



Heron Hill Primary School

Information Booklet for the Parents/Carers of



Heron Hill Primary School

RECEPTION
2026-27



Heron Hill Primary School

Have fun!

Play

Be curious

Ask questions

Make friends

Explore





Hello & Welcome!

Welcome to Reception at Heron Hill Primary School! I want to take this opportunity to thank you, our Heron Hill families, for entrusting us with your child's very first experience of school. This is not a responsibility that we take lightly.

In our Reception classes, we create a safe, happy, and engaging environment where children grow into confident, curious learners. Everyday in Reception is an adventure. Children choose their own learning and are expertly supported by our talented EYFS staff team.

I hope that this booklet outlines what a treat learning in Reception at Heron Hill is. I look forward to meeting you and your children soon!

Miss Becca Storey
EYFS Leader

Who's Who?



Mrs Hudson

Class Teacher (Latrigg)
(EYFS Lead- SLT)



Miss Richards

Class Teacher (Mellbreak)



Miss Storey

EYFS Lead- SLT
(Maternity Leave)

What's What?



Latrigg



Mellbreak



Each child will be part of a Reception class that serves as their home base. In Reception, we have 2 classes- Latrigg and Mellbreak. Whilst each child is assigned to a class, children play across the environment with peers from both groups. Children in Reception are supported by their teachers and incredible teaching assistants across their play and during adult led activities.

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum follows the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and is shaped by our school's core values: *Respect, Responsibility, Relationships and Resilience*. Through a mix of adult-led learning and child-led play—both indoors and outdoors—your child will enjoy a rich, balanced start to school life.

We believe strong relationships with families are key. By working closely with you and our local community, we bring learning to life and help each child feel supported, understood and inspired.

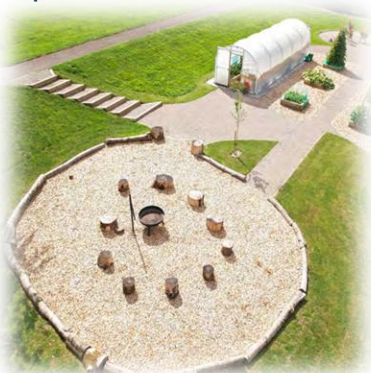
By the time they move on to Key Stage 1, our children are ready for their next step—eager to learn, explore and thrive.

Children will participate in daily phonics, Drawing Club (writing) and maths lessons. Children will spend most of their time learning through play, creating, questioning and discovering in our ambitious learning environment.



Our Environment

Our Reception Unit is thoughtfully designed with three inviting indoor spaces and a secure outdoor area, where play continues come rain or shine. We're passionate about fostering a lifelong love of the outdoors. Children explore, discover and develop independence whilst managing their own risk in a safe and supervised environment. Children also enjoy access to our wider school grounds, which includes extensive playing fields, 2 shaded woodlands, polytunnels, allotment plots and an outdoor classroom—perfect for exploration and adventure.



Outdoor Learning & Forest Sessions

Children in Reception enjoy a weekly forest session. In these sessions, children enjoy hands on activities, including fire lighting, tool use and outdoor cooking. These experiences help guide their physical, emotional and social development, offering them a chance to manage risk and grow in confidence.

Children across our Early Years also experience regular visits off site, enhancing our community connections and giving children essential opportunities to apply their learning in the 'real world' contexts.

"Heron Hill is an incredibly warm and welcoming school, where staff are clearly passionate about what they do. The care and support they give to the children is exceptional."

Parent feedback survey, March 2025



Home-School Partnerships

We know that home-school relationships are essential to success at school, especially in the Early Years.

Reception teachers work with parents and carers from the very beginning.

Teachers will do a **home visit** prior to September where children new to Reception will spend some time together with Reception staff.

We also use the online learning journal **Tapestry** to record observations, pictures and videos of learning taking place in school. This is a fantastic way for you to keep up to date with what is going on in your child's class. You are also able to share updates of anything that is happening at home for teachers to see. Children love sharing their Tapestry updates from home with their peers.

Please find Tapestry letters to complete part of the admissions forms. Heron Hill Nursery children will have their existing Tapestry accounts transferred to Reception and will not need a new account.



What You Will Need

Everyday, please bring:

- Your named bookbag (gifted to all new Reception starters)
- A named water bottle filled with water (not squash or juice)
- A named pair of wellies (these will be left in school)
- A change of clothes in case of accidents (incl. socks and underwear)
- A waterproof coat or appropriate sun hat (weather depending)

School Uniform

Children should wear a Heron Hill sweatshirt with a white or blue polo shirt or shirt. Children may choose to wear trouser, skirts or blue summer school dresses. Dark shoes, not trainers, should be worn. Please avoid shoelaces until your child can tie them. Footwear needs to be comfortable for a day of play!

School sweatshirts and cardigans can be ordered online via the school website (under 'About Us' then 'Uniform' tab) and we hold a small stock in school. We also have some 'Nearly New' uniform which can be bought for donations. All proceeds for this go towards our Friends of Heron Hill PTA.

On PE days and forest days (You will be informed of these days in September) please arrive to school wearing PE kit:

- Plain white tshirt
- Dark blue or black shorts
- Trainers (ideally with velcro fastening)
- Black or navy tracksuit bottoms
- Dark jumper or school sweatshirt

Please ensure *all* items are clearly named



Pupil Premium Grant

Due to your income level or other circumstances, you may be eligible for Pupil Premium, which entitles you to free uniform, free school visits and other benefits at school. Please check the Pupil Premium information leaflet for more details.

“The school has provided a supportive and nurturing environment that has helped [my son] build both academically and personally. It has been lovely to see him enjoy coming to school, take part in different activities, and develop important skills.”

Parent feedback survey, March 2026

Snack

You will be invited to register your child for school milk provided by ‘Cool Milk’. This is free for all under-fives and is subsidised for pupils aged five or older at around £18.00 per term. Each pupil who is registered will receive a cup of semi-skimmed milk every day, which is delivered fresh and chilled to the classroom.

We also subscribe to the Fruit for Schools Scheme and each child will be offered a piece of fruit each day for snack. Children do not need to bring their own snacks.

School Meals

Our delicious school meals are provided by TNS. All children in Reception to Year 2 are entitled to a free hot school meal (we have a three-week menu). School meals need to be ordered on-line via the service, ScoPay. You will be given details for this in September.

If you wish to order a school meal for the first week, please complete the form in your packs and return to teachers on the first day. Existing Heron Hill Nursery pupils can continue to order as usual on ScoPay.

Communication & Illness

We understand that, on occasion, children will not be in school due to illness. If your child is unwell, please call the school office to inform them of your absence.

If your child has sickness and/or diarrhoea, Westmorland and Furness Council guidance is that your child should remain off school for 48 hours following the last bout of ill health to avoid infecting others.



“When my child is at school I know they are safe and well cared for,
this means the world to me.”

Parent feedback survey, March 2026

Wraparound Care

We know that many parents work and require wraparound care for their children during the week. At Heron Hill, we provide school-led wrap around care before and after school and in the school holidays.

Before School:

Parents can choose to drop off at school at any time from 7.30 am, which will cost £5.00 per day. The cost to drop off your child from 8.00 am is reduced to £3.50 per day. Breakfast is available and will include a variety of cereals, toast with various toppings, fruit and drinks.

At 8.45 am your child will be handed directly to their Reception teacher. All children will be registered in and out of Before School provision.

After School:

Reception children will be collected from their classrooms by after school staff. Snacks and drinks will be available for children during the session. Parents can choose to collect their children at any time up to the close of the session at

6.00 pm, at a cost of £8.00 per day, but if your child is collected by 4.00 pm, the cost is £4.00 per day.

School Holidays:

Childcare provision is available during the school holidays for all children who attend our school. This costs £39.00 for a whole day or £22.00 for a half day. (The club will be closed between Christmas and New Year, for the last week of the summer holiday and on all Bank Holidays. It will also only run for one week during the Easter break.)

School admin staff will be in touch in the first week of Reception regarding booking for wraparound care. If you wish to book for the first week, please email admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk.



Am I Ready For School?

We feel honoured and extremely privileged to be sharing your child's very first experiences of school with them. At Heron Hill, we know that every child develops at their own pace and understand that some children will need more support than others when it's time to start school. Please see guidance below about 'Starting Reception', published by the DfE, that outlines some of the ways you can give your child the best possible start to their school journey.

Our EYFS team will do all they can to support you throughout your time with us. Please do not hesitate to contact the office via admin@heronhill.cumbria.sch.uk with any urgent questions for our team.

Growing independence

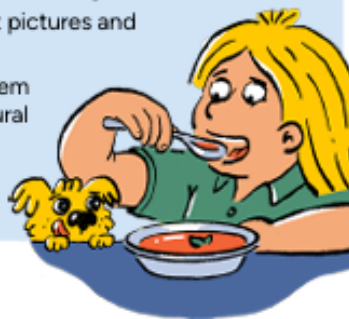


Taking care of themselves

- ✓ Putting on/taking off their coat and shoes
- ✓ Using the toilet and washing their hands
- ✓ Getting dressed with little help, e.g. after using the toilet or doing PE
- ✓ Using cutlery (e.g. fork and spoon, chopsticks) and drinking from an open cup
- ✓ Spending time away from you, learning they can be looked after by caring adults

Play, creativity and curiosity

- ✓ Taking part in imaginative play (e.g. role play)
- ✓ Drawing, painting, colouring and sticking
- ✓ Sharing story books, looking at pictures and talking about the characters
- ✓ Exploring the world around them (e.g. looking closely at the natural world, playing safely with objects at home)



Physical development



Getting moving for at least three hours a day

- ✓ Walking up and down steps (one foot at a time, using the wall for support)
- ✓ Climbing, running, jumping and playing
- ✓ Catching a large ball (most of the time)
- ✓ Doing simple puzzles and craft activities, strengthening their grip with cutting and sticking



Building relationships and communicating



Being with others

- ✓ Practising sharing and taking turns with toys
- ✓ Talking to them about **how** they are feeling and **why**
- ✓ Looking at story books together and speaking about what characters are feeling is a good way to do this
- ✓ Beginning to recognise what others are feeling, e.g. understanding if a friend is sad
- ✓ Encouraging them to set boundaries for themselves and others (e.g. knowing how to say 'no')

Communication and language

- ✓ Singing along with songs and nursery rhymes
- ✓ Talking happily to others about activities, experiences and the world around them
- ✓ Showing they need help by speaking clearly (in basic English or sign language)
- ✓ Recognising the pattern of their name (so they can find it on their coat peg or jacket)

Listening and engaging

- ✓ Paying attention for short periods of time
- ✓ Listening to and following simple instructions
- ✓ Carrying on with a task even when it's difficult and bouncing back if things go wrong



Healthy routines



- ✓ Going to bed around the same time each night, waking up in time to get ready for school
- ✓ Limiting screen time to the recommended daily amounts (see advice)
- ✓ Eating a healthy diet and trying new foods
- ✓ Brushing their teeth with fluoride toothpaste twice a day (you'll need to supervise this until they are at least 7)

