

Skirlaugh CE Primary School



Early Years Foundation Stage



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'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart' Colossians 3:23

Be Brave - Be Kind - Be Your Best

Headteacher:

Mrs C Pitois

EYFS Leader & Reception Teacher : Miss A Sugden

Nursery Class Teacher: Miss L Farnsworth

EYFS Teaching Assistant: Miss S Charlton



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A warm welcome to Skirlaugh Church of England Primary School.

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to our Early Years provision. The early stages of a child's learning journey are among the most important, and at Skirlaugh, we are proud to offer a nurturing, stimulating, and enriching environment where every child is encouraged to explore, grow, and thrive.

We believe that early childhood is a time of wonder, discovery, and immense potential. Our dedicated Early Years team is passionate about providing high-quality care and education that lays strong foundations for a lifelong love of learning. Through play-based experiences, meaningful relationships, and a carefully planned curriculum, we support each child's development—socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually.

At the heart of our Early Years setting is a commitment to the wellbeing and individuality of every child. We work closely with families to ensure that each child feels safe, valued, and confident to take their first steps into the wider world.



Thank you for your interest in our Early Years. I hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of the warm, caring and inspiring setting we are so proud of. We warmly invite you to visit us and see for yourself what makes our Early Years such a special place to begin a child's educational journey.

I look forward to working in partnership together.

Warm regards,
Mrs C Pitois
Headteacher

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Building Foundations

Our newly-refurbished, reimagined Early Years Foundation Stage offers flexible places for children from 3 years old. Our setting prides itself on providing the highest quality education in a safe, happy and caring environment where every child can thrive. We are delighted that you have chosen to start your child's journey with us and we look forward to the learning and laughter as we welcome them into our Skirlaugh family.

Our EYFS setting is a calm and purposeful environment for children to learn within. We have a number of specifically designed areas which support aspects of the EYFS curriculum such as writing, maths, expressive arts and design and physical development alongside sand, construction and small world areas. Our outdoor provision provides a number of facilities including an adventure playground, water, a digging pit and access to scooters and bikes. We also benefit from the use of an additional outdoor classroom as a space for our nursery children's small group learning.





Flexible Provision

We welcome children to attend our setting from the term following their third birthday (nursery pupils). All nursery pupils are able to access 15 hours of free provision per week which can be used flexibly; some families may be entitled to 30 hours of free provision which can also be accommodated.

Our nursery day is split into either morning sessions (9:00 to 12:00) or full days (9:00 to 3:00). Should you wish your child to remain in school for the length of the full day (until 3:30pm), there is an additional charge for this; please contact the school office for further information.

Reception and Nursery pupils can access wrap around care from 7:30am until 5:30pm at the school's breakfast and after school clubs.



Our EYFS aims

In our Early Years, we want every child to Be Brave, Be Kind and Be Their Best. We aim:

- To be brave – developing confident, curious and independent learners who are willing to explore, investigate, make choices and have a go in a stimulating environment that sparks creativity and imagination.
- To be kind – nurturing positive relationships and providing opportunities through play for children to learn together, develop socially and emotionally, and begin to understand their place within our caring school community.
- To be their best – supporting every child to grow and flourish intellectually, physically, socially and emotionally, recognising that success looks different for every child.
- To work in partnership with families – building warm, supportive relationships with parents and carers, valuing them as their child's first educators and building upon the experiences and learning children bring from home.
- To celebrate every child – recognising and valuing the uniqueness of every child and family, celebrating diversity and creating an inclusive environment where everyone is welcomed, respected and able to belong.





Our Curriculum

Throughout your child's time in Foundation Stage they will be following the curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage, working towards the Early Learning Goals by the end of Reception. This curriculum outlines standards for learning and development for all children aged 0-5 and is organised into seven areas of learning.

Prime Areas of Learning

Personal, Social and Emotional
Development

Communication and Language

Physical Development



Specific Areas of Learning

Literacy

Mathematics

Understanding the World

Expressive Arts and Design





Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We support children in creating relationships and making friends. We help them to have a positive self image, develop respect for others and manage feelings and behaviour, leading to children who are confident in themselves and their abilities.



Communication and Language

Our setting provides children with a language-rich environment and the development of vocabulary is a high priority. We support children to express themselves and help them to gain the skills to speak to others and listen with increasing attention.



Physical Development

We provide opportunities for children to be active, developing coordination, movement and control. We support them in negotiating space, handling tools effectively and help them to understand the importance of health and fitness.



Literacy

We aim to foster a love of reading and place great emphasis on books and stories. We encourage and support children to mark make and then develop their phonics skills so they can begin to read and write.



Mathematics

We provide children with opportunities and experiences that develop their understanding of number. We encourage them to solve problems and explore and talk about shapes, patterns and numbers.



Understanding the World

We support children in making sense of the physical world around them. We encourage them to explore, observe and find out about the people, places, environment and community in which they live as well as in the wider world.

Expressive Arts and Design

We provide children with the opportunity to explore and create with a wide range of media and materials. We encourage them to share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through art, music, movement, dance, role-play and design.



Drop Off and Collection

In a morning, children and parents are welcome to arrive between 8:45 and 8:55. Though you are welcome to come in and settle your child in the cloakroom, we do encourage you to say your goodbyes before they enter the classroom. We find this helps to build independence and we are always there to support them and welcome them with a smile.

Collection is either 12pm for those joining us solely for the morning, 3pm or 3:30pm. If your child is being collected at either 12pm or 3pm, please make your way to the school office who will organise collection. At the end of the school day, (3:30pm), please enter the classroom through the side door, collect your child from the carpet and exit through the cloakroom after collecting their belongings. Children must be collected by an adult; if an alternative pick up arrangement is in place, staff will ask the collecting adult for the child's password.

If you wish to speak to an adult regarding your child, please wait until all other children have been dismissed or message a teacher on Tapestry.





Lunchtimes

School meals are cooked fresh onsite each day and we provide a healthy, balanced, nutritious meal which meet all the recommendations of the School Food Plan. We also offer sandwiches (ham, cheese, tuna and egg) or jacket potatoes. These are provided free of charge through the school's universal free school meal offer for reception pupils. For pupils in nursery, there is a charge of £2.75 per day for these.

As a healthy school, we ask that should your child wish to have a packed lunch, you provide a healthy pack-up such as a sandwich, fruit, and a yoghurt.

We are a nut free school so please ensure you do not include any nut based items in your child's pack lunch.

Snacks

Free milk and fruit is provided for the children during the day, along with a morning snack prepared daily by our kitchen team.





What will your child need?

All children in nursery and reception wear the school uniform:

- Grey trousers, shorts, skirt or pinafore
- White or blue shirt or polo shirt
- Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan (items with the school logo can be purchased from www.steadyschoolwear.co.uk)
- Black school shoes

Please ensure all items are labelled with your child's full name. It is helpful if you could send a spare set of clothing in a small bag to remain in school in case of any accidents. Children should also bring a named water bottle, containing only water.

We do love to play outside so please make sure that in winter, children are sent with a suitable coat, hat and gloves. In Summer, children should bring a sunhat and apply suncream. Your child may be covered in paint, mud or food splatters—it's messy work becoming independent and learning in Foundation Stage!



Communication

We use an online communication tool called Tapestry. On this we add photographs and observations of your children at play. It is a lovely way for you to see what exciting things they get up to and share their achievements at home. At the end of each week, we share a 'weekly roundup' which gives a general overview of our learning.

We also love it when you add observations from home too. This gives us chance to see what adventures they have had at home, or what amazing things they have achieved. We love to support your child to share these with their friends in our carpet time each week.

You will receive a link via email for you to set an account up shortly before your child begins.





Foundation Stage Fund

We fully appreciate how difficult times are at the moment, but we ask that, if you can afford it, you contribute 50p a week to our fund. This would help to enable us to pay for alternative snack items, ingredients for play-dough, foods from other cultures to try and other smaller items that would impact greatly on your child's experience with us.



Parental Involvement

We fully appreciate the role that parents have on their child's education.

At Skirlough, we actively encourage you to come into the setting and join in with our learning: throughout the year, there are a number of parent and grandparent events including reading and maths workshops, stay and play sessions and we even celebrate World Grandparents Day! Miss Sugden and the team are always readily available at the beginning and end of the day to answer any questions you may have about your child's learning and we encourage you to share any concerns you may have with them.





Ways to help your child

It is really helpful if your child can be as independent as possible such as fastening their own coat and managing their own personal hygiene.

Read and share a love for books at home.

Once your reception-age child brings home phonics books, help them to practise their reading by listening to them every night.

Talk with your children, about anything and everything. Try not to 'babify' your language, let them absorb the words, they are like a sponge and this helps to develop their vocabulary.

Use numbers and maths language in everyday talk:

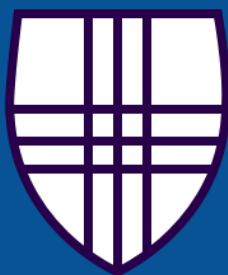
Can you put two lego pieces in this box?

Can you sit on the square cushion?

Can you pass me three round plates?



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