



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

8th January 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome the start of the Spring Term and a new year! We are welcoming Mrs Hulbert this term to cover Mrs Gill's teaching sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons while she is on maternity leave. We will let you know when her twins arrive! If you need to speak to speak to Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Hulbert 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 '**What is it like in the winter in the UK and in the Arctic?**' 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 plus hat and mittens if it's cold? It is important that all nursery children have a change of clothes in their bags each day. 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!

We would also be very grateful for any spare socks, tights, undies, or clothes that your child has recently grown out of to help us top up our supply of spares. Children often go home in our spares and I'm guessing they then get mixed in with general family washing never to be seen again!

As before, the school fruit scheme does not extend to Nursery children, so please can you send one portion of fruit per day in their bags for snack? We share the fruit between them so they all get a selection. Also in line with our healthy schools' policy **please do not send juice in their water bottles for the classroom**. This is not allowed because dental advice is to avoid sugary foods and drinks between meals. Juice is permitted in children's packed lunches but children having school dinners are only offered water. 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 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 'snap shot' of each child's development to make sure they are on track to be ready for Reception or Y1 when the time comes. **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** now have three 'reading books' each week. These may be changed on **Tuesdays; Wednesdays** or **Thursdays** so please make sure they are in your child's bag from Tuesday onwards. One of the books your child brings home is their '**phonics book**' (**I read to you**) which they will have read in school; one is a '**book bag book**' (**we read together**) which they won't have read before but will have the same sounds in it as their phonics book. The third book is one 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.

Reception Phonics Library:

When your child returns their resource, we let your child choose another one to use at home to reinforce their phonics skills in a fun way. There will be new resources to choose from this term to match their progressing skills.

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 (Every morning and Friday afternoons)

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

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

Email: karen.blythe@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk