

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



**Information for Parents
2018-2019**



Headteacher: Mrs. Jude Long

Tel. No. 01434 681 408

Email: jude.long@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk
admin@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk

Website: www.humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk

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 2018-2019

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.

Jude Long (Headteacher)

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 subjects and 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 2018 therefore will be arranged as follows:-

CLASS 1-Reception / Year 1

Reception and Year 1 children will be based in the Reception classroom with Mrs Wilkinson. The Reception children will experience a play-based curriculum in a focused Early Years environment including free-flow access to the outdoor area while the Year 1 children will experience a more formal curriculum in addition to remaining in their lovely classroom and enjoying access to free-flow activities and outdoor area. The transition mornings in June and July will ensure that new Reception children will settle in quickly to their environment with their peers. In the afternoons, Reception and Year 1 will work with Year 2 children for subjects such as PE and Art.

CLASS 2-Year 2 / 3

Children in Year 2 and 3 will be based in Mrs Blythe's classroom, covering all aspects of the curriculum including statutory SATs tests towards the end of Year 2. Some Year 3 children will join the Year 4s for English and Mathematics. The Year 3 children will work with the Year 4 children in the afternoons for subjects such as Science, RE, French and PE.

CLASS 3-Year 4

Children in Year 4 will be based in Mrs Long's classroom. She will cover English, Mathematics and Music. Ms Osborne will teach Problem Solving and Art/DT on Friday mornings. In the afternoons the Year 4s will be joined by the Year 3s for subjects such as Science, RE, French and PE.

The whole school will join together for singing and Performing Arts and Forest School. They will enjoy working together in mixed age and ability groups which promotes our nurturing family environment.

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

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.

Collective 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, both with volunteers helping out at school and the children reaching out to members of the local community by delivering gifts or 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.

Our Forest School. Every week, the children go to Humshaugh Woods to experience amazing themed Forest School sessions planned and led by Ms Osborne and Mrs Phillips.

Contacting the School

Sickness absence

Please telephone the school by 9:30am with the reason for 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 Wilkinson can supply you with helpful information 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?

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 Reception, Mrs Wilkinson will provide Phonics packs and reading books. Please do not feel pressured to sit your child down formally. Short bursts of fun activities help reinforce understanding.

In Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) and Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4), homework is set on a weekly basis. Reading books are changed up to three times per week or when a book has been completed. All homework relates to the work completed in class that week and should consolidate knowledge and understanding.

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 the term after they turn five. When your child is five you will be given the option to pay for your child to continue to receive milk. Please inform the School Office to organise payment. 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 Sports 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 will be sent out during the first week of term.

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 at school?

In many ways! You could come and hear children read, help in the classroom with art work or join the children for Forest School on a Friday. Any help with fund-raising events and supporting our Friends of Humshaugh First School is also greatly appreciated.

School Uniform

At Humshaugh First School there is a standard uniform for children which we would like 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/short suit 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 in school. 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/Plimsolls

Forest School

All children need waterproof trousers, waterproof coat and a pair of wellies in school. During the cold months they also need a hat, waterproof gloves and a pair of thick socks

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

Jewellery and Hairstyles

The wearing of jewellery, especially earrings, is discouraged because of the possible danger to the wearer and to other pupils. NCC sets out guidelines for safety which we do our best to follow. The school cannot accept responsibility for the safekeeping or removal of any jewellery.

Children should have long hair tied back at all times during the school day.

This helps to prevent the spread of Headlice and ensures that hair doesn't get in the way during different activities. Parents are kindly asked that children's hair should not be dyed or styled in extreme fashions, including mohicans 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.

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 A member of staff 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 at the back door.

Registration (staff inform Office by phone of any absences)

9.00 Doors locked by a Member of staff

Collective Worship

Monday 2.45pm

Tuesday 11.45am

Wed/Thurs /Fri 9.00 am

10.30-10.45 Playtime - KS2 have milk and snack

10.50 Member of staff sets up tables in hall.

11.55 Children go to the toilet and wash their hands (Y4 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 and 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.

