

**Northumberland County Council  
Humshaugh C of E (Aided) First School**



**Information for Parents  
2017-2018**



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We hope you find this brochure answers most of your questions, but do not hesitate to contact us if there is anything else you wish to know.

We look forward to you joining us.



## **Welcome to Humshaugh C of E (Aided) First School**

### **School Brochure 2017-2018**

Hello and welcome. We understand that starting school is a new and exciting, sometimes daunting, experience for your child and, in many cases, for you as parents. We want to make this transition as easy as possible for both you and your child.

Each year we admit up to 12 children from our local area. As you read through our handbook I hope you will get a feel for the high quality of care and education we provide for our children.

Our latest OFSTED inspection in 2015 described us as 'A very caring and inclusive school where all the pupils are cherished and enabled to access all the school has to offer. Good relations are fostered well and there are no signs of discrimination; staff work hard to ensure that all groups of pupils, no matter how small, do as well as they can.' Our high standards are a credit to the hard work of the children, staff and parental support.

The children are at the centre of everything we do and our aim is to give them the best opportunities that we possibly can. We see Humshaugh First School as a community made up of the children, staff and parents. We all have an important contribution to make and we value the support of parents and families. Please get in touch if you have anything to discuss.

You will soon see that life at Humshaugh First School is never dull: we are always looking for new and innovative ways to make learning enjoyable and challenging. We do not stand still as we are constantly aiming to improve everything we do.

### **Our Mission Statement**

We work together as a team to care for those in our school and the surrounding environment. In doing this we develop relationships and actively seek to communicate with our wider school community.

We aim:

\*To promote our Christian ethos and values through lively, intelligent and creative participation.

\*To prepare children for their place in society as lifelong learners and contributors.

\*To provide an inviting, inclusive school environment where all members of the school community, of all faiths or none, are valued, respected and care for one another.

\*To provide a high quality and nurturing learning environment.

\*To enable each child to flourish and achieve.

\*To encourage and develop links between the school, home, our parishes and the local, national and global community.

\*To place Collective Worship as a shared experience at the centre of the school's daily life.

\*To be dedicated to continuous improvement, challenging ourselves, celebrating our successes and always aspiring to be "the best we can be".

We place great emphasis on helping our children to grow into thoughtful, responsible adults with a strong sense of right and wrong.

We educate every child to the best of his or her ability. Equality of opportunity is fundamental to our school ethos. We have a skilled and dedicated team who are committed to providing the best education for your child.

We expect excellent behaviour. Inappropriate behaviour of any description is regarded as serious and dealt with promptly and effectively.

Your involvement in the education of your child and the life of the school is positively welcomed and encouraged.

### **About our School**

We want all pupils to benefit from our rural first school organisation. School staff plan and work closely together and offer teaching expertise and strengths across different year groups. Our fantastic Teaching Assistants provide support in all key stages and where necessary, assist with individual and small group intervention. Small year groups and changes to pupil numbers sometimes require adjustments to overall class organisation.

**The classes for September 2017 therefore will be arranged as follows:-**

**Reception (7 pupils)-taught by: Mrs Melanie Wilkinson and Mrs Karen Blythe**

Reception children will be taught separately for three mornings a week by our newly appointed Early Years Teacher Mrs Wilkinson. This will enable the children to experience a play-based curriculum in a focused Early Years environment including free-flow access to the outdoor area. Mrs Blythe will teach Reception, Year 1 and 2 for two mornings a week and every afternoon with the support of an experienced Teaching Assistant.

**Year 1/2 (16) -taught by: Mrs Karen Blythe**

Children in Key Stage 1 will be taught by Mrs Blythe, covering all aspects of the curriculum including statutory phonics assessment in Year 1 and SATs tests towards the end of Year 2.

**Years 3 and 4 (14) -taught by: Mrs. Jude Long, Mrs Kirsty Carney and Ms Liz Osborne**

Mrs Long will teach Years 3 and 4 on Monday to Thursday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. She will cover English, Mathematics, Humanities, PE and Music. Mrs Carney will teach on Monday afternoons and all day Thursday, and will cover Science and PSHCE.

Ms Osborne will teach the class on Fridays and cover Problem Solving and Art and DT.

In addition, Mrs Wilkinson will teach French and RE on a Wednesday afternoon.

On Friday afternoons we will be providing Outdoor Learning as part of our development to become a Forest School. This will be led by Ms Osborne and Mrs Phillips. There will be a different focus each term for example Science, Geography and Design and Technology.

We are fully committed to providing an outstanding educational experience for your child and believe that the new class organisation will offer maximum flexibility and teaching expertise across the age range.

We are very excited to be able to strengthen our teaching team to provide the maximum staff: pupil ratios to deliver a high quality individual curriculum for each child at Humshaugh First School.

## **The Curriculum**

Within the guidelines of the National Curriculum, we offer your child a curriculum to suit his/her age and ability. We teach the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics, because we believe these are the tools that your child will need in the world outside school. In addition we include scientific, creative, environmental, social, physical and ethical education because we also believe in giving your child a broad, balanced and relevant education.

Through the Early Years curriculum, children are encouraged to develop active, enquiring minds, together with skills such as observing, questioning, experimenting, recording and concentrating. We also emphasise the development of communication and social skills in order to promote an easy integration into school life.

Children in Years one to four follow the National Curriculum, which includes the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, R.E. and Computing. The foundation subjects of History, Geography, D.T., P.E., Music, Art, Mfl and PSHCE are also taught according to the National Curriculum.

Much of your child's work in school will be practical, investigative and problem solving related to real situations.

However, each National Curriculum area has several essential skills that children will need to develop in order to progress. At Humshaugh First School these skills will be specifically taught as part of a continuous and planned programme of work in each Key Stage.

## **Special Educational Needs**

Some children in school are identified as having a particular Special Educational Need. These children receive extra help from the staff according to their level of need. In this way we are able to help them make the best possible progress, to the best of our ability and available resources. The school has a Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCO) Mrs Blythe, who liaises with the parents of children who have specific needs.

## **School Worship**

A daily act of collective worship is provided for all children, some acts of worship are held in class and these are special times for children to reflect and explore their thoughts and feelings.

We are fortunate that we are supported by Revd. Steve Wilkinson and St Peter's Church in the village and Canon Christine Bull from Wall who both regularly lead fun and interesting worships.

### **We are most Proud of:**

**Our links** with the local community and taking part in local events.

**Our School Council.** The council meet and discuss items decided upon by their classmates or requested by staff. Issues are discussed, debated and voted on. The council has a small budget to finance projects agreed upon.

**Our sportsmanship.** All our children are motivated to improve their performance in all areas and are very committed to doing this. It's great when we win but we know how to lose gracefully, congratulate our opponents and try harder next time.

**Our children.** Wherever we go, people praise the behaviour, manners and attitude of our children. They are a pleasure to take out.

**Our ethos.** This is what makes us different; this is what makes us special. Visitors often comment on how they feel comfortable and at home when they enter our school.

**Our creativity.** The children love being involved with various school productions throughout the year. Performing Arts are a vital part of the primary curriculum as they can help develop children's confidence, self-esteem, communication, self-expression, imagination, motivation, team work, sense of rhythm, co-ordination, fitness and most importantly enjoyment.

**Our outdoor space.** We are so lucky to have lots of space for children to play. The children enjoy our play equipment and the adventure park in the playing field gets a lot of use. We have playtime buddies to make sure that no-one is ever lonely at playtime.

**Our school meals.** Our school meals are prepared and cooked locally. They are delivered and served by Mrs Kennedy. Our desire is to encourage children to eat healthily and experience new foods by offering them fresh, home cooked meals.

## **Contacting the School**

### **Sickness absence**

Please telephone the school by 9:30am on the first morning of absence.

### **Parents Evenings**

We hold parents evenings and information events throughout the year. We will tell you about how your child has settled and the progress that they are making.

### **Informal Chat**

If you have a concern, please feel free to speak with the teacher or teaching assistant about your child. You will see them when you drop off and pick up your child. If the teacher is unable to speak with you at that time you can arrange an appointment by contacting the school office.

### **School Office**

Mrs Rowcroft is in the school office and can deal with most issues, however she does work part time and therefore there may be times when she is unable to take your call.

### **Hometime arrangements**

Safeguarding is our absolute priority. Please ensure that you have filled in a hometime form outlining which people are authorised to collect your child. A whiteboard is available at drop off so that you can make a note of who is collecting your child if different to usual. This helps staff ensure that hometime is smooth and safe.

### **Punctuality and attendance**

Please ensure your child is on school premises no earlier than 8.45am. The bell is rung at 8.50am and the children line up at the back door in their year groups. Bookbags and water bottles can be placed in the Year group box. There is no need for parents or children to be entering the school.

If you arrive after the back door has been locked, please accompany your child to the front door. Any lateness will be recorded in the late book and monitored.

It is vital that children are in school every day to ensure consistency in their learning and progress. Term time holidays cannot be authorised by the Headteacher. The school follows the Hexham Partnership Policy for Leave of Absence in term-time.

## **Supporting your child at home**

Your child will be getting used to reading, writing and maths at school. It really helps if you could encourage them to practise these skills at home as well.

### **Reading**

**Reading at home is the most important thing that you can do to help your child succeed.**

Aim to spend about 10 to 15 minutes per day sharing a book with your child. If this is too long then break it down into shorter sessions.

Your child will be bringing a book home to share with you. They should be able to talk about the pictures in the book and tell the story in their own words. It is helpful for young children to read the same book more than once, but if you are worried about this please speak to your child's teacher.

The books provided will be appropriate to your child's reading abilities, remember everyone will learn at a slightly different pace.

### **Writing**

Developing a comfortable, correct pencil grip early on is vital for children's handwriting. In addition accurate letter formation, for which we use Read, Write Inc. Wherever possible please encourage your child to write at home. Mrs Blythe will supply you with some helpful information sheets to support your child.

### **Number Work**

Mathematics consists of a number of areas including, counting, recognising numbers, adding, taking away, 2-D and 3-D shape, measuring in simple ways, time and money. All these skills you can reinforce at home, in a practical, fun way. For instance, making reference to these in your child's day to day experiences will help immensely. Children feel much happier when learning, using their own experiences: a trip to the shops, looking at the number on houses, finding shapes around the house, reading the clock on the wall, sorting their toys are just a few of these examples. As your child gets older, times tables are really important and should be practised at home as regularly as possible.

We appreciate the help of our parents in these areas and it really can make a big difference.



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Will my child have homework?**

Humshaugh First School values parental involvement and has drawn up homework activities which encourage parents to share with their children what they are learning in the curriculum at school.

It is expected that children will read with their parents daily and other homework is planned depending on the needs of individual children and curriculum topic themes.

In Years 1 and 2, homework is set on a Thursday and due in the following Thursday. Reading books are changed three times per week.

In Years 3 and 4, homework is set on a Thursday and due in on a Tuesday. Weekly spellings are given out on a Thursday to be learnt for a spell check on the following Thursday.

### **Are the children allowed a healthy snack during the school day?**

Yes, we have a healthy snack every morning; this is usually a piece of fruit as part of the National Fruit Scheme which provides free fruit for children in Reception and Key Stage 1. Children in Years 3 and 4 may bring in a healthy snack to eat during morning break.

Also, your child is eligible for free milk until they are aged five. Please see the enclosed form for you to complete, alternatively you can apply on-line. When your child is five you will be given the option to pay for your child to continue to receive milk. Please see the milk form enclosed. If your child does not drink milk then please arrange for them to bring a bottle of water each day. It is important for your child to be hydrated as this has been shown to help their learning.

### **Are there any after school clubs?**

Yes, at the moment we have Outdoor Adventure Club on a Monday 3.05-4.15pm, Messy Church on a Tuesday 3.05-4.15pm and Zumba on a Thursday 3.05-4.15pm. Our Breakfast club runs every morning between 8-8.45am.

Consent letters for clubs are available at the school office.

### **Do the children go on any visits?**

Yes, the children may have an educational visit or a visiting speaker in, each term, which supports their learning and relates to their current topic.

### **Can I help the school?**

In many ways! You could come and hear children read, help in the classroom with art work or join the children for Outdoor Learning. Any help with fund-raising events and supporting our Friends of Humshaugh First School is also greatly appreciated. Your support, in whatever way, large or small, will be very much appreciated.

## **School Uniform**

At Humshaugh First School there is a standard uniform for children which we encourage them to wear.

### **Girls**

- Grey/black trousers/skirt/pinafore
- White polo shirt
- Red sweatshirt/cardigan
- White, Red, Black or Grey socks or tights
- A red & white gingham dress may be worn in the summer
- Plain black school shoes or boots

### **Boys**

- Grey/black trousers/shorts
- White polo shirt
- Red sweatshirt
- Plain black school shoes or boots

### **P.E. Kit (Drawstring bag)**

**PE kits should be kept on pegs. Children will bring their kit home at the end of each half term so it can be washed and returned to school for the start of the new half term.**

- Shorts /leggings/track-suit bottoms
- T-shirt (hoodie or sweatshirt for outdoor PE)
- Socks & Trainers

All uniform, PE kits, bags, coats, shoes and wellies need to be labelled with children's names.

### **Jewellery and Hairstyles**

The wearing of jewellery, especially earrings, is not allowed because of the possible danger to the wearer and to other pupils. NCC has a policy of not allowing earrings to be worn during PE, for reasons of safety (this includes swimming). The school accepts no responsibility for the safekeeping or removal of any jewellery or watches. Children should have long hair tied back at all times during the school day and hair should not be dyed or styled in extreme fashions, including rats tails and tramlines, during term time.

### **How to Order**

Sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts, book bags, PE kits, PE bags, all with school logo can be purchased from [www.schooltrends.co.uk](http://www.schooltrends.co.uk).

The Friends provide new starters with book bags and water bottles for their first year in school.

## School Day

### **Arriving at school**

Children should arrive at school no earlier than 8:45am and no later than 8:55 am. The teaching staff have tasks to complete before the classroom session begins and cannot be responsible for children who arrive earlier.

Registration for all pupils begins at 8.55am. If your child is late to school please go to the main entrance and ring the bell. The office manager will let you in and alter the attendance register accordingly/ make a record in the Late book.

**Parking / Stopping of cars.** Please do not park on the zig zag lines.

Please show consideration for our local residents by not blocking driveways when dropping off and/or picking up.

Thank you!

8.45 Julie Phillips on duty on yard

Book bags, water bottles and packed lunches place in appropriate storage boxes

8.50 A member of staff rings bell and children line up in year groups.

Registration (staff inform Office by phone of any absences)

9.00 Doors locked by Julie Phillips

Collective Worship

Monday 2.45pm

Tuesday 11.45am

Wed/Thurs /Fri 9.00 - 9.20am

10.30-10.45 Playtime - KS2 have milk and snack

10.50 Julie Phillips sets up tables in hall.

11.55 Children go to the toilet and wash their hands (Y3/4 Toilet monitors on duty)

12.00 Lunch

12.30 Children line up to go out to play (altogether).

12.55 Bell rings to come in from playtime.

1.00 children back in classrooms for registration

1.55-2.05 Reception/1-2 children have a short break in the afternoon.

3.05 Children get ready for home time.

Taxi children dismissed first, line up in the hall and escorted by a member of staff.

Children who are meeting parents line up in corridor and wait to be dismissed by a member of staff through the back door.