



# Shap CE Primary School

*A safe branch from which to soar*



# Welcome to Shap CE Primary School



## Katie Chappell, Headteacher, says:

### Our Christian Vision illustrates how we operate

With children and the church at the heart of the school, we are “living in harmony” (Romans 12:16) within our community; nurturing one another in order to create an environment from which all can soar.

### Demonstrating how we focus on:

- Our effective working and learning partnerships between school and church.
- Our special relationship within, and our influence as, key members of our community.
- The importance we place on nurturing one another, and ‘living in harmony’ together – children, staff and families.
- Our broad curriculum, carefully structured, offering many exciting enrichment opportunities for our children. We are their ‘Safe Branch from which to Soar’!
- Our inclusive nature, with our end goal of allowing all our children to ‘soar’ and fulfil their potential and experience ‘life in all its fullness’.

### Igniting an interest in the world

We have high expectations for our children, we have developed a broad and rich set of experiences that take into account our local area and the wider community. Our teaching is stimulating and creative, and encourages our children to continue their education outside of school, and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them, and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives. Our curriculum provision is designed to ensure the flourishing of the whole child

### Christian values

Our Christian values, chosen by our children, exemplify our vision and shape our conduct in and around school. They are:

- Friendship.
- Trust.
- Peace.
- Koinonia.
- Compassion.
- Creation.

### Ofsted says

Our most recent Ofsted inspection says: “Pupils are happy and enjoy each day spent in this small, friendly and nurturing school. They are greeted warmly by staff each morning with a welcoming smile. The school’s mission to provide pupils with ‘a safe branch from which to soar’ is brought to life by all in the school and its wider community.”

### Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to also enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular educational visits and residential trips to places of cultural significance. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

### Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child’s time here...and increase your child’s enjoyment of learning.

### Get in touch

We would be delighted to show you around our school, where a warm welcome is guaranteed! To make an appointment to visit us, please ring on 01931 716274 or Email [admin@shap.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@shap.cumbria.sch.uk)



## Shap Church of England School is at the heart of Shap’s community and Claire Burgess and her daughter Alice embrace everything school has to offer

Claire’s daughter Alice age 6, is in Year 2

### Support when help is needed

Claire is Dyslexic and remembers learning to read at school. The support Alice is receiving at school is working wonders for her reading and her confidence. “Alice loves school. We’ve been working with school closely as Alice is showing Dyslexic traits. Her teachers Miss Jackson and Mrs Kelsall have been brilliant at supporting her. Her reading is improving and we’re very happy with the progress she’s making,” says Claire.

### Personal learning journey

“Alice was born four weeks early and she’s an August baby so she could technically have been in the year below. To support her, she mixes some of her learning with the younger class and this is working well. It especially helps with her Phonics learning. School have been great at tailoring school to Alice’s needs. We have a plan just for her, for her progress, her reading, her spellings and vocabulary and we assess it each term. We call it her ‘Supporting Alice Plan’ and it’s brilliant,” says Claire.

### Settling in

“Alice is very chatty, she loves her friends and being in class. She likes learning about Geography and singing. She learns through listening and picks things up verbally. She loves it when people come into school to visit. Alice has a best friend and is very settled, she doesn’t like it when she can’t go into school,” says Claire.

### A community school

“Shap is a small Cumbrian school, with a hundred students. We’re the biggest village in Eden but it feels like a close-knit community. School is well looked after by everyone and is considered a hub for families. All the teachers know each individual child. Shap is 2 miles from the Lake District and 2 miles from the North Yorkshire National Park so we’re the ‘Stepping Stone to the Lakes’. It’s a beautiful place to live. We have people who have always lived in the area and then people move here for the location, everyone gets on with everyone.

We all work together to provide for the community, we all fund raised recently for a new play area,” says Claire.

### Well resourced

Shap’s nearest town is 10 miles away. Shap school is well resourced and children have everything they need to enjoy and be engaged with their learning. “Facilities at school are great. There’s a play area and a lovely school hall. There is a little library, it’s well equipped. The children have access to everything they need. We are a rural community and school have recently introduced a food bank which is helping everyone. The swimming pool we have in the village is used by school, Alice goes for two weeks at the end of the year,” says Claire.

### An obvious choice

“Moving into Shap school, Alice was with children she’d been to playgroup with, it was important for us to maintain that sense of community. Shap have a good Ofsted and a great reputation for student’s progression. Some of the teachers have been there for a long time which roots school to the community. Local parents are now having their children taught by the teachers that taught them which is lovely,” says Claire.

### A lovely school

“The children are given everything they need to be able to learn well. There is a strong parent community and new parents are welcomed, everyone supports each other. Friends of Shap School (FoSS) are brilliant at fundraising. There is a school council which is a great way of letting the children voice their opinions and help make decisions. It really is a lovely school,” says Claire.

### Children say:

Alice says: “I love my friends and singing.”

### Ofsted says:

Pupils are happy and enjoy each day spent in this small, friendly and nurturing school. They are greeted warmly by staff each morning with a welcoming smile.



# School day: settling in



## From Devon to Shap

George and Becky moved their family to Shap from Devon the year the “Beast of the East” struck, and Becky remembers it was still snowing in May. “We were used to seeing daffodils in December in Devon, but Shap is an affordable place to live with your family and it’s a very active, outdoor area. There are 1,200 people in Shap, and it is well resourced with a strong community. The school’s vision is that the church is at the heart of the community and school is the extension of that for families with young children. There is a huge amount that goes on and school works hard to include everyone,” says Becky.

## Deciding on school

“In our immediate area Shap is the largest school and schools here have a strong sense of identity. Shap’s school identity reflects the heritage of Shap. The religious education and personal development at school is very inclusive and the children are taken to visit different places of worship. School is underpinned by Christian values; community, respect and harmony and the children learn these values. Our son who’s only 5 talks about treating people equally and how we’re a friend to all. The values come across naturally at Shap and they are at the centre of school life,” says George.

## Strong diversity

Ofsted had made a recent visit to school and as Becky is a school governor she had participated in the visit. “Ofsted have been in school this afternoon; we’re always working towards diversity. Ofsted commented on how Shap goes above and beyond in terms of educating the children about diversity and how well the school’s heritage is integrated with a sense of inclusivity. The aim for the children is to develop good learners who are good people. It’s not just about SATs, it’s about being curious and understanding the world outside of Shap. The children said school is welcoming and friendly and the teachers really care about them, everyone knows them and their families,” says Becky.

## Above and beyond

“School go above and beyond in terms of providing opportunities for the children. They’ve just completed two weeks of daily swimming training at the lido and that’s in preparation for the triathlon. There are theatre workshops, they had a professional rapper come in and teach them a rap about the school’s values, they have had breakdancing and skateboarding tuition. There has been a debate trip for children excelling in English, they have a chess competition and an inter-school football tournament. They had a STEM day with 3D printing which was great,” says Becky.

## Children are at the centre

Shap school puts the children’s interests as priority and the team create an environment that considers the whole child and their needs. “They have a school council and reading champions which is great for the children’s sense of responsibility. School is colourful, clean and well cared for. There is a nurture room where a play therapist and a grief therapist work with the children. We have a dedicated team member who secures funding and this year we have had a new kitchen and we’re getting a new entrance and community hub space where uniforms and a food bank will be housed. Everyone is listened to, children, parents and teachers and actions are taken when feedback is shared,” says Becky.

### Children say:

Daisy says, “I like getting to visit the bookshop with school to choose books for the other children.”

Freddie says, “I like that we can play outside even if it’s raining.”

## Ofsted says:

Pupils proudly represent the school in debating, musical and sporting events. They thoroughly enjoy working alongside other like-minded pupils from an array of local schools.

## Our school hours

The school day starts at 8.45am and ends at 3.15pm.

### After School and Breakfast Club

We offer both an Early Club and an After School Club. Children can arrive at 8.00am, bringing along their breakfast if they wish, and take part in a choice of supervised activities such as playing outside, crafts, construction, games and reading. All children are welcome to come for a playtime on our school yard from 8.30am, free of charge. After school provision is until 5.30pm, jam packed with sports clubs, science club, cookery club, MFL club and lots more!

## Come and Play: for children aged 0-4

Parents and children aged 0-4 are welcomed to come into our Catbells classroom, and our school yard to play with us. A drink and snack are provided for visiting children, and grown-ups are welcome to a ‘brew’ too!

Our Catbells setting is organised so that children can access our Continuous Provision safely, giving adults the opportunity to talk to the teachers and support staff. If the weather is fine, the children can play on the ‘Big Toys’ on the yard too! If, whilst you’re in school, you would like to look around the rest of the school, just let us know and we can arrange a guided tour for you too!

## Uniform

We pride ourselves with being smart, comfortable and ready for learning. It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform while attending school, or when participating in school-organised events outside the normal school hours. We ask that all children take pride in their personal appearance.

### Affordable school uniform

As a school, we reduce, reuse and recycle, so we hold a ‘pass-down week’, once every term. This is where parents can donate uniform items that have been outgrown and are still in excellent or very good condition. Parents can come along to school during that week and take any uniform items that are needed and leave a small donation in exchange.

## Food in school

We offer a wide range of delicious meals at lunchtime, including hot cooked options, and everything is prepared on the premises each day.

### Free school meals

Free meals are provided for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Older children whose family is in receipt of certain benefits may also qualify.

### Packed lunches

Children may also bring their own healthy packed lunch and break time snacks from home.

### Drinks

Only water is allowed in school. Milk is given free to children in Early Years and Key Stage 1.

# Moving from one end of the country to the other, George and Becky Grace and their three children have embraced life at Shap Church of England School

George and Becky Grace have Daisy in Year 4 and Freddie in Year 1, their third child is yet to move up to school



# Our curriculum: inspiring learners



## Inspiring our learners

Inspiring our learners

We believe that if we inspire all our learners, we can ensure that they can follow their dreams and create a better future for our Global community. The curriculum is divided into three stages:

1. Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5
2. Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7
3. Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11

## Early Years

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on the Government's Early Learning Goals with seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

## Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- Literacy
- Science
- Religious Education
- Information and Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- PSHE including Health Education and Relationships Education

## Outdoor education

We employ an Outdoor Education Instructor who teaches our children outdoor education and Forest School. We are blessed with excellent school grounds including our large school field. The village also has a pool, tennis court, MUGA, outdoor gym and skate park.

## SIAMS inspection praises curriculum...

"A strength of the school is its curriculum provision, which is well designed to ensure the flourishing of the whole child. The school develops the strengths and addresses any weaknesses of each individual pupil, so that every pupil is given specific opportunities to excel. The busy and active curriculum includes bespoke elements tailored to the school's rural Cumbrian environment."

"Opportunities are timetabled for outdoor education, field trips to cities, and occasions when more able pupils work with students from the nearby grammar school. Pupils report that these opportunities have built their resilience. By encouraging them to work with others, school leaders have extended pupils' horizons, which had become restricted during COVID lockdowns. Opportunities exist for spiritual development. These include the exploration of 'big' questions in RE, and the provision of creative resources to prompt reflection in the outdoor prayer space. A shared understanding, approach and provision for spiritual development is emerging. In contrast to the active curriculum, however, opportunities for pupils to pause, reflect and grow spiritually have been less evident in curriculum planning."



## Shap School proved a reason to stay in Shap when Katie and Stephen Burke moved their children Beth and Terence from London four years ago

**Katie and Stephen Burke have Bethany age 7 in Year 2 and Terence age 10 in Year 6**

### A warm welcome

Katie and Stephen moved their family to Shap from London and were immediately impressed by Shap school. "Both the children love Shap school. Terence joined in Year 2 and ever since he has thrived. We noticed a lovely positive change in Terence when he started at Shap, it's been a great place for nurturing his confidence. Every child is seen as an individual. From the first week we were mentioned in the weekly newsletter as a new family and it's little things like that, they make a huge difference to feeling included," said Katie.

### Strong community

"We've lived here for four years having moved from London. There is a strong sense of community in Shap and they have been very welcoming. School are closely linked to the church and we like to attend when we can. We're musicians so our schedules can be demanding," said Katie.

### Settling in well

The children were quick to settle at Shap school and come home regularly sharing the things they have enjoyed learning and doing. "Beth has loved school from the very start. She skipped into nursery and hasn't ever looked back. Both the children love outdoor education. Terence loves science and music. He talks at home about his science work and he's been in the music studio which he's enjoyed. Beth loved having the baby chicks come into school and there was a caterpillar project as well that she talked about a lot. There is always something happening to engage the children with learning," said Katie.

### After school clubs

"There are different after school clubs every day. Beth always wants to do the after school clubs, she's done the sports and music clubs. Terence has done science club which he enjoyed. There is a wide range on offer," said Katie.

### Shap school made us want to stay

"Our move to Shap came out of the pandemic and part of the reason we've stayed is because of Shap school."

Our school in London was lovely but the change in Terence on joining Shap school made us want to stay. He has blossomed at Shap. We felt very welcomed and Beth settled in easily. We feel Terence is valued by the school community which came across right from the beginning," said Katie.

### Moving on to high school

"Terence is looking forward to Year 6. I think he'll be ready to move on but we've not decided where he's going to go yet. School have started to talk to us about open days for high schools which is exciting. Terence has enjoyed lots of trips with school and extracurricular activities plus he has flute lessons at school," said Katie.

### Nurturing environment

Shap school have regular times throughout the day, week and month where the children come together. "The children have worship time every day. On Friday afternoons there is the assembly where awards are given out, Star of the Week for example, it's called the Celebration Worship. Visitors regularly come into school to lead worship time who are all linked to the religious and Christian ethos of the school. School's Christian values make school feel like a nurturing environment," said Katie.

### Getting ready to soar

"The best thing about Shap school is the way each individual child is well known and well valued. That sense of individuality comes across strongly and each child is encouraged to fulfil their potential academically, socially and emotionally. It's a very supportive environment. "A safe branch from which to soar," is their motto and I think that really reflects the school ethos perfectly, it's such a safe place. By the time the children reach Year 6 they are ready to soar," said Katie.

#### Children say:

Terence says: "The residentials are great, I loved the rope climbing."

Beth says: "I love doing the nativity."

**Ofsted says:** The school has developed a broad and rich set of experiences that take account of the local area and the community in which it sits.



# Extra-curricular activities



## Starting life at Shap

Noah attended Shap Nursery and moved into Reception class without any issues. “Noah has settled in brilliantly. He’s now in Year 1. In nursery he had a jumper and a polo shirt to wear, which felt like a first step towards big school. He understood that starting school would mean less playing and more learning but he’s taken to it all brilliantly. The transition was made easy, the teaching team were excellent and it feels like he’s been there forever,” says Rowan.

## Part of the community

“I was brought up in the village and I feel so lucky to be part of a community that has such a wonderful school. There was never any question, Noah was always going to go to Shap school. There is a playgroup in the village which is a great starting point for the children to make friends. It makes such a difference having familiar faces. Noah has a little brother and the last Thursday of every month we visit the nursery area at Shap school. It’s a great time for everyone connected to school to come together. We go in just after lunch time, the children all play together and we have a chat. It’s a great way to start building familiarity for the younger children,” says Rowan.

## Making learning fun

Noah enjoys everything about school and has settled into his class well. “Noah loves playing with his friends and learning maths. School make learning maths fun. Even the homework is fun, everything is made into a game so it doesn’t feel like learning,” says Rowan.

## Christian values

Shap is a Church of England school and embraces Christian values. “My family is involved with the church, my dad is a church warden, so we have a connection with church outside of school. What I like about Shap school is that the Christian values are encouraged and the children learn about them, but they’re not forced. There is a Jesus Christ Club after school which involves the vicar from church. My niece attended and it will be lovely for Noah to go,” says Rowan.

## Empowering children to be independent

“Noah struggled with his speech initially. Through school we were recommended to a speech therapist. The improvement he’s made is just incredible. His sense of achievement is wonderful. It’s been brilliant and so empowering for Noah. He doesn’t get upset anymore and everyone can understand what he’s trying to say. Everyone has afforded time and effort. Seeing him so happy is a wonderful reward for all the hard work. Noah is a confident little boy and school are helping him make decisions for himself. School encourages his independence. I can’t wait to see him perform in the school plays and play music,” says Rowan.

## Building life skills

“On a Tuesday there is after school club which Noah attends and he loves going. There is always something different going on, from crafting to sports. There was a cooking club and he absolutely loved it. The impact it had on him at home was great. He’s now got the confidence to get himself a drink and he can make himself a ham sandwich which are the skills you want your child to be developing alongside their school learning,” says Rowan.

## Reassurance and safety

“It’s a great a place and from the first day, the staff and everyone there make it welcoming and calm. There is no stress and no worries, everyone fits in, it’s a lovely place. The children are safe, secure and well looked after. My husband works away regularly and having the support of school is just wonderful. It’s reassuring to know that they’re there,” says Rowan.

### Children say:

Noah says: “I love cooking club.”

## Ofsted says:

Pupils with SEND are quickly identified by skilled staff. Purposeful and well-chosen interventions support individual pupils to access the school’s ambitious curriculum.

## Clubs

We offer a wide range of enrichment clubs after school including:

- Sports: football, cricket, basketball.
- Science Club.
- Cookery Club.
- French Club.
- Construction Club.
- Dance: Zumba, street dance.
- Drama Club.
- Craft Club.
- Tech Night.
- Board Games.
- Very popular ‘Free Choice Fridays’.

## Educational trips

To further enrich our curriculum, all children are offered a range of visits, both locally and further afield, including:

- Vindolanda: Roman study.
- Heysham Nuclear Power Station: Stem Study.
- Lakeland Motor Museum: Transport Study.
- Theatre trip to see The Jungle Book, which inspired our own summer production!

## Residential

- LKS2: camp out in the school grounds with outdoor adventure activities.
- Y5: visit to the Isle of Man via ferry, for water based outdoor adventurous activities.
- Y6: cultural visit to Edinburgh for museum trips, Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh Castle, The Real Mary King’s Close etc.



# Rowan Atkinson is grateful to Shap Church of England School for helping her son Noah with his speech

Rowan’s son Noah is age 6 and is in Year 1



# Music, PE and games



## Music

Through the Charanga programme, children develop their understanding, make musical judgements, apply their new learning, develop their aural memory, express themselves physically, emotionally and through discussion and create their own musical ideas. The wide range of core resources have been developed specifically to motivate and capture each individual's personal interest.

The children not only learn about music; they become musicians who are able to share and perform using their new skills. We also have peripatetic music teachers teaching brass, woodwind, drumming and percussion.



## Shap Band

We host Shap Band for children and musicians of all ages and have written our own school anthems linked to our Vision and Values.

## PE and games

On our staff team is a Sports Coach who teaches our children of all ages a range of sports and gymnastics. We also draw on the skills of local coaches e.g. cheerleading academies, skateboard instructors and cricket coaches.

## Competitions

We were proud to participate in a climbing competition, reach the semi-finals of local football tournament and win the interschools cross country competition! We have bikeability annually, and also host a triathlon.

## Swimming

We teach swimming at our local outdoor pool for two weeks per year using specialist instructors from a local swim school.



# Admissions and getting involved



## Admissions

The Governors of Shap Endowed Church of England Primary School are the Admissions Authority for the school. Following consultation with the Diocesan Board of Education and the Local Authority the Governors have set the published admission number for access to the reception class as 18. Applications can be made on the Local Authority's website.

If your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st December 2021 they are eligible to receive 15hrs free Universal nursery education from January 2025.

The closing date for applications is 28th September 2024

If your child was born between 1st January 2022 and 31st March 2022 they are eligible to receive 15hrs free Universal nursery education from April 2025

15hrs entitlement per week could be 5 mornings (8.45am – 11.45am), however, feel free to come and speak to the office for other availability!

Some children may be entitled to 30hrs per week, depending on family circumstances. Parents should apply for the extended hours via [www.childcarechoices.gov.uk](http://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk).

The closing date for applications is 28th January 2025

SA13 Application forms can be downloaded from the Westmorland & Furness Council website or from the school office.

For further details please see Julie in the office.

Westmorland & Furness Council

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place-or-change-schools>

## Getting involved

### Friends of Shap School (FoSS)

Everyone becomes a Friend of Shap School when your child joins the school. Please do come along to our meetings and get involved with FoSS and our fundraising activities.

We have a planning meeting usually every half-term; new ideas for events and activities are always welcome! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for meeting details.

## Governors

The governing body of Shap C of E School is responsible for setting the ethos and vision of the school, engaging with stakeholders, identifying areas where the school needs to improve and planning how to make those improvements. It makes sure that the educational performance of pupils is strong and that the budget is used properly and effectively. If you would like to be a school governor, please ask at the school office.

## Volunteering

We value the contribution of parents and family, and we actively encourage your help during the school day. Parents and family help with a variety of activities which include reading with our children, sewing, cooking, and acting as extra pair of hands in class. We accept all help gratefully.

## Ofsted says:

Governors understand and fulfil their statutory duties with diligence. They are forward thinking and are ambitious for the pupils and the community of Shap.





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