help ensure the safety of our families and to reduce congestion in the school playground. Please note these times are subject to change as we continue to evaluate and monitor our COVID-19 procedures.

STAGE	START TIME	STOP TIME	ENTRY DOOR	PLAYGROUND
P1	8.55am	2.55pm	RED GATE to RED DOOR	Back Playground - near ECC new garden
P2	9.05am	3.05pm	RED GATE to VIOLET DOOR	Back Playground- near ECC new garden
P3	9.05am	3.05pm	GREEN DOOR	Front Playground
P4	8.50am	2.50pm	GREEN DOOR	Front Playground
P5	8.55am	2.55pm	BLUE DOOR	Front Playground
P6	9.00am	3.00pm	BLUE DOOR	Front Playground
P7	8.50am	2.50pm	YELLOW DOOR	Back Playground
Centre Classes	9.00am	3.00pm	PINK DOOR	Back Playground

Families are asked to arrive no more than 5 minutes before your allocated time. All entry and exit gates and doors are colour coded to ensure drop off and collection areas are easily identifiable.

Drop Off

- P1-P2 parents/carers are asked to enter the back playground via the 'Enter Only' red gate in groups of 10 and follow a **one-way system**, staying in a physically distant and single file queue to drop off their child. Parents/carers will then leave the playground via the 'Exit Only' gate.
- P3-P7 parents/carers are asked to drop their child off at the 'Pupil Enter Only' gate and **not enter** the playground with their child at this time. Pupils are also encouraged to arrive independently without an adult.
- Parents/Carers are asked not to gather at the gate entry/exit points and are responsible for adhering to Government physical distancing guidance standing 2m apart at all times along the **school fence**.
- Parents/Carers must wear a mask at all times when in the school grounds.

All young people will be met by their teacher on arrival at their allocated time. Staff will also be available at all entry points and playgrounds to warmly welcome and support pupils to their line if required.



Collection

- P1-P2 parents/carers are asked to follow a **one way system** staying in a physically distant, single file queue to collect their child.
- Parents will enter the playground via the 'Enter Only' red gate in groups of 10, their child will be waiting to meet them and then leave via the 'Exit Only' gate.
- P3-P7 parents/carers are asked **not to enter** the playground at this time, but wait physically distanced along the school fence/grass area near the 'Pupil Exit Only' gate.
- P4-P7 pupils are encouraged to be independent on their departure from school, leaving without an adult.

We politely request this information is shared with your full family, especially those who may take responsibility for dropping off or collecting our young people.

Attendance and Time Keeping

Attendance at school is of a paramount importance to ensure opportunities for learning are maximised and your child succeeds in all aspects of school life. If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason you must telephone the school **on 01563 525477** giving the reason for absence. Under Child Protection Procedures any absences not reported to the school must be followed up by the school with a text or phone call home.

Parents/Carers are responsible for ensuring that your child attends regularly and arrives on time. Parents/Carers are also responsible for ensuring the safety of your child on their journeys to and from school, except when they are on any transport we provide. Regular and punctual attendance is linked closely to achievement and staff will work with parents to ensure that children can achieve their full potential. Attendance and time keeping are monitored by the Head Teacher and Home Link Worker and will be followed up with parents should any difficulties emerge.

Illness or Accidents

If your child feels unwell during class, they should tell the class teacher/practitioner and, where necessary, a first aider will be called to attend. If we need to send your child home, we will contact you to make the relevant arrangements. Your child should not go home without permission and pupils who are being sent home due to illness must be picked up by a parent, or other responsible adult (e.g. a relative). In the event of an accident or illness which requires referral to the local Medical Practice and/or to the Accident and Emergency Services, parents or the designated emergency contact will be informed.



Dress Code

We encourage all pupils to wear school uniform and be proud ambassadors of Onthank Primary School. By encouraging the wearing of school uniform account must be taken to prevent any discrimination on the grounds of race or gender.

Our uniform comprises of:

- White polo shirt (preferably with school badge if not wearing a sweatshirt)
- Red school sweatshirt/cardigan
- White shirt & school tie
- Red/grey tartan skirt/pinafore
- Black/grey skirt/trousers/shorts
- Black/red shoes

We kindly ask that names are written on all items of clothing.

P.E. kit should also be provided and in addition, earrings or other body piercing jewellery should not be worn for any P.E. related activity.



As an eco-school we follow always try to 'Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle'. Last session parents started a school uniform recycling initiative. The school collects uniforms that are in good condition and anyone from the school community is welcome to take what they need. If you would like more information please speak with our Home Link Worker Mr Swan (01563 525477).



School Meals

The Schools (Health Promotion and Nutrition) Act 2007 sets out in detail the National Nutritional Food Standards. School Meals in East Ayrshire offer nutritionally balanced well, presented food in an environment that is sensitive to the needs of pupils. It offers a good lunchtime experience with an important break in the day away from the classroom, while still being in the safety of the school.

All pupils in P1-3 are entitled to a free school meal. All other pupils can either purchase a school dinner or

bring a healthy packed lunch.

Children from P4-7 entitled to a free school meal can apply for this from the local authority via the following link: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/CouncilAndGovernment/Benefits/Benefits-EducationAndSchool/Clothing-grants-and-free-school-meals/Apply-online.aspx>

Our most up to date school lunch menus can be found here: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/Schools-Catering/SchoolLunchMenus.aspx>

Online School Payments

A safe and secure system of online school payments is in place, removing the need for your child to carry cash. The payment service is being provided by ParentPay: <https://www.parentpay.com/> ParentPay allows parents to pay for school meals, trips, uniforms and much more. Parents who do not have access to online facilities or wish to continue to pay in cash can do so by paying through Paypoint facilities at local shops.

Further information on online school payments is available online at: <https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/Online-School-Payments.aspx>

Lunch Orders & Packed Lunches

We promote our daily lunch orders in advance on social media and within the classroom. We encourage our families to go through lunch options the night before in order to ensure there is something on the menu our young people will enjoy. Likewise, to ensure packed lunches are eaten please include your child in the at home 'Lunchbox Order'.

Homework

Parents are the most important influence in their child's life. The interest and encouragement from parents greatly influence children's attitudes to school. Homework is an opportunity for pupils to use some of the skills and knowledge they learn in school. Pupils should practise their core numeracy and literacy skills regularly at home. Homework should always be a positive experience and we will support all children with their learning. We have increased our use of digital technology. Each stage has a Glow blog and key information can be found here.

Emergency Procedures

The school has procedures in place with regards to pupil safety. This involves evacuation protocols which are practised termly. In the event of an evacuation, parents will be informed through Seemis group text and via our School App. We will also inform parents by email/school blog.

It is important that parents keep emergency contact details up to date. Should your contact details or address change, please inform a member of our Office staff.

Administration of Medicine

The administration of prescribed medicines in an educational establishment is at the discretion of the Head Teacher. If the Head Teacher agrees to administer medicine at the establishment, the member of staff administering the medication is legally required to exercise reasonable care to avoid injury. The Head Teacher is entitled to the full co-operation of the parents in helping to observe safe practices.



The only medicines allowed to be prescribed are those issued by a doctor or pharmacist – a prescribing label must be present and full administration details provided. Parents will be required to complete a form before medicines can be administered. Forms can be completed in the school office.

Data Protection

The school will handle all data in relation to children as per Data Protection Act 2018. Our staff adhere to East Ayrshire Council's "Data Protection Guide to Staff" and have completed all mandatory GDPR modules.

Security and Visitors

For safety and security reasons it is essential that we know who is in the building at any point of the day. All visitors, including parents, are asked to use only the Main Entrance of the school to enter the building. If parents wish to speak to the teacher please enter through the Main Entrance and speak to the Office Staff or a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will make an appointment for you to meet with the teacher at a suitable time. **Following current guidance, we ask that you contact the school by phone or email to discuss any queries.**

Playground

- The playground is supervised by an adult presence from 8.45am each morning. At break times the classroom assistants supervise the playground along with members of the Senior Leadership Team.
- At the start and end of the day, we kindly ask parents not to crowd the gate areas to allow children to identify their parent/carer and leave safely.
- In the interests of your child's safety, if a different adult is collecting him/her from school that the identity of this person is made known to the school. We will not allow your child to leave the school with an unknown adult.

School

- All entrance doors are locked during school 'work times' with access being obtained through a fob system or a buzzer operated from within the building by an adult member of staff.
- An over-ride system allows staff and children to leave through all doors in school in the case of emergencies.
- All visitors and tradespeople are asked to sign the register at the front of the school and sign out as they leave. Camera and entry phone systems are in operation. Please ring the bell and wait to speak to one of our team.
- Visitors should always report to the office; they should sign the visitors' book and, if not known by children and staff, wear a visitor's badge.

Trauma Informed Contact and Care initiative (TICC)

TICC is a unique Police and Education early intervention safeguarding and wellbeing partnership, which supports children and young people exposed to domestic abuse. Being part of Trauma Informed Contact and Care means that our school will receive a notification from Police Scotland before the start of the next school day when a child or young person in our school has been involved in or exposed to a domestic abuse incident in the previous 24 hours. The information is given in strict confidence to one of two school designated contacts (Mrs Wright or Mrs Findlay). This will enable support to be given dependent on the wellbeing needs and wishes of the child.

Comments, Suggestions and Concerns

Should you have a comment, suggestion or concern we would first of all encourage you to speak to a member of our Senior Leadership Team at the school. Our aim is to provide high quality services to the people we serve, but sometimes things can go wrong. If this happens, please contact us in the first instance and we can move forward positive together, resolving any complaints as your first point of contact. Only if as an establishment we fail to be able to resolve any issues should this complaint then be escalated to stage two through the council's complaints procedure.

Further information is provided in the leaflet a guide to making comments, suggestions and complaints or on the Council website www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/complaints

Parent Council

There is an active Parent Council Committee within the school who are committed to supporting the pupils, respecting the news of parents and encouraging links between the school, parents and wider community. Our PC fundraise and support various initiatives and events throughout the school year.

As a member of the Parent Forum, parents are welcome to attend meetings. Parent Council information and minutes are available on the school blog or their own page:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/onthankparentcouncil/>



The Parent Council Chair is Hayley Boyd, classroom assistant and parent.



School Holiday Arrangements

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL					
School Holiday Arrangements 2021/2022					
Term	Break	Detail / Attendance	Date	Cumulative Holiday Total	Cumulative Working Days
First	Mid Term	Teachers (In Service)	Tuesday 17 August 2021		
		Teachers (In Service)	Wednesday 18 August 2021		
		Pupils return	Thursday 19 August 2021		
		*Local Holiday	Friday 17 September 2021	1	
		*Local Holiday	Monday 20 September 2021	2	
		Pupils return	Tuesday 21 September 2021		
		Close	Friday 8 October 2021		
		Teachers (In Service)	Monday 18 October 2021	7	
		Pupils return	Tuesday 19 October 2021		85
		Close	Wednesday 22 December 2021		
Second	Mid Term	Re-open	Thursday 6 January 2022	17	
		Close	Thursday 10 February 2022		
		Local Holiday	Friday 11 February 2022	18	
		Local Holiday	Monday 14 February 2022	19	
		Teachers (In Service)	Tuesday 15 February 2022		
		Pupils return	Wednesday 16 February 2022		145
		Close	Friday 1 April 2022		
Third		Re-open	Tuesday 19 April 2022	30	
		Local Holiday (May Day)	Monday 2 May 2022	31	
		**Teachers (In Service)	Thursday 5 May 2022		
		***Local Holiday	Monday 30 May 2022	32	
		Pupils return	Tuesday 31 May 2022		
		Close	Wednesday 29 June 2022	66	195
<p>* Subject to change in alignment with Gold Cup weekend</p> <p>** Local Government Election</p> <p>***Subject to change in alignment with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee</p> <p>Session 2022/2023: Teachers (In Service) – Wednesday 17 August 2022 Pupils return – Thursday 18 August 2022</p> <p>Good Friday - 15 April 2022</p> <p>Pupils attendance will be 190 days after deducting 5 In Service days</p>					

The most up to date information on school holidays can be found here:

www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/EducationAndLearning/SchoolHolidays.aspx

SECTION 4

The Curriculum

At Onthank Primary we follow Curriculum for Excellence. We created a Curriculum Rationale which can be found here <https://sway.office.com/IYXAIY0gupRskDeW?ref=Link>
The Curriculum for Excellence identifies SEVEN PRINCIPLES for curriculum design and we aim to ensure our learning, teaching and planning has:

- Challenge and enjoyment
- Breadth
- Progression
- Depth
- Personalisation and choice
- Coherence
- Relevance

When developing our curriculum we asked Parents and Carers **‘What do we want for our children and young people and how will we work together to achieve this?’**



At Onthank Primary we take all 7 principles into account as we plan, teach and assess children’s learning. They are the core foundations to ensure each child reaches their full potential while also forming the basis of our evaluations, monitoring and tracking.



In all curricular areas, considerable importance is assigned to challenging all our pupils. A variety of teaching styles are used incorporating cross- curricular learning. We offer a broad progressive and coherent curriculum giving pupils a voice in all aspects of their learning and school life.

Children are given a solid foundation in numeracy and literacy while being equipped to deal with the demands of modern society with skills in ICT, Outdoor Education and World of Work.

In Health and Wellbeing, we will follow East Ayrshire’s Progression Pathways for Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenting. An information letter is available to all parents and carers on our Onthank PS school blog with links to Early, First and Second Level RSHP parent leaflets.

Religious and Moral Education

Occasionally parents from different religious communities may wish their children to be absent from school for religious events. We will support this with alternative arrangements being made if this is the case.



2021 - 2022 Improvement
Priorities

Literacy

Health and Wellbeing

Numeracy

Our Improvement Priorities 2021-2022

Raising Attainment

- Key focus on providing learners with the Excellent Learning Experience through the implementation of Active Literacy and Numeracy. Embedding our planning, assessments and tracking.
- Development of outdoor spaces with opportunities for our young people to participate in interesting and motivating outdoor learning experiences.

Ensuring the health and wellbeing of all young people

- Working with Barnardo's Scotland in delivering a Health and Wellbeing Being programme known as PATHS. Our young people will be able to use PATHS strategies to identify and manage their emotions, resolve issues and be more able to self-regulate effectively.
- Implement a Neurosequential Model in Education (NME) which is a classroom based approach to support children and school staff to learn more about brain development and the impact of developmental trauma on a child's ability to learn.

Closing the poverty-related attainment gap

- Achievement as a key focus - personal successes will be recognised and celebrated effectively.
- Increase in pupil participation. Children will use self-evaluation and feedback to identify the next steps.

Increase in sustained positive destinations and employability skills

- Develop digital literacy with all pupils and families introducing Learning Journals in the Early Years.
- Successfully awarded a 'Food for Thought' grant - The creation of 'Our Cooking Coop' will allow opportunities for deeper, meaningful food education across the whole school & wider community.



SECTION 5

2020/21 Charity Donations

Charity Fundraising
£5815.65
@ Onthank

Memories are Better than Dreams

Achievement and Improvement

In Onthank Primary, we pride ourselves on our achievements and awards. Please see below a sample of some of our achievements from the last academic session:

- Accredited with the National Digital Schools Award
- Achieved Silver Dyslexia Friendly Schools Award
- Creation of our pupil achievement blogs
- Continued promotion of school events and achievements through our social media platforms; Facebook, Twitter, School App and Teams
- Successfully held numerous Wider Community Events including; Termly Community Nights, our Tea Dance, Santa Dash, Litter Pick and Macmillan Coffee Morning to name but a few!
- Held various successful school performances across the school year, all of which were well supported by our families and community.
- Positive Choices Week as part of Health and Wellbeing Week
- Onthank competed in the East Ayrshire Sportshall Athletics and in the East Ayrshire Dance Fest.



In addition to our achievements and awards, we place great importance on the celebration of Wider Achievement in Onthank Primary through our virtual assemblies and our Wider Achievement wall.



SECTION 6

Assessment and Reporting

We have a Meet the Teacher/Sharing Our Learning session near start of each school year. This gives parents/carers an opportunity to find out more about their child's new class as well as being part of a shared activity.

Parents' Day/Evenings are twice per year. Parent consultations are an opportunity for teachers and parents to talk about their child's progress and next steps in learning. The parental meetings usually take place in October and March, however, due to the current pandemic this may not be possible at this time. Parents/carers also receive a written report in March which details your child's progress and next steps.

The Excellent Learning Experience
As agreed by teachers, pupils and parents

'We know we have learned something if we can teach it to others'

Active Learning

- Pupils learn by carrying out a variety of activities
- Pupils think creatively, investigate and solve problems
- Pupils have choices
- Pupils work on their own and in groups
- Pupils engaged in 'Think, Pair, Share' activities
- Pupils use different resources including ICT
- Teachers don't rely on textbooks
- Pupils often learn outdoors
- Activities relate to real life
- Lesson has links with other subjects
- Lesson links with local businesses and community
- Enthusiasm and Enjoyment

Assess to Progress

- Teachers discuss previous learning with pupils
- Pupils understand learning intentions
- Teachers and pupils agree success criteria
- Pupils evaluate the lesson
- Pupils know the level they are working towards
- Children's blogs are used to reflect on learning and set targets
- Teachers and pupils ask challenging questions
- Pupils are prepared to risk getting answers wrong
- Teachers give pupils feedback to help them improve
- Wrong answers are used to improve learning
- Pupils assess and learn from each other
- Pupils achieve learning intentions by end of lesson

On task

On track

Onthank

Skills Development

- Skills for Life, Learning and Work
- Leadership skills
- Higher order thinking skills
- Growth Mind-set
- Recognition of achievements in and out of school
- Digital learning

Meeting Pupils' Needs

- Everyone has high expectations
- Every pupil is learning
- Positive and nurturing environment
- Teachers teach in a variety of ways
- Teachers challenge and support all pupils
- Pupils all work at an appropriate pace
- Pupils can explain to others what they have learned in different ways
- Pupils feel:
 - ✓ Safe
 - ✓ Healthy
 - ✓ Achieving
 - ✓ Nurtured
 - ✓ Active
 - ✓ Respected
 - ✓ Responsible
 - ✓ Included

Curriculum for Excellence emphasises that assessment is an integral part of day-to-day teaching and learning. Learners' progress will be closely monitored by staff, who reflect with them on their strengths, learning needs and next steps and take action based on this. Learners themselves will be increasingly involved in this process, as they develop the skills needed to be able to make effective judgments on their own learning; skills that will be important to them throughout life.

Onthank Primary uses a variety of assessment procedures. Within class, the teacher uses continual formal and summative assessment to inform the pupils of their next steps for learning. Pupils are encouraged to assess their own work and the work of their peers using self- assessment and peer-assessment methods such as traffic lighting and ‘two stars and a wish’. We also use local authority and national formalised assessments at different stages of the establishment. Young people have ownership in collaborating with the class teacher in determining learning intentions and success criteria. At the end of a block of learning, the children are given the opportunity to evaluate their work.

Children who may have additional support needs, or who require an Individual Learning Plan, will be assessed in a way suited to their individual requirements. Further information is available from the Head teacher; Mrs Wright.

The tracking of all learners’ progress is carried out using East Ayrshire’s Tracking and Monitoring system. Learners’ progress is tracked using various pieces of evidence including learners’ class work, assessments, Standardised Assessment which are all then used to aid teachers’ judgement in providing a ‘level’ for each learner in Numeracy, Reading, Writing, Listening & Talking and Health & Wellbeing.

The table below explains each level of the National Broad General Education Scale:

Rating	.1	.2	.3	.4
Descriptor	Beginning to learn at a new Level	Making progress in learning within the Level	Making good progress in learning within the Level	Making very good progress in learning - ACHIEVED THE LEVEL
How much has the learner learned? (Breadth)	Building on prior learning, the learner is beginning to experience and explore Es and Os at a new Level.	The learner is experiencing an increasing number (but less than half) of Es and Os and organisers	The learner has experienced most Es and Os and organisers	The learner has experienced almost all Es and Os across all organisers and has moved forward in their learning to the next level in a few aspects
How well has the learner learned? (Challenge and Application)	The learner is beginning to experience and explore some new key concept(s)/ contexts at a new Level.	The learner is beginning to develop their knowledge and understanding of key concepts / contexts, and is beginning to apply this learning in some familiar and unfamiliar contexts.	The learner can demonstrate a depth of knowledge and understanding in some key concepts/ contexts and can apply this in familiar and unfamiliar contexts most of the time. The learner is beginning to make links across ideas and concepts learned	The learner demonstrates a depth of knowledge and understanding of almost all key concepts / contexts and can apply this consistently in a range of unfamiliar contexts. The learner can consistently make links between ideas and concepts learned
	The learner is beginning to experience opportunities to develop some skill(s) at the new Level.	The learner is beginning to develop skills required at this Level and to apply these skills in familiar and unfamiliar contexts	The learner is developing a range of skills required at this Level and can apply them most of the time in familiar and unfamiliar contexts	The learner has developed almost all skills required at a high level and can apply them consistently in unfamiliar contexts
	The learner is beginning to engage with the level of challenge set out in the Es and Os at this new level	The learner is responding to the level of challenge in the Es and Os with support.	The learner can respond appropriately to the level of challenge in the Es and Os most of time, with increasing independence	The learner has responded consistently well to the level of challenge set out in the Es and Os. He / she works independently within, and at times, beyond, the Level
CfE Benchmarks	The CfE Benchmarks provide the main tool for assessing how much and how well the pupil has progressed in their learning. It is not necessary for learners to demonstrate mastery of every single aspect of learning within the Benchmarks at a particular Level before moving on to the next Level. However, it is important that there are no major gaps in an individual’s learning when looking across the major organisers in each curricular area.			

For any further information, please contact Onthank Primary School on 01563 525 477

Pupil Testimonials

Our young people were keen to share their thoughts and views on #OurOnthank and describe their lifelong learning experiences and opportunities for any new families.

At Onthank Primary School we champion pupil voice, ensuring our young people are at the heart of shaping our curriculum and their learning.

“

“Teachers help you all the time and are very kind.”

Mia (P4)

”

“

“Onthank is the best because it is a happy place. The staff help you to be the best you can be. Everybody tries to be friendly.”

Noah (P4)

”

“

“The staff are really kind and helpful and help me feel safe.”

Rachel (P4)

”



“

“I have learned a lot at Onthank. My favourite lesson is PATHS because we get to do mini role play. It's a very fun and equal school.”

Noa (P5)

”

“

“I would tell new families to choose Onthank because it's a great learning experience. It's the dream school!”

Kye (P6)

”

“

“I feel safe at Onthank. The staff are kind and caring towards any problems.”

Mason (P7)

”

“It’s a great place to come, especially when you’re feeling down. The teachers help you and appreciate your thoughts.”

Daniel
(P7, Rights Respecting Vice-Chair)

“Onthank is an amazing place with fun activities! The teachers are kind and fun!”

Emily (P6)



“My learning experiences throughout school have been outstanding. We have been given multiple unique opportunities which have strongly benefitted our education. Our staff are extremely kind and considerate, especially when we are struggling with anything.”

Chloe
(P7, Pupil Council Chair)

“Our school is fabulous, fantastic and safe! I personally think all experiences are awesome at Onthank!”

Mitchell
(P6, Pupil Council Vice-Chair)

AMAZING! Friendly Caring responsible **Awesome!**

COMMUNITY Onthank Primary School

Kind Happy EXCITING Safe Educational

ACHIEVEMENT