

CUMMERSDALE SCHOOL



**PROSPECTUS FOR SCHOOL YEAR
2017/2018**

CUMMERSDALE SCHOOL, CUMMERSDALE, CARLISLE, CA2 6BD

Telephone: 01228 592087

www.cummersdale.cumbria.sch.uk

e-mail: head@cummersdale.cumbria.sch.uk

TEACHING STAFF

Head Teacher	Mr Gareth Jones
Class Teacher Reception	Mrs Lucy Graham
Class Teacher Y1/Y2	Mrs Sarah Barratt
	Miss Suzanne Barrett
Class Teacher Y3/4	Mrs Philippa Wakefield
	Miss Alexandra Queenan
Class Teacher Y5/6	Mrs Gill Stables
Teaching Assistants	Mrs Wendy Haughan
	Miss Hayley Brecken
	Miss Toni Beardwood
Learning Support Teacher	Mrs Fay Scott

NON-TEACHING STAFF

School Administrator	Mrs Gillian Crellen
Midday Supervisor	Ms Sammy Spooner
Midday Supervisor	Ms Rebecca Wade
Cleaner in Charge	Ms Cora Wilson
Kitchen Team Leader	Mrs Zoe Wood

GOVERNORS

Mr James Johnston (Chair)	Parent
Mrs Donna Morris	Parent
Mr Dan Porter	Parent
Mrs Fay Scott	Parent
Mrs Olga Allison	Local Authority
Mrs Hannah Atkinson	Co-opted
Mrs Julie Campbell	Co-opted
Mr Andrew Clode	Co-opted
Mr Gareth Jones	Head Teacher
Mrs Gill Stables	Teaching Staff
Mrs Lesley Staddon	Clerk to the Governors



Welcome to Cummersdale School

Thank you for your interest in Cummersdale School. I hope that you find the information in this prospectus useful.

Here at Cummersdale, we aim to make your child's experience with us one that is happy and enjoyable, where they can be encouraged to develop a love of learning in a secure and caring environment. We want all of our children to know that learning is fun, exciting, enjoyable and fulfilling.

Cummersdale School is a relatively small school, which enables children to receive a high degree of personal attention. They also have the opportunity to take part in a wealth of extra-curricular activities suited to their individual needs and personal interests.

Please feel free to contact the school if you would like to look around or discuss the provision that is available at Cummersdale School.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Jones

Gareth Jones
Headteacher

CHARACTER AND HISTORY

Cummersdale School was established in 1884 to cater for children living in and around Cummersdale. The school forms an important focal point for the community. The Governors welcome children from other areas such as urban Carlisle and the surrounding rural district. Approximately three quarters of pupils who come to the school live outside the catchment area, with many coming from Longsowerby, Denton Holme and Morton areas.

In September 2003, a significant extension to increase the teaching accommodation was opened. A Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) was added in 2006, which is used for playtimes and after school activities. A kitchen was opened in 2007 enabling the children to enjoy a school dinner cooked on the premises. The most recent improvement is the construction of a new Infant classroom to provide a modern and spacious learning area for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2012).

There are currently 90 children on roll, with 45 in the Infants and 45 in the Juniors. The school has waiting lists in several year groups.



Singing Out at Carlisle Cathedral

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Children start Cummersdale School at the beginning of the Autumn Term in the year in which they will become five. The school has adopted the County Admissions Policy and has a published admission number (PAN) of 12 per year group from 2016.

<http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/eLibrary/view.asp?ID=63032>

Year Group	PAN	Current number	Class
Rec	12	15	Rec
1	12	16	Year 1/2
2	12	14	
3	12	11	Year 3/4
4	12	13	
5	12	10	Year 5/6
6	12	11	
	84	90	



PHILOSOPHY

We believe that primary education should:

1. Bring out the best in every child
2. Interest children in the world around them and give them a wide range of experiences
3. Feed the children's curiosity and encourage them to develop enquiring minds
4. Nurture a sense of wonder
5. Equip children with tools for learning and help each child to develop their potential
6. Enable each child to develop their understanding of self and the world around them
7. Encourage children to develop as individuals

Our school is a community in which each child is accepted and valued as member of the school community, and is also expected to give as well as take in school life.

We believe that every child has abilities and talents and each child in our care is encouraged to make the most of their particular gifts. The children's education is pursued in a happy, calm and caring atmosphere and every child receives encouragement in their endeavours. We do think school should be fun and that individuality should be encouraged. Sport and Physical Education is a feature of the school and most children take advantage of the facilities and opportunities available.

Parents are welcome to come into school with their children in the morning.

SCHOOL HOURS

All children attend school for the following sessions: 8.55 am - 12.00 pm
1.00 pm - 3.15 pm

There are short breaks in the morning and afternoon sessions. Children line up on the playground at 8.50am

The school cannot accept responsibility for children before 8.45 am or after 3.30 pm.



I can see you !

ORGANISATION

Cummersdale School is a child-centred school. The aims remain constant, but the way we organise the children, the resources of the school, the teaching staff and the curriculum are adapted in order to meet the needs of our pupils effectively.

There are four classes in the school. The small Reception class provides the children with an excellent start and with a high adult to child ratio, progress in the Early Years is good.

The Y1/2, Y3/4 and Y5/6 classes are mixed age. The children are taught to ability rather than age which means that all children are working at the correct level. Each class has a teacher and a teaching assistant.

THE CURRICULUM

The school curriculum is the total experience that the pupils encounter. It aims to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of the pupils and prepare the children for opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It provides an environment where the children can profit from and enjoy their life at school.

In developing a school curriculum, the following principles are taken account of:

Excellence and Enjoyment – introducing the pupils to a wide range of knowledge, understanding and skills through an exciting and stimulating curriculum

Personalisation and Differentiation – tailoring the curriculum to ensure that what is taught is relevant to the pupils' own experience and needs, differentiating learning opportunities to ensure that they address all of the different learning styles of the children

Health and Safety – developing a secure learning environment and safe practices and also teaching children about how they can adopt healthy lifestyles

Making a Positive Contribution – providing children with the skills to develop positive relationships, self confidence, to value others and their opinions and value achievement and attainment

These areas are taught through the structures of the Early Years Foundation Stage and National Curriculum, including the Numeracy and Literacy Strategies along with the programmes of Personal, Social and Health Education and Religious Education.



Reception Children on Roald Dahl Day 2015

Reception and Early Years Foundation Stage – learning and teaching through play

In Reception the children follow the Foundation Stage curriculum which is specifically tailored to the needs of the children of this age range. Young children learn best when engaged in meaningful activities which can either be child initiated or teacher led. These activities are structured to provide the children with a range of skills and attributes that will enable them to progress throughout the school. The school also believe in teaching fundamental skills of numeracy and literacy at an early age.

The Foundation Stage has five different areas of learning:

- Personal, Emotional and Social Development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Mathematical Development
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Creative Development
- Physical Development

Throughout the Reception year, the children are supported in their learning, providing them with a supportive and safe environment that builds confidence and self esteem through celebrating achievement and effort.

The Foundation Stage provides the building blocks for the rest of the children's educational development. The staff at Cummersdale are committed to continually improving the children's experiences and facilities.



Fun in the playground

The Core Subjects

Maths

Whilst the National Curriculum is followed, the children's learning experiences are differentiated in order to provide them with meaningful and relevant activities at an appropriate level for each child's ability. The school uses Maths Abacus Evolve scheme and Maths Whizz personalised learning programs.

English

The school follows the requirements of the National Curriculum. There is a structured reading scheme and a colour-coded book reading system. Guided reading is also at the core of teaching. In writing, the children are taught to write for purpose with a clear audience in mind and also encouraged to convey meaning in written language with increasing fluency and accuracy. Children are expected to take reading books home and we ask parents to work with them and encourage them to read. There is a well-stocked library with a large selection of fiction and non-fiction books. The school has benefitted from being part of the 'Every Child a Writer' project and the 'Power of Reading' initiative.

ICT

At Cummersdale, the children are provided with the skills and understanding of ICT that will enable them to address their own future needs in an increasingly technological society. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and the school has over 30 I-Pads and 30 lap tops to ensure that all children have regular access to ICT. The school received a subject inspection in May 2012 and the feedback letter can be seen at www.ofsted.gov.uk

Science

The children are given the opportunity to discover the world around them through investigation and discovery. The teaching of science is supplemented by educational visits wherever possible.



On your marks, get set, go...!

The Foundation Subjects

Geography

Pupils develop geographical knowledge and understanding through enquiry. Educational visits support the work done in the classroom.

History

Children are encouraged to become aware of and interested in the past. They learn about important characters and events from History. The teaching of History is supported by visits to places of Historical Interest and the handling of artefacts and original sources.

Music

Children are given the opportunity to perform and compose as well as listen and appraise. They are exposed to wide range of music genres for listening and discussion.

Art and Design Technology

The school offers the children the opportunity to work in wide range of different media. The children often work with professional artists and visit galleries regularly.

Physical Education

PE is considered to be a strength of the school. As well as children improving their skills at gymnastics, dance and games. Children in Y3 - 6 go swimming at Morton Pool.

Religious Education

The school follows the Cumbria Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education. It encompasses all faiths and teaches morality, kindness and compassion. Assembly does contain an element of collective worship. The school invites clergy into the school to give assemblies and has close links with St James' Church in the village.

Personal, Social and Health Education

This is taught as a cross-curricular theme which includes safety, well-being and health. The Governors, in line with current legislation, have made a decision that sex education will be taught but have the discretion to accept requests from parents to have their child withdrawn from this subject.

Special Educational Needs/Inclusion

We cater for a full range of educational abilities and each child's curriculum is organised according to ability. It also has disabled access to the ground floor and to the toilet facilities. The school is inclusive and no child is prevented from accessing any area of the curriculum unless there is an insurmountable Health and Safety issue. Mrs Barratt is the school's Special Needs Co-ordinator and the school has a learning support teacher, Mrs Scott, who works with children throughout the school who may have learning difficulties.



Reception Children

HOMEWORK

All children are encouraged to take books home to read. The youngest children's first step to independent reading is the ability to share a book with their parents. Guidance on how to help your child with their reading at their stage of development will be given by the teacher. As children get older, spellings and times tables are taken home to be learnt. Other homework may be given if it is felt that a specific task would help a child's learning. It will not be given for its own sake. When children in Key Stage 2 are preparing for their Standard Assessment Tests (SATs), more formal homework is directed.



Cummersdale Tennis Players at The Cumbrian School Games 2015

EXTRA CURRICULAR-ACTIVITIES

Sport

At Cummersdale, we believe that all children should have opportunity to take part in these activities and the school competes well in local and even national competitions.

Football, netball, gymnastics, chess, athletics, tennis, cross-country running, cricket, rounders and orienteering are offered as extra curricular activities and no charge is made for these activities. The school has a high participation rate and has rightly gained a reputation for its innovation and commitment. The school has recently achieved the Sainsbury's School Games Silver Kite Mark 2015-16 in recognition of the quality of the sports provision.

In the last three years, pupils at Cummersdale School have achieved the following:

Football:	Carlisle Small Schools Winners, Finalists at The Sands Centre Indoor Competition
Cricket:	Carlisle Small Schools' Finalists
Cross-Country:	Individual 1st Place Carlisle Schools' Event
Orienteering:	4 th Place - Borderliners Schools' League Individual 1 st Place Borderliners Schools' league Represented Carlisle at the Cumbrian School Games
Hockey:	Finalists at Carlisle Schools' Tournament Winners Caldew Competition
Tennis:	Carlisle Small Schools Winners Represented Carlisle at the Cumbrian School Games
Rounders	Winners of the Carlisle Small Schools Competition
Sports Hall	Winners of Caldew School event
Athletics	

Other Clubs/Activities

There is opportunity for children to learn a variety of instruments through the Cumbrian Schools' Music Service. Currently children learn the flute, saxophone and clarinet. There is also a recorder group catering for a variety of abilities. All have opportunity to perform in public.

All children in the school get the opportunity to take part in the 'Let's Get Cooking' Cookery Club. As well as being great fun, it introduces new skills and reinforces the message of healthy eating.

The school does not charge for extra-curricular activities of which there are plenty, and seek voluntary parental contributions to enable the children to go on school trips, to see concerts etc. The school recognises that these "extra" activities will not happen without voluntary financial support from the parents. The school provides a residential experience for all the children at least once in their school life. In 2015, the Year 5 and 6 children went to Winmarleigh Hall on an adventure holiday and in 2017 they will visit Liverpool.



Y6 at Design Technology Day, Caldew School 2015

UNIFORM.

The school expects all children to wear the school uniform. This consists of a navy blue sweatshirt/cardigan and a green polo shirt both with the school logo. These can be obtained inexpensively from the school. Black/grey trousers are worn and the girls may also wear a black/grey skirt or dress. Children are requested to change into indoor shoes whilst in school. Children are required to wear white/navy shorts and a white T-shirt for PE. It is expected that children will bring this kit on the appropriate days or may miss taking part in activities. For swimming, trunks or a swimming costume should be worn.

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals are cooked on the premises each day and are currently priced at £2.00 per day. Approximately two thirds of the school take this option. Free School meals are available to children whose family income falls below a certain level. Currently, all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive Universal Free School Meals. As the school operates a healthy eating policy, crisps and sweets are not permitted at playtime.

Children under the age of 5 receive milk and those in the Infants receive a piece of fruit each day free of charge. Older children may purchase milk for a small charge. All children are permitted to have a water bottle in their classroom. The school provides one free of charge to new starters or they can be purchased from the office.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES & HEALTH AND SAFETY

The school operates a vigorous Equal Opportunities Policy and positively encourages access to, and participation in, all areas of the curriculum regardless of sex, creed, ethnic origin or physical ability.

Through its Health and Safety policy, the school is committed to securing the health, safety and well-being of employees, pupils and others affected by the school's activities.



Y5/6 Visit to Anfield as part of the Liverpool Trip 2015

HELPING YOUR CHILD TO MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR EDUCATION

Your positive attitude to any work your child does is vital. It is **essential** to show an interest in their school activities and give them lots of praise and encouragement. Let them know that you think what they are doing is important and worthwhile. If you think your child is worried about any aspect of school please do not hesitate to contact the school.

DISCIPLINE

We believe in being firm but fair and we do expect the children to do as they are asked. We encourage them to behave sensibly and show consideration for others. We praise good behaviour and encourage the children to develop self-discipline. We hope that the warm, caring and happy atmosphere of our school discourages selfish and anti-social behaviour. A child may have a privilege removed if a punishment is felt necessary. If problems arise, parents are consulted at an early stage.

The school has a behaviour policy that is followed and may be inspected by parents. Visitors to the school regularly comment on the good behaviour of the children in school, their manners and treatment of each other. The school operates a Cummersdale Cash system where children's hard work and manners are rewarded with virtual money which can be banked or spent at the school shop.

The school is aware that bullying in all its forms can be a terrible trauma for a child and all our staff endeavour to work positively to overcome any incidents and encourage self respect and respect for others. Staff and children are encouraged to take all incidents seriously and report them immediately. The school was praised by Ofsted in 2013 for its behaviour and safety and was awarded 'outstanding' in this category.



Cummersdale Gymnasts at The County Finals 2015

POLICIES

If any parent wishes to inspect the school policies, they can make arrangements with the Head Teacher to see them at a reasonable time.

AWARDS

The school has achieved several awards in recent years:

In 2014, the school achieved the Artsmark award in recognition of the high quality of arts provision available.

The school has recently been awarded the Sainsbury's School Games Silver Kite mark for 2015-16 for its sporting activities.

The school has achieved the Eco-Schools Silver Award, the Woodland Trust Gold Award and the RHS Level 2 gardening Award.

Following the success of our 'Lets Get Cooking Club' we received school accreditation in 2014.



Eight Angels and a Bossy King, Christmas Production 2014

HOME SCHOOL LINKS

The school requires each parent and child to sign an agreement where they will try to uphold the ethos of the school and respect all those who work in it.

We are firmly committed to the principle of parental involvement and we do all we can to help parents become informed and active participants in their child's education. Parents are welcome into school any morning between 8.45am and 8.55am and many "Infant" parents take this opportunity to settle their child in and have a quick word with a member of staff if they have a query. However, if you want a longer talk or wish to talk confidentially to the teaching staff, please make an appointment. The school holds more formal parents' evenings twice a year when children's progress can be discussed.

Parents are invited to Church Services, productions in the Village Hall and a variety of sporting events. Many parents take part in the annual school walk and accompany theatre visits and other trips. We are very pleased to welcome parents into school to help children in specific ways, such as cookery, needlework, model making, shared reading, etc. If you would like to be a parent helper, please discuss this with the staff.

We have a Parent Fund Raising Group, 'The Cummersdale Parents Group', which organises events throughout the year. The funds are used for the benefit of the children's education. This is an active and successful organisation and your contribution to it would be most welcomed.

TRANSFER

On leaving Cummersdale School at 11, the children normally transfer to Caldew School at Dalston. However, parents may now seek to send children to a secondary school of their choice. Besides Caldew School, leavers in the past have gone to Trinity School, Richard Rose Morton Academy and Nelson Thomlinson.

The catchment secondary school is: Caldew School, Dalston. – (01228) 710044

