

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



**Information for Parents
2020-2021**



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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 2020-2021

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 December 2018 rated us as a strong 'Good' and 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 Vision

Our school Vision - 'To be 'good soil''

Our vision is to be 'good soil' for the children and adults of Humshaugh C of E First School, all based on Jesus' parable of the soils found in Matthew's gospel which you can read below.

Jesus' parable of the soils

'A sower went out to sow and as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil, flourished and brought forth grain.'

Matthew 13.3-8.

This vision of being good soil for our community shapes all we do and helps us understand who we are as a school, why we are here, and then how we live. From it we draw our school values.

1. Who are we as a school: this is our deeply Christian vision which is firmly rooted in the bible.

The parable of the soils, sometimes known as the parable of the sower, is found in three of the New Testament gospels and in the story a farmer sows seed indiscriminately. Some seed falls on the path with no soil, some on rocky ground with little soil, and some on soil which contained thorns. In all these cases, the seed is taken away or fails to produce a crop; but when it falls on good soil it flourishes, yielding a bumper crop.

In Matthew 13 Jesus explains that the seed represents the Gospel and the various soils represent people's responses to it, the first three representing rejection while the last represents acceptance.

We have adopted this parable, and set a school vision and values around us being good soil that enables all children and adults to flourish and grow.

2. Why are we here: these are our values

Our *values* are sowing the seed well, cultivating the soil, preparing the ground and then nurturing in order to enable everyone to flourish. They're drawn from our vision and as a whole school community we say we persevere in:

Sowing the seed well

To place Collective Worship at the centre of the school's daily life.

To prepare children and adults for their place in society as lifelong learners and contributors.

Cultivating good soil

To provide a high quality and nurturing learning environment.

Nurturing in order to enable everyone to flourish

To be dedicated to continuous improvement, challenging ourselves, celebrating our successes and always aspiring to be “the best we can be”.

To enable each child and adult to flourish and achieve.

Producing a bumper crop

To promote our Christian ethos and values through lively, intelligent and creative participation.

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 encourage and develop links between the school, home, our parishes and the local, national and global community.

To provide a high quality and nurturing learning environment.

3. How then do we live: all of this shapes our school life.

Daily collective worship is at the centre of school life and enables children to experience the diversity of Christian practice and tradition.

High quality, effective, academic and non-confessional religious education allows pupils and adults alike to flourish.

Throughout all our school life our Christian vision and values promote social and cultural development through the practice of forgiveness and reconciliation. They encourage good mental health and enable children and adults, whatever their background or ability, to flourish and live well together.

The vision is used to ensure our policies, curriculum and extracurricular opportunities meet the academic and spiritual needs of all learners.

We describe all our activities in terms of how the vision and values inspire our whole school community, children and adults, to engage in social action and to be courageous advocates for change in their local, national and global communities

Our Christian vision supports the character and moral development of all pupils and adults, giving them aspiration for themselves and hope for the communities of which they are a part. It fosters dignity and respect, enabling everyone to be the person God created them to be, to achieve the most they can, and to inspire hope for others in the local community and beyond.

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 2020 therefore will be arranged as follows:-

CLASS 1-Nursery and Reception

Nursery and Reception children will be taught by Mrs Wilkinson and Mrs Blythe in the Early Years Unit with qualified support staff. The children will experience a play-based curriculum in a focused Early Years environment including free-flow access to the outdoor area.

CLASS 2-Years 1 and 2

Children in Year 1 and 2 will be based in Mrs Blythe's classroom, covering all aspects of the curriculum including statutory Year 1 Phonics screening and Year 2 SATs tests towards the end of the year. In the afternoons, the Year 1 and 2 children will work with different teachers for subjects such as Science, RE and PE.

CLASS 3-Years 3 and 4

Children in Year 3 and 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 3 and 4 children will work with different teachers for subjects such as Science, RE, French and PE.

The whole school will join together for singing and Performing Arts and the children in Years 1 to 4 will attend weekly Forest School where 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 will involve 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 (SENCo) 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 our local 'Open the Book' team from 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. We are involved 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, taking part in local events and inviting our Friends from the Village for board games and bingo and our weekly Stay and Play sessions for babies and children of pre-school age.

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.

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 and sports equipment and the adventure park in the playing field is used on a daily basis. 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 in Years 1 to 4 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 Dodd is in the school office, however she does work part time and therefore there may be times when she is unable to take your call. We will always respond to messages within the school day.

Hometime arrangements

Safeguarding is our absolute priority. Please ensure that you have filled in a 'Going Home Arrangements' 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 appropriate Year group/Class box.

Parents should not access the school from the back door at this time of day as this causes safeguarding issues. Children will enter school once everyone has lined up.

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 to your child's learning and development.

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 the Foundation Stage (Nursery and 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 refillable water bottle 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, Cookery Club on a Wednesday 3.05-4.15pm and Zumba on a Thursday 3.05-4.15pm.

Our Breakfast club runs every morning between 8-8.45am. Please ask Mrs Dodd in the office for more information. **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, volunteer to help with swimming on a Thursday or join the children for Forest School on a Friday. All volunteers have to apply for an Enhanced DBS certificate. 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/shorts
- 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 or jumper
- **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.

Recommended (not compulsory) PE kit:

- **Black** Shorts /leggings/ track-suit bottoms
- **White T-shirt** (hoodie or sweatshirt for outdoor PE)
- Socks & Trainers/Plimsolls

Forest School (Years 1 to 4)

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!

Timetable

8.45am	A member of staff on duty on yard Book bags, water bottles and packed lunches place in appropriate storage boxes
8.50am	A member of staff rings bell and children line up in year groups at the back door *Nursery and Reception children will line up by the Home room and enter via the ramp
8.55am	Children enter the school through their allocated door Doors locked by a Member of staff Registration (Attendance and lunch)
9.05-9.20am	Collective Worship
10.15-10.30am	Nursery and Reception have fruit/snack in hall
10.30-10.45am	Playtime – Years 1 to 4 have milk and fruit/snack
10.45am	Children return to classrooms
11.55am	Children go to the toilet and wash their hands (Y4 Toilet monitors on duty)
12.00pm	Lunch
12.30pm	Children line up to go out to play (altogether).
12.55pm	Bell rings to come in from playtime.
1.00pm	Children back in classrooms for registration
1.55pm	Foundation/Key Stage 1 children have a short break in the afternoon.
3.05pm	Children get ready for home time.

Taxi children line up in the hall and are escorted by a member of staff to the front door

Children who are meeting parents line up in corridor and wait to be dismissed by a member of staff through the back /Home Room door.

Nursery and Reception information

We are really excited to be welcoming your child into our Early Years Unit. Below are a few snippets of information that we hope will be helpful and ensure a smooth transition into school.

NURSERY CHILDREN ONLY

Drop off and Pick up (All day sessions)

We expect children to arrive for the morning bell at 8.50am and line up outside the 'Home Room'.

Parents must stay with their child in the playground until a member of staff opens the door and welcomes the children into the 'Home room' where they will keep any coats, lunch boxes and book bags.

The Nursery and Reception children will register together and have 'News' in the Home room before being accompanied to their learning area for morning activities.

At hometime, the children will make their way to the 'Home room' for the end of day story and to collect their belongings. Parents should wait in the yard at the ramp and a member of staff will do the hand over following our safeguarding procedures.

Drop off and Pick up (Morning sessions 9-12pm)

We expect children to arrive for the morning bell at 8.50am and line up outside the 'Home Room' (the existing pre-school room).

Parents must stay with their child in the playground until a member of staff opens the door and welcomes the children into the 'Home room' where they will keep any coats, lunch boxes and book bags.

If your child would like to stay for lunch, then they can be picked up at 12.30pm at the ramp where a member of staff will do the hand over following safeguarding procedures. If they are not staying for lunch then please arrive at 12.00pm to collect.

Drop off and Pick up (Afternoon sessions 12-3pm)

On arrival, please come to the ramp for 12.00pm and wait for a member of staff to open the doors. You can hand over your child and any items of clothing, packed lunch or equipment. Children will be accompanied into the hall to eat their lunch.

At home time, the children will make their way to the 'Home room' for their end of day story and to collect their belongings. Parents should wait in the yard at the ramp and a member of staff will do the hand over following safeguarding procedures.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION CHILDREN

Lunch times

Lunch time will be 12.00-12.30pm for children attending morning / afternoon or all day sessions. Children can either bring a packed lunch or parents can pay for a school dinner at a cost of £2.30 per meal on Parentpay. Further information and an activation letter will be given to you when your child starts attending their sessions.

Snack time

The children in Nursery and Reception will have their snack time in the hall between 10.15-10.30am and then go out to play with the school between 10.30-10.45am. The younger Nursery children will be encouraged to play in the enclosed outdoor area outside the classroom. Reception children are eligible for the National free fruit scheme, however Nursery children are not. If your child is in Nursery, please could you provide a piece of fruit to supplement snack time.

Uniform and equipment

We do not expect Nursery children to wear full school uniform, however if it would make your morning routine easier then please allow your child to wear a plain red sweatshirt or cardigan. These are available at most supermarkets.

Reception children do need to wear full school uniform – please see the section about school uniform.

Book bags

Book bags will be provided for Reception children, Nursery children should bring in a bag/rucksack each day, ideally with a change of clothing in. Please ensure your child brings their book bag/rucksack in every day and ensure that you check the bag every day for messages or letters.

Breakfast Club

If your child is aged 3 years or above, then they are welcome to attend Breakfast Club which runs every day between 8.00-8.50am. Sessions are £2.00 each and a healthy breakfast is included. There is also a 50% sibling discount. Please contact the school office if you would more information.

Talking to the teacher

We are sure that you will appreciate that teaching staff are very busy especially in the mornings. If you would like to have a 'catch up' with Mrs Wilkinson in the week, the best afternoons to speak to her are on a Wednesday or a Friday. Alternatively if you leave a message with the support staff, they will ensure it is passed on to Mrs Wilkinson.

Communication

The majority of communication including a weekly Headteacher letter is shared by email. If there are trips or clubs that require consent, then hard copies are sent out.

Learning Journals

Each child will have an electronic Learning Journal which you will have access to using an email address. You can access this on a mobile phone or tablet as well as via a computer. You will have opportunities to add comments or observations from home to the journal.

Website

Mrs Long does her best to keep the website up to date regularly. Please take a look and become familiar with the lay out. You can find information about your child's learning and photographs in addition to school information, dinner menus and policies.

Friends

We have a fabulous PTA. The Chair person is Vicki Cargill. If you would like to become involved with the PTA, then please see Vicki.

Please ask a member of staff if you need further information or if you have any questions.