



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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5th September 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new academic year. We are thoroughly enjoying spending time with our existing pupils again as well as getting to know our new starters, each with their individual personalities.

There are a few small things that will help the smooth running of the unit, so I am writing to explain a few of these, but please remember that if you need to chat with me about anything then please get in touch. A good way to communicate is via my email; jill.carruthers@high-hesket.cumbria.sch.uk we can then arrange a suitable time to meet if necessary.

Spare Clothes, Wellingtons, Waterproofs and Outdoor Clothing

We are very lucky to have such a wonderful outdoor area and the children have access to this every day. If you haven't done so already, could you please provide a pair of (named) wellingtons to be kept in school for outdoor play. Children should also have their coats with them on a daily basis. We do have a small supply of waterproof jackets and trousers for wet and muddy play. Some of the children may occasionally need a change of clothes. You are more than welcome to leave some spare clean clothes in your child's book bag or in a bag on their peg. We also have some spare clothes within the unit. If your child is sent home in spare school clothing, could we please ask that you wash and return these items in a carrier bag. We are currently running low on our stocks of certain items of spare clothing, in particular boys' and girls' socks. If you have any of these at home that your child no longer wears, we would be very grateful for any donations – thank you.

Tapestry

We will continue to use our on-line learning journal 'Tapestry', adding observations of your child over the year. You can access these observations and even add your own so that you can share your child's achievements away from school. For our new families, you should have received a login email from Tapestry to activate your account. If you have not received this activation email please let us know and we can re-send another.

Topic

For the first few weeks we will be focusing on settling in activities and learning our new routines. We will also be finding out about ourselves and each other's families, sharing our holiday books as well as focusing on one of our school values – that of Community - through stories, discussion and music.

PE days

In Early Years, the children are physically active every day and we make full use of our fantastic outdoor area. In addition, we also have focused PE sessions where we teach specific skills such as throwing and catching, dance, and teamwork. Our allocated PE lessons this term will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting on Thursday 11th September. On these days only, we ask that children come to school dressed in practical, comfortable clothing suitable for being active, which they will wear all day. We do not require a formal PE kit, but if you would like your child to wear the school PE kit, it consists of:

- A plain white t-shirt (or an optional school-logo t-shirt available from BE Uniforms, Carlisle)
- Black shorts, tracksuit trousers, or leggings
- School sweatshirt/cardigan

Please ensure footwear has a suitable sole for outdoor use—trainers are preferred to plimsolls.

As always, we kindly ask that all clothing is clearly named.

Snack & Water Bottles

Early Years children have a mid-morning snack each day consisting of fruit and a drink of water or milk.

Children can bring their own bottle from home or we can provide one in school, whichever you prefer.

Please may we ask for your child to bring their bottle to school on a Monday. We will then send them home at the end of the week for washing. The tops of the school bottles do tend to get chewed so if you require a new top, they are available for 10p, or you can purchase a new water bottle for 50p. These can now be purchased from the classroom.



Passwords

We have a password system for home time to ensure all of the children are safe. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, you are unable to pick up your child, please could you make sure whoever is picking up your child has a password. We then know that the request to pick up your child is genuine. If you are new to school and need to set up a password please get in touch.

Baseline assessment

At the beginning of the year, all Reception children in England have to complete a Baseline assessment. The purpose of the assessment is to provide a starting point for a new measure that will help parents understand how schools support their pupils to progress between Reception and Year 6. The assessments are short and practical and focus on the areas of communication, language, literacy and maths, and will be administered by myself. If you have any further questions about the Baseline Assessment, please get in touch. Our privacy notice relating to how data is stored and shared can be found on our school website if required.

Items we are collecting in class-

We are always looking for resources to support the children's learning and play. If you have any of the following items at home, we would be very grateful for your donations:

Buttons – we use buttons in class for many different purposes such as, sorting and crafting, but our button tin is running low. If anybody has any spares at home then we can make good use of them!

Dressing up items - As part of our role play provision, we like to keep a range of open-ended dressing-up items for the children to use in their imaginative play. We are currently looking to add to our collection with items such as shoes, boots, and hats. We are not looking for children's fancy dress costumes (e.g. princesses, superheroes, emergency services), but instead more open-ended clothing and accessories that can be used in different ways during play. If you have any suitable items at home that you no longer need, we would be very grateful for your donations.

'Make and do' area.

The 'make and do' area is a very popular part of our provision. It contains a selection of junk modelling materials which have been brought in from home by children and adults. If you would like to donate some junk modelling materials, these would be very gratefully received – especially cardboard boxes and tubes. Please send them into school in a carrier bag with your child.

Google Classroom

We use Google classroom as a platform to support our learning both in school and at home. In the next few days you will receive your child's login details and a guide to getting started with Google classroom. By logging in to your child's Google Classroom account you will then be able to access any further resources we provide to support you and your child with their learning at home.

Read, Write, Inc.

Once the Reception children have settled into class and we have completed the Baseline Assessment, we will be starting to introduce Read, Write, Inc. phonics with them all. I understand that this approach to teaching reading and writing is familiar to some of you, but new to others. To help explain how we approach learning to read in school I will be in touch with further information in the near future. In the meantime, letter sound sheets will be placed in the children's book bags for you to share at home each time we learn a new sound, as well as being uploaded to Google Classroom, so that you can access these in whichever way suits you best. This is a simple way for the children to consolidate their learning by explaining the sounds to you, as well as practising them further, at home.

Dates for your diaries

Friday 26th September 2025 – Harvest Festival and Harvest lunch

Wednesday 15th October 2025 - EYFS Forest School Session

Friday 24th October 2025 – School closes for half term

Thank you again for your continued support and please remember if you have any queries about anything please do not hesitate to get in touch via the e-mail address above.

J Carruthers

Jill Carruthers (EYFS class teacher)

