Reception

Prospectus 2026/27

Inspired by Cumbria, Ready for the World..

Welcome to Cumwhinton School

As the Early Years Lead at Cumwhinton School, it is with the warmest wishes that I welcome you to our school community.

At Cumwhinton, we pride ourselves on our inclusive, child-centred values. We recognise the essential skills children need in order to become successful, resilient and thriving young people and adults. This includes developing the confidence, curiosity and enthusiasm that inspire children to relish learning and seek a deeper understanding of the world and their role within it.

Everything about our school is carefully considered to ensure our children grow into confident individuals who understand their responsibilities as citizens, both locally and globally.

Throughout the academic year, children explore our three core school values in a planned and progressive way:

HUMANITY	INNOVATION	THE WORLD
~having a voice~	~seizing the chance~	~being the change~

We are situated in the beautiful village of Cumwhinton, South East of Carlisle. This truly glorious location provides us with a fabulous backdrop from which to be "…inspired by Cumbria…" and all that the rich and varied heritage, and landscape has to offer our children. It is vital to us that the children have a strong sense of their local surroundings and a pride in where they are learning.

Our curriculum is carefully designed taking into account the needs of the children at our school; it is bespoke, progressive and builds towards immersing them knowledge, skills and aptitude they need to take advantage of opportunities and experiences in later life. Central to this is ensuring that our youngest children are given the very best start to their learning journey; we prioritise giving children both the skills and the self-belief they need to be successful.

Cumwhinton School

We redesigned our school logo with the help of our children. It helps us to be reminded of the values in our school, but also our approach to learning and the ambition we have for your child.

The parnassuss flower; the flower of wet and wilderness as depicted on the flag of Cumberland. This represents our commitment to the rich and varied heritage, landscape and social dynamics of Cumbria.

The hands; represent the ambition of **HUMANITY** within our school and curriculum with the conceptual drivers that confirm our commitment to widening our children's experiences.

The red circle; in the centre of the flower is a red circle which represents our ambition of **INNOVATION**; from a tiny seed, great ideas begin.

The blue swirls; represent the focus of **THE WORLD** and the importance of having a global outlook and helping children understand their role as global citizens and ability to make a change.

The Early Years at Cumwhinton

At Cumwhinton School, we believe children learn best when they are inspired through awe, wonder and curiosity.

Our Early Years provision provides opportunities for children to explore, investigate and discover both indoors and outdoors. We value the importance of child-led learning, independence and real-life experiences.

Through carefully planned environments and skilled adult support, children are encouraged to:

- Explore independently
- Ask questions
- Solve problems
- Take risks in learning
- Develop resilience and confidence
- Work collaboratively with others

As part of our daily routine, children take part in:

- Daily phonics, Maths and Literacy sessions
- Weekly lessons covering a wide range of 'Undertanding of the World'
- Daily focused group activities.
- Purposeful play across the continuous provision which is enhanced weekly to reflect current learning.

We are delighted that our most recent Ofsted inspection recognised our Early Years provision as **Outstanding**.







THE GREAT OUTDOORS

It is important that your child has the opportunity to explore outdoors whatever the weather. We are very proud of our fantastic EYFS outdoor provision which the children have access to for the majority of the day. As with our indoor provision, our outdoor area is enhanced weekly to maximise learning and encourage high quality play and interactions. It is a safe and secure area for the children to explore.





ENRICHMENT

To support our school values and curriculum, children take part in a wide range of enrichment experiences.

Stocks Wood Outdoor Learning

All children visit Stocks Wood Outdoor Centre each half term. These sessions are carefully planned by Mrs Anderson alongside the Stocks Wood team and provide progressive outdoor learning opportunities across the year.

Educational Visits and Visitors

Children also benefit from:

- Visits from emergency services and community professionals
- Classroom experiences such as chick hatching
- Visits from organisations including Claire's Cool Creatures
- Educational visits during the Summer Term

Stay and Play Sessions

Each term, parents and carers are invited into school for parents' meetings, book looks and/or Stay and Play sessions. These opportunities allow families to:

- Experience the learning environment
- Explore the provision alongside their child
- Celebrate children's achievements
- Gain insight into Early Years learning approaches

It is important to us that your child has a **sense of belonging within their local area**. We have been working hard to develop strong links within our local community to give your children a sense of pride. Our values and curriculum inspire the children to learn about local geography and history in a carefully planned, sequential curriculum.

A SNAPSHOT FROM STOCKS WOOD…







EARLY READING AT CUMWHINTON

We are passionate about developing a lifelong love of reading.

Children are immersed in high-quality texts, stories, poems and non-fiction throughout the school day. We have developed a carefully selected reading spine to ensure children experience classic and enriching literature.

Reading opportunities are embedded throughout both indoor and outdoor provision.

At Cumwhinton, we use the Read Write Inc. programme to teach phonics through daily structured sessions. Our youngest children also benefit from daily Phase 1 phonics experiences to develop essential pre-reading skills such as:

- Listening and attention
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Sound discrimination
- Oral blending

Our aim is for every child to learn to read confidently, fluently and with understanding. For more information and videos about Read Write Inc please look at the following website. www.ruthmiskin.com/parentsandcarers

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILIES

At Cumwhinton, we value the strong partnership between school and home and recognise parents and carers as children's first educators.

We support this partnership through:

- An open-door policy
- Parent consultations and progress meetings
- Stay and Play sessions
- Reading and phonics workshops
- School events and celebrations
- Home learning opportunities
- Regular communication and updates

Class Dojo

We communicate with parents using a secure online platform called **Class Dojo**. This app allows parents and carers to see photos, videos and updates about their child's learning and experiences in school. It enables teachers to share your child's learning journey, celebrate achievements and capture special WOW moments throughout the day.

Class Dojo also provides a way for parents to share home learning, special achievements and significant events in their child's life, helping to strengthen the partnership between home and school.

How to access Class Dojo…

You child's teacher will set up a class account with your child's name. You will then receive an invitation through email or text which will have a link for you to join.

PAYMENTS

Cumwhinton School will be using Arbor from September for any monies due eg. school trips to Stocks Wood and details how to do this will follow when your child starts school.

(Add more here)

MEET THE STAFF…



Miss Sammie Cook
Senior Teaching Assistant



Mrs Lisa Anderson
EYFS Lead & Reception Teacher



Miss Ellen Jenkinson
Senior Teaching Assistant

A LITTLE MORE ABOUT US..

Mrs Anderson

"I have been a teacher for 20 years and feel lucky to love the job that I do! I am extremely passionate about Early Years and I am very proud of the wonderful EYFS provision we offer at Cumwhinton. I live with my husband, 2 children and 2 dogs who keep me busy when I am not at school! Every year I look forward to meeting new faces and helping children have the best possible start they can at Cumwhinton!"

Miss Cook

"I have worked at Cumwhinton for the last 3 years but have many years experience within a primary school. I live locally with my partner and daughter. I enjoy working with children in the early years and helping to ensure that they get a strong foundation, educationally and holistically. I am looking forward to meeting you and your children when you join us in September!"

Miss Jenkinson

I have been part of the team at Cumwhinton for over 4 years. I have loved helping Mrs Anderson develop our EYFS unit over this time to become the wonderful environment it now is. I enjoy supporting children as they grow in confidence, creativity and independence. I always look forward to meeting new characters in September!"

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform consists of:

- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without school logo)
- White or blue polo shirt
- Grey or black trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
- Black school shoes
- Blue gingham dresses during summer months

PE Kit

- Plain white T-shirt
- Black or navy shorts
- Navy tracksuit
- Trainers or plimsolls (softer trainers are recommended)

For health and safety reasons:

- Jewellery should not be worn
- Children with pierced ears should wear retainers only

We also recommend:

- A Cumwhinton book bag similar to below or a plain blue bookbag. (These fit inside the children's trays and are much easier than larger bags.



- Wellington boots for our half-termly visits to Stocks Wood (To be kept at home please)
- A carrier/draw string bag with some spare clothing to be kept at school please for any occasions where your child may need to be changed. This can be leggings/joggers and a T-shirt.
- A see-through water bottle. This must only contain water in line with EYFS Nutrition Guidance and will be kept at school Monday to Friday. (Washed midweek by staff).

SCHOOL MEALS, SNACKS AND NUTRITION

At Cumwhinton School, we are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles and positive eating habits from an early age.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. We encourage all children to take advantage of this provision where possible. Meals can be ordered 3 weeks in advance via Relish – more details will follow when your child starts school.

We are proud to follow the principles of the UK Government's Early Years nutrition guidance, which promotes:

- Balanced and nutritious meals
- Access to fruit and vegetables
- Limiting foods high in sugar, salt and saturated fats
- Encouraging healthy hydration
- Developing positive lifelong eating habits

Children also benefit from:

- Daily rolling snack provision
- School fruit and vegetable scheme
- Opportunities to prepare and serve food independently
- Healthy snack experiences such as fruit, crackers, cheese and natural yoghurt.

Our rolling snack sessions help children develop important life skills including:

- Pouring drinks
- Spreading and cutting safely
- Making healthy choices
- Social interaction and independence

Rolling snack is in addition to the School Fruit scheme where a savoury snack is offered every morning (fruit on an afternoon). We kindly ask for a contribution of £1 per week towards this which is payable directly to Reception. This will also contribute to ingredients for our weekly baking activities. (More information will be sent out regarding rolling snack once your child has started school).

We are a **nut-free school** and ask that families do not send any items containing nuts into school.

Fresh water is available to children throughout the day.

HEALTH, SAFETY AND MEDICAL CARE

All EYFS staff are trained in paediatric first aid.

Minor injuries are treated appropriately, and parents are informed of any head injuries, however minor.

If your child has:

- Asthma
- Allergies
- Medical conditions
- Regular medication requirements

please inform the school office so that an Individual Healthcare Plan can be completed where necessary.

WRAPAROUND CARE AT CUMWHINTON

Our wraparound care provision operates:

- Breakfast Club: 7:45am – 8:50am
- After School Club: 3:20pm – 6:00pm

Children enjoy a range of indoor and outdoor activities alongside breakfast or snacks in a safe and welcoming environment.

For further information, please contact the school office on admin@cumwhinton.cumbria.sch.uk

THE SCHOOL DAY

School Day

- School starts: 8:45am
- Registers taken: 8:50am
- Reception finishes: 3:15pm
- Main school finishes: 3:20pm

Attendance

Please notify the school office before 9:15am if your child is absent.

Requests for term-time leave should be submitted in writing to the Headteacher, as holidays during term time cannot usually be authorised (unless exceptional circumstances). These may result in a fixed penalty notice from the Local Authority once the exceeded time has been met.

INCLUSION AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

At Cumwhinton School, we believe every child has the right to an ambitious, inclusive and appropriately differentiated curriculum.

We recognise that every child is unique and are committed to ensuring all children are supported to achieve their full potential.

Further information about our SEND provision and Local Offer can be found on the school website.

For additional information, please contact myself or our school SENCO (Via the school office).

FIND OUT MORE...

We are looking forward to welcoming you into our Cumwhinton family, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or queries.

Telephone: 01228 560400

Email: admin@cumwhinton.cumbria.sch.uk

Follow us on Instagram: cumwhintonschooleyfs to find out more about our Early Years

Facebook: Cumwhinton School

With kind wishes,

Mrs Lisa Anderson – EYFS Lead and Class Teacher