

Useful information for parents/carers of new pupils

Hopefully this will help you answer some of your child's questions.

WHAT WILL I WEAR?

The school has a black & white dress code. Full details of this are on the School Information section of the website www.dehs.info. There is also a Dress Code "For Parents By Parents" article in the Parents section which should help.



WHAT WILL I HAVE FOR LUNCH?

The school catering is very comprehensive and the majority of pupils stay in school to have lunch. There is a great variety to choose from; soup, filled rolls, subs, sandwiches and hot meals all at competitive prices. A meal deal is offered – savoury item, sweet item & a drink for a set amount (£1.95 at April 2018).

A cashless catering system is available; the Scot Card which is issued to all p7 children can be preloaded online, allowing the student to purchase food by showing their card rather than taking cash to school. It also allows you to track their usage online, just remember to top it up regularly! The link to register and log into your account is <https://www.ipayimpact.co.uk/IPI/>. The school canteen also accepts cash.

S2-S6 pupils have the option to go into the town for lunch however given the short 40 minute break, many choose not to. The school will advise via the Pupil Bulletin when this option is available to S1's – often this is after the Easter break and requires a letter of consent from parent/carer.

A pre-order system operates for lunch; at morning interval you can go to the canteen and write your name & what you'd like for lunch on a food bag – whether it's a "Breaded Chicken Sub with Sweet Chilli Sauce" or simply a "Plain Roll with no butter". By using this system you can avoid queuing for as long at lunch time as you simply go to the pre-order area and find your bag.

Should there be any problems at lunch time e.g. lost money or card, wrong order, can't find pre-order bag etc.; school staff & CLD (Community Learning & Development) team are on hand to help and the catering staff are very helpful too. Encourage your child to ask for help at any time.

WHAT ABOUT THE SCHOOL BUS?

Many children travel to our school by bus and generally the youngest pupils sit nearer the front of the bus. Parents should remind their child to always wear their seat belt, behave themselves and not to distract the driver to ensure the safety of everyone while on the bus. Letters are sent directly to each family from the Council's transport department, detailing their transport arrangement and times.



At the start of a new school year, departure of the buses is patrolled by senior school staff to help ensure everyone gets onto the correct bus within the correct timescale. In the very unlikely event that your child misses the school bus at the end of the school day, they should go back into the school and report to the office, who will contact you.

There are many after-school activities (and some lunchtime ones too!) available – see the Pupil Bulletin on the Pupil section of the website for daily updates on what's on. These activities generally finish at 4.30pm. If your child normally gets a school bus, they can request a bus ticket when attending an after-school activity to allow them free travel on a service bus. They would just ask for one from the staff member leading the activity or from the school office on the day. Service buses leave from Dashwood Square, just a short walk from the school. Currently there is a 5.30pm bus to Whithorn & Isle of Whithorn (a change at Wigtown is

required for those going to Port William & Monreith). Full timetables of all routes are available from the Council website <http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/timetables>. Remind your child, these are Service buses with other paying passengers on them, so their behaviour and noise level should be appropriate!

MOBILE PHONES

Many children have mobile phones and while these are allowed at school (at their own risk); they must not be switched on during class unless permitted by the teacher. Parents should not try to contact their child during class time; any issues during school time should be directed to the school office.



WHAT DO I DO WHEN WE NEED HELP OR ADVICE?

Parents/carers are advised not to wait for a Parents Evening if they or their child has an issue or needs advice on something. Just contact the school office at the time, either by phone 01671 403773 or email doffice504@ea.dumgal.sch.uk to be put in contact with the relevant staff member. Depending on the circumstances, your child's Support Teacher would normally be the first person to contact for advice.