"Teach your children the right path and when they are older they will remain upon it"

Proverbs 22:6

St. James' Church of England Infant and Nursery School

www.st-james-inf.cumbria.sch.uk

Prospectus 2027-28

Contact us: High Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria, CA28 7PZ
Tel: 01946 691970 **Email:** admin@st-james-inf.cumbria.sch.uk

Welcome from our Headteacher

We would like to welcome you and your family to our school.

St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School is a wonderful, vibrant school where children sit at the forefront of everything we do. We offer a memorable, magical and meaningful curriculum in a nurturing, caring and fun environment. Our parent questionnaires demonstrate the high regard the school is held in throughout the local community– **100% of parents would recommend our school to other parents**. We believe that all children deserve the most amazing childhood experiences to broaden their horizons and view themselves as global citizens. At St James' we strive to create an inspiring and educational learning environment which facilitates our outstanding curriculum, rooted in a Christian ethos.

We strongly believe that children learn best when they are happy, relaxed and taking part in what they enjoy; we feel that this promotes a sense of curiosity and a thirst for learning which can last a lifetime, Your child will be offered a wealth of opportunities to flourish during their time with us underpinned by our Christian values. During your child's time at our school, they will receive a high quality education that will enable them to achieve their academic potential but they will also have the opportunity to extend their learning through the arts, sport and outdoor learning opportunities.

During the year we hold many events and celebrate children's achievements which you are welcome to come along to. Our school Facebook and Instagram pages also capture many of the exciting opportunities that we offer.

Working in partnership with parents is paramount for each child to have a positive and fulfilling Infant experience.

I look forward to a fruitful partnership with you, working together for your child to help them 'Choose the right path'.

Alex Moore BA (Hons) NPQH

Headteacher

Our School Vision

Welcome to St. James' C of E Infant and Nursery School

Our vision is to teach children to

'Choose the right path'

Based on Proverbs 22:6

"Teach children to choose the right path, and when they are older they will remain upon it "

We aim to:

- Allow every child to flourish.
- Encourage children to develop a love for learning.
- Provide a range of first hand experiences to inspire curiosity.
- Teach the importance of caring and respect for others.
- Provide children with a rich and memorable curriculum to enable children to choose the right path.

To do this we will deliver a curriculum which will:

- Offer our children a rich, memorable and enjoyable education built upon first hand experiences.
- Have the highest expectations of all of our learners ensuring that they always give us their best.
- Encourage enquiring minds to develop resilient learners, who become strong independent learners who see problems as a challenge they wish to tackle.
- Provide an inclusive curriculum, which will aim to overcome any barriers to learning that prevent our pupils from succeeding.
- Ensure use of collaborative learning so pupils work effectively with others.
- Develop understanding of our Christian Values and put them at the heart of everything we do, utilising our links with St James' Church.
- Promote a positive self-image in our pupils so that they understand how wonderful they are and can also empathise with others.
- Provide children with a range of first hand experiences which enhances their cultural capital.

Our school values underpin everything we do at St James'. We have 6 Christian values which are:

Courage	Love	Respect
Kindness	Forgiveness	Friendship

Our Staff Team

Headteacher

Mrs Alex Moore	DSL. Child Protection, Teaching and Learning
	Pupil Premium and Looked After Children

Deputy Head Teacher

Miss Stephanie Sapsed (R)	DDSL, SENDCo

School Business Manager

Mrs Clair Brown	Health & Safety
	Educational Visits
	DDSL

Administration Assistant

Miss Charlotte O'Neil

Teaching Staff	Responsibility
Mrs Simone Chambers (N)	EYFS Reading
Miss Stephanie Sapsed (R)	SEND, EYFS and PE
Mrs Joanne Cocksedge (R)	RE, Art and DT
Mrs Jenny King (Y1/2)	English, Science and Computing
Mrs Emma Butterworth (Y1/2)	Geography and History
Miss Kim Powell (Y1/2)	Maths and Music

Teaching Assistants

Miss Joanne Bragg	Miss Maria Bibby
Mrs Kerry Irwin	Miss Jemma Deans
Mrs Gay Frankland	Miss Eloise Cocksedge
Miss Olivia Cullnean	

Kitchen staff and Mid Day supervisors

Mrs Patricia Hendren	Mrs Elaine Pattinson
Mrs Lyn Broatch	Mrs Margaret McAllister
Mrs Susan Ennis	

EBASC

Miss Joanne Bragg

Miss Katherine Brown

Mrs Clare Bullock

School Governors

Appointed by Diocesan Education Committee
(Foundation Governors)

Mrs Alison Dobell

Mrs Anna Jones

Mr Joe Elder

Appointed By Local Education Authority
Mr Brian O'Kane

Parents Representatives
Mrs Kiri Skelton

Miss Katie Hawksworth

Miss Bryony Hendren

Mrs Suzanne Wilson

Headteacher

Mrs Alex Moore

School Representative
Miss Stephanie Sapsed

Co-opted
Mrs Stephanie Hetherington

Mrs Katie Kinrade

Governance Professional

Mrs Clair Brown

The information in this booklet relates to the school year 2026/27

About our school

St James' C of E Infant and Nursery school is situated on the West Cumbrian coast in Whitehaven. It was established in 1875, but most of the current building dates from 1967. As a voluntary controlled school it maintains close links with the Parish Church and values its Christian ethos, but it is open to children of all denominations.

The school serves the neighbourhood, extending between Wellington Row, Strand Street, Lowther Street, Midgey, Harras Moor, Red Lonning, the area south of Aikbank, Bay Vista, Loop Road North and Solway View. Children from the areas mentioned will have first priority for places. Full details are available in the Local Authority's "General Information for Parents" booklet.

There are six main teaching areas with a central hall and an entrance at each end.

Scafell and Skiddaw are at the lower end of the school building and Great Gable, Melbreak and Catbells are at the front end of the building.

Currently Great Gable and Melbreak are our Early Years classrooms. Catbells, Scafell and Skiddaw accommodate our Year 1 and 2 children.

Teachers meet weekly to plan the curriculum for each year group. This ensures that children in each year group follow the same curriculum even though they are in different classes.

The topics are planned in two-yearly cycles, one for each half term. Curriculum information booklets are prepared and issued at the beginning of each term. They are also available on our website under curriculum.

Wrap Around Care

We offer a Breakfast Club and an After School Club which are available to all pupils. The Breakfast Club runs from 7.40am and the After School Club is available up to 5.15pm. Current charges are detailed on our website.

"The teachers are a credit to the school."

"I think the school is very good, always lots going on and striving to be better."

Parents comments

Our Curriculum

Early Years

Teaching and Learning

Foundation Stage

The Nursery year is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage for children from birth to five years old. Teachers plan activities and experiences that are carefully matched to the children's needs and stages of development.

Learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum takes place around the following seven areas:

Communication and language

Physical development

Personal, social and emotional development

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the world

Expressive arts and design

Play, both indoors and out, is an essential part of development and learning. Children learn best by doing things they really enjoy, so our skilled staff plan learning activities that are play-based, active and fun. Staff are skilled in providing the right balance of challenge and support to take the children forward whilst maintaining their confidence.

The children are encouraged to take responsibility from an early stage. Children from all year groups join our School Council and are involved in decision making.

We have excellent transition arrangements in place to support the children as they move up through the school.

We accept Nursery children from the day after their 3rd birthday, most parents are entitled to 15 free hours and many working parents are entitled to 30 free hours. Parents can also pay to top up their entitlement.

Our wrap around care is available to every child including those in Nursery.

Our Curriculum

Year 1 and Year 2

Teaching and Learning

Key Stage One

At St James' C of E Infant and Nursery we know that confidence is a key to success and we work hard to boost our children in this area. Children are better able to fulfil their potential when their emotional health and well-being are promoted and these aspects are very important.

Teaching Methods

In Years 1 and 2 we teach according to the National Curriculum for Key Stage 1. To find out more about what areas are covered and how we assess the children please click on the Curriculum tab under Key Information on our website.

We are also required to teach Religious Education and as a Church of England School we follow the syllabus provided by the Diocese of Carlisle. Further details can be found from the Diocese of Carlisle website: http://www.carlislediocese.org.uk/our-diocese/schools

Here at St James' C of E Infant and Nursery we use a variety of methods and schemes to teach children and help them progress. We use Read Write Inc to teach our children how to read and write. Read Write Inc. is a whole school programme with children being grouped across the school and all taught English at the same time each day. Further information about the programme can be found in the Parent resources section on the drop down tabs above.

You have "helped her grow into a loving, kind and caring girl ..... St James' Infant and Nursery school should be very proud of yourselves."

Year Two Parent

Induction and Transition

Induction

Once you receive your offer of a place at St James' Infant and Nursery you will receive an invitation to a Stay and Play session in the summer term to find out more about our induction into school. You will meet the Headteacher and your child's new teacher and will be able to ask questions you may have. You will also be given a welcome booklet that will give you more information about our school.

Later in the summer term there will be opportunity for you and your child to spend some time in their new classroom to meet the teachers and make some new friends.

Before your child starts school in September or when they start Nursery, the class teacher will make an appointment to visit you and your child at home. This is an informal meeting when you can get to know the members of staff in whose care your child will be and talk to them in privacy about anything relating to starting school.

At the meeting, we will share starting information and discuss with yourselves how we manage this. For children starting with us in Nursery, this may be a phased or part time approach to their hours. For new to Reception children, they will be visited at home and then will join us straight away. If you have any concerns about this, please discuss at our home visit.

If you have any concerns or worries please speak to us. We will listen!

Transition

We take children from a wide variety of pre-school providers and we contact all of them to start to get to know your child before they start with us. We arrange home visits so that your child can meet their teacher in the comfort of their own home.

We have excellent transition arrangements in place to ensure the children move through the school happily..

After Year 2 all of our children move to St James' Junior School. We have really thorough transition arrangements in place with visits to and from the Junior School making transition seamless for our children. We often welcome junior children back to see us, to help with events or work with our children.

Special Educational Needs

On average, about 20% of children need special help at some time with their schooling. Needs are identified in several ways: information is gathered from parents, pre-school groups, outside agencies, teacher observations or assessments. Children with needs identified will be supported appropriately. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) may be drawn up. Support will be given in the classroom, but small groups may be withdrawn when appropriate. Advice from outside agencies may be sought and Team Around the Child Meetings may be arranged.

For those children who need a little extra help from time to time, we offer a variety of interventions such as Read Write Inc Fast Track Phonics, Pre Teach maths and Nurture support. Each of these are tailored to the needs of the individual child. These are all aimed at giving a little extra help in addition to the quality teaching we offer. Our Senior Teaching Assistants are highly trained in these schemes, we find that children find the extra sessions enjoyable and confidence building.

The value of parental support and its effect on the learning and development of children is recognised and valued and we involve parents at all stages.

If you have any concerns about your child please speak to us—we are approachable and will take your concerns seriously.

Our SEND Policy and details of our local offer are available from our website or the school office.

School Organisation

Our School Day

The school doors are opened at 8.40am each morning.. Teaching begins at 8.45am, allowing 5 minutes for the children to get settled.

Please note that children are **NOT** supervised on the playground by school staff before school starts.

Key Stage 1

Morning session

8.45am to 12 noon

Afternoon session

1.00pm to 3.15pm

Early Years

Morning session

8.45am to 11.45am

Afternoon session

1.00pm to 3.15pm

(Nursery 12.15pm-3.15pm)

At home time the teacher will bring the children to the doors for each class. Your child will be asked to remain in the classroom if you are delayed for any reason.

Various clubs are held in school throughout the year. These will be advertised on our weekly news-letter.

Uniform

All our children wear school uniform as we believe the wearing of uniform helps the children take a pride in themselves and their school.

Please label clothing!

You are free to buy your uniform from any outlet. School can supply items embroidered with our school logo, these are available to order through the school office or you can buy them from other suppliers stocking our uniform, currently myclothing.com or Haig Embroidery at Haig Industrial Estate, Whitehaven.

The uniform is as follows:-

Boys

Gold polo shirt

Burgundy round necked sweatshirt

School trousers (long or short, grey)

Girls

Gold polo shirt

Burgundy round necked sweatshirt or cardigan

Trousers/skirt/pinafore (grey)

Dresses can be worn in summer (red, maroon or yellow)

PE

Boys and girls

Plain black shorts

Gold t-shirt with school badge

Plain trainers

Footwear

Plain black shoes. Please ensure these are suitable for comfort and safety. If your child comes to school in boots they will need a change of footwear as they are not suitable to wear all day.

Jewellery is not permitted.

Attendance

It is vital that your child attends school regularly, unless they are ill. Please telephone us on the first day of absence. We politely request that you don't book holidays in term time as your child may miss vital aspects of his or her education. Holidays in term-time will be classified as unauthorised absences and are only authorised in the most exceptional circumstances. An unauthorised absence will stay on your child's school record throughout their school life. Our school attendance target is 96.5%.

Contacting us

Email: admin@st-james-inf.cumbria.sch.uk

Phone: 01946 691970

The school office is open between 8am and 3.30pm, if there is no one in the office a message can be left on the answer machine, this will be dealt with as soon as possible.

We do not hope that this information has been useful, please let us know if we can answer any further questions.