Hunter Hall School

Preparatory school for boys and girls
aged 3 to 11 years

DRIVE
SLOWLY

Welcome

Everything we do at Hunter Hall is done for the benefit of your child. We pride ourselves on nurturing their individual talents, be that in the classroom, out on the sports field or on the stage. As a small school, in one of the most picturesque counties of England, we count ourselves very lucky to work in such a beautiful setting, surrounded by countryside of which we aim to take full advantage as part of our curriculum.

Our school is small enough to care but big enough to achieve and we pride ourselves on the opportunities the children are given throughout their time here. Starting from small beginnings in Great Salkeld, the school has grown and developed over the years to settle in Frenchfield, Penrith, in a unique farmyard environment.

As a 3 – 11 school we aim to make these formative years the happiest foundation stones on which to build future learning. We hope to instil a love a learning that will last a lifetime, exactly what a real education should do.

We have every confidence that your child will be happy and fulfilled here, surrounded by their friends in a school that truly cares about each and every one of them. What a marvellous way to start their learning journey.

Donna Vinsome
Head Teacher

Learning for life

Young or old – the aim is the same; an active learning environment where children study through a variety of means.

In our Lower School, children are taught by their class teacher for most subjects, whereas by the Upper School, children are taught almost wholly by individual specialists who prepare them fully for their next stage of schooling.

As a 'preparatory' school we strive to live up to our name – to 'prepare' children for all that life has to offer in their next school and beyond. By teaching them a range of subjects and skills, children are given the breadth of knowledge to make informed choices.

As well as the traditional subjects, our independent status means that we can look beyond the usual; for example, French is taught from Nursery; independent study, forest school, outdoor education also feature on the curriculum.

If a child requires extra help we also have a Learning Development Department to help them on their way.

On the sporting front

We are often told that we 'punch above our weight' sporting-wise in school. We play all major sports - hockey, netball, cricket, football, rounders and tag rugby as well as a plethora of others such as badminton, dodgeball, lacrosse and volleyball. We have competed with much success at cross country events and athletic ability is hotly contested at sports day. Our ethos is that all children should be given the chance to get involved and as competitiveness is part and parcel of school life, children learn to compete fairly: to win gleefully and lose gracefully.

Boys and girls compete separately as well as together in teams and the emphasis is on teamwork. It is the collective sum of the parts that so often gives the greatest success and acquiring skills such as these means that important skills for life are learnt.

Of course, keeping fit and healthy is not just a sporting activity and children have access to the fresh air, every day come rain or shine! Our outdoor play area is more that adequate if the weather is fine, but the Cumbrian climate means that our unique indoor/ outdoor barn is also a popular choice on the wettest of days.

Going that extra mile

Learning Italian, classics, chess, cookery, running, cycling, dance, craft, orienteering – opportunities abound in our after school activities, which change on a regular basis. Hunter Hall children are actively encouraged to 'have a go' and although we recognise that some children want nothing more than a little 'down time' after formal school has ended and to simply read a book or draw; others are bristling with energy to try out the latest cycle trail, devised by our outdoor education specialist, or to attempt a run up one of the many Lake District fells with our talented and well qualified staff!

We aim for our children to have as many opportunities as possible throughout school and through our School Council and prefect system, the children have a voice to offer their opinions and present their own ideas. There is so much more to school life than the classroom and we will try and go that extra mile to listen to the children and their thoughts for our school.

Residential visits are hotly anticipated each year for our year 4, 5 and 6 pupils. Other school trips make the most of local amenities and trips for all year groups, be they of a cultural, sporting or academic variety, are a regular feature on our calendar.

Developing creativity

We want every child to be able to express themselves. Some of them choose to do this through writing, some through talking and others through more tangible means such as through painting, drawing or playing music. At Hunter Hall we have specialist music teachers that invoke those special qualities in those that desire it, whilst our expert art teacher instils her enthusiasm for all things artistic in our children. Many of our children take ABRSM exams, whilst others choose to play purely for pleasure. We have a large and active choir that takes part in many local events and a school band that makes the most of all the children's talents.

As well as a well-resourced music room, our dedicated art room is a visual masterpiece, full of paint pots and projects on the go both within school as well as in the local community such as Eden Arts projects, whilst our garden attempts to produce gifts for our Harvest Festival.

Speech and drama lessons leading to LAMDA exams are an optional extra and a popular choice with our children. We enter festivals locally with much success. End of year productions, be they Shakespearean, or more contemporary in variety, are awaited with eager anticipation. Even our youngest children in the Foundation stage put on their own special performances for us all to gaze at in awe!

Because we care

We firmly believe that children will only learn properly if they are happy and relaxed and have a respect for learning and those that help to instil it. Many would say that above all else, the one thing that makes Hunter Hall truly special is the children. They are proud of their school and through pastoral osmosis they learn to look after themselves and each other.

Hunter Hall believes in traditional values. Manners are everything; they cost nothing but make a huge impression. We are sticklers for good old-fashioned social graces, we listen to each other and celebrate achievements whilst sympathising with more challenging situations that inevitably we all face from time to time.

Weekly assemblies focus on aspects such as these whilst we also make good use of our local church St Andrews for important events in our school calendar. We are a school based on Christian principles and ultimately we aim to achieve well rounded, happy children with a strong moral fibre running through them thoroughly prepared for the next stage of their education; aspirational in their outlook and inspirational in their learning.

HUNTER HALL

A foundation for life

A prospectus can, of course, only give you a flavour of what is on offer at our school. Words cannot possibly convey the opportunities your child will have with an education at Hunter Hall. We are a small school that thinks big. Why not come and see us soon, invest in your child's education and let us make a difference to their lives.

I can think of no better place to work and teach; Hunter Hall School is quite simply very special.

Mrs Donna Vinsome
Head Teacher

Nutkins Nursery

The *quality* of the provision is *outstanding*

The STIMULATING indoor and outdoor environments of this well organised community promote *high quality learning*

(ISI Inspection Report)

NUTKINS NURSERY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FOUNDATION STAGE UNIT HERE AT HUNTER HALL SCHOOL. CHILDREN FROM AGES 3 TO 5 YEARS PLAY, WORK AND LEARN TOGETHER.

We have our own bespoke workspace within the grounds of the school and are adjacent to a working farm, where the children can be at one with nature, yet with all the modern facilities a state of the art nursery should have today.

It is a place where the outside blends perfectly with the inside; children explore and interact with their environment allowing learning to be fun, active and meaningful to them.

All round development

We provide a happy, secure, stimulating and well-organised learning environment; where our children's all round development thrives through; exploration, discovery and creativity. The start of their learning journey is supported through active play opportunities that promote independent learning and confidence.

By providing a broad and balanced curriculum we encourage the children to communicate, experiment, create, imagine and discover, during these vital early years of their education.

Why are we unique?

Our experienced staff team is led by our qualified Early Years teacher and together they understand that children develop quickly in their formative years. Nutkins Nursery specialises in preparing children for the vital transition into school by ensuring they have access to a wide range of learning opportunities and experiences. This is enhanced by the wonderful school facilities that Nutkins Nursery can access in order to make the transition from nursery to school as seamless as possible.

- Specialist Teachers - EYFS, PE, Singing, French
- Superb school grounds including a wildlife area, pond and playing fields
- Our own forest area on site to promote exploration and discovery
- A barn that creates an additional and unique outdoor space (so no wet weather days to spoil our fun)
- A school hall for P.E. and large group activities
- Up to date ICT facilities
- Opportunities to join in with school events, e.g. Nativity plays, Easter bonnet parades and listening to visiting performers
- An onsite caterer providing balanced and nutritious meals
- Out of term time care

And so to School...

With an excellent staff to child ratio, an all-weather outdoor facility for the children to let off steam, teacher led specialists in early years development and school readiness, and various session arrangements available our nursery should definitely be on your radar to come and visit.

Nutkins Nursery

We look forward to meeting you soon.

Find out more about us at www.nutkinsnurserypenrith.co.uk or follow us on Facebook and Twiiter.

Hunter Hall School

Frenchfield, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 8UA

tel 01768 891291 · fax 01768 899161

office@hunterhall.cumbria.sch.uk · www.hunterhall.cumbria.sch.uk

www.tennantdesign.co.uk · Photography: Tommy Martin