



CHURCH WALK CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Starting Reception Booklet

Head teacher : Mrs S Davies

Teacher: Mrs K Edmondson and Miss J Turner

Teaching Assistants: Mrs D Rigg and Mrs Z Kenealy



www.churchwalk.cumbria.sch.uk
email admin@churchwalk.cumbria.sch.uk

Teach children how they should
live and they will remember it
all of their lives. (Proverbs 22:6)

Information for parents

Hello and welcome!

The aim of this booklet, is to tell you a little about our Foundation Stage provision. We hope that it will help you to understand some of our beliefs and practices. This booklet gives you the basic information which we think will be useful to you.

Please feel that all the Foundation Stage staff are always here for you if you would like to talk about your child, to ask any questions or discuss any problems.

Our Reception Classroom is known as Birkrigg.

Meet the staff.



Miss Turner
Class teacher



Mrs Edmondson
Class teacher



Mrs Rigg
Senior Teaching Asst



Mrs Kenealy
Teaching Assistant

Our classroom offers a bright, stimulating learning environment both indoors and out. We have direct access to the school hall, and use the playground and playing field as often as possible. As part of the whole school we are involved in day-to-day routines, such as assemblies and playtimes, but we introduce them carefully so that children are not inundated with new experiences.

In line with our general school aims, which can be seen in the school prospectus, our aims are to achieve the following.

- ✚ Children who are self-confident and who have a positive attitude to learning and school.
- ✚ A well planned and resourced experiential curriculum, which will take childrens' learning forward.
- ✚ A caring, safe and stimulating environment, complementing what parents do at home, and which reflects the interests of the child.
- ✚ A positive partnership between home and school.
- ✚ Opportunities for all children to succeed in an atmosphere of feeling valued.
- ✚ For all children to reach their potential. We measure success by comparing each child's progress against his or her own performance.

- ✎ Children who have begun to think for themselves and who have started to develop the skills of independence.

Our partnership with Parents

We recognise that parents are the first educators of children. Our aim is to develop an effective partnership between home and school and thus work together to support children's learning. The results will be seen to have a great effect upon children's achievement. Children's experiences at home are very significant; they need time to talk and share their experiences with you and know that what they do is valued. We use an electronic platform called Tapestry where we can upload photographs and activities of what your child has been doing. You can also upload things and share them with the staff and children.

In order to keep you informed of the happenings and events which take place in school generally as well as Reception in particular we will provide you with a monthly newsletter informing you of special occasions and events. These are usually sent out by email. If you would prefer a paper copy of our newsletters, please let us know. We also have an app that can be downloaded; this will inform you of any upcoming events for the week. Details of how to download the app are available [here](#)

Our School App

1. Search for Our Schools App in the App store on your iPad or smart phone.
2. Download the App.
3. Using the search bar, look for the school name or post code (LA127EN)
4. Once you see the school name, touch the screen and confirm by pressing ok.

Information is also written on the notice boards at the entrance to school and to the classrooms. Please have a look at our website for more information.

www.churchwalk.cumbria.sch.uk

Reception Induction

We will plan home visits for the end of the Summer term or the beginning of September. The teacher will meet you and your child in their own home; this is a good opportunity for your child to meet the staff and for parents to ask any questions that you may have. During the first half of the Autumn term we have a carefully planned and gradual induction programme which aims to help children settle in confidently. Children will start to attend on a part time basis, either in the morning or afternoon and then build up to full days. This is a key part of starting school successfully. Reception staff need time in smaller groups to build relationships with children and find out about their strengths and interests.

Children need time to get used to new people, places and expectations. This is not always an easy time for children, even those who are used to being at pre-school for longer periods of time. If they are a little anxious or upset, it is better that they are in a smaller group than a whole class with two adults.

A typical day in Reception:

In September, doors will open at 8.40am and close at 8:55am children will be greeted in the playground by a member of classroom staff and they will enter the school by the Reception gate.

Registration is at 8:55am

Assembly is at 9.30am (children will build up to assemblies gradually)

Mornings consist of phonics, literacy and maths focused activities with an adult as well as lots of free flow time both inside and in the outdoor area.

Playtime is at 10.25-10.40am

Children will be entitled to fruit after playtime as part of the National Fruit Scheme.

Lunch time is 11.50am until 12.45pm

Afternoons consist of topic work, arts and crafts, music and PE with time for free flow activities.

Afternoon play 2.10-2.20pm

Milk and story

School finishes at 3.15pm when children will be brought out into the playground to be collected by an adult.

How you can help us to support your child.

Initially children may be happy to be left straight away, if your child does not settle, please don't worry. It can take time to get used to a new environment and routines. If your child still remains unsettled you should talk to the class teacher; you are always welcome to ring school later in the day to see how they have settled.

There are a number of things your child will need for school so that he or she can feel comfortable, so please could you provide the following?

- ✚ P.E. bag with black shorts, red school t-shirt with school logo and black plimsolls
- ✚ Wellies (named) so that your child can experience outdoor play comfortably.
- ✚ A waterproof coat.
- ✚ A change of underwear in case of accidents.
- ✚ All clothes should be named
- ✚ A named lunchbox, if your child is not having a school meal.
- ✚ **We will provide children with a school water bottle.**
- ✚ **All children will get a reading bag, once they are in school full time and settled.**
- ✚ Toys should not be brought to school in case they get lost or broken.

Uniform

We have a formal compulsory uniform of

- Red jumper/sweatshirt or cardigan with the Church Walk logo,
- White polo shirt,
- Grey school trousers or a grey skirt

- In the Summer, children can wear grey shorts or red gingham dresses
- Black shoes (trainers are not permitted)

For P.E. the uniform is:

- Red t shirt with the school logo
- Black shorts
- Black plimsolls

All of these items are available from Identity in Barrow. Alternatively, items can be bought from supermarkets and the school logo can be added by Cumbria Sewing Centre in Barrow. As far as outdoor clothing is concerned, we want to encourage children to spend part of each day outside, so they will need a waterproof coat in school every day and a hat and sun cream if it is hot.

Children will be provided with fruit (through the Free Fruit For Schools scheme) every morning for a snack and there is also an opportunity to have milk through the Cool Milk Scheme, during the afternoon. Free milk is available until your child turns five years old. If you would like your child to have milk, it must be ordered via the Cool Milk website. Details will be sent out to you.

Lunchtime

School lunches are provided by Dolce; they are made in a local school kitchen and delivered. There is usually a daily choice of two hot meals or a jacket potato. Parents can order meals from the Kitchen Grid website. Details will be sent to you before the children start school.

All Infant children will be entitled to a universal Infant free school meal. If you do not wish to take this option, children can bring a packed lunch. We have staggered lunchtimes for the infants and juniors; a team of lunchtime supervisors will support the children in being independent during lunchtime; Reception children sit with their class in the hall at tables.

Please ensure that food included in a lunchbox is healthy. We would appreciate it if you did not give your child sweets in their lunchbox, as we try to encourage healthy eating. Children are encouraged to be independent in their eating and anything in lunchboxes should be easy to open or cut into pieces, if necessary.

Communication

Please let us know if your child is not going to be in school for any reason. If your child is ill, they should not be in school. Also, if your child is suffering from anything, which is likely to affect them during the day, then please let us know. The school phone number is 01229 587258

Curriculum

The Early Years curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning to provide a secure foundation for future learning, and to meet the diverse needs of all children to make progress towards and within the Early Learning Goals.

There are three prime areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Communication and Language Physical Development

and four specific areas:

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design



One experience or activity may provide a child with opportunities to develop a number of competencies, skills and concepts across several areas of learning. The curriculum provides opportunities for Teaching and Learning through planned purposeful play and supported child initiated activities both indoors and outdoors.



We offer a relevant curriculum to provide children with a wide range of practical first hand experiences and opportunities to develop their knowledge skills and understanding. We believe that these activities should be enjoyable and purposeful.

Right from the start...

What children experience and learn when they first come to school can create strong and lasting foundations on which to build in later life, so we believe that these first experiences should be of the highest quality. By working in partnership with parents we aim to provide a stimulating, challenging environment which is a warm, friendly extension of home, where children and adults can explore, have fun, talk and learn together, developing as happy, confident and independent individuals within our community.

Just Playing?

A high quality Foundation Stage education is about much more than colours and shapes, numbers and letters. It's about learning to be confident, strong and curious. It's about developing children's natural joy and wonder at the world they live in. It's about having a positive attitude, forming positive relationships and believing in yourself. If children can learn to 'have a go', learn from mistakes and try again, they will succeed in their future learning. Young children learn by doing things for themselves, by exploring and investigating, watching and listening, talking and discussing, creating and communicating-in other words playing.

So what have they been doing and how will they learn if they are just playing? Staff make careful observations of children's growing knowledge, skills and understanding. They work together to determine the next steps in your child's learning. These next steps are then planned very carefully. Young children learn from everything around them-the people, the environment, the atmosphere, and the experiences. All of these elements make up the curriculum, all aspects of children's growth and development are woven together, but it is interesting to look at the different areas of learning to understand how young children learn. The Foundation Stage of the National Curriculum describes the following areas of learning, with 'Early Learning Goals' to be aimed for by the end of the Foundation Stage in school.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Is about

- Forming meaningful relationships with other children and adults
- Having respect for people
- Being an individual and also belonging to a community
- Being able to express and cope with your feelings and emotions
- Being independent and helping others
- Being able to make choices and taking responsibility
- Developing a sense of fairness, what is right and wrong
- Understanding appropriate behaviour
- Respecting and being able to empathise with others
- Having feelings of wonder and joy



Physical Development

Is about

- Developing confidence and independence through achievement
- Learning to use tools competently

- Learning co-ordination and control
- Building confidence, stamina, energy and strength
- Learning to move in a variety of ways
- Expressing yourself through movement



Communication and Language

Is about

- Enjoying stories-sharing books with others, telling stories and making them up
- Being able to express your opinions and make your own choices
- Talking, listening, discussing and recalling experiences

Understanding the World

Is about

- Exploring the local environment
- Finding out about the past
- Developing an understanding of travelling to other places, distances and maps
- Using technology-making models in a variety of ways
- Planning, making and designing things
- Exploring and solving problems
- Using ICT for a range of purposes.
- Exploring, experimenting and having ideas
- Being curious-wondering why, how, what if....?
- Understanding why and how things happen
- Observing carefully and closely
- Experiencing and changing materials
- Sharing the joy of finding things out with your friends



Literacy

Is about

- Hearing and saying the initial sound in words
- Linking sounds to letters
- Mark making and giving meaning to those marks
- Beginning to write recognisable letter shapes.
- Knowing that print carries meaning.
- Understanding stories and talking about characters, events etc.



Mathematics

Is about

- Appreciating pattern, and relationships
- Logical thinking
- Exploring and comparing shapes, quantities, height, etc.
- Finding ways to solve mathematical problems e.g. estimating, measuring
- Learning to use and understand mathematical language
- Understanding and using number



Expressive Arts and Design

Is about

- Representing and communicating your ideas and feelings in a variety of ways, e.g. music, dance or language
- Expressing yourself through a wide range of media e.g. paint, clay, drawing, 3D materials
- Experiencing and enjoying beauty

- Imagining, expressing and creating
- Having original thoughts and ideas

Our classroom:

Our classroom is split up in to different areas. We have sand and water available both inside and outside. We have a cosy corner where children can sit and enjoy a book or some quiet time. There is a creative area where children can freely access lots of craft, drawing and writing materials. We have a role play area which links with our topic; this is where children can dress up and develop communication and mark making skills. We have a large painting easel which can be accessed throughout the day and a maths table with various maths resources and games on offer. There is a malleable area where children can access play dough and various other sensory play. We have a construction area and lots of small world resources.



In conclusion we look for the development of well adjusted, happy children who are eager to meet new experiences. We can achieve this if we work together with confidence and understanding.

Further information about the Early Years Foundation Stage can be found at www.foundationyears.org.uk

Please feel free to contact the school to talk to the Head teacher or the Reception staff if you have anything that you wish to discuss.
You are always welcome!