



Humshaugh Church of England Aided First School,
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3rd September 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of the Autumn Term and a new school year. This half term the teaching in Class 1 will be covered by myself and Mrs White and this is likely to continue until early December when Mrs Gill returns from her maternity leave.

If you need to speak to me or Mrs White 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 '**All about Me, Now and in the Past?**' 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; a hat and sun cream if it's hot, and a warm hat and mittens when it turns colder? **It is important that all nursery children have a change of clothes in their bags each day or left in school in their basket.** 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 due to falling over in the mud!

All children get one piece of fruit now through the school fruit scheme per day, but as we offer snacks twice a day, it is still helpful if everyone could send one portion of fruit or vegetables per day in your child's bag for snack. We chop and share the fruit between Nursery children, so they all get a selection. Also, in line with our healthy schools' policy, **please do not send juice in their water bottles or packed lunches.** This is not allowed because dental advice is to avoid sugary foods and drinks under 5 years, especially between meals. You don't need to send a drink in with a packed lunch as we offer all children water in a cup or in their water bottle depending on what they find easier. Milk is available for free to all at snack time if children like or want it.

We will continue to assess where children are currently at in their development, using our ongoing informal observations of them as we interact with them daily. In addition, we will continue to use the **Northumberland School Readiness Checker** at regular intervals (approximately every 6 months) to take a 'snapshot' of each child's development to make sure they are on track to be ready for Reception or Y1 when the time comes.

Reception children will also participate in the statutory **Reception Baseline Assessment** (this is in two parts covering Communication Language and Literacy and Mathematical Development). The results are submitted online for the government; we don't know the pass mark or get an individual score for this, but we will get a short descriptive report on each child which we can share with you at the parent consultation meetings in October.



If there are any areas of their development where we need to offer more support, we will of course be talking to you about this as our aim is to work in partnership with you to help them catch up.

Reading books:

All **Reception children** will initially have two '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 (**I read to you**). Initially, this will be a book which will either have no words in it for your child to look at the pictures to work out the story or be a book based on a familiar song. The second book is one they have chosen; a '**library book**' (**you read to me**). As soon as children are ready to read some simple words their **reading book 1** will be a book that they have already read in school and 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**).

*Please note that all Reception Parents are invited to a short meeting at **3:15pm on Wednesday 16th September** to find out more about how you can support your child with early reading at home. If you cannot attend this meeting, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can offer you an alternative date.*

Nursery children will 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,

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

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

Mrs Fi White EYFS and Class 1 Teacher (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons)

Fiona.white@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk