



# Starting Reception



## Welcome to Selside CE 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 Reception 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: 01539 823649

Or via email: [admin@selside.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@selside.cumbria.sch.uk)

On our website: [www.selside.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.selside.cumbria.sch.uk)



## Who are *The Adventurers*?

*The Adventurers* are the youngest members of Selside CE School, with children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. 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.





## Daily Routine

### At the beginning of the school day:

Children arriving on the school bus will be greeted by a teacher. Children arriving with parents are welcome to say 'hello' and settle their children into school. Children can choose activities set out in the classroom until 8.55 when parents will be asked to leave so the teacher can do the register, ready to start learning at 9.00.

In September, the children in the EYFS start on the same day as the rest of the school. We do not use a staggered start for our Reception class. We offer full days. We find this helps them feel a part of the whole school and helps them settle into new routines and learn the rules of the school. However, if you feel that your child is struggling with the full routine, they are more than welcomed to have rest days or afternoons. Please talk to a member of staff.

**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.





### 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- 3.20 to 5.30 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. There is a charge of £6 per session.

We are flexible with After-school club and it can be booked on the day. Please ask at the school office for further details.

### School Bus Pass

Please read the Cumbria Council website for information on Home to School transport and how to apply for a bus pass.

### 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. All our Reception children are entitled to free school lunches. There is a choice of 2 hot main meals at lunchtime and you can pre-order these online via Lunchshop. More information about this can be obtained from Laura Mackenzie in the office. You'll need a login and a password.





## Do I qualify for free school meals and clothing vouchers?

All children in Reception and Years 1&2 are entitled to a free school lunch each day. However, 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 each year of primary school.

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

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](http://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

P.E. clothes are needed and should include gym shoes or trainers, (black or white), white T-shirt, black shorts and a P.E. bag in which to keep them. All articles should be clearly marked with your child's name.

A change of underwear in their P.E. bag is always useful just in case!

## Woodland bags and Outdoor learning kit

Children also have outdoor learning bags. In these should be waterproofs and wellies for outdoor learning. 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.

The children will get a **Home-School diary**. If we need to pass information to you, or vice versa, then the diary can be used. They can also be used for any questions, queries or notes you may have, especially if your child comes on the bus.

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 what your child is reading. When you hear your child read their school reading book, please write a comment in their diary.

The children will also have a **Celebration Diary**. We recognise the children do not finish learning at school. We want to work in partnership with you to enhance and support your child. This is an opportunity for you to share your child's achievements 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 school

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.

Play counting games together

Enjoy cutting and sticking activities.

Talk about their day.

Sing Nursery Rhymes and counting songs



Cook/Bake together

Help them to write their own name

Help them to be able to dress and undress themselves independently.

Read stories and look at books together



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