

Bassenthwaite Primary & Nursery Community School

Prospectus 2016/17



Bassenthwaite Primary School

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Welcome

Welcome to Bassenthwaite Primary School!

This booklet aims to answer the questions you may have about how our school is organised and to help you understand how special Bassenthwaite School is. As a school, we look forward to sharing this period of your child's life with you.

Every effort is made to provide a full and interesting curriculum; to prepare your child for future education and to give them skills and enthusiasm to pursue lifelong learning.

We hope you and your child will contribute to the life of the school and take part in the wonderful opportunities afforded here at Bassenthwaite School.

May your association with the school be a long and happy one.

Yours sincerely

Sara Royle, Headteacher

From the School Council

Bassenthwaite School is a fantastic one and we all love it!

We receive a very good education at our school. We do lots of really fun activities; here are some of the lessons:

PE, History, Geography, Science, RE, Citizenship, ICT, Literacy, Numeracy and French. We follow a Creative Curriculum with lots of fun challenges.



The teachers are GREAT and help us when we need it. Although we have a small playground, it is excellent. We have a garden and pond area, where we can hunt for mini-beasts, a slide and climbing frame and an area where we can play ball games. We have a super outdoor classroom, where we can shelter from the sun, have stories read to us and use it all year round for our work. Also at playtimes we all have a piece of yummy fruit.

The teachers love teaching us new things and we have loads of computers and smartboards to help us.

The School Council have meetings with Mrs Royle where we discuss new ideas and plans to improve our school. Two pupils from each year represent the children's ideas and thoughts.

Welcome to Bassenthwaite!

Ollie, Year 6



The School

Step inside our village school and into a haven for learning.

Set in magnificent surroundings, Bassenthwaite Primary School provides a unique learning environment which, whilst preserving its legacy from the 19th century, is resourced and equipped to deliver an action packed stimulating curriculum into the 21st century.



We aim to present exciting challenges and enriched experiences. Wherever possible we maximise our own external environment creatively to fulfil sporting and curriculum needs. It is our outdoor classroom.

Each child benefits from an excellent child/teacher ratio and is supported to develop his or her personal academic potential.

A very caring family ethos prevails, allowing all our children to thrive emotionally and develop good self-esteem and interpersonal skills.



We link with other small schools in the area to provide

a comprehensive programme of activities such as outdoor pursuits, residential urban visits, sporting fixtures and theatre visits.



Where to find us

Our school is conveniently situated just off the A591 and is almost equidistant between Keswick and Cockermouth. Take the first turning on the right past the church (travelling from Keswick) into Bassenthwaite village and the school is 100m along the lane (School Lane) on the right hand side.



We are here!

All About Us

Our school was built in 1875 in traditional Victorian style and is well maintained. Originally designated as a Church School, it was never endowed and is now a County Primary School funded by Cumbria LA. As at September 2014 there were 23 children on roll and two full time teachers and two part time Teaching Assistants.

The old Victorian 'schoolroom' has been extended and updated, to provide excellent accommodation. We currently have four teaching areas and a wonderful sports hall, along with a fantastic early years "messy" room, which is in fact used by the whole school. Ducklings Nursery opened in September 2014 in a purpose built conservatory style classroom with magnificent views across to Skiddaw. A separate prospectus is available for the Ducklings Nursery. The school is well resourced to meet the requirements of the National Curriculum in core and foundation subjects. The school building is set within a spacious playground creatively marked for outdoor sporting and curriculum activities. There is a fixed external play system to encourage challenge and adventure. 'Robert's House' provides stimulus for imaginative and role play.



A newly designed outdoor area provides much stimulus for Early Years, including a mud kitchen, outdoor musical instruments and a small garden area for planting flowers and produce. A gate in the perimeter fence allows access to a meadow, beck and an ancient hedgerow, all used as a focus for environmental investigations.

We have a kitchen attached to our school hall, which is utilised by the local community. Although school lunches are not cooked on site, the kitchen is regularly used by the children for design and technology lessons.



The Curriculum

The curriculum is planned in half termly units, drawn from a framework of long term rolling plans for each Key Stage.

At Key Stage 1, core and foundation subjects are delivered through cross-curricular themes. At Key Stage 2, work is subject based for Literacy, Numeracy and Science but organised so that, whenever possible cross curricular links can be made in teaching.

Reading

We nurture the love of books throughout the school. A committed home/school link exists to promote reading progress and reinforce strategies taught in school. Children at Key Stage 1 follow the 'Oxford Reading Tree' a lively humorous scheme, which progresses to 'Tree Tops' for Key Stage 2 children.

Pupils use the 'Oxford Reading Tree' support material for phonics, comprehension and vocabulary extension. They are encouraged to read for a variety of purposes for pleasure, information retrieval and research. We aim to link Literacy texts to work in other curriculum subjects.



Writing

The acquisition of proficient written recording skills is an essential goal for our pupils. They are encouraged to write for a variety of purposes and audiences. They learn to write in different genres; to record the results of investigations and research, write letters and factual reports and use writing as a media to express their creativity.

We use Ros Wilson's "Big Writing" throughout school. Teachers model writing to the pupils and give them the input to become a successful writer during a class session. The children then write for 40 minutes with the lights dimmed and music playing in the background. This practice has been understood to improve writing skills.

Pupils also learn to publish their work, using the computers in our I.C.T. areas.



Maths

We believe that practical investigations should always precede formal recording in mathematics, so that children are encouraged to think, hypothesise and use appropriate mathematical language.

The school is well resourced and these are organised so that children can access their own equipment independently. Investigative work will often link with cross curriculum topics.



Children work progressively through the Numeracy Framework, using Collins and Heinemann schemes for support and extension activities. We use computers, calculators and a range of games to support maths throughout the school.

Science

Our priority is that children acquire both scientific skills and knowledge in this core subject area. We teach the children to explore and observe the world around them and develop a methodical way of working. Children are taught how to use scientific equipment safely and to access the correct instruments for the task. They are encouraged to communicate their findings effectively by using graphs charts or diagrams.



Computing

The school is equipped with desk top computers, laptops and tablets which are used to support all areas of the curriculum. Word processing is used to publish children's work and communicate information, data handling programmes are used to construct graphs and problem solving is explored through the use of published software and logo activities.



We are linked through a Keswick School broadband network with other primary schools in our cluster, facilitating exchange of information and access via email, and enabling speedier IT problem-solving locally. "Moodle", our school's virtual learning environment is used at KS2 for children to access some of their work and we have Smartboards in each teaching area to add sparkle to our lessons.

Technology

Children enjoy using the school's modern facilities to design and make their models. They are taught to plan and design carefully and to think about materials & tools they will use. The making process involves problem solving and afterwards evaluating and sharing ideas. Emphasis is placed on using tools safely and correctly.

Music

Pupils experience a wide variety of musical activities. They perform vocally and with percussion instruments in creative workshop activities. They learn to compose and listen to music. Each child has the opportunity to learn to play an instrument when they reach the juniors. Music is used to support dramatic productions and special services. Children enjoy listening to music by different composers from different times and cultures. Specialist music teachers deliver brass and guitar tuition to groups of Key Stage 2 pupils weekly.



Physical Education (PE)



Physical and sporting activities are an important part of school life. Children play a range of playground games and are taught by specialist coaches for football and tennis, hockey and gymnastics. Time is spent developing the necessary skills and emphasis is placed on sportsmanship and co-operation. Friendly matches and activities such as orienteering and cross-country running are arranged with other small schools. Children have opportunities to take part in outdoor and adventurous residential visits.



All pupils have swimming lessons at some time during KS1 and KS2.

History & Geography



These two subjects are interlinked with cross-curricular topics. We follow the programmes of study defined in National Curriculum documents and follow the QCA schemes.

In history children study human events and lifestyles from the past, look at artefacts and evidence and find similarities and differences. In geography children study their own and contrasting localities, learn about settlements, how to recognise geographical features and develop map skills.



Art and Craft

Children express themselves creatively using a wide variety of media including clay and textiles. They are also taught skills and techniques. Observational drawing is emphasised as a valuable method of developing observational skills and concentration.

We value creative activities as they enhance work in other curriculum areas and engender pride.

Religious Education

Within a Christian framework, we encourage the development of spirituality and moral values. The school follows Cumbria County Council agreed syllabus of religious education and the guidelines issued by the diocese of Carlisle. There is a short act of collective worship daily. The content of lessons and assemblies is broadly Christian; may be cross curricular and will at certain times include some multi-cultural awareness including aspects of other religious beliefs. Parents have the right to withdraw children from collective worship or religious instruction.



Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The school Psychologist and Area Special Needs Team provide advice to the school for children who have particular difficulties, such as speech and language, physical disability or learning difficulties. In school we try to identify these children at an early stage and implement the Code of Practice so that they will benefit from early intervention. We are an inclusive school and recognise that all children have individually different needs whether academic, emotional or physical and are committed to providing appropriate support and experiences.

School council

Bassenthwaite School recognises the importance of the pupil voice and their involvement in the decision making process of the school. The school has a democratically elected council. All the pupils of the school are asked to vote for two members of their year after hearing their Manifesto. The School Council presents their minutes of meetings to the Governors putting forward pupil's views and suggestions.

Information to Parents

We welcome parents and carers into Bassenthwaite School, believing we are all partners in the education of your children. There are many opportunities for parents to become involved in school life and your expertise can be used in many ways. Police and CRB checks are carried out on all adults helping in school. If you are able to help in any way, especially on a regular basis, please see one of the teachers.

The school communicates with parents in various ways: newsletters, questionnaires, parent consultations and informal evenings. Information is also placed on our website. The school has a Home / School agreement which involves the views of pupils, parents and staff.

Homework

Homework is set according to Government guidelines. Teaching staff may also send work home which has not been completed during school time and we ask for your co-operation in this matter. Children are expected to read at home daily (younger children with parents). All children will receive weekly spellings and maths facts to complete.

Friends of Bassenthwaite School (FOBS)

We are grateful to our enthusiastic support group, which organises fund raising and social functions for our school. All parents are automatically members of FOBS. Details of meetings are pinned up in the school entrance.

School Uniform

Our school uniform is a royal blue sweatshirt or hoodie, a gold polo shirt and fleece jacket which are embroidered with the school logo. Children may team this with any other dark (black, navy blue) school garment for their lower torso. Sensible black school shoes should be worn. You are asked to provide your child with suitable clothing for PE: - shorts, royal blue T shirt (again with logo) and plimsolls. All uniform garments should be clearly marked with your child's name. Jewellery must not be worn in school.

Uniform garments are reasonably priced and of good quality. Uniform items can be ordered at any time from www.tesco.com/ues.

For your child's daily possessions and to keep books in good order, Tesco also supply a co-ordinating book bag emblazoned with the school badge. Within school, your child has his or her own areas of personal space, which will be respected by others. These are a tray, and cloakroom peg or locker. Please do not allow your child to bring to school toys, snacks, pocket money or other valuables. However we do welcome relevant objects for class displays and 'show and tell.'

School Fruit Scheme / drinks

All our pupils have access to fruit as a healthy snack at morning break. Both Key Stage rooms are equipped with filtered, cooled drinking water to maintain good health.

School Meals

Meals may be paid for one week in advance or on a half-termly basis. Money should be sent to school in a clearly named and sealed envelope on Monday mornings. Cheques should be made payable to Cumbria County Council. Please provide two weeks' written notice if you would like to change your child's lunch arrangements.

Sex Education

In lower school, children's questions will be answered sensitively, appropriate to their age and level of understanding. Upper juniors receive formal sex education using BBC materials for schools as an integral part of their National Curriculum work on the human body. The school nurse attends these sessions in order to answer children's questions in the context of developing a healthy lifestyle. The School Governors have approved the material for use in the school. Parents are invited to view the material prior to its use.

Health, Accidents & Illness

School needs to be notified if your child is suffering from any medical condition which may affect his or her performance in school. We ask that children should not be sent to school if they are unwell or infectious. We are reluctant to administer medicines but will do so if the parent has filled in the correct form from school. The medicine must be in its original packaging, with the child's name and dose marked on from the pharmacy.

Childrens' hearing and vision are checked regularly. Reception children receive a full medical examination during their first year at school, for which parental consent is necessary. Selective medicals also occur during your child's last year in primary school.

In the event of illness or accident during the school day, parents will be informed immediately. If it is not possible to contact parents the school will take responsibility for arranging medical attention. It is therefore very important that our record of emergency telephone contact numbers is up to date. We ask parents to complete a First Aid in School questionnaire, which also covers allergies.

Absence

Please contact school immediately to give a reason for your child's absence. This assists us to mark registers correctly using the correct code for each type of absence. If you wish to take your child on holiday during term time, it is a statutory requirement to fill in a holiday form which is available from school. Please note that by law, a child is only permitted 10 school days' leave due to parental holiday. Holiday absences in excess of this must be classed as unauthorised absence. For 2013-2014 the attendance target was 96.5%, and we had no unauthorised absences.

Insurance

Some parents wrongly assume that if a child is injured at school the County Council is held responsible regardless of the circumstances and that its insurance will automatically apply. This is not the case; the County Council's responsibility is strictly limited to cases where there was negligence by them or their staff.

Accidents can happen in school, or on the sports field, or during school visits when the County Council or its staff are not in any way at fault and are therefore not responsible.

Although school does take out insurance to cover school journeys, the provision of personal accident insurance is considered to be the responsibility of the parents. Parents who are interested in this form of insurance can contact their local broker but they may also be interested to know that the National Confederation of Parent-Teacher Associations has arranged a suitable policy. It provides for substantial compensation in the event of a disabling injury, regardless of how or when it was caused. A leaflet is available at school.

Behaviour & Discipline

There is a high expectation that our children will behave with respect, consideration and politeness towards adults and to each other. Undesirable behaviour is dealt with first by reprimand then deprivation of privileges and ultimately by recourse to parents.

Home/School Agreements

We ask that all pupils and their parents sign a Home/School Agreement annually, in line with Government guidelines. This document outlines clearly the school's aims and expectations for pupils' work and behaviour and informs parents of the school's responsibilities towards its pupils.

Assessment

Children are assessed formatively by assessment tasks throughout the year and summatively by the teacher at the end of each Key Stage. This information, together with annotated examples of work, is kept in a separate assessment file for each child.

Children in Y2 and Y6 will participate in the Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) at the end of Key Stage 1 (infants) and Key Stage 2 (juniors). Parents are notified of these results.

Results of National Curriculum Assessments at Key Stages 1 and 2

The regulations concerning the publication of the National Curriculum tests for seven and eleven-year-olds take into account "the need to protect the confidentiality of the results of individual pupils in the school with a small number of pupils eligible for assessment" (*Parents Charter: Publication of information about primary school performance in 1993*, page 13, para 44).

Admissions

In the event of there being a greater demand for places in the school than are available:-

1. Priority will be given to children who have older siblings attending the school.
2. Children for whom this school is the nearest to their home address are next to be considered.
3. Children from out of catchment will then be considered.
4. The Governors take the final responsibility for admissions taking into consideration the interests of the current and prospective roll, school accommodation and the wider community.

Transfer to Secondary School

Bassenthwaite School is a feeder school for Keswick School, and parents will receive the prospectus during the autumn term. Pupils in their final year here are visited in school by the Head of Year 7 and whilst in the final term they are invited together with their parents to view the school at work. They also attend a series of specialist subject days, known as

'Curriculum Days' when they work together with pupils from other feeder schools and the Keswick School staff.

The School Day

The times for the school are as follows:-

School starts	9.00am
Morning break	10.40 - 11.00am
Lunch	12.00 - 1.00pm
Afternoon break	2.30 - 2.45pm (Infants only)
School closes	3.20pm

The total number of hours of teaching for the school week is 23½ hours.

Breakfast and After School Club

We run a supervised Breakfast Club from 8am each morning, where children are provided with a drink, breakfast and exciting activities (at a cost of £5/session). After School Club also takes place each evening during term time between 3.20pm and 5pm (this can be extended upon negotiation). This is at a cost of £5/child/session and includes a snack and a different menu of activities on a rolling programme.

Charging for Activities

Bassenthwaite School makes no formal charge for educational visits or curriculum activities. The Governors do however, reserve the right to:-

- a) reclaim from parents the costs of wilful damage or breakage;
- b) seek voluntary contributions from parents to help fund certain activities.

Complaints

In the unlikely event of any parent having a complaint against the school, which cannot be resolved by discussion with teaching staff, the Governors will then investigate the circumstances and offer advice. Ultimately the Local Education Authority may be contacted. A leaflet outlining procedures is available from :-

The Education Department,
5 Portland Square,
CARLISLE,
CA1 1PU.

Disclaimer

The information supplied in this document is in accordance with information presently available to Governors and is believed to be correct at the date of printing. In particular, nothing herein prejudices the rights of the Education Committee or any of its sub-committees, or the Governors, or the Head of the School to make any decision relating to the School as it sees fit without regard to whether this will affect the accuracy of matters contained in this publication. Further, the Governing Body, the School, the Education

