



Humshaugh Church of England Aided First School,
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8th September 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome the start of the Autumn 1 Term. The children have all made a great start in our Early Years unit and are starting to learn or remember our routines. Remember if you have any queries you can request a chat at the end of the day. If you need to speak to speak to Mrs Wilkinson or Mrs Gill or Mrs Blythe, 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 **'Magical Me and How I am changing'**. Please find a planning overview for this half term attached detailing the curriculum areas we will be covering. It also includes some general information.

As part of our topic work we will be getting the children to compare themselves as babies with how they are now and think about how they have changed. **Please could you send a baby photo of your child into school in the next couple of weeks?** You can send us a digital photo by email or lend us a photo that we can copy and then give back to you, whichever way is easiest for you. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

In addition to this information, please can you keep an eye on the weather and ensure your child has a coat in school every day when the weather is variable and during this heat wave please send sun cream and a sun hat every day instead!

Can I also remind you that 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.

Our use of Electronic Learning Journals and Assessment this year,

We didn't get a lot of time last year to record many observations of nursery children in their Electronic Learning Journals as it is quite a cumbersome process and we don't use them any more in **Reception. We would welcome your feedback about how useful you find this system?** We do try to share their work with you at parents' meetings and continue to keep in touch with you about 'wow' moments in their learning verbally at the end of the day and sometimes by email but would like to know your feelings about this. You are also welcome of course to share their 'wow' moments at home with us by email messages and photos.



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.**

Finally, in terms of assessment, we are required to carry out the **Reception Baseline Assessment** with all our Reception children within their first 6 weeks in school. This involves a short individual screening test in both Maths and Language & Literacy. The children's responses go directly to the Department of Education and we do not get to see the overall scoring. The assessment is designed to be very child friendly and we anticipate your child will not see this as anything different from any individual task they are asked to do with a teacher. **Please contact Mrs Wilkinson if you want to want to know any more about how we will be assessing your child's progress this term.**

Reading books:

All **Reception children** will initially have two 'reading books' each week. These will be changed on **Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays** to be returned the following **Tuesday**. Initially, one of the books your child brings home will be a **'book bag book' (we read together)** either with no words in it or very familiar words from a song in it and the aim is for them to tell you (or sing) the story using the clues in the pictures. The second book is one they have chosen; a **'library book' (you read to me)**. As soon as they have mastered enough phonics and can sound out and read some simple words, they will also be given a **'phonics book' (I read to you)**. This will be a book they have already read in school so they should be confident with it. When they are at the stage of reading some simple phrases or sentences they will get a **'book bag book' (we read together)** which will be unfamiliar to them, but will contain the same letter sounds as their 'phonics book'. **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 Homework:

We know how busy you all are and we are constantly reviewing how best to help you to support your child's reading at home. Please come to one of our parent meetings next week on Tuesday 12th September or Thursday 14th September 3;15-4pm to find out more about what we are planning this year.

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 Gill, Early Years Teacher and Teaching assistant (Tues, Weds and Thurs pm, Fri am)

Email: naomi.powell@humshaugh.northumberland.sch.uk

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

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