

*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

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is a brief overview letter explaining what to expect as your child is in Key Stage 1 which consists of Year 1 and Year 2.

School bag, home-school diary and daily reading

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 to carry books, information and letters to and from home so bags will need to be **checked at home regularly**. The following should remain inside the bag each day:

- **Home-school diary** – two-way communication tool. Please sign the diary after each time your child reads out loud to you; we expect this at least 4 x week and will check each Friday (Y2) and Monday (Y1).
- **Learning to read book** – a carefully selected book that your child can read out loud to you each day for at least 10 minutes, at least 4 x week. Please sign the diary after each read. Please read this book at least 3 times: once to learn to read, once to build fluency and then again to fully understand the content. After reading all the grey RWInc books (usually in Y2), your child will move to a decimal system called Accelerated Reader where they can show their understanding of what they have read in the book (comprehension) by completing a quiz. If the quiz score is 80-100% then they move up one decimal book number. This ensures that children are reading books that they understand because they have the required skills to access the words and language.
- **Reading for pleasure book** - a book your child has selected from our school library, the library bus or home to enjoy. This can be changed as often as they like and an Accelerated Reader quiz might be available to help build confidence and wider experiences.
- **Letters, information, visit RSVPs and money** – please check bags regularly and at least once a week to make sure you and your child do not miss anything like trips and other special learning experiences. Money and RSVPs should be posted into the secure white letterbox found in the main entrance.

*"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

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.

Free Fruit Snacks daily

Each day, we provide free fruit snacks at morning break and encourage healthy eating habits.

School lunches

All children in Years 1 and 2 are 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 keep checking, especially before moving into KS2 where all meals are to pay for.

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.

If you would like to update your child's menu choices, please use the link below and complete by Monday 8 September. Otherwise the current choices will continue for this academic year, unless you request a review.

<https://forms.gle/ghGj9dDDntTui14B8>

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
- A warm waterproof coat with a hood (this can be kept on their school peg).

PE kit:

- Light blue t-shirt with school logo
- Royal blue shorts
- 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, put on and fasten 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.

Drop off and pick up

The school gates open at 8.45am and close at 8.50am. Please ensure that you arrive on time. 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 once the gate is closed as teaching and learning begins at 8:50am sharp.

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

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.

Book bag: Home & School 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. 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.

Each week your child will pick a **library book** from school to take home. This is a book that they may not be able to read alone and could be 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.

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 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

A polite reminder that Government policy and guidance on attendance was published in 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.

Please keep this letter to hand for future reference.

We are so excited to welcome you back in September.

Yours Sincerely,

The Class 1 & 2 Team

Teachers: Mrs Hickman and Miss Metcalfe, Mrs Batey (Y2 English teacher)

Senior teaching Assistants: Mrs Elwen and Miss Powley