

General Information

Ghyllside Primary School
Gillinggate
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4JB

Headteacher : Mr. H. Davies

School Telephone Number

01539 814930
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Foundation Stage Staff

Gill Mason
Claire Munday
Lucy Kelly
Rachel Bland
Becky Lamb

Please bring and collect your child from the Reception door through the Reception playground.

You may also use this door when collecting your child for appointments.

The School Day

School Starts 8:50 am
School Finishes 3:15 pm

The door will be open from 8:50am. Please don't arrive too soon, as the children get tired of waiting and often find it difficult to understand why they can't come in. You may collect your child between 3:00 and 3:15 pm.

Things to remember ...

Reading / Book Bag

Please remember to bring this EVERY DAY. You may change your child's reading book whenever you need to—mornings are the best time for this. Please talk to a teacher if you feel your child is ready to go up a level. Please remind your child only to choose books from the book box we have told them to choose from—

for example, "The BUTTERFLY BOX".

HAVE FUN, SHARE BOOKS AND READ WITH YOUR CHILD EVERYDAY!

Please check for any letters inside your child's book bag!



Name all Clothes and Belongings

Please make sure that every one of your child's belongings is clearly and permanently labelled!

Name:

Please inform us if your child is absent or you are going to be late by ringing the Office on 01539 814930 or by informing a member of staff.

School Dinners

At present school dinners are free to all children in Reception. Due to this we are no longer able to offer a flexible school dinner/pack lunch option. If you choose school dinners, your child is expected to have these five days a week.

Please fill in the lunch option form in your pack and return it to a member of staff.

Things to remember ...

P.E.



From October half term onwards your child will need **named P.E clothes** in a **named drawstring bag**. We strongly recommend that these include some tracksuit / jogger pants so that your child is not put off P.E by being cold. In addition, she / he will need a t-shirt . You may also want to include shorts or a tracksuit top. Not baggy please! *There is a school P.E. kit available to buy but you do NOT need to purchase this in Reception unless you wish to. It can be easier to identify their own clothes!*

Outdoor Gear

We will be going outside in most weathers. Please could you ensure that your child has a **named pair of wellies** (to be left under their peg in the cloakroom) permanently at school as well as a **waterproof coat and hood/hat**.



Milk, Fruit & Water

Free Milk and Fruit is provided daily for your child. No Snack needed! Your child has access to water at all times so you don't need to bring in a drink bottle. Please tick the milk form on the table if you would like your child to have milk. Please see a teacher if your child has special dietary requirements.



We value communicating with you!

We want school to be a secure and happy place for your child. Please come in and share with us your feelings, concerns, questions, joys and successes! If we don't know there's a problem we can't sort it. Please make us aware of any medical issues your child may have.

Feel free to talk to us at the beginning and end of the day!

The Philosophy of Education at Ghyllside Early Years Unit

Ghyllside Foundation Unit has developed a high quality Early years environment with clear curricular goals for Reception children. The school, staff and Governing body provide equality of opportunity for all individuals.

Play is the world and work of a young child.

We believe that a young child learns most successfully...

...through familiar experiences that relate to their own lives.

...when provided with a rich, secure environment

Through exploration

...through direct experience

...when they are viewed, valued and catered for as an individual

...by actively "doing".

...when they experience success.

...when experiences are fun and enjoyable

...when challenged, motivated and given opportunities for self-initiative and responsibility.

...when encouraged by caring adults.

...when given time.

THE FOUNDATION CURRICULUM

The curriculum in Ghyllside Reception Class continues from Nursery provision and, as a staff, we believe that the curriculum should raise children's self esteem and self-awareness. Most of the curriculum is based on the children's own experiences, encompassing the child's family, the school and local community.

The Curriculum's key Areas of Learning and Development are:

Prime Areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Physical Development

Communication and Language

Specific Areas:

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design

EACH OF THESE SEVEN AREAS OF LEARNING ARE COVERED DAILY THROUGH ENHANCED AND CONTINUOUS PROVISION .

Continuous Provision is available at all times in the classroom. This includes sand, water, role play, bricks, small world, writing, computers, art, dough, technology, listening and maths. We think of the outside as another vital space in which the children can explore and learn.

Enhanced Provision provides additional opportunities to widen children's experiences and knowledge. These are planned for through topics as seen in the table below and may include, for example, small world focus (i.e. Woodland Animals), trips into the wider community and people visiting. In the cloakroom we display the planning for the half term, as well as weekly planning, that will indicate any theme that we are concentrating on.

Autumn Term 1	Autumn Term 2	Spring Term 1	Spring Term 2	Summer Term 1	Summer Term 2
~Starting School ~All About Me	~ Autumn ~ Light ~ Christmas	~ Night and Day ~ Space	~ People Who Help Us ~Easter	~ Living, Growth and Change	~Traditional Tales

Reporting and Feeding Back

We are available to talk to you at any time about your child's progress. However, there are occasions on which we provide formal feedback to you on your child's progress.

In the Foundation stage each child's individual stage of learning within each of the seven Areas of Learning is crucially important. We take a holistic approach to learning and highly value the role of personal, social, emotional development for each child. If you feel there are any issues that may affect your child's time at school, please make a member of staff aware.

We will be more than happy to accommodate and support wherever possible.

Teaching and Learning

Children are engaged in **self-initiated learning** wherein they are free to choose activities that they are interested in and excited by. Skilled adults work alongside children to extend and support their individual learning based on their knowledge of the child's developmental needs, so that your child can make steady progress.

In addition, children have both **whole class direct teaching inputs** as well as small group work in both the morning and afternoon, focusing on Language and Mathematics respectively. This **small group work is differentiated** into ability groups to meet the individual needs of the children. These sessions last for a 20 minute session.

Reading

Once your child is on the reading scheme, he / she will be heard once a week by a teacher in the classroom. In addition, other adults may hear her/him read. As the year progresses, your child will be put into a Guided Reading Group when they are ready. This will focus on particular reading skills appropriate to his / her group's level. Any concerns or questions please come and see a member of staff.