

# Tweedmouth West First School

*Prospectus 2023-2024*



**R**espect

**R**esponsibility

**R**esilience





## **Tweedmouth West First School**



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Tweedmouth West First School. The staff and governors here are very pleased that you have chosen our school for these important years of your child's education.

We will do our very best to give your child a good start in life. They will be part of a happy, caring community, where everyone is valued and encouraged.

This brochure gives you lots of information about our school, but please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any concerns.

*Jacqueline Dalrymple*

Head Teacher

# Tweedmouth West First School

## Respect Responsibility Resilience

### **Aims of the School**

It is our aim to create an inclusive happy, caring, stimulating and secure environment with the necessary opportunities in which each child is encouraged to develop his/her own natural abilities for learning academically, aesthetically, socially, physically and morally. We promote respect and friendship and are committed to keeping everyone safe from bullying whatever it's form.

The school will promote a healthy lifestyle where children are encouraged to value themselves and others.

The school will provide:

- ♦ A creative curriculum that is broad, balanced, inclusive and includes the National Curriculum or Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum where applicable.
- ♦ Opportunities to develop the basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy and ICT to encourage and support enquiring minds, independence and the love of lifelong learning.
- ♦ A safe, well ordered learning environment which promotes a sense of belonging, self respect, self control, respect for the feelings and property of others and positive attitudes to life.
- ♦ Opportunities for the development and understanding of their own religion and culture and that of others.
- ♦ An understanding and appreciation of human achievement in all its forms.
- ♦ An understanding of citizenship so that pupils can think globally, value diversity and promote community cohesion.
- ♦ Opportunities for children to be creative and critical thinkers in order to reflect upon their learning and deepen their understanding.



# Tweedmouth West First School

## Respect Responsibility Resilience

### Our School Ethos

**‘School is not a preparation for life, it is part of life.’ (Jerome Bruner)**

At Tweedmouth West we nurture the individuality of every child. We give everyone a sense of belonging, self-worth and value.

The children are at the heart of everything we do. We do not see the children as empty vessels to be filled, but as inquisitive, imaginative and lively minds to be cultivated. High expectation enables them to thrive and believe in themselves.

We take every opportunity to meet the needs of our children, and enable them to fulfil their potential. We deliberately create opportunities for them to broaden their horizons, and think outside the box.

Through a creative, enquiry based curriculum, both outdoors and in, we encourage children to come out of their comfort zone, and take a risk.

We enable the children to be independent decision makers, unafraid to use their own initiative. To show respect for the ideas of others, so that they can collaborate and learn to work as part of a team. Through challenges and responsibilities the children develop perseverance, tenacity, and resilience.

We aspire for our children to grow up as responsible people with a clear sense of right and wrong; who are well rounded citizens, able to make a difference in the world.

## **General Information**

The information in this booklet relates to the school year 2023/2024.

The address of the school is:

Tweedmouth West First School

Osborne Road

Tweedmouth

Berwick Upon Tweed

TD15 2HS

Tel: 01289 306 151

E-mail: [admin@tweedmouthwest.northumberland.sch.uk](mailto:admin@tweedmouthwest.northumberland.sch.uk)

Website: [www.tweedmouthwest.northumberland.sch.uk](http://www.tweedmouthwest.northumberland.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Mrs Jacqueline Dalrymple

Deputy Head: Mrs Joanne Anderson

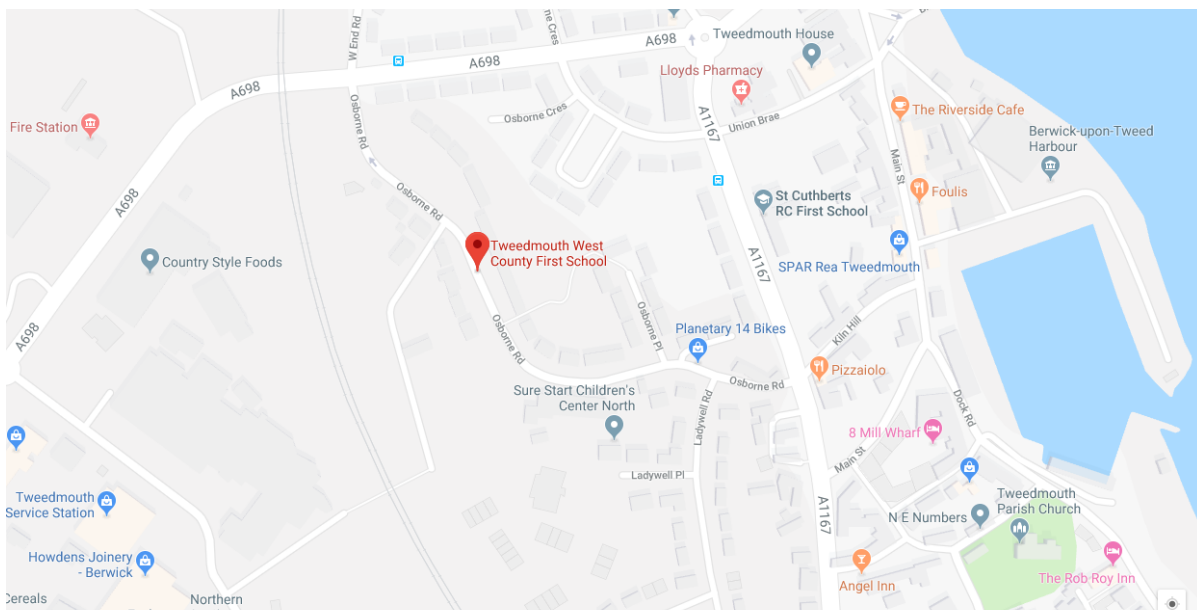
Chair of Governors: Mrs Julie Riley

Tweedmouth West is situated on the south side of the river Tweed in a well established community. The school has stood on this site since 1906 and was refurbished in 1996 to accommodate five classrooms and a large assembly hall.



At first sight our school looks very old fashioned, but step inside and you will soon realise that we belong very much to the 21st century.

The location of Tweedmouth West First School:



Our catchment area includes Dock Road, Main Street, West End, Osborne Road, Northumberland Road, Shielfield Terrace, Hiveacres, Ivinson Road, Valley View and East Ord.

## **Staffing**

Head Teacher: Mrs J Dalrymple

Deputy Head / SENDCO: Mrs J Anderson

Class Teachers: Mrs J Anderson Reception Class

Miss E Gray Year 1

Mrs P Fairnington Year 2

Miss S Campbell Year 3

Mrs V Poole Year 4

Mrs J Dalrymple Year 4

Support Staff: Mrs H Hodgson Office Manager

Mrs J Pick Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mrs J Newton Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Miss S Patterson Teaching Assistant

Mrs S Cowe Teaching Assistant

Mrs L Mole Teaching Assistant

Miss S Moses Teaching Assistant

Mrs H Shields Teaching Assistant

Mrs S Bell Cleaner

Mrs S Taylor Cleaner / Caretaker

Mrs J Straughan Unit Manager (Kitchen)

Mrs P Garland Kitchen Assistant

Mrs L Hastie Kitchen Assistant

Mrs S Bell Midday Supervisor

Mrs A Dixon Midday Supervisor

Mrs S Cowe Midday Supervisor

Miss S Patterson Midday Supervisor

Mrs H Shields Midday Supervisor

Mrs L Mole Midday Supervisor

## **Governing Body**

Governors hold regular meetings at least once a term; they discuss national and local issues as well as the general management and leadership of the school.

When the period of office expires for a Parent Governor then nominations and elections will be organised as appropriate, and all parents will be notified.

Our current Governor's are:

Local Authority Clerk - Karen Carnaffin

Mrs J Riley (Chair)

Mrs C Richards (Vice Chair)

Mrs J Dalrymple

Mrs J Anderson

Mrs J Newton

Mrs H Hodgson

Mrs L Mole

Mrs A Deakin

Mrs E Scambler

For more information on our governing body please visit our school website.

## **Pre School Group**

The Red Balloon pre-school is situated in the mobile classroom on the playground.

This is a committee run group, which is not under the governance of the school.

The children at Red Balloon come into school on a daily basis to use the toilets, have PE in the hall, and to have lunch. Because of this, those children who go on to attend the school find the transition much easier.

Mrs Walsh will be happy to discuss any enquiries from parents.

Please contact her on:- 07790967868

Staff:

Playgroup Leader: Mrs J Walsh

Deputy Leader: Miss Sarah Young

Playgroup assistants : Mrs Heather Hay  
Mrs Karen Roughead

## **Admissions**

We comply with the guidelines laid down by Northumberland County Council regarding admissions.

All parents are required to apply for first school places online, on the Northumberland County Council School Admission website. The admissions portal opens during November for children due to start school the following September. The portal closes during January. (Exact dates differ from year to year, please check with the school or on the Northumberland County Council Website to confirm).

Copies of the full admissions policy are available from school or online.

If you would like to view the school prior to making your application you are very welcome to do so, please contact the school office to make the appointment.

Northumberland County Council allocate all school places in April, confirmation will be sent directly to the parent / carer who applied for the place.

If you are allocated a place at Tweedmouth West, the Head Teacher will contact you to confirm details of the new starter induction which will begin during the Summer Term prior to your child starting school in September.



## School Uniform

At Tweedmouth West we encourage children to wear school uniform. It gives children a real sense of belonging, and is very hardwearing. Children will often come home from school dirty, and school uniforms are designed to withstand everything the children need to do to learn.

Tweedmouth West logo'd jumpers, cardigans and hoodies are available to purchase from local suppliers but are not compulsory.

Our uniform includes:

- Red jumper or cardigan
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Grey skirt or trousers
- Black shoes

PE kit:

- Red t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Sandshoes / plimsols / trainers

Red hoodies and plain black tracksuit bottoms are optional – these are useful for swimming / field days, and for outdoor PE sessions.

Year 3/4 can wear **plastic** studded football boots for outdoor football / tag rugby, but are not compulsory.

Swimming:

- Suitable swimwear\*
- Towel

\*Girls must wear one piece swimming costumes and boys must wear trunks or shorts no longer than knee length (These are the guidelines set by our swimming pool staff).

Field Kit:

Children will spend lots of time outside in all seasons and will therefore need a mixture of all of the following throughout the year depending on weather conditions.

- T-shirt
- Sweatshirt / fleece jumper
- Warm trousers (no jeans)
- Tights / leggings / thermals for under trousers in winter
- Warm socks
- Hat, gloves and a scarf
- Wellington boots
- Waterproof suit or separate trousers and jacket (essential for all seasons)
- Wind and waterproof coat

**Please make sure all children's clothing is clearly labelled**  
**The children do not wear any jewellery to school**

## **Starting School**

Our new starter induction is an open evening for new parents during the summer term where we discuss curriculum and special educational needs. Parents are also able to chat to staff and view the school.

The reception children are admitted in September and are full time from the day they start.

Prior to starting school we ask that you enable your child to dress and toilet themselves independently. We also expect children to be able to use a knife and fork and to behave appropriately.

## **School Contact with Parent / Carers**

### **Parentmail**

Tweedmouth West use an app called Parentmail to communicate with parents / carers. All parents are asked to register with parentmail throughout the induction process. Using this online platform we are able to safely and effectively:

- ♦ Request information from you
- ♦ Communicate relevant information with you regarding your child or things that are happening in their class.
- ♦ Send out school diary and term dates.
- ♦ Send you forms for you to give permission for trips etc.
- ♦ Send you menu choice for our school dinners.

As well as all the above its an easy and convenient way to purchase school folders, art portfolio's or to pay for milk or school trips etc.

Please ensure you keep us updated with any change of address or telephone numbers in case we need to contact you in the event of illness or accident. We need to have two emergency contact numbers on file.

**"This is a happy, caring school where pupils thrive. Staff go the extra mile to make sure that they understand the needs of each pupil."**  
**Ofsted February 2020**

## **The school day**

In the school year 2022-2023 we expect to have approximately 115 children on roll and they will be placed in five classes. Teaching assistants support learning throughout the school, giving excellent continuity of pastoral care as well as academic support.

Teachers assume responsibility for the children from 8.45am until 3.15pm. The school doors are opened at 8.45 and children enjoy the opportunity to mix with their peers and to chat informally to their teacher before the start of the school day at 9am.

Parents are asked to leave their children at the classroom door where you will have the opportunity to speak to your child's teacher. If you wish to discuss something in more depth please make an appointment at the school office.

Most days look like this:

8:00	to	9:00	Breakfast club
9:00	to	9:05	Registration
9:05	to	10.30	Teaching session
10:15	to	10:30	Assembly (Mon/Weds/Thurs)
10:30	to	10.45	Break
10:45	to	12:00	Teaching session
12:00	to	12:30	Lunch 1st sitting
12:30	to	1:00	Lunch 2nd sitting
1:00	to	3:15	Teaching session
3:15	to	5:15	Tweed Tigers after school club

Normal school hours finish at 3:15 and you can collect your child from their classroom door.

Each day children will need their reading folder, a water bottle in school.

Reading folders, art portfolios, water bottles and PE bags Are available for sale in the school office or in your Parentmail shop.

## **Breakfast Club and Tweed Tigers** **Out of hours childcare provision**

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club is run by Mrs Garland and Mrs Dixon, from 8am until 8.45 children are offered a choice of breakfast options, cereals, toast, pancakes, yoghurts and sausages on a Friday. Breakfast club costs £1.50 per child per day unless entitled to benefit related free school meals.

### **Tweed Tigers**

Our after school child care provision is very popular and should be booked in advance using the weekly parentmail booking forms. Children are offered a drink and a snack and have a wide variety of activities to choose from daily. Help is also available with homework as required. Sessions cost £2.50 per hour (3.15-4.15 £2.50 or 3.15-5.15 £5).

Tweed Tigers is run by teaching assistants, Mrs Mole, Miss Shields and Mrs Cowe.

Both Breakfast Club and Tweed Tigers are charged as used to your parentmail account which must be kept up to date.

## **Health and Safeguarding**

### **SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION**

Tweedmouth West is committed to safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all our pupils.

We will always take a considered and sensitive approach in order that we can support all our pupils, because every child's welfare is of paramount importance.

The School Safeguarding and Child Protection Policies are available from the office and website. They apply to all adults, including volunteers, working in or on behalf of the school. These documents demonstrate how everyone working in or for our school, shares a duty to help keep children safe from danger, harm and abuse.

We aim:

- To ensure that children within our school feel safe at all times.
- To ensure that all stakeholders are safe and feel that they are able to put the welfare of the children first without concern that there will be any negative consequences attached to their actions.
- To ensure that all adults who have contact with children in school have been properly vetted and cleared as suitable to work and support children in our care/charge.
- To ensure that all adults who have contact with children in school have been trained to undertake their safeguarding responsibilities effectively.

### **PROVIDING A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Safer Recruitment and Selection**

The school pays full regard to DFE guidance. We ensure that all appropriate measures are applied in relation to everyone who works in the school who is likely to be perceived by the children as a safe and trustworthy adult, including volunteers and staff employed by contractors.

#### **Safeguarding Information for Pupils**

The school is committed to ensuring that pupils are made aware of how to keep safe and become aware of behaviour towards them that is not acceptable .

All pupils know that we have senior members of staff with responsibility for child protection and know who they are.

We inform pupils of whom they might talk to, both in and out of school, their right to be listened to and heard and what steps can be taken to protect them from harm.

PSHE, computing lessons and assemblies are used to help pupils learn how to keep safe.

The Senior Designated Persons for child protection in our school are:  
Mrs. Robertson, Head Teacher and Mrs. Anderson, Deputy Head teacher.

#### **Partnership with Parents**

The school shares a responsibility with parents and carers to educate, keep children safe from harm and promote their well-being.

We are committed to working with parents and carers positively, openly and honestly. We ensure that all parents and carers are treated with respect, dignity and courtesy.

Tweedmouth West will share with parents any concerns we may have about their child unless to do so may place a child at risk of harm. We respect their right to privacy and confidentiality. We encourage parents to discuss any concerns they may have with us.

### Health and Safety Policy

The school has a health and safety policy, (available on the school website) which is monitored each year by the relevant committee of the School Governing Body.

### Site Security

Tweedmouth West aims to provide a secure school site but recognises that the site is only as secure as the people who use it. Therefore, all people on the site must adhere to the rules which govern it.

At Tweedmouth West we believe it is important for children to develop a high regard for the safety and well-being for themselves as well as for others. The ethos of our school encourages excellent standards of behaviour and attitudes.

At the beginning of the academic year members of each class discuss and set their own class rules; these rules are displayed and referred to during the year. Staff model excellent behaviour and mentor children who may be experiencing difficulties in their relationships with others.

We have a clear rewards system which is understood by everyone and sanctions are implemented where necessary. We have a very low incidence of formal sanctions.

Children feel very safe from bullying, racism and any other discrimination and they are fully confident that they can confide in and gain strong support from staff should they feel threatened. The behaviour and anti-bullying policies are available on request from the school office and the school website.

### E-safety

Children are taught about e-safety and parents are offered e-safety awareness training each year. This is very important as ICT capability is fast changing.

All parents are required to read and sign the Acceptable Use policy when their child starts school.

### Photographing Children

For reasons of data security and for the safety of the children, videoing is NOT PERMITTED at any school events.

On occasion permission may be granted to take still photographs of their own children, but not to capture images of other children, or to share the pictures on social media.

For safety reason some children in school are not allowed to be photographed, before your child starts school you will be asked if you are happy for your child to be photographed:

A - for use within school

B - for use on the school website

C - for use by outside agencies

# NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council



Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about Operation Encompass. This is a new innovative project in which schools in Northumberland are participating, and which is run in partnership with Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Police. Many other Local Authorities both nationally and locally have successfully implemented Operation Encompass.

Operation Encompass which commences 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, aims to support children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse. Witnessing domestic abuse is really distressing for a child or young person, who often see the abuse, hear it from another room, see a parent's injuries or distress afterwards or can be physically hurt by trying to stop the abuse.

As a result, following any domestic abuse incident being reported to the police, the Police will make contact with Children's Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff. This will ensure that the school is made aware at the earliest possible opportunity and can subsequently provide support to children in a way that means they feel safe and listened to.

Each school has members of staff (key adults) who have been fully trained in liaising with police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child or young person following the disclosure of a domestic abuse incident.

I believe that this project demonstrates our school's commitment to working in partnership to safeguard and protect children, and to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone further about the project or require further information please contact our key adults in school who are Mrs Anne Robertson or Mrs Joanne Anderson.

You can also find out more information here <http://www.operationencompass.org/> and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03y9r5h>

Yours,

*Mrs Anne Robertson*





Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to inform you about Operation Endeavour. This is an innovative project in which schools and colleges in Northumberland are participating, and which is run in partnership with Northumberland County Council and Northumbria Police.

Operation Endeavour which commences in November 2018, aims to support children and young people who go missing from home. Children who go missing from home are at risk of significant harm and they may be vulnerable to sexual exploitation, violent crime, gang exploitation, or to drug and alcohol misuse.

As a result, following any report of a child going missing to the Police, the Police will make contact with Children's Social Care who will then communicate relevant and necessary information to nominated school staff.

Each school has members of staff who have been fully trained in liaising with the Police and Children's Social Care when required, and will ensure that the necessary support is made available to the child or young person following their return.

I believe that this project demonstrates our school's commitment to working in partnership to safeguard and protect children, and to providing the best possible care and support for our pupils.

In the meantime, if you would like to speak to someone further about the project or require further information, please contact myself in the first instance.

Yours Sincerely

*Mrs Anne Robertson*

Headteacher

## **Health**

### **Access Policy Statement**

This school recognises that many of its students, visitors and staff, whether disabled or otherwise, have individual needs when using school and facilities. However, we also recognise that for some students, the nature of their disabilities may mean that they experience specific difficulties related to accessing education, and the physical environment. As part of the ongoing commitment to the delivery of an inclusive educational service, we will endeavour to ensure that disabled students receive the same standards of education as able bodied students.

Mrs Anderson is the SENDCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) for the school and will discuss any areas and answer any questions about special educational needs.

### **Medicines in School**

If a child needs medicine during the school day then parents are welcome to come to school and administer it, although exceptions can be made for children with ongoing health problems. Children with inhalers are always supervised when using them.

### **Health Checks**

Reception aged children have a Height and Weight check and vision screening, and any concerns are reported to parents.

### **Headlice**

All parents will be made aware of any incidents of headlice, please check your child's hair regularly and treat as necessary. If your child has headlice they need to be treated before they can come to school. If your child comes to school with lice they will be sent home to be treated to prevent spread, please ensure you treat the whole family.

## Healthy Eating

We encourage a positive social interaction at lunch times, staff eat with the children and promote good table manners as well as encouraging children to try new foods. Children have the choice of two lunch options each day which are chosen in advance.



*Lunch on Table of the Week*

We encourage all children to have a healthy, balanced diet. We ask parents who provide a packed lunch for their child to ensure that it is healthy and nutritious.

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free school meal. However it is important that low income families apply to the Local Authority for benefits related free school meals as your child may be entitled to additional funding (Pupil Premium). If you think you may be entitled please contact the school office.

Key dates are celebrated with special lunches which the children love from Christmas Dinner, Burns lunch, Valentines and even High Tea for the Jubilee!





We do not have facilities for children on packed lunches to place their box in a fridge to ensure food is kept at the correct temperature, therefore it is advisable to use an ice block at the bottom of lunch boxes. For safety reasons parents are asked not to send drinks in glass bottles or sweets. Please put names on lunch boxes.

As part of the national School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme children in KS1 (Reception, Y1 and Y2) are provided with a free piece of fruit or vegetable every day. Only one kind of fruit / vegetable is available each day and the fruit usually supplied is apples, pears, bananas, carrots and tomatoes. Please let your child's teacher know if you don't want your child to have fruit.

The fruit is given to children at break time. Fruit can also be brought from home.

Our Breakfast Club runs daily and great care is given to ensure we are providing a well-balanced breakfast, children are also given the opportunity to complete home-work tasks in preparation for the school day.

All children are able to pre-order a daily carton of milk which is paid for termly. Children under 5 and those entitled to benefit related Free School Meals receive this for free.

We grow, cook and eat a lot of our own fruit, vegetables and herbs, encouraging children to try new foods.



## Physical Activities

We provide a range of opportunities to be physically active, both through the curriculum and out of school clubs. Children are taught how physical activity can help them to be healthy, and how it can contribute to their every day life.

All our children receive a minimum 2 hours of structured physical activity each week inside the school curriculum. We also provide opportunities for pupils to participate in a broad range of extra-curricular activities such as hockey, games, cricket, rounders, netball, tennis and golf. These clubs run on a rota basis over the year and are open to years 2, 3 and 4. Children also follow the Activate/GoNoodle programmes.



We participate with other schools within the partnership in tag rugby, football, cricket and rounders. Some of these activities are co-operative and some are competitive.

PE is an integral part of life at Tweedmouth West and we are a Platinum Mark School.



Swimming lessons are partly subsidised by Northumberland County Council and parents are asked to make a contribution to cover the cost of transport.

***“Pupils attend a wide variety of clubs, from yoga and gymnastics to cooking and gardening. The strong PE curriculum encourages pupils to push themselves. Many pupils are inspired to join local clubs and continue to enjoy sports after they leave the school.”  
Ofsted February 2020***



## **Emotional Health and Well Being**

We believe in promoting positive emotional health and well-being to help pupils to understand and express their feelings, build their confidence, emotional resilience and their capacity to learn.

Children's behaviour is managed in a positive way, which includes a clear reward system. We celebrate children's achievements at regular assemblies. We participate in Anti Bullying week and have a clear policy which not only deals with bullying but offers ideas on support and guidance.

In order for our children to be emotionally healthy and enjoy a sense of well-being we encourage children to participate in school activities in order to build their confidence and raise their self-esteem.

We have Thrive trained practitioners in school and this is a way of developing childrens' mental wellbeing.



***“There is a supportive atmosphere in the school. Pupils respect the needs of others. Older pupils help younger ones in the playground. Pupils understand how to recognise bullying, and they are confident that staff would sort out any problems.”  
Ofsted February 2020***



We expect our children to look after each other and to show compassion for those who are hurt, upset or have problems. We give them opportunities to develop their levels of responsibility and empathy, not only through the curriculum but through nominating themselves as playground friends and school councillors. They also have the opportunity to organise the MacMillan Coffee Morning.



In school the children are part of houses which are Kingsmith, Dahl, Rowling, and Wilson. This encourages team work and a sense of belonging. The children have many opportunities for leadership during their time at Tweedmouth West. This may be standing as a house captain, school councillor or sports leader.



***“The school’s motto is ‘Respect, Resilience and Responsibility’. Leaders make sure that these themes underpin everything that the school does. Pupils learn from the example set by the school staff. Pupils respect each other’s differences and show a strong sense of responsibility when helping their friends.”  
Ofsted February 2020***



## Learning in the Outdoors



The outdoor learning area provides us with a rich environment where children can play and learn on a much bigger scale. They have access to water, sand and construction, and resources that constantly change and encourage their creativity.

In the outdoors, supported by knowledgeable adults, the children can experience at first hand the changes in the weather, the seasons and discover nature for themselves.



We have developed a sustainable village on our school field where the children engage in forest school activities.

We believe that children learn through play and that the curriculum can be delivered out of doors. We value outdoor learning as a means to develop problem solving skills, encourage team work and improve thinking skills, which ultimately lead to deeper learning.

Each class is timetabled to spend a day each week in our learning village. Children take part in activities such as cooking, gardening, maths trails, art, music and English activities.



We use the village, which is based on the Danish forest schools, in all weathers so it is vital that all children have warm, waterproof clothing.

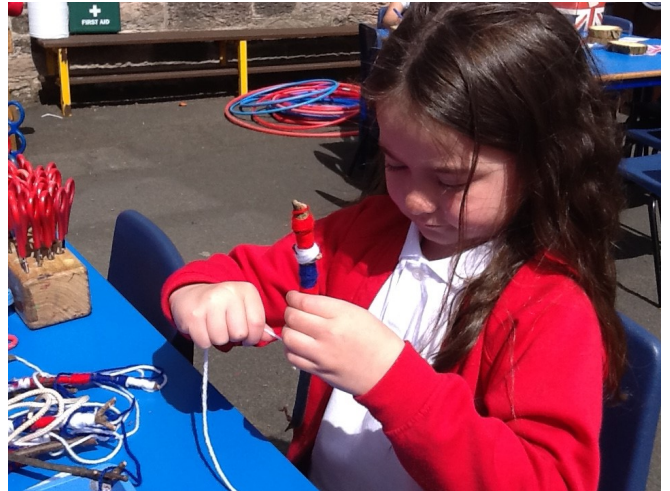
***“Pupils enjoy a broad curriculum and lots of clubs and activities. They become good readers and mathematicians. Sport and physical education (PE) are a prominent feature of the school. Pupils take part in physical activities like the daily mile without feeling pressured to do so. They are enthusiastic about sports and games. Many pupils talk about how these opportunities build their confidence and resilience.”***

**Ofsted February 2020**

## Learning Through Play

When the children come into the Reception Class, they will find a very inviting and stimulating environment that will enable them to learn as they play. As they follow their own interests and curiosities, they will explore the world around them and make discoveries about how things work and what happens if.....

As we observe them in their play we can find out what they are learning and how to help them develop.



We encourage our children to look beyond themselves and the school to make a contribution to national charities and international developments such as the Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeal, Macmillan nurses, Poppy Appeal, Children In Need and Comic Relief.

## Break times

Break times are well supervised by teachers, teaching assistants or lunch time supervisors. We use our extensive field (weather permitting) as much as possible.

***“Pupils are proud of their school and they work hard. The school curriculum includes lots of opportunities for pupils to build their confidence and try new things.”***  
Ofsted February 2020



## Curriculum

We aim to develop first rate attitudes to learning, co-operating with others, using initiative and taking pride in work, school and all we do.

To achieve this aim we plan a stimulating and challenging curriculum which engages children's interest and motivates them to achieve and be independent learners.

We believe children learn effectively if they can discuss their thoughts and ideas with their peers so lessons frequently include 'talk partners' to help consolidate concepts, answer questions or to build new knowledge together.

### **Inclusion Policy:**

*'All children, regardless of race, gender and educational ability have the right to the same educational opportunities as their peers, and have the same right of access to a broad and balanced curriculum'*

We encourage and support children with Special Educational Needs or disabilities (SEND) within the classroom environment.

When specific learning difficulties arise interventions will be put in place by the class teacher in consultation with the Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO). On certain occasions children will need extra support which may be undertaken in a small group situation or a one to one basis.

High achieving children's needs are met for by specially constructed work programmes of extension and higher order skills.

It is important for each child to feel valued for their own abilities. We endeavour to build self-esteem and their work effort will always be recognised.



### ***"Leaders'***

***curriculum plans identify what pupils need to learn in every subject. These include the knowledge, skills and vocabulary that pupils learn each term. Pupils are enthusiastic about their learning in subjects such as art, science and PE. They show a strong knowledge of these subjects."***

**Ofsted February 2020**

## Mathematics

Our children need to be confident and numerate in order to achieve economic well-being as adults. To equip them with the right skills we teach mathematical exploration, discussion and reasoning about numbers and problem solving. Children are encouraged to use and apply mathematics with great emphasis being placed on discussing methods of working out and opportunities for collaborative work with classmates.

Opportunities are created to present mathematics in real life situations, for example, in activities such as shopping for ingredients, cooking, role play in a class shop and the Book Shop, Toy Fair and Book Fair. Children in this school use mathematics in other subject areas such as co-ordinates in Geography, weather recording in Science, weighing and measuring in Technology and ICT for Data Handling.



*Numicon and number tasks*

## English

To be a fluent reader is our priority for all our children. We want them to read for pleasure when they are adults and to pass on this love of books to their own children.

We offer a rich language environment in school where the children are immersed in high quality literature. This enables them to discover new worlds, new facts, and develop their imagination.

Children who are good readers become good writers, and so regular reading in school and at home are vital.

Reading a story *to* the children is hugely important and allows children to really appreciate a good book.

## Computing

Our pupils are children of the 21st century and we equip them for the world of technology by offering a wide range of opportunities to learn new skills, consolidate ideas and transfer knowledge across the curriculum.

ICT is used by all pupils in all areas of the curriculum, here are some of the ways we use technology everyday:

- ♦ The excellent use of interactive whiteboards enriches learning in every subject.
- ♦ Children have access to a range of ICT equipment in all classes
- ♦ All pupils have access to School 360.
- ♦ ICT Club allows children without ICT access at home to develop their skills and knowledge and is popular with all age ranges.
- ♦ Children are taught the basics of computer programming.



We are constantly adding to our ICT equipment and all children have regular use of Laptops, iPads, Ozbots and Beebots. In addition to this we regularly loan Spheros, Bluebots and 3D printers from Northumberland County Council.

***“Staff work with parents to identify children’s interests and needs. They use this knowledge to build an exciting curriculum. This approach inspires children to learn and reach high standards.”  
Ofsted February 2020***



## Creativity

Creativity and the performing arts are at the core of our curriculum and we place a high priority on thinking skills. All children are involved in performances during their time here. We work very much as a team and teachers use their expertise to contribute to the performance.



Children are given the opportunity to learn a musical instrument such as violin, recorder, and guitar.



## **Extra Curricular Activities**

The majority of children take the golden opportunity to join after school clubs which are led by teachers, teaching assistants or outside coaches. Sports club includes netball, golf, hockey, cricket, rounders, tennis and gymnastics. Other clubs include lego, choir, art, gardening and cookery.

Clubs are spread out over the year and are open to years 3 and 4.

From time to time we invite visiting Theatre Groups etc. to perform in school. These are excellent opportunities for your child to see professional artists at work, but we do need to pay for them. We ask for a contribution from each child to meet the cost. This is the same for school trips / extra curricular activities and although this is a voluntary contribution, if insufficient money is received we may not be able to continue with such visits, so please contribute if you can.



## **Tweedmouth West awarded Platinum Mark**



We are delighted to announce that we, Tweedmouth West First school, have achieved the School Games **Platinum** Mark Award for the 2018/19 & 2019/20 academic years.

The School Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

After receiving gold for 5 consecutive years we qualified to apply for the prestigious platinum award.

Our sporting achievements this year include:

- ◆ Sports participation by 100% of Year 3 and 4 pupils at all levels. With competitive sport provision offered to the largest range of pupils in a wide number of sports.
- ◆ Winning the Berwick & Alnwick Area Golf & Gymnastics competitions and teams going onto represent North Northumberland at the school Games.
- ◆ Individual performances led to 5 pupils representing North Northumberland at the School Games for Quad Kids (athletics)
- ◆ 2nd in the Berwick area Year 4 skipping competition with many individual gold, silver and bronze certificates.
- ◆ The school's sports participation by all pupils at all levels of ability with competitive sports provision offered to the largest range of pupils in a wide number of sports.

Keziah Gilbert our School games Organiser supported our application and said;

"Tweedmouth West First School provided competitive sporting opportunity's for all their students throughout the year. Sport and Physical activity are at the heart of their school. The school provides a positive sporting culture to all and is a very positive example to other schools in the area and beyond of how to deliver PE and physical activities. The PE coordinators have engaged extremely well with the School Games this year. A Platinum award would be much deserved by Tweedmouth West!"

## **Parents**

We want the very best for our children and we realise that we cannot do this without the support of our families. We want to work together with you so that we know and understand the needs of our children and can do everything we can to support them.

We hold several fundraising events during the academic year to raise essential funds to buy books, equipment and supplies for school. In recent times we have Dribbled to the Euro's, done a Jubilee Jog and sold our Tweedmouth West Portrait T-Towels. The children always enjoy these sponsored events and they all benefit from the money raised.

We share termly forums with parents which outlines the work we plan to cover in class. We offer guidance and advice about how to support children's learning both in school and at home.

## **Punctuality & Attendance**

Please ensure that your child arrives on time as it is very stressful for children to rush into school at the last minute.

Good attendance is important. It allows children the best chances in school. They miss a great deal both in terms of learning and socialising with just one day off.

For safety reasons, we need to know why children are absent from school, therefore it is important that parents contact school on the first day of illness and preferably every day a child is absent from school. Absence can be reported via the parentmail app or by calling the school office 01289 306151.

You will be kept informed of your child's attendance each half term.

If your child has to visit the clinic, doctor or dentist please make an after school appointment wherever possible. If your child is being collected from school by someone different please let us know.

## **Holidays in Term Time**

It is important that your child is at school everyday in order to learn and be part of the school community. Therefore taking holidays during term time can be very disruptive for your child. However in exceptional circumstances term time holidays may be authorised by the head teacher. A request form must be submitted for any planned term time absence. Only exceptional circumstances can be authorised.

## **Helpful things to know**

### **Telephone Numbers**

All parents are asked to notify school giving details of a change of address, work or emergency contact numbers, we often have to contact parents if a child has an accident or is ill and needs to be sent home. We need two emergency contacts for each child.

### **Availability of Documents**

Policies relating to the curriculum, aims and Health and Safety are available for parents to read, some are available on the school website. Please contact the Head Teacher if you wish to have access to documentation.

### **Concerns and Complaints**

Fortunately complaints are few and far between but when they do arise it is best to make an appointment to speak to the Head Teacher as soon as possible and every effort will be made to resolve the problem in an informal way. If, however, you feel that the problem has not been resolved to your satisfaction you can follow the complaints procedure and write to the Chair of Governors stating your case. The Head Teacher will forward your letter of complaint.

### **Children's Records and Data Protection**

We are GDPR compliant. Basic information about pupils is held on computer to assist with the organisation of the school and the children's educational needs. Security measures are taken to ensure that the information is kept confidential and is only available to authorised staff.

### **Behaviour**

Children are treated with respect and taught to respect others. We have high expectations and expect good behaviour. Bullying is not tolerated.

# If a Child

## If a Child

If a child lives with criticism – it learns to condemn.

If a child lives with hostility – it learns to fight.

If a child lives with ridicule – it learns to be shy.

If a child lives with shame – it learns to be guilty.

If a child lives with tolerance – it learns to be patient.

If a child lives with encouragement – it learns confidence.

If a child lives with praise – it learns to appreciate.

If a child lives with fairness – it learns justice.

If a child lives with security – it learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval – it learns to like itself.

**If a child lives with  
acceptance and friendship  
it learns to find love  
both in itself and in the world.**