

*Our vision: Creative learning, personal achievement and happiness.
Enabling everyone to flourish and to live life in all its fullness.*

Mrs L Batey - Headteacher



Shankhill C of E Primary School

Hethersgill

Carlisle, CA6 6JA

office@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk

01228 577264

3 September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is a brief overview letter explaining what to expect as your child begins in Reception.

School bag

Please ensure your child brings their red Shankhill book bag to school **every** day. This is very important as children use their book bags everyday especially when they begin learning phonics and then move onto reading books. Information and letters will also come home in children's bags so bags will need to be checked regularly.

School uniform

Children should have:

- Red sweatshirt or cardigan with school logo
- Blue polo shirt with school logo
- Black or grey trousers or skirt
- Red or blue check summer dress (Summer term)
- Black sensible shoes, including smart black trainers
- Red fleece for outside (optional)

PE kit:

- Light blue t-shirt with school logo
- Royal blue shorts
- Plimsolls/trainers
- Royal blue PE bag with school logo - PE bags should be left in school for the half term and taken home to wash at half term and end of term.

Please ensure children have black shoes that they are able to take off and put on themselves (Velcro shoes are ideal). Children are not allowed to wear accessories or earrings.

Please label all your child's uniform and PE kit with their name, and check regularly as names tend to fade in the wash.

*"A good school...the evidence gathered suggests that the inspection grade might be **outstanding** if a graded inspection were carried out now....Pupils flourish at this welcoming and ambitious school....pupils are particularly impressive, knowledgeable... Pupils follow a very well thought-out curriculum which helps them to achieve highly...behaviour is exemplary... Pupils' enjoyment of learning is a key factor in their high attendance at school...The school's ambition for all pupils to thrive helps pupils to achieve exceptionally well... a highly effective curriculum. The school is meticulous in its approach to meet the needs of pupils in its mixed-age classes....Staff are experts...This helps pupils to master knowledge and skills which they seamlessly apply." Ofsted 2024*

Christian values ensure positive relationships across the wider community and effective collaborative partnerships are built on mutual trust. SIAMs Dec 2022

Staff "strive to ensure that pupils are happy, while making education fun and enjoyable." Parent View

"I love coming to school with my friends and enjoy learning and the experiences we have." Pupil View



March 2024 www.shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk

Drop off and pick up

The school gates open at 8.45am and close at 8.55am. Please ensure that you arrive on time. We encourage our Reception children to be as *independent as possible* and to say goodbye to parents at the gate then walk down and into the classroom by themselves to put their belongings away independently. If you are late and the gate is locked please ring the buzzer and someone will come out to let your child in and the staff member will take your child into school. Unfortunately staff are not available to speak to parents once the gate is closed as teaching and learning begins at 8:55am sharp.

Class 1 children are released from the Class 1 door at 3.30pm.

The gate is opened at 3:30 for all children to be collected from Class 1 door. Please wait in the outside play area by Class 1 for your child. If there are any changes to the usual home time routine, please inform a member of staff directly, and in plenty of time – a voicemail or email may not always be picked up before 3:20pm due to staff teaching.

Water bottle

All children are given a school water bottle which is kept in school, cleaned each night and filled up with fresh water every morning. Children are encouraged to drink from their water bottles throughout the day in order to build healthy habits.

Book bag: diary, RWI resources, library book

Your child will be given a diary in the first week of school. This diary is used as a two-way communication tool between school and home and needs to be in your child's book bag every day. Please ensure you check the diary and sign in the parent box each time your child reads, and at least by Friday each week. All reading at home is to be recorded in the diary and any messages from parents or school.

Once your child begins our school phonics programme called Read Write Inc. (RWI) they will start by learning sounds. This is usually four new sounds per week. Once children have learnt a few sounds, they will learn to blend them to 'read' the word. Once children are able to do this they will start to bring reading books home. It is important for children to read their sounds and book out loud to an adult, at least three times to develop fluency and understanding. Homework sheets will be sent home to practise and share new learning with you. These are checked on return.

Each week your child will pick a **library book** from school to take home. This is a book that they will not be able to read alone and is one for sharing with adults at home. Your child can keep this book for the week and return it the following week where they will get a chance to swap it for another library book.

School lunches and snacks

All children will be provided with a free fruit snack each day at school as we encourage healthy eating habits. If your child has any allergies that the school does not already know about please be sure to inform the school office. All Reception children are also entitled to a free school meal each day provided through government funding. **Did you know** that if you are eligible for [**FREE SCHOOL MEALS**](#) this also provides extra funding to school for learning, trips, etc. and you get uniform vouchers? Please do check.

Mrs Hope's school meals are **delicious and unique** in that we can have a **bespoke individual menu** for children to select their meals in advance, meaning you know your child will eat food they enjoy and will be happy. Mrs Laithwaite will send a link to a google form so you can order your child's menu. This will last for the year, unless you request a review.

<https://forms.gle/ghGj9dDDntTui14B8>

Tapestry

Tapestry is an app that we use in school to communicate and share learning with you. Any observations taken of your child will be shared with you via this app, and we encourage parents and carers to share children's activities at home with us via this app too. We will also share learning experiences, any school events and urgent information via this app so please ensure you check this regularly.

Class/school events and special learning experiences

Any class or school events will be shared with parents through [SWAY newsletter](#) and **Tapestry** and events are all published on the [school calendar](#) which can be accessed through the Sway Newsletter and the school website. We plan in advance to provide as much notice as possible. However, some opportunities arise or changes beyond our control can happen at short notice. On such occasions, we will inform you directly via email, SWAY and/or Tapestry with as much notice as possible.

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs

We offer wrap around care for all ages of our pupils.

Breakfast Club runs from 7:45am until 8:45am when school starts. We provide a nutritious breakfast and drinks, along with safe and appropriate childcare. Each session costs £4.00 per child.

We offer a range of different fun activities throughout the year at our after school extra-curricular clubs: some clubs are sporty, some are arty and some are messy! Others can be a right performance! Clubs run 3:30 – 4:30pm Monday to Thursday, and until 4pm on Friday. Costs vary depending on the club with pricing based around £2/hr which is extremely good value for money.

There is now a **Stay Late and Play Club** running until 5:30pm for those who require additional wrap around care.

Bookings are made through the school office via a google form where you can book for the half term. Payments are made in advance. We accept one-off bookings if made before 3:30pm the day before. Emergency bookings might be possible by emailing head@shankhill.cumbria.sch.uk

<https://forms.gle/bjVyNLcTpvCkfVb8A>

Music Tuition

Mr Booth delivers instrumental tuition to small groups of our children from Reception to Year 6. This offers an optional, additional music lesson that complements our curriculum lessons for music that every child receives. Our children thoroughly enjoy this weekly experience.

If you have not already done so, and your child(ren) would like to participate, please complete the form in the link below by Friday 5 September indicating the order of preference for the instruments that we can offer.

<https://forms.gle/i2mSJEHkXCRx2nRm8>

Attendance

New government policy and guidance on attendance was published on 19th August 2024 with increased scrutiny on daily attendance and no holidays in term times. Please remember how important it is to attend every day, with no holidays in term time and all medical appointments made out of school hours. Children have 5-6 different lessons a day which cannot be replicated or caught up if missed so **attending every lesson really counts!**

If your child is absent due to illness, please contact school on the first day before registration time.

You can leave an answerphone message, but emails may not be seen. If you do not contact school by 9:00am, we will employ our safeguarding first day calling procedures to ensure that we know your child is safe.

Learning

At the beginning of term, we will send an overview of your child's learning plan for this year. We will update you on your child's progress each term during parents' meetings and we will send an annual report in July. Please do contact the class teacher at any point if you have any concerns, questions or celebrations to share with school.

Payments

All payments should be made online, directly into the following account using the reference requested for the specific payment. For example, if you are paying for music tuition, your reference would be Surname MUSIC.

Account name: Shankhill School

Sort Code: 16-52-21

Account number: 53543593

Please keep this letter to hand for future reference.

We are so excited to welcome you in September.

Yours Sincerely,

The Class 1 Team

Teachers: Miss Metcalfe and Mrs Hickman

Senior Teaching Assistants: Mrs Elwen and Miss Powley