



Humshaugh Church of England Aided First School,
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Headteacher: Jude Long

3rd November 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome the start of the Autumn 2 Term. I hope you have had a lovely half term holiday. This term the teaching in Class 1 will continue to be covered by myself, Mrs Gill and Mrs Blythe (on a Friday afternoon).

If you need to speak to Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Gill or Mrs Blythe at the end of the day, please let us know when you get to the front of the line and we will ask you to wait with your child, until all the children have been reunited with their parents. You can also email us with queries at the addresses below. Our topic this half term is '**Traditional Tales and The Nativity Story?**' Please find a planning overview for this half term attached detailing the curriculum areas we will be covering. It also includes some general information.

Please can you keep an eye on the weather and ensure your child has a waterproof coat in school every day and a warm hat and mittens when it turns colder? **It is important that all nursery children have a change of clothes in their baskets, but these can be left in school.** This is not only in case of toileting accidents but also in case of spillages playing in the water, at lunch or snack time or sometimes simply falling over in the mud!

Food and Nutrition

There is a new **Food and Nutrition Guidance for Early Years** which you can access here [Early years foundation stage nutrition guidance.pdf](#). From September 2025, it includes a new requirement in the safeguarding and welfare requirements of the EYFS, that providers must have regard to this nutrition guidance. This means that we as providers must take this guidance into account and should follow it unless there is good reason not to. **Please note it states that we must avoid dried fruit as a snack.** It should only be provided as part of a meal. This is because the sugar is concentrated in the fruit when it is dried and they are very sticky so bad for teeth between meals. We do understand that some children are fussy about fresh fruit, but raw vegetables such as peppers, cucumber, carrots etc can also sent in for snacks, so please try to find an alternative which is acceptable to your child if possible. We have recently introduced a second snack time in the afternoon when children are given the opportunity to finish items from their packed lunches or have some more fruit or vegetables. We chop and share all nursery fruit or vegetables donated between nursery children so that they all get a selection and we encourage them to try new things. Also, in line with our healthy schools' policy **water is available for all children in the dining hall whether they are having packed lunches and school dinners so please don't send in any juice or flavoured water.** Milk is also available for free to all at snack times if children want it. Another change is that school desserts are currently too high



in sugar for children aged up to and including 5, so children in Early Years having school dinners will only be offered fruit or yogurt.

Reading books:

Reception children are working hard in Phonics, and they are all now beginning to read books with words! They will soon begin to get 3 reading books each week. These will usually be changed **on Thursdays** so please make sure they are in your child's bag from **Thursday** onwards. One of the books your child brings home is their '**reading book 1 (I read to you)**' which they will have already practised in school. As soon as children are ready, they will also get a second **reading book 2** (which may be labelled a '**book bag**' book). This is a book which is used to practice reading the same letter sounds as their **reading book 1**, but they won't have seen it before, so may need a little help to read it (**we read together**). The third book will still be the book they have chosen; a '**library book**' (**you read to me**).

Nursery children will continue to bring home a '**library book**' that they have chosen. This is for you to read to them and for them to talk to you about what is happening in the pictures. Encourage them to join in repeated phrases as they become more familiar with the story.

Reading diaries: Reception children and nursery children will have a diary to record the books they have taken home. It is really helpful to us if you could make comments in their diary from time to time e.g. if they really liked the book, didn't like it, read it fluently or struggled with it etc. If there is nothing in particular you want to comment, please just date and initial it when you have read the book with them.

Reception Phonics Library:

Your child will have the opportunity to choose one of these resources. Whenever your child returns their resource, we will let them change it for another one to use at home to reinforce their phonics skills in a fun way.

Please don't hesitate to request a chat with one of us after school, if you have any queries, however small about this or any other matters about your child. We are always happy to make a time to talk with you.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Wilkinson

Mrs Melanie Wilkinson, EYFS Lead Teacher (Monday to Thursday mornings, Monday and Wednesday afternoons)

Email: melanie.wilkinson@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk

Mrs Naomi Gill EYFS Teacher (Tuesday, and Thursday afternoons, Friday mornings)

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Mrs Karen Blythe, Class 2 Teacher (EYFS Friday afternoons)

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