



Welcome to Helvellyn Class 2023/24

Dear Parents and Helvellyn children,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are looking forward to the start of the new academic year in less than a week's time. I am excited to see you all and get started on another busy school year.

Below can be found some general class information for the new academic year.

Starting in a new class or new year group can be an anxious time. If anyone is worried about returning to school please do not hesitate to get in touch via TEAMS or email at agorst@shap.cumbria.sch.uk

I am looking forward to welcoming you all back on **Wednesday 6th September**.

Kind regards,
Miss Abbie Gorst

Helvellyn Class Staff

Miss Gorst

I will be your class teacher every day, apart from Friday mornings when I have my Planning, Preparation and Assessment (PPA) time.

Mrs Mepham

Mrs Mepham will be supporting the class with their learning each day in the afternoon.

Mrs Turner

Mrs Turner will be in class on a Tuesday morning delivering Guided Reading and on Friday mornings to support the class with their learning.

Mr Sowerby

Mr Sowerby will be teaching Helvellyn class on a Friday morning.

What Do I Need to Bring to School?

- Coat - Children should have a named coat, preferably waterproof, in school every day
- Packed lunch - Unless you have ordered a school dinner which can be done via the Parent Pay platform
- Water bottle - filled with water only!
- PE kit - this needs to be in school **every day** in case we need to change our PE days
- Healthy snack for break times

Start of the Day Procedures

You may drop your child off on the school yard between 08:30 and 08:45 each day. Children will be supervised by Mrs Chappell (or another member of teaching staff in her absence) and another member of staff.

Helvellyn children will collect their belongings and go into school through the side door near Blencathra classroom when the whistle is blown.

Any child arriving after 08:45 must go to the school office and will be marked as late in the register.

Break Times

We will have break time at 10:30 on Mondays and Fridays and at 10:50 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Children should bring in a healthy snack to eat at break time.

End of the Day Procedures

Children will be let out of school at 3:15 and can be collected at the wooden door by Helvellyn classroom.

If you wish for your child to walk home by themselves after school, please send me an email or written note of consent. If your child walked home by themselves last year, please send a new note of consent for this upcoming school year. Thank you.

Reading Books

In Year 5 and 6, children independently change and choose their own reading books. Children are given time at the start of each day (8:45-9:00) to change their books.

Children will have 2 reading books. One to take home and read and one that will be kept in their trays at school so staff and volunteers can listen to them read during the week.

Miss Gorst will check the GoRead (Boom Reader) app on a Friday morning and prepare the reading raffle tickets.

- Reading 3x a week = 1 ticket
- Reading 4x a week = 2 tickets
- Reading 5+x a week = 3 tickets

The minimum expectation is that all children read 3x a week at home to a family member or friend.

Stationery

Children do not need to bring in a pencil case. Children will be provided with their own pencil case and all essential stationery necessary for their learning.

Outdoor Education

Every four weeks Helvellyn class will have their outdoor education session with our new specialist Emma Daley. Emma plans exciting and meaningful sessions for the children and they are often a highlight of the children's year. This year we will be working on achieving the bronze, silver and gold RSPB Wild Awards. We go out whatever the weather so children will need to make sure they have the correct kit:

- waterproof trousers
- waterproof coat
- wellies or waterproof outdoor boots
- in cold weather: wooly hat, gloves

Our sessions will be every 4-weeks on a Wednesday and children will be outside with Emma and Mrs Mepham. Our first session will be on **Wednesday 14th September**.

PE

Helvellyn will have their PE sessions on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This year we are lucky to have coach Lucy Potter teaching PE every other Wednesday. Sometimes we need to be flexible and change the days we do PE so children will need their PE kit in school all week.

PE Kit List

- Maroon shorts
- White t-shirt or polo shirt either with or without the school logo
- Maroon hoodie or fleece with or without the school logo
- Maroon jogging bottoms or leggings for outdoor PE lessons in cold weather
- A pair of trainers which the children can fasten independently

ALL jewellery must be removed - children need to be able to remove their own earrings. They may want to bring a small pot to keep their earrings safe.

Homework

Homework will be set each week on a Friday via a TEAMS assignment and is expected in the following Thursday. Homework each week will consist of: basic maths and grammar activities to consolidate class learning and either a maths or English piece of work that will feed into the next week's learning.

Children will receive a homework book to complete their homework in. Once they have read the assignment on TEAMS, they will have to complete the different tasks in their book. This resembles the method UCC and QEGs use to deliver much of their homework and so provides a good transition step for our children.

There will also be a termly topic focused homework where children can be creative and demonstrate or explore their interests in other subjects in the autumn and spring terms.

Children will be rewarded for handing in their homework on time by moving up the traffic lights. They will also be given team points for the quality and care they give to each piece of homework.

It is my expectation that homework should be completed as independently as possible by the children. If they are struggling to complete a certain question then I am happy to help them on TEAMS or in class. However, children will need to be supported by parents in being given adequate space and time to complete the work. If children consistently fail to complete homework then an initial letter will be sent home to parents. If homework continues to be missed I will be contacting parents directly to discuss how we can support your child with their homework.

Homework will start on Friday 16th September.

Residentials

More information on the residentials will be given later in the autumn term, however, I can confirm that this year we will be going on a city trip.

Year 5 will also be going on a special residential organised and run by the Carlisle Diocese. This is due to the Diocese selecting us to take part in a trial pilot programme on the theme of 'transition' for Year 5 children.

When we have more concrete details of these residentials we will let you know.

Year 6 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs)

At the end of Year 6, children sit tests in:

- Reading
- Maths
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar

This year Year 6 SATs will be conducted during the week of 13th May 2024.

These tests are both set and marked externally. Your child's marks will be used in conjunction with teacher assessment to give a broader picture of their attainment over the course of their time in Key Stage 2 (Year 3 to Year 6).

I will be sending out more information regarding the SATs to Year 6 parents separately.

Communication

If you have any questions or queries about your child's wellbeing or learning then please do not hesitate to contact me either by email (agorst@shap.cumbria.sch.uk) or on TEAMS through the 'chat' function. I will also come out to send the children home from school so you can also talk to me then.

Lots of messages and reminders (such as reminding children about outdoor education sessions or Action Ants events) will be sent via TEAMS so it will be important to keep looking at this frequently. If you forget your password then please email me to let me know and I can re-set this for you.

Our first 3 days back will be going through class rules, procedures, settling in, team building games and we will be working with a local artist as part of our Vision and Values week.

If I haven't answered any of your/your child's questions regarding Helvellyn Class then please get in touch.