

Ramsden

Infant and Nursery School



Information for Parents



RAMSDEN INFANT SCHOOL
THWAITE STREET
BARROW-IN-FURNESS
CUMBRIA
LA14 1AN

Telephone (01229) 840950

E-mail: admin@ramsden.cumbria.sch.uk

Website: www.ramsden.cumbria.sch.uk

We are a Community Infant School for
children between the ages of 3-7 years

Headteacher

Mrs Nicola Brewerton

Chair of Governors

Mrs Claire Burton

Guide to Information

1. Vision Statement
2. Notes from the Headteacher and the Governors
3. How do I apply for a place at this school? How are the classes organised? Can I visit School before I apply?
4. What is the curriculum and how is it organised?
Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One
5. English, Maths, Science, S&RE, R.E. and Collective Worship
6. Foundation Subjects, P.E., Computing. What if my child has special educational needs? What about my child's emotional needs?
7. Will my child get homework? What is Ramsden's Behaviour Policy? What about inclusion?
8. How will my child be assessed?
2019 - Results for the Early Years Foundation Stage, Results for the Phonic Checklist, Results for the End of Key Stage One
9. How will I find out about my child's progress?
10. What are Ramsden's starting and finishing times?
11. Who are the Staff?
12. Who are the Governors?
13. Are there any trips? Are there any out of school clubs? Is there before or after school care? What may I have to pay for?
14. How is my child cared for in School? What if my child needs medication during the school day? Child Protection and Safeguarding. What should I do if my child is unable to attend school?
15. How should my child dress for school?
16. Is my child insured?
17. How does Ramsden liaise with local junior schools? If I have a question or concern who should I talk to?
18. Can I get involved in School? Do you have a PTA?
19. Note from the children
20. Disclaimer

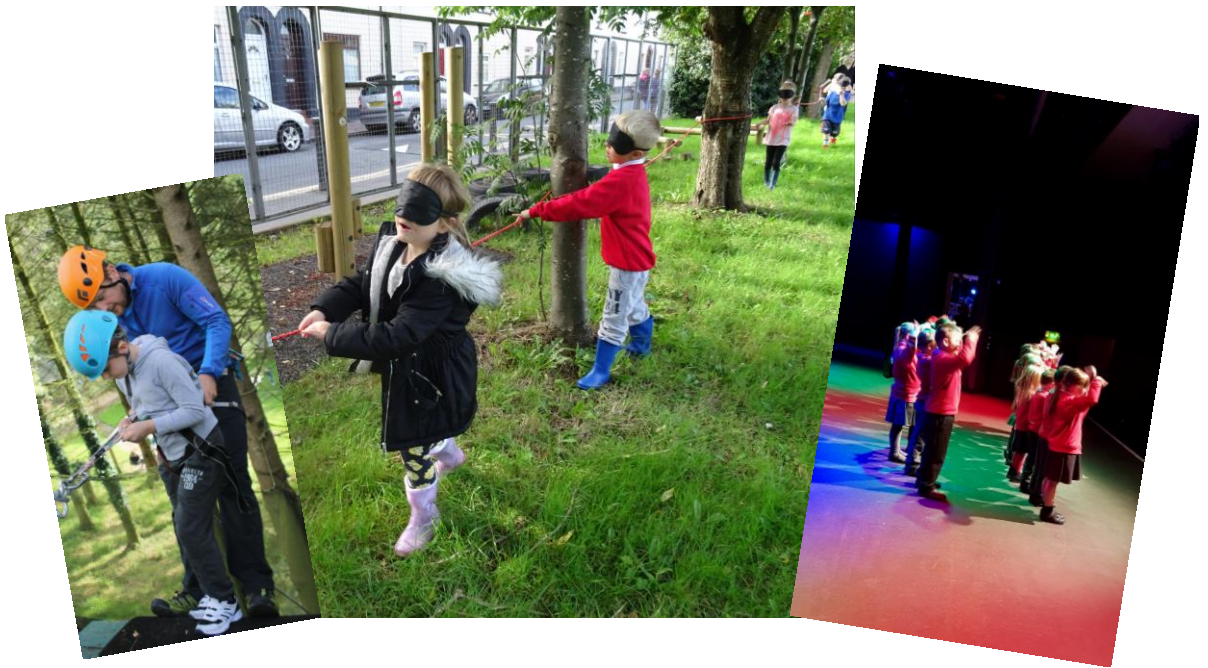
Ramsden's Vision Statement

That everyone in our school can become...

A successful learner who believes 'I can'

A confident individual who will 'try'

A responsible citizen who know they 'make a difference'



We Are Committed to the Following Aims...

- To work together as a community with a shared sense of purpose and high expectations.
- To get to know our children well and help them succeed.
- To establish and maintain positive working relationships with parents as partners in their children's learning.
- To recognise and respect local values and continue to broaden horizons.
- To welcome new challenges and use them to enrich our work.
- It is important to us that children enjoy school life and we aspire to build happy memories of their time at Ramsden resulting in a sense of personal achievement.



A Note from the Headteacher

Dear Families

At Ramsden we understand the importance of giving children the very best start in life. We hold the children's personal development and general welfare in high regard. Emphasis is placed on basic literacy and numeracy skills and promoting positive attitudes to learning and behaviour. We welcome parents and carers to work with us in the best interests of the children.

If you feel that you would like to visit Ramsden you are most welcome to come and look round so that you can decide if our School offers the sort of education and experiences you would like for your child.

We look forward to meeting you and answering any questions you may have.

Mrs N Brewerton

A Note from the Governors

Dear Families

As Governors we welcome you to our school, a happy place, where adults, as well as children, enjoy good relationships with caring, experienced staff. Your children are offered sound educational experiences in a challenging environment. We are pleased to welcome families into school and know that their support contributes to the rich, stimulating learning the children engage in.

If you would like to read our Ofsted Reports please look on our website, ask for a paper copy or look at 'Inspection Reports' on the Ofsted website, www.ofsted.gov.uk

You can look at the views of our families on the website under 'Parent Consultation' or online on 'Parent View', www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

The Governors of Ramsden Infant and Nursery School



How Do I Apply For a Place At Ramsden?

Children are allocated a place in accordance with the rules laid down in the Cumbria County Council Admissions Policy, details of which can be obtained from School. We have space for 52 children in the Reception classes. Admission of children whose 5th birthday falls on or between the 1st September and 31st August will take place during the first weeks of the following Autumn Term.

Application forms can be obtained from the School and should be returned to the Headteacher at Ramsden. Applications and admission dates & arrangements are also available on the County Council website www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices

How Are The Classes Organised?

Children are grouped by age.

Teaching is organised in a variety of ways. Children are grouped according to the nature of the activity or by ability. Some whole class teaching takes place, sometimes children are taught in small groups. Where appropriate, children may be given one-to-one help and support.

Any information you may require about our school curriculum is available from the website, the teachers in each year group and you can keep up to date with curriculum content and topics through the year on the Facebook pages for each class

Can I Visit School Before I Apply?

It is always a pleasure to show families around our school and we are happy to arrange a visit at any time, just contact the school office on 01229 840950 or email admin@ramsden.cumbria.sch.uk

What Is The Curriculum And How Is It Organised?

We aim to provide a secure, caring and stimulating environment with a motivating curriculum, within which each child can develop as a confident individual. All our children are encouraged to try their best, to develop a positive attitude to their work and play and acquire a sense of pride in their achievements.

The Early Years Foundation Stage

In Nursery and Reception, children are taught following the guidelines laid down in the **Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum**. This is a practical, stimulating curriculum, designed to develop confidence, knowledge, understanding and experiences through the **Prime Areas**:-

Communication and Language-

With an emphasis on Speaking and Listening and early reading and writing skills

Physical Development -

Using indoor and outdoor facilities to develop manipulative and motor skills, co-ordination and physical control

Personal, Social and Emotional Development - developing an understanding of the need for tolerance, respect, co-operation, confidence and independence

We also support children in four **Specific Areas** (through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied)

Literacy -

With an emphasis on reading, recognising familiar words, phonics, & early writing skills

Mathematics -

Concentrating on practical maths activities based on everyday experiences.

Understanding The World -

Encouraging observation, enquiry, problem solving and interest in the children's immediate environment.

Expressive Arts & Design -

Providing a range of sensory experiences and encouraging creative expression.

Key Stage One

Children in Year One and Year Two are taught following guidelines laid down in **The National Curriculum for Key Stage One**, building on and developing the educational experiences of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Although we place an emphasis on English, Mathematics we have strived to maintain a broad and balanced curriculum and try to include as many cross-curriculum links as appropriate, often through topics & themes, for example using Art and Design in the teaching of Maths or developing reading and writing skills through a Science or R.E. focus



English

Speaking, listening, reading and writing are all essential skills and are developed through sound teaching of basic skills and an introduction to the beauty and imagination of our language and literature. A daily English/Phonics session takes place for all year groups.

Children are encouraged to read as much as possible, for pleasure and information. A partnership with parents and carers is an important part of this. Children are taught to read as part of the class, using big books and large text – shared reading, as part of a group – guided reading, or individually where necessary.

Phonics sessions occur several times a week to support the children who will be tested on their ability to phonically decode words in Year One. The children in Reception and Year One are using the Dandelion Launchers Books to support their learning of Phonics and reading.

Records are kept of the children's progress to ensure continuity and progression for groups and individuals.

Science

Children are encouraged to explore and develop an awareness of the environment within and, eventually, beyond their immediate experience. Simple science investigations, following and developing themes, through the whole of the Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage One, and regular discussions help to nurture an interest and enthusiasm for finding out about the world around us.

Sex & Relationship Education

No formal sex education is taught but if questions are asked we answer them with sensitivity. Our 'Relationship, Sex & Relationship and Health Education Policy' is on our website or we can provide you with a copy. We are also a Kidsafe School. Through Kidsafe we teach children how to recognise unsafe situations and actions to take to protect themselves.

Maths

We encourage problem solving and investigation using everyday, practical experiences and the development of mathematical language, number, counting, money, time, shape and measure. A daily maths lesson is taught in all year groups. Parents and carers play a valuable role in reinforcing concepts taught in School through practical activities and application at home.

What About Religious Education and Collective Worship?

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the National Curriculum. We encourage an appreciation of ourselves, our school community, our local environment and a simple understanding of Christianity and traditions of other religions & cultures.

Staff and children gather each morning for group worship. Personal, moral, spiritual and religious values are taught through these assemblies and we use this time to foster a sense of belonging to our school community.

Arrangements can be made for your child to be withdrawn from assembly or Religious Education if you so wish.

Although Ramsden is not connected with any religious denomination or church, we hold our Harvest Assembly and Christmas Nativity in St Mark's Church (Church of England). This helps us develop a sense of belonging to the local community.

An understanding of other traditions is developed through visits, visitors, pictures, artefacts and work involving other faiths. This fosters an awareness of the world beyond the children's immediate experience.

We pay particular attention to children's spiritual and moral development. If you have any questions regarding Religious Education in school please don't hesitate to contact us.

Foundation Subjects

The Foundation Subjects include History, Geography, Art and Design, Design Technology and Music. Teaching is based around children's first hand experiences, their familiar environment and aims to develop an awareness of the wider world and different environments and cultures. We include visits to places of interest and provide the children with the opportunity to experience a range of creative activities, tools and materials and activities that stimulate the desire to observe more closely and plan and evaluate their work. We strive to encourage an appreciation of the beauty and diversity of their surroundings and develop a lively, enquiring mind.

P.E.

Pupils develop awareness of, and confidence in, their physical ability through a variety of activities. Staff encourage the children to express themselves through movement and promote the development of physical skills through dance, games, sports, drama and playtime activities. Children develop awareness of their physical abilities and limitations, use of space and a movement vocabulary that stimulates their creative use of language. They are encouraged to link movement with sound, both of their own making using instruments or accompanying the work of others.

We work with other organisations that provide a range of different physical activities during the school day as well as after school, including Yoga, Mini Olympics Games and inter-school sports competitions.

Computing

Computers, interactive Smartboards, tape recorders, iPads, and programmable toys are all used to enhance and support the learning in all curriculum areas. A carefully planned scheme of work exists to teach computing skills.

Details of schemes of work, termly and weekly plans for each class and LA and DfE documents are available on request. The Headteacher would be pleased to discuss these documents with you should you wish to have further information.

What If My Child Has Special Educational Needs?

Children with Special Educational Needs are identified through our planning and assessment. If your child is found to have any special educational needs, we will provide all the help and support we can. This will mainly be done in the classroom either as part of a small group or individually where appropriate. If staff feel it is necessary, outside specialists (the Speech Therapist for example) may be asked to help support your child. We will keep you informed at all stages. If you have any concerns or queries, don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, the Headteacher or Miss Swarbrick (who is the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, also known as the SENCO).

What About My Child's Emotional Needs?

We know that many children and families suffer difficulties at times. We have several staff in school trained in supporting children & families experiencing challenging circumstances. If you would like some help or require more information don't hesitate to contact Mrs Brewerton.

Will My Child Get Homework?

The children in our School are encouraged to spend some time on reading, writing or maths activities with a parent or other carer at home each night. Homework is mainly reading a book, word building and spelling and practical maths activities. This time spent with an interested adult is a valuable opportunity for your child to talk about what they have achieved at school and celebrate those achievements.

Many demands are made of your children during the school day so it is important that you make any homework sessions short and enjoyable. Staff are always able to offer advice and support regarding keeping your child interested and motivated to share their learning with you.

Teachers will let children and parents know about the homework that has been set through meetings and booklets sent out at the beginning of the year, the website, class Facebook pages and notes home.

Even a short, quiet time set aside each evening can have a very positive impact on your child's learning and sense of achievement.

we have a well done
Assembly every week



What Is Ramsden's Behaviour Policy?

Our curriculum, ethos and environment are designed to develop self discipline in our children. Praise and rewards are used to encourage appropriate behaviour. We encourage the children to be honest and show respect for themselves and others. We strive to build confidence and awareness of socially acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. We encourage the children to make positive choices. Where possible, we use distraction and intervention to tackle inappropriate behaviour. Our sanctions include the loss of privileges such as playtime. In the case of persistent misbehaviour, parental co-operation will be sought.

Every effort is made to ensure that bullying does not occur. Clear cases of bullying are distinct from friendships breaking down and will be dealt with swiftly. Bullying is NOT acceptable at Ramsden. A full copy of our Behaviour Policy is available on our website or a printed copy can be obtained on request



What About Inclusion?

Ramsden Infants has a Single Equality Scheme which states its commitment to ensuring equality beyond our statutory duties to promote race, gender & disability equality but also protecting against discrimination on the grounds of age, sexuality and religion or belief. A full copy is available on request from the Headteacher. Ramsden also has an Accessibility Plan which is designed to make sure a planned program is in place to ensure our school is accessible to all. The majority of our school building is on one level with only small steps up into a limited number of rooms. We have a toilet suitable for people with disabilities.

How Will My Child Be Assessed?

Children are continually assessed throughout the year against nationally determined 'age related expectations'. Summative assessments are recorded at the end of Reception (Early Years Foundation Stage results) and at the end of Year Two (End of Key Stage One results). A Phonics Checklist is completed by Year One. If you would like more information about this data please don't hesitate to ask the Headteacher.

There is also a Baseline Assessment that children are assessed against at the beginning of the Reception year.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic there have been no formal assessments in 2020 and 2021 so the data below is from 2019.

Results for the Early Years Foundation Stage 2019

RESULTS FOR	EMERGING	EXPECTED	EXCEEDING	EXPECTED OR ABOVE
READING	31%	56%	14%	70%
WRITING	36%	53%	11%	64%
NUMBER and SHAPE SPACE AND MEASURE	42%	39%	19%	58%

Results for the Phonics Checklist 2019

PASSED
69%

Results for the End of Key Stage One Assessments 2019

RESULTS FOR	WORKING TOWARDS	EXPECTED	GREATER DEPTH	EXPECTED OR ABOVE
READING	27%	43%	30%	73%
WRITING	37%	53%	10%	63%
MATHS	17%	66%	17%	83%

These assessments are completed in the Summer Term and the data is affected by the number of children in the cohort, the number of children with additional needs, the number of children with special educational needs and the changes made by the Government to assessment. Each child is assessed when they enter school and we check each term as to whether they are making 'progress', even if they don't reach age related expectations, 'progress' shows how they are developing from their starting point.

How Will I Find Out About My Child's Progress?

Parents Evenings are held once a term where you can discuss your child's progress with the class teacher. If you would like to find out about your child's progress or have any concerns at other times, please arrange an appointment to see your child's teacher.



What Are Ramsden's Starting and Finishing Times?

Nursery

Morning Session - 8.45 to 11.45

Reception, Year One and Year Two

Morning Session - 8.55 to 12.00

Afternoon Session - 1.00 to 3.00

Ramsden provides at least 21 hours teaching time per week for Reception, Year One and Year Two children. This figure does not include time spent on daily assemblies, registration and morning and afternoon breaks

Before School

Early Birds Session - 8.00 to 8.55 Please ask for details of cost



Who Are The Staff?

11

Headteacher

Mrs N Brewerton

Teaching Staff

Mrs J Pooley Year 2

Mr S Addenbrook Year 2

Miss S Booth Year 1

Mrs A Mysercough
and Miss S Bloor Year 1

Mrs R Doyle Reception

Miss R Taylor Reception

Mrs S Rampton Nursery

Miss A Swarbrick Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

Miss H Mason Office Manager

Mrs M Beckman Teaching Assistant

Mrs L Birnie Pupil Support

Miss S Bloor Pupil Support

Mrs R Coward Pupil Support

Mrs C Fisher Teaching Assistant and Midday Supervisor

Miss S Frazer Teaching Assistant and Midday Supervisor

Miss R Hemsall Pupil Support

Mrs L Johnson Pupil Support

Mrs Madigan-Browne Pupil Support

Miss H Pritchard Teaching Assistant

Mrs A Hartle Teaching Assistant and Midday Supervisor



THWAITE ST. INFANTS SCHOOL PERCUSSION BAND, 1932.

Who Are The Governors?

Representing the Local Authority

Mr T Burden

Parent Representatives

Ms C Johnson (Vice-chair)

Mrs J Pooley

Co-Opted Governors

Mr P Solloway

Mrs J Sharpe (Vice Chair)

Ms C Burton (Chair)

Staff Representative

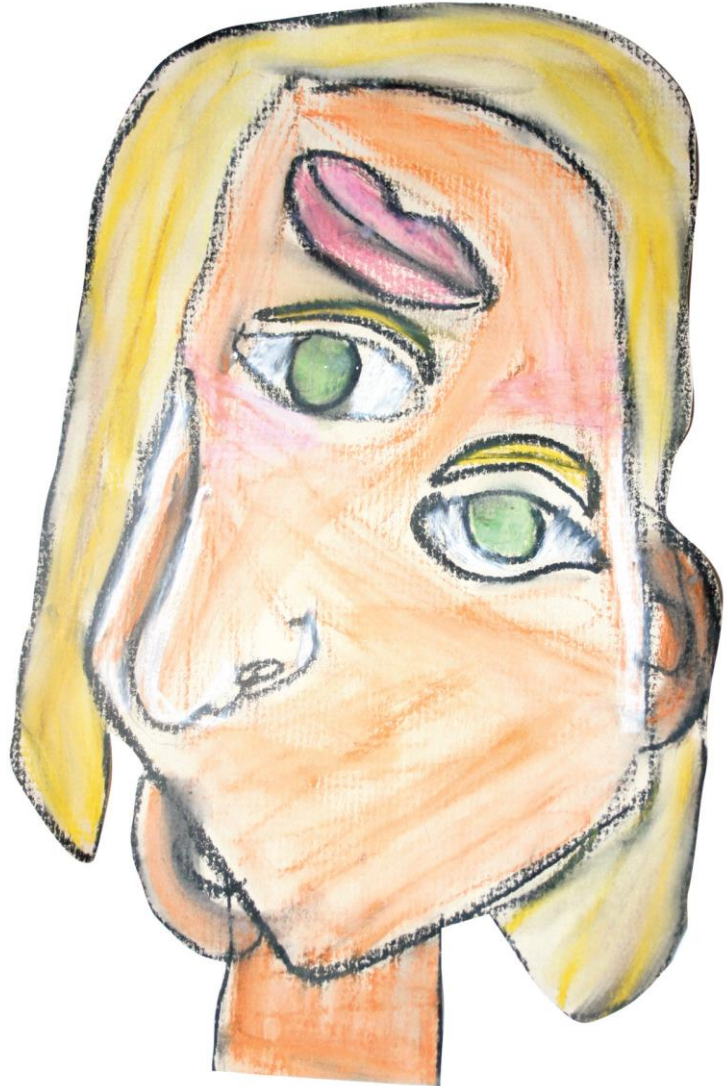
Mrs S Rampton

Headteacher

Mrs N Brewerton

Clerk to the Governors

Vacancy



A meeting of the School Governors is held at least once a term.
Minutes of the meetings are available from the Clerk to the Governors.

Are There Any Trips?

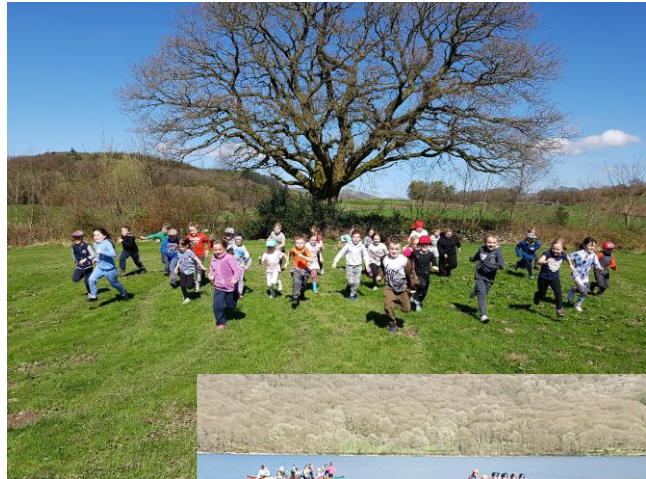
Educational visits occur to support the curriculum. We visit Barrow Park, Grizedale Forest, The Dock Museum, Barrow Town centre, Conishead Priory, Barrow Library, Dalton Wild Animal Park, the beach, St Paul's Wood, Lindal Candle Factory, Keppleway Outdoor Centre and other places of local interest.

Is There Before or After School Care?

We have an Early Birds Club which looks after children from 8.00am in the morning until school starts at 8.55am. We have contact with a local child care provider who can collect children from our school and offer after school care

What May I Have To Pay For?

In line with Government policy, School Governors follow the principle that education provided by the school should be free of charge if it takes place during school hours. We do however invite parents to make voluntary contributions to help towards transport and other costs incurred as we visit places of local interest. A full copy of our Charging & Remissions Policy is available on request or on our website.



Are There Any Other Out-Of-School Clubs?

We have several opportunities available for children to join an After School Club during the year. Clubs have included; gymnastics, football, sporting activities, and Forest Schools. Details are sent out as the opportunities arise.



How Is My Child Cared For In School?

The care and welfare of your child is our highest priority and our policies and procedures, curriculum and ethos are designed to enable the children to feel safe and know they have someone to talk to if they need it.

In order for us to provide a safe environment for your child, access to the School building during school hours can only be made through the front doors. Please ring the bell to gain attention.

Basic first aid kits are available to treat minor cuts and bruises. If your child has any recurring or long term medical issues it would be advisable for you to inform us.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

We regard the safety of our children as a priority. Should a child disclose information or give us serious cause for concern we are obliged to involve other agencies, possibly including social care. If you have concerns yourself, please don't hesitate to contact us. We have strict policies & procedures to follow to safeguard our children & our staff. If you would like a copy don't hesitate to contact the Headteacher.



What If My Child Needs Medication During School Hours?

Children need to be well to attend school but there may be special circumstances when they may attend whilst taking medication. In such cases medicine or inhalers must be handed to the class teacher with clear written instructions for its administration and it should be collected at the end of the day.

If a child falls ill at school or requires hospital treatment we need to contact parents or carers immediately. This is why a second emergency contact address and phone number is needed.

Please ensure that you inform school of any changes to contact numbers as soon as you can.

What Should I Do If My Child Is Unable To Attend School?

For children to get the most out of their education it is important that they attend school regularly and consistently. A record of absence is kept on all children. Should your child be absent from school for health reasons, please phone or send a message before the start of the school day. If this has not been possible then a note is required on your child's return to school. If your child needs to visit a doctor or dentist during school hours please inform the class teacher so that they know when they will be picked up from or be returning to school.

Unexplained absence is deemed to be unauthorised by education welfare services who may check our registers.



How Should My Child Dress For School?

We strongly encourage children to wear our school uniform. It positively reinforces a feeling of belonging to our school community.

Uniform

- Red sweatshirt jumper/cardigan (with the Ramsden logo if possible)
- White polo shirt/shirt
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore dress

P.E. Kit

A slipper bag containing...

- Plimsoles
- T-shirt
- Shorts

Please ensure that **all** items of clothing and footwear are named to avoid confusion. This is especially important when the children get changed for P.E. and helps teachers to reunite clothes with their owners.

In accordance with Cumbria's Health and Safety Policy **we ask that jewellery is not worn during P.E. or sporting activities.** Earring should be removed or taped over. Our main concern is for your child's safety and would appreciate your support in this matter.



Although on World Book Day
anything goes!!

Is My Child Insured?

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

Accidents can happen in school, 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

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 insurance broker but they may be interested to know that the National Confederation of Parent-Teacher Associations has arranged a suitable policy. It costs a small amount per annum but it provides substantial compensation in the event of a disabling injury, regardless of how and when caused



"As a general rule The Local Education Authority will not accept responsibility for damage to or loss of personal property, including clothing, and it is stressed that the responsibility for safeguarding personal property rests with the owner"

How Does Ramsden Liaise With Local Junior Schools?

At the end of Year Two, children will transfer to a junior school. Parents will be given information well in advance of this. Ramsden maintains close links with Greengate Junior School, as most of our children transfer there, but we also have links with a number of local junior schools to ensure continuity in curriculum developments and the sensitive transfer of our children.

Visits, communication and meetings between you and your child and their new teacher and school are arranged during the summer term.

If I Have A Question Or Concern Who Should I Talk To?

If you have any concerns about your child's education or issues arise that concern school it is important that you let us know. Please arrange to see your child's teacher. Staff will do all they can to help resolve your concerns and ensure that you and your child are happy with the education they receive. If you are still concerned, please make an arrangement to see the Headteacher.

Matters relating to the curriculum and collective worship are the responsibility of the School's Governing Body. Special formal arrangements exist for dealing with complaints on such matters. Advice on how to pursue a formal complaint is available from the School or by contacting the School Section, Education Dept, Cumbria County Council, 5 Portland Square, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA1 1PU (01228 606060). A copy of our complaints procedure is available on our website or a copy can be provided on request.



Can I Get Involved In School?

Yes! We welcome interested parents and other helpers into school on a voluntary basis to support the work we do with the children. Some helpers are happy to support children reading, or assist small groups or individuals with their writing or maths. Others may prefer to bake, sew, play games or support children working on the computer. Staff welcome and appreciate the help of parents and carers on trips and visits we make as part of our curriculum work. We also look forward to families coming along when invited by your children to get involved in activities and fun days. You can also help us with our School Improvement Planning by commenting on our Parent Consultation Sheets on Parents Evening or by leaving comments on "Parent View" -

www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk

and activities they can use at home to support the curriculum and the children's experiences.



Do You Have a PTA?

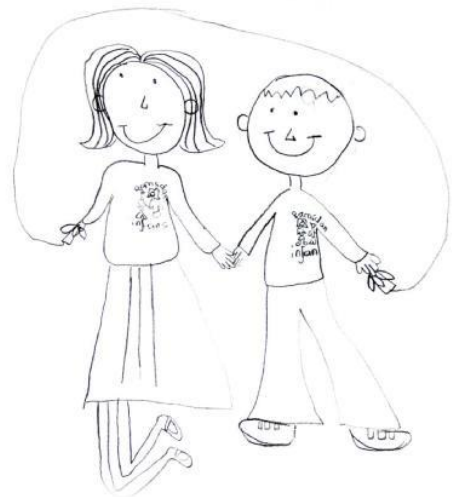
The Friends of Ramsden are a group of parents and supporters whose children attend our school. They are called 'The Friends' because of the valuable help and support they give us, particularly at fundraising. Over the years they have organised events that bring our school community together and have raised a significant amount of money that has enabled us to buy additional resources for classrooms, books, musical instruments etc. Their fundraising also pays for our Christmas Parties and activities linked to topics in year groups e.g., the Weird, Wacky and Wonderful day in Year Two!

If you are interested in being involved, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Brewerton or Mrs Rampton for details

A Note from the Children

Ramsden Infants is the best
It is better than the rest
We try our best everyday
In all our work and our play

We are kind and we share
We show each other how much we care
We keep healthy and exercise
And learn new things so we are wise
Ramsden Infants is so great
So rush to School and don't be late!





Disclaimer

"The information supplied in this document is in accordance with the information at present available to the *Governors* and is believed to be correct at the time of printing but its accuracy is not guaranteed. In particular nothing herein prejudices the right of the Local Authority or any of its sub-committees or the *Governors* or the Head teacher of the School to make any decision relating to the School as it seems fit, without regard to whether this will affect the accuracy of any matters contained in this publication. Further, neither the Education Authority, nor the School, nor the *Governors*, nor any member of staff is legally responsible for any erroneous information contained in this document."

Any child who has been admitted to our Nursery Classes but who lives outside the School's catchment area has no automatic right of entry into the Reception classes. The County Admissions Policy explains how to apply and School is happy to give advice to parents and carers in this situation.

