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# FURNESS VALE PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

## NURSERY PROSPECTUS

2026 - 2027



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*‘Friends proudly working together to achieve  
our best’*



*Dear Parents/Carers,*

*In this booklet we aim to provide you with some useful information as well as tell you a little about our philosophy, organisation, curriculum and the high standards expected of the children. When you have finished reading, if you have questions or wish to view the school, please contact us to arrange a mutually convenient visiting time. Here at Furness Vale Primary & Nursery School we hope to foster feelings of security and happiness within your child so that effective learning may take place.*

Ofsted Stated (October 2024) that:

Pupils love their school. They say that teachers are caring and are always there to help them. Pupils are proud to share their work and achievements with staff. Children in the early years quickly form trusting relationships with the adults they work with.

There is a strong sense of community at this school. Governors and staff work together to achieve the school's vision that pupils will have 'happy hearts, enquiring minds, positive futures'. Parents and carers are overwhelmingly supportive of the school. One parent, typical of many, described the school as 'extremely welcoming, inclusive and warm'.

*We look forward to meeting you and working with you for the benefit of your child.*

*Yours sincerely*

*Miss Suzanne Kay  
Headteacher*



## OUR NURSERY SCHOOL

Furness Vale is a small and happy school, full of energy and enthusiasm. It has an interesting history going back over one hundred years. Many members of our community attended the school themselves and continue to give us wonderful support.

Our nursery school is based in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The Reception and Nursery children learn and play together, they all follow the EYFS curriculum but, because of a high adult/child ratio, we can put in extra provision and support for children who need it.

The outdoor area is purpose built and has a home learning area, climbing frame, mud kitchen, construction materials and many other resources. The children go outdoors every day.

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## STARTING SCHOOL

This is a very important time for both children and parents and we try our utmost to make this step as straight forward and flexible as possible. In the EYFS class, children are taught by a teacher and highly qualified teaching assistants.

**Children can start our nursery starting the term after they turn three. We offer total flexibility; children can come for as many hours as their parents would like. We offer 15 and 30-hours flexible funding.**

**We have breakfast and after school clubs. The clubs extend the school day from 7:45 to 5:00. School starts at 8:50 and finishes at 3:20.**

**Children may enter the Nursery class on a flexible full-time or part-time basis from the age of 3.**

Our Early Years Class is made up of Nursery and Reception aged children. Children can start with us the term following their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday (they can start with us as soon

as they turn 3 but there won't be any funding until the term after they turn three. The charge will be £5.00 per hour during normal school hours).

Children are eligible for 15 hours, which can be used flexibly through morning sessions, full days or afternoon sessions or 30 hours provision (for those who are eligible), again this is flexible with the options to use the 30 hours over 5 days or by condensing the hours into fewer days and making use of our Breakfast and After-School Clubs.



## ADMISSIONS

To apply for a place at our Nursery please complete a school application form and return it to school. The admissions policy for Nursery places is provided with the application form.

## PREPARING FOR SCHOOL LIFE

Parents can help their children in a variety of ways before they start school. More information is available on the Ready for School in Derbyshire website:

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/readyforschool](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/readyforschool)

Please try to ensure that your child is able to achieve the ten keys for unlocking school readiness:

- I can settle happily without my parent or carer
- I can tell grown-ups and friends what I need
- I can take turns to play and share when I'm playing
- I can go to the toilet on my own and wash my hands
- I can put on my coat and shoes and feed myself
- I can tell a grown-up if I'm happy, sad or cross
- I know that what I say and do can make others happy or unhappy
- I am curious and want to learn and play
- I can stop doing what I'm doing, listen and follow simple instructions
- I enjoy sharing books with grown-ups

Also to help your child it is an advantage for them to:

- talk about stories and activities you have undertaken together
- play with water, paper, paint and other media
- be able to hold a pencil and to use a pair of scissors
- develop manipulative skills, play with Lego®, jigsaws and balls

There is no reason why your child should not start reading before coming to school, but please do not place undue pressure upon them as this might put them off. Encourage the enjoyment of books; use the local library and share books and comics together.

If you want more information to help your child to prepare for school, please speak to Miss Kay (Headteacher) or Miss Heathcote (EYFS teacher)



## THE SCHOOL DAY

The main gate is open from 8:45am. Children should be taken to the EYFS area where a member of staff will meet them from 8:45 onwards. Staff are available at the beginning and end of each day for short conversations, if you need to have a longer discussion about any concerns you have please make a longer appointment at a mutually convenient time.

A parent or their nominated representative should collect infant children. The School Office keeps a record of the nominated representatives and changes should be notified to the Office.

Children not collected promptly will be asked to wait in the hall. If you know you might be late, please arrange for your child/ren to attend After School Club.

## CHILD PROTECTION

Parents should be aware that all schools are required to take every reasonable action to ensure the safety of its pupils. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be subject to ill-treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, the Headteacher is obliged to follow the Child Protection procedures established by the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Board and inform Social

Services of the concern. We have access to a comprehensive range of professional support services. If you are worried about a child, you should report a concern on the school website.

## Security

All visitors enter through the main front door into the secure lobby where they are received by School Office staff. When appropriate, they are required to sign the visitors' book and may then be allowed access to the school. The book is a security record and a health & safety requirement.

No unauthorised access is allowed to the playgrounds and you are asked to report to the Office unless you are delivering your child to, or collecting your child from school.

Everyone is asked to remain vigilant and to report promptly any dangerous or suspicious activity in and around school, observed at any time. Anyone who has a concern about safety or security in and around school should speak to Mrs Parry, any other member of staff or to a governor.



## SCHOOL MEALS

**ALL** pupils in Reception, Year 1 and 2 will be entitled to a Free School Meal, however, Nursery children will need to pay for a school meal if they have one, charged to your ParentPay© account.

Dinner money is payable on a Monday morning and you are requested to make the payment on your ParentPay© account for the week. The charge is £3.25 per meal.

**Please do not let a debt build up on your account as this has an effect on the service we provide.**

If you are having difficulty accessing your account, please contact the school office.

Please tell us if your child has special dietary requirements and if they are allergic to any foods, colouring agents or preservatives as you will need to complete an online form.

### **Mid-morning Snack**

Infant children are provided with fruit mid-morning free of charge. Healthy snacks may be brought as an alternative but **ONLY** fruit, fresh or dried, seeds and unsalted nuts are encouraged. Children are taught about having a balanced diet.

## **CLOTHING AND UNIFORM**

We feel that school uniform is attractive, sensible and economical, and creates a school identity. Therefore, children are asked to wear the following:

- School sweatshirt/cardigan \*
- Jade cardigan or jumper
- Grey or black trousers, skirt or shorts
- White polo shirt with logo \* or plain white polo/shirt
- Summer dress, green & white stripes or green & white checks.
- Appropriate black or grey footwear (not trainers)

\* From Headmasters, New Mills.

### **P.E. KIT**

The children will need a P.E. kit, which should be contained in a drawstring bag. Summer PE kit consists of: white T-shirt, dark shorts and trainers. Winter PE kit consists of: dark tracksuit bottoms or leggings, sweatshirt (not hoodie), white T-shirt and trainers. Long hair should be tied up. Children **MUST** remove all jewellery before PE lessons. Pumps are strongly discouraged as they don't grip the playground surface as strongly as trainers.

***Please label all clothing with your child's name.***

Please do not send your child to school wearing jewellery.

If your child has pierced ears, studs should be worn. However, these cannot be worn during P.E. or swimming lessons. The child must remove them. It is preferential for children to not wear any jewellery on PE/swimming days.

## KEEPING US INFORMED

Please **contact** us:

- on the first day of your child being absent, before 9am
- to let us know how your child is and when they are likely to return
- if you wish to remove your child from class for part of the school day e.g. for a hospital appointment.
- if your child needs to be excused from Physical Education.

Please **telephone** the School Office:

- If your child is to be absent due to illness
- If your child is unable to attend an after-school club
- If you are unable to collect your child from school as planned
- If you need to contact your child during the school day

Please also tell us (in confidence) about anything which may affect your child's ability to participate in school life, as he/she normally would.

## WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU

We value our relationship with you and recognise that you know your child best. Therefore, to make your child's time at school a really positive one we appreciate you sharing information about your child with us. We are available at the start and end of each school day. Let us know what your child is interested in so we can plan learning based on what appeals to them.

Your child will achieve many things whilst at home, such as riding their bike, getting dressed on their own or swimming without armbands. To celebrate these events we ask you to fill in a 'Shining Stars' sheet, which we will celebrate by reading it out in school!

We also have a messaging service called 'Class Dojo' which we use to send weekly updates of what we have been doing in class. Also, we have regular sessions where we invite you to spend time with us in school, such events might include: den building days or afternoon tea.

## HOME LEARNING

We set fun and informal home learning each week through the Brain Builder Book. However, playing board games, counting objects, listening to you read stories and doing other practical activities, including holding a conversation, will have a huge impact on your child's development. To help develop fine motor skills, letting your child draw, paint, cut with scissors and use playdough will all have a positive impact. Your involvement is encouraged but the children should be able to do most of the activities independently.

It is essential that your child has a good bedtime routine and that they get plenty of sleep. School is very tiring, especially when they first start!

## MEDICINES AND HEALTH

If your child needs medication during school time, notify the school office and complete a Medication form. We need clear written instructions on how medicines are to be used or taken and whether the child can self-medicate or requires help (with inhalers, for example). If instructions are particularly complicated, then it may be necessary for you to come into school to help your child with their medicines. It is not usually necessary to give doses of antibiotics during the school day and you should talk to your doctor or pharmacist about appropriate use of medicines. The school has a detailed medicines policy and you may want to see this. Children should not be sent to school if they are ill.

It is vital that you tell us about any medical problems which may affect your child whilst at school (e.g. diabetes, epilepsy, asthma and allergies) so that we can agree a course of action in advance should the need arise. Any information given will be treated in confidence.

There are several members of staff in school who are trained in First Aid. We will inform you immediately if there is a significant illness or injury, minor injuries will be seen to and recorded. We will inform you at the end of the day if your child sustains a minor injury.

If you are unsure as to how many days your child should be kept away from school because of a specific illness, please contact the Office.

Our School Nurse visits us and carries out health checks. You will be informed if any follow up is appropriate. You can contact the nurse, through school, if you have any concerns about your child's health.

Headlice are a persistent (if harmless) problem, as in any Primary School. We ask you to check your child's hair regularly (at least weekly) and take appropriate and prompt action if you find a living, moving louse. Please inform school so that we can make other parents aware that they need to be extra vigilant.



## CURRICULUM

Children in **Early Years** follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. We offer a wide range of high-quality activities, with appropriate resources that are well planned to meet the needs of the children. Play is at the heart of all we do – it is through play that children learn at the highest level.

### Forest Schools

We do forest schools every week – Forest Schools is an excellent way to provide the curriculum in an outdoor environment. Children learn many skills such as teamwork and basic forestry skills. They develop knowledge and understanding of the environment, how to use tools safely and gain a love of the natural environment. It also gives an opportunity to explore our beautiful surroundings.

### Information & Communication Technology

Children have computers and iPads in the classroom. They use them to develop basic ICT skills and to explore safe websites such as BBC learning.

### Physical Education

Our nursery children have full access to the outdoor area and Forest School Provision.

We make full use of our playground and astroturf, the village all-weather court and village field for sports activities. We have Sports Premium funding and a breakdown of what we've spent the funding on is available on the website.

### Progress, Records & Assessment

Each child has a Learning Journey where notes about their progress and development are made – this information is shared with parents during parent's

evenings and the annual report. If you are worried about anything, have a quick chat with the teacher at either end of the school day or make an appointment if it is a longer meeting that is needed.

## What if my child has additional needs?

Please talk to us if you have any concerns about your child or if you are aware that they have additional needs. We will discuss their needs with you and agree the best way to proceed so that we meet their needs and keep them included in as much school life as is practicable.

School has a range of policies for you to view on request. These include: equal opportunities, special educational needs, an accessibility plan and a disability equality scheme.

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## Transition to the reception class:

We hold Parent events to provide an opportunity for you to visit the school, talk to staff and get more information about how well your child has settled in. If you would like to visit during the daytime you are very welcome, simply make an appointment and the Headteacher, or a senior member of staff, will show you round. We aim to make the transition as seamless as possible.

***We hope that the prospectus has answered many of your questions and given you a flavour of life at Furness Vale.***

***You are more than welcome to visit the school if you are considering starting your children in our Nursery or Reception.***

***If you have any other queries, please don't hesitate to contact the school. We will do all we can to assist you.***