



Starting your Nursery journey at Selside School



Welcome to Selside CE Primary School

At Selside CE School, we greatly value the important role that the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) plays in laying strong foundations for future learning and development. In their Nursery year, we build upon each child's prior learning and experience and work together with parents to support their development. We offer outstanding teaching, high quality provision and a wide variety of experiences, to ensure our children thrive.

Hopefully, this booklet will provide all the information you will need - however do not hesitate to ask if there is anything you don't understand or are worried about. If you have any concerns please speak to any of the teaching staff or contact the school by telephone or email. We are always pleased to talk to you about your children and appointments can be made to discuss matters in more detail. We are looking forward to you starting school with us!



Contact the school via phone on 01539 823649

or you can email Laura Mackenzie in the office on admin@selside.cumbria.sch.uk

www.selside.cumbria.sch.uk



Who are *The Adventurers*?

The Adventurers are the youngest members of Selside CE School, with children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1.

We pride ourselves on being a close-knit, friendly and supportive school community. The older children take care of the younger children in school and provide strong role models for behaviour and attitudes to learning.

We are very lucky to have a beautiful, new, purpose-built classroom with an enclosed outdoor area to enable us to extend our provision outside and make the most of our unique surroundings. We are very excited to share our stimulating learning environment with you.





Learning in the Foundation Stage

We follow and plan from the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This consists of **3 prime areas** of learning: Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional development. These areas help to ignite children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and build their capacity to learn and form relationships. The following **four specific areas** embed and strengthen the 3 prime areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum: Literacy, Numeracy, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

The Foundation Stage focuses on play as a vehicle for learning. It is the means by which your child will discover and adapt the world around them and so develop intellectually. They will develop social and language skills, physical and creative skills, explore a range of tools and materials, find out about shapes and size and discover many other things, all during play.

We ensure that we meet the individual learning needs of each child and encourage them to explore their own interests wherever possible. We place great emphasis on the Plan, Do, Review philosophy for learning, which encourages independence, planning, creativity and reflection in the children's work. Their learning is assessed through observations made by staff and achievements recorded in their 'Big' Plan, Do, Review books.





Nursery sessions

Nursery children can start in our setting the day after their 3rd birthday. Morning sessions run from 8.30 to 12.00. Children are welcome to stay for their lunch. They can bring a pack lunch or have a school dinner. Afternoon nursery runs from 1.00 to 3.30.

There is a fee of £4 per hour. Children can claim 15 free hours per week of nursery provision from the term after their third birthday. We are also offering 30 free hours if parents are eligible. Parents need to apply and have their eligibility checked for 30 hours free childcare via the Childcare Service. If a parent is found to be eligible, they will be given a 30 hours eligibility code which you can give to Laura Mackenzie in the School Office who will then validate this code. A parent must have generated a code and this code must be validated to enable a child to access the offer. Please allow plenty of time to apply for the code. If you have any questions, ask Laura Mackenzie.

Wrap around care:

We don't have an official breakfast club but children can arrive at school from 8.15am onwards. They are welcome to come into school before the school day starts.

Our after-school club is available to 5.30 and is run by Mrs Stevens. The children have a choice of activities which involves indoor and outdoor play, gardening, crafts and opportunities to just relax. They are provided with a snack and a drink. We are flexible with After-school club and it can be booked on the day. Please ask at the school office for further details.



Daily Routine

At the beginning of the school day:

Session start at 8.30. Parents are welcome to come into school to say 'hello' and settle their child, until 8.55 when parents will be asked to leave so we can start the day's activities. We offer full days and half day sessions. We are very flexible and parents are able to pick and choose sessions to suit your child's needs.



Illness:

It is vital that you telephone or email if your child is sick. This primarily authorises their absence and ensures that we know your child is safe. Please let the school know if your child is suffering from head lice, thread worms or any other childhood ailment. You don't need to keep your child at home but please let us know as we may need to send a letter to other parents to encourage all children to be checked.



At the end of the school day:

This is a very busy time of day and we need to make sure that children are safe as they leave school. We ask parents to meet us by the school gate (near the Zen Den) rather than at the car park, it is always nice to say 'hello' and make sure that each child has been safely collected. Please let us know if you make any changes to your transport arrangements or if you have asked someone else to collect your child.





Daily Snack:

Your child will receive their daily free entitlement of fruit and milk everyday. The children are welcome to bring in a water bottle to use in school.

Lunches:

Your child can bring a packed lunch to school or have a school dinner. There is a choice of 4 hot main meals at lunchtime and then a yummy pudding. These meals can be pre-ordered online via Lunchshop. More information about this can be obtained from Laura Mackenzie in the office. She will provide you with a login and a password.





Do I qualify for free school meals and clothing vouchers?

If you are in receipt of the certain benefits (even for a short time) that entitles your child to free school meals throughout their time in primary school, and so it is important that you apply for them even though your circumstances may change. In addition, school receives additional funding for your child.

Free school meals and clothing vouchers are available for your child(ren) if you are receiving one of the following qualifying benefits:

- Income Support (IS);
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance (IBJSA);
- An income-related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs) that as of April 2012 does not exceed £16,190. Note: From 1st May 2009 where you are entitled to Working Tax Credit during the four-week period immediately after your employment ceases, or after you start to work less than 16 hours per week, your children are entitled to Free School Meals, this may be extended.
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit;
- Universal Credit

Please note: If you are in receipt of **working tax credits** you **may not** be eligible for free school meals or clothing grants.

Children who receive Income Support or Income Based Jobseekers Allowance in their own right are also entitled to receive Free School Meals.

Children who receive "education suitable for children who have not attained compulsory school age" will still need to satisfy the additional requirement of "receiving education both before and after the lunch period", before being eligible to receive free school meals.

How do I apply?

There are 2 ways to apply for free school meals and clothing vouchers:

- Apply online. You will receive an immediate response advising you whether you are eligible or not.
- Download and complete an application form (see below) – Your eligibility will be checked on the Free School Meals electronic checking service.

Where eligibility cannot be confirmed, you may be asked to provide evidence of your current benefit entitlement.

To apply or download application forms for Free School Meals and Clothing Grant please click on the link below:-

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/freeschoolmeals.asp>



School Uniform

Nursery children are not required to wear the school uniform. However, some Nursery children like to be the same as the other children and choose to wear the school uniform. We have a simple school uniform. Children wear a royal blue sweatshirt/jumper, grey/black trousers or skirt, white/grey shirt/blouse, with flat black school shoes/boots (not trainers).

Sweatshirts, white T-shirts and polo shirts with the school logo can be ordered directly from www.oneidentity.co.uk

We would be very grateful if all clothing and footwear could be clearly marked with your child's name.

PE bags

Again, nursery children are not expected to have a P.E. bag but they may choose to have one like the older children. A P.E. bag consists of include gym shoes or trainers, (black or white), white T-shirt and black shorts. All articles should be clearly marked with your child's name.

An extra bag with a change of underwear and clothes is very useful-just in case!

Woodland bags and Outdoor learning kit

Children also have outdoor learning bags. In these should be waterproofs and wellies. They need to be in school at all times. The weather in Selside is very changeable and we want to get the children outside as much as possible!





Book Bags

Book Bags are taken home daily. Any school **letters** for parents/carers will be put in here.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns at any time during the year, then please do come in to school and speak to a member of staff.

The diary is also to record which book your child has chosen to share at home.

Please remember to check your child's book bag and diary every day.





Settling In

Settling into a new environment is always difficult, no matter how young or old you are. We appreciate that you are probably feeling a little worried about the first few times you leave your child. But there are lots of things you can do to help your child settle quickly with us and feel happy and secure.

Before your child starts nursery

Encourage your child to:

- Dress and undress themselves, e.g. put their coat, hat and their shoes on.
- Tell an adult if they need the toilet and use the toilet alone.
- Wash and dry their own hands after using the toilet and before eating.
- Respect their own and other people's property by looking after and tidying away toys and books.
- Say 'please', 'thank-you', 'pardon', and 'sorry'.





Ways you can help your child at home

All the fun activities that you do with your child at home are important in supporting their learning and development, and have a really long lasting effect on your child's learning as they progress through school. If you make the time to do some of the following things with your child, it will make a real difference to your child's confidence as a young learner.





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