Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School

Happy Hearts, Enquiring Minds, Promising Futures

Prospectus 2026-27

Stay in Touch:

Buxton Road, Furness Vale, High Peak, Derbyshire, SK23 7PQ

Telephone: 01663 744103

e-mail: enquiries@furnessvale.derbyshire.sch.uk

Welcome to Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School,



Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make, and I am delighted that you are considering joining our school community.

At Furness Vale, we are proud to be a small school with a big heart. Nestled in the centre of our village, we work closely with families to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child feels valued, supported and inspired to succeed. We know our children as individuals and celebrate the unique qualities, talents and strengths that each one brings to our school.

Our vision, **Happy Hearts, Enquiring Minds, Promising Futures**, underpins everything we do. We want our children to be happy, confident and resilient learners who are excited by the world around them and well prepared for the next stage of their education and beyond. Through high-quality teaching, a broad and engaging curriculum, and a wealth of enrichment opportunities, we aim to help every child achieve their full potential.

We are fortunate to make the most of our beautiful local surroundings, offering opportunities such as Forest School, community partnerships, educational visits and sporting events that enrich children's learning and help them develop a lifelong love of discovery.

Above all, we believe that strong relationships are at the heart of a successful school. By working together with parents, carers and the wider community, we create a safe and caring environment where children can flourish academically, socially and emotionally.

I hope this prospectus provides you with a flavour of life at Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School. We would be delighted to welcome you for a visit, so that you can experience first-hand the warm, friendly atmosphere that makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Suzanne Kay
Headteacher
Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School

Why Choose Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School?



- A happy, caring school where every child is known and valued
- A seamless journey from Nursery to Year 6
- Strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics
- Weekly Forest School adventures for EYFS and Key Stage 1
- A close-knit school community where children of all ages learn together



- Thrive Friday enrichment activities from Nursery to Year 6
- A wide range of clubs, visits, performances and memorable experiences
- Opportunities to take part in local sports festivals and competitions



- Leadership opportunities that help children find their voice
- Rich links with our local community and environment
- An inclusive environment where every child can thrive
- Dedicated staff who nurture confidence, curiosity and wellbeing
- Breakfast and After School Club for busy families
- Beautiful surroundings that inspire outdoor learning and exploration



Our Values

We have high aspirations for every child and are committed to providing the care, experiences and education that help them flourish.



We strive to create a nurturing and inclusive environment where every child feels safe, valued and supported. Through our caring relationships, Thrive approach, wellbeing initiatives, pupil leadership opportunities and strong links with families, children develop confidence, resilience and a sense of belonging.



We inspire curiosity and a love of learning through engaging lessons and memorable experiences. Our children learn through Forest School, educational visits, visitors to school, enrichment days, outdoor learning and hands-on investigations that encourage them to ask questions, solve problems and explore the world around them.



We have high aspirations for every child and equip them with the knowledge, skills and character they need for the future. Through high-quality teaching, leadership opportunities, sporting competitions, performances, community projects and wider enrichment experiences, children develop independence, ambition and the confidence to embrace new challenges.

Working together with families and the wider community, we help every child to achieve their full potential and leave Furness Vale ready for the next stage of their educational journey.

Starting School



Starting school is an important milestone for children and families, and we work closely with parents to ensure that the transition is as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

Children join our Reception class in September at the start of the school year in which they turn five. Before starting school, children are invited to a range of transition activities, including visits and stay-and-play sessions, helping them become familiar with staff, routines and their new learning environment.

Our Early Years Unit includes both Nursery and Reception children, creating a nurturing environment where children learn through play, exploration and first-hand experiences. The unit is led by a qualified teacher and supported by experienced teaching assistants.

Nursery Provision

Children can join our Nursery from the term following their third birthday. We offer flexible provision, including part-time and full-time places, with both 15-hour and 30-hour funded places available for eligible families. Further information about our Nursery provision is available from the school office.

Families considering joining our school are warmly encouraged to arrange a visit to see our school in action and meet our staff.

Admissions

Admissions to Reception and in-year transfers are coordinated by Derbyshire County Council. Further information and application details can be found on the Derbyshire admissions website. We welcome applications from families both within and beyond our local area.

For Nursery admissions, please contact the school office directly.

The School Day

Start of School	8:50 am
Morning Playtime	10:15- 10:30am
Lunch time	12:00 – 1:00pm
End of School Day	3:20pm

Children may arrive from 8.45am when staff are on duty in the playground. At the end of the school day, children in Nursery, Reception, Key Stage 1 and Lower Key Stage 2 must be collected by a parent or nominated adult. Upper Key Stage 2 children may walk home independently with written parental permission.

Children who are not collected promptly will wait safely in school until a parent or carer arrives. If you know you may be delayed, please contact the school office or arrange a place at our After School Club.

School Lunches

We offer healthy, nutritious school meals each day. Meals can be paid for online through ParentPay. Children in **Reception, Year 1 and Year 2** are entitled to a **Universal Infant Free School Meal**, meaning they can enjoy a free school lunch every day.

We can cater for a range of dietary requirements and allergies. Please inform the school of any specific dietary needs when your child joins the school or if their requirements change. For current meal prices and further information, please contact the school office or visit our website.

Children are also welcome to bring a healthy packed lunch from home.

We encourage children to bring a healthy snack for morning break, such as fruit or vegetables, to support healthy lifestyles and positive learning habits. Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with free fruit each day as part of the government's school fruit scheme.

Health and Medication

The health, safety and wellbeing of our pupils is a priority. Please inform the school of any medical conditions, allergies or dietary requirements so that appropriate support can be put in place. Where children require medication during the school day, this can be administered in line with our Medicines Policy.

Qualified first aiders are available in school, and parents will be informed of any significant illness, injury or accident. Further information can be found in our Health and Safety, First Aid and Medicines Policies on the school website.

Inclusion and SEND

At Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School, we believe that every child deserves to feel valued, included and successful. We are committed to creating a nurturing environment where all children can thrive, regardless of their starting point, needs or abilities.

We work closely with children, families and external professionals to ensure that the right support is in place for every learner. Through strong relationships, personalised support and high aspirations, we help children to overcome barriers, build confidence and achieve their full potential.

Our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo) works alongside staff, parents and specialist agencies to ensure that children with additional needs receive the support, encouragement and opportunities they need to flourish both academically and personally.

Attendance

Good attendance is essential if children are to achieve their full potential. We encourage all pupils to attend school every day and arrive on time so that they can make the most of their learning opportunities.

Parents should notify the school by **9.00am** on the first day of any absence and keep us informed if the absence continues. We operate first-day calling procedures to ensure all children are safe.

Leave of absence during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Parents should submit requests in writing to the Headteacher in advance. Further information can be found in our Attendance Policy on the school website.

School Uniform



We feel that school uniform is attractive, sensible and economical, and creates a school identity. Therefore, we ask parents to encourage their children to wear the following:

- School sweatshirt/cardigan *
- Jade cardigan or jumper
- Black trousers, skirt or shorts
- Polo shirt with logo * or plain polo/shirt
- Summer dress, green & white stripes or green & white checks
- Black shoes with no large logos

**** These items may be ordered from 'Headmasters' New Mills.***

PE Kit

Children require a school PE kit for indoor and outdoor activities. Full details can be found on our website.

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.

Our Curriculum Offer



At Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School, learning begins with strong foundations. In our Nursery and Reception class, children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), where play, exploration and high-quality interactions help children develop the essential skills they need to become confident, independent learners.

As children move through the school, we continue to prioritise the mastery of foundational skills in reading, writing and mathematics. We have high expectations for every child and ensure that knowledge and skills are carefully built over time, enabling children to achieve their full potential.

Our broad and ambitious curriculum nurtures curiosity, creativity and a love of learning. Through engaging lessons, outdoor learning, educational visits, sporting opportunities, performances and community partnerships, children are encouraged to explore the world around them and make meaningful connections in their learning.

We are committed to providing an inclusive curriculum where every child feels valued, respected and represented. Children are taught to celebrate differences, show empathy and understand the importance of equality and belonging.

By the time they leave Furness Vale, our children are equipped with the knowledge, skills and character needed to thrive in the next stage of their education and beyond.

Home Learning

We believe that learning is most successful when school and home work in partnership. Reading is a key priority, and we encourage parents and carers to read regularly with their child to develop fluency, comprehension and a lifelong love of reading.

Children are set regular home learning to reinforce and extend their learning in school. A particular focus is placed on mastering the foundational skills that underpin future learning. We encourage children to practise key mathematical facts, including multiplication tables, develop fluency in reading and regularly learn spellings to build confidence and success across the curriculum.

This consistent approach helps children develop independence, resilience and positive learning habits that support achievement both in school and at home.

Enrichment Opportunities

At Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School, we believe that learning extends beyond the classroom. Throughout the year, children benefit from a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including educational visits, residential experiences, Forest School, themed learning days, sporting events, performances, clubs and visitors to school. These experiences help bring learning to life, broaden horizons and create lasting memories of their time at Primary School.

Forest School

On a Wednesday afternoon, children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 pull on their wellies and head out into our local environment for Forest School. Through outdoor exploration and hands-on experiences, children develop confidence, resilience and a love of learning. Forest School brings our values of Happy Hearts, Enquiring Minds, Promising Futures to life by nurturing wellbeing, encouraging curiosity and helping children develop the skills they need to flourish both in school and beyond.




Thrive at Furness

Every Friday afternoon, children from **Nursery to Year 6** come together in mixed-age groups for **Thrive Friday**. This special time provides opportunities for pupils to build relationships across the school, learn from one another and take part in a wide range of enrichment activities. By working alongside children of different ages, pupils develop confidence, leadership skills, teamwork and a strong sense of community. Through creative, sporting, outdoor and wellbeing activities, children are encouraged to discover new interests and talents beyond the classroom.




Local Links

As a village school, we are proud of our strong links with the local community. These partnerships enrich children's learning, broaden opportunities and help develop a sense of belonging and responsibility.

We are fortunate to have access to the village sports pavilion and playing field, which provide valuable opportunities for sport, physical activity and community events. These facilities enhance our PE curriculum and allow children to take part in a wider range of sporting experiences. Following the success of events such as our PTFA Colour Run and Sports Day, we look forward to making even greater use of these facilities in the future, helping to broaden opportunities for all children and supporting healthy, active lifestyles.



Through our links with the Furness Vale Community Garden, children enjoy hands-on learning experiences that develop an appreciation of nature, wildlife and the environment. Visits to the garden enrich the curriculum, promote wellbeing and provide valuable opportunities to learn about gardening, sustainability and caring for the world around us.



Leadership Opportunities

At Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School, we encourage children to take an active role in shaping school life and developing their leadership skills. From the youngest children in Nursery to our oldest pupils in Year 6, we provide opportunities for children to take responsibility, share their ideas and make a positive contribution to our school community. Through roles such as the School Council and the High Peak Kids Council, pupils learn to represent the views of others, work collaboratively and develop confidence in communicating their opinions. These experiences help children develop independence, responsibility and the skills needed to become active and engaged citizens.

New Mills Sports Partnership

In 2026, we re-joined the New Mills School Sports Partnership, strengthening links with local primary schools and New Mills Secondary School. Through the partnership, children have the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sporting festivals, competitions and leadership events throughout the year.



With the support of parents and our excellent transport links, pupils are able to access activities including cross country, orienteering, netball, football, gymnastics, athletics, basketball, golf and cheerleading. Many events are led by Key Stage 3 pupils, providing positive role models and opportunities for younger children to develop confidence and teamwork skills.

The partnership is committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to participate, achieve and enjoy success, regardless of their starting point or sporting ability. A balance of competitive events and inclusive participation festivals enables every child to represent the school, develop new skills, build confidence and enjoy being active alongside pupils from other local schools. These experiences promote teamwork, resilience, wellbeing and a lifelong enjoyment of physical activity.

We would be delighted to welcome you to our school. Please contact the school office to arrange a visit and experience the warmth and community of Furness Vale Primary and Nursery School for yourself.