

Black Combe Junior School



Moor Road
Millom
Cumbria
LA18 5DT

Tel: 01229 772862

Pupils on roll: 85

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Dennison

Chair of Governors: Mr Darren Foote

School Business Manager: Mrs Denise King

✉ admin@blackcombe.cumbria.sch.uk

🌐 www.blackcombe.cumbria.sch.uk



"Make every day count"

Prospectus 2025 – 2026

Our Vision



It is our privilege to nurture our children as individuals; to celebrate their differences, to prepare them for the next stage of their education and their future life.

Black Combe Junior School is a place where all are happy, healthy, can grow and achieve within a safe, caring atmosphere of support and co-operation.

We aim to encourage all our pupils to be confident, independent and self-motivated to learn, to have respect for themselves and others and to develop their self-esteem to allow them to achieve all they aspire to.

Black Combe Junior School provides a learning environment and learning experiences that encourage our children to belong and contribute to their communities. We take our children on a journey, encouraging them to question, challenge their thinking and empower them to become life-long learners.



Our vision is to
make every day
count;
every opportunity
count;
every experience
count and every
child count.



"She has grown in confidence this year and we are proud of how well she has focused on her work."
Parent of Y3

Welcome to Black Combe Junior School

Headteacher's Welcome

On behalf of all the staff, children, parents and governors I would like to welcome you to our school.

As the Headteacher, I am incredibly proud of our school, the excellent education and opportunities we provide within our fantastic setting. Every day is a learning day and every day counts.

It is our privilege to prepare all of our children to become life-long learners. Our children are happy and confident and thoroughly enjoying coming to Black Combe every day.

The best way to see and understand our school is to visit and talk to us. We would love to offer you a personal tour. Please do not hesitate to contact school and arrange an appointment.

Mrs Catherine Dennison



Governor-Staff Partnership

Working together so that the school benefits from strong leadership.

Together we:

- ♦ Understand the school's priorities
- ♦ Challenge in order to promote the best opportunities
- ♦ Ensure the school is making good choices and progress

See who our Governors are on our website

If you are interested in becoming a Governor please let us know

Staff Partnership

Working together as a team, striving for the highest standards to:

- ♦ Provide an exciting, engaging and meaningful curriculum
- ♦ Provide a safe and stimulating environment
- ♦ Create a happy caring atmosphere in which the individual is valued



Child-Staff Partnership

Working together in a positive atmosphere with purposeful learning:

- ♦ Mutual respect encourages cooperation
- ♦ The individual child learns to show awareness, initiative and creativity and develops self-discipline, confidence and self-esteem
- ♦ Quality teaching means quality learning

"...his attitude to learning is very refreshing and I know how much he enjoys coming to school."

Parent of Y4

Starting at Black Combe Junior School

We understand that parents and children sometimes experience anxieties when it comes to moving to a new school. We hope the information in this booklet will help to make a new start here easier. We work closely with other schools and Millom Infant School throughout the year to help make the change to Black Combe Junior School run smoothly.

We welcome all enquiries and have an active website to give you and your child an opportunity to learn more about Black Combe Junior School before you visit.

The admission arrangements for Cumberland schools are dealt with by Cumberland Council. The Junior School admission policy and application form, are available from www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place-or-change-schools/apply-transfer-junior-school



Transition to Black Combe Junior School

In the September of the year your child starts in Year 2 you are invited to an open afternoon so that you can see the school in action and meet staff.

In the Summer Term before they start in the following September there is also an opportunity to meet with other new parents to discuss your child's introduction to school.

The school encourages and values parents and carers coming into school to talk to teaching staff about how their child is doing either informally or formally at key times in the school year. We work hard to establish the important links with school and home so that your child feels we are all working together to help them make the best possible progress with their learning.

Close contact between home and school makes our understanding of your child much easier and helps us to give individual attention to the needs of your child.

Any problems, which may arise with your child's learning, can be resolved much more easily if we can work together.

"We are so happy with how well has settled in at the school. Thank you to all the teachers for being patient with him and helping him to do his best." Parent of Y3

Your Child's Learning



Curriculum

We aim to provide a curriculum that focusses on providing learning and life opportunities for children to develop as independent, confident and successful learners with high aspirations who want to make a positive contribution to the school community and wider society.

Developing children's moral, spiritual, social and cultural understanding through inspirational people who have made a difference is a golden thread that runs through our curriculum.

Our curriculum is a 2-year rolling programme, covering all the National Curriculum (2014) objectives. We plan our curriculum to ensure it has progression, breadth, balance and relevance for the children at BCJS. We build on prior knowledge and encourage the children to be confident, creative learners who can collaborate, persevere and celebrate their successes. We feel these qualities are vital to becoming life long, successful learners. However, our curriculum is not solely focused on academic subjects and achievement. We provide pupils with rich learning experiences, educational visits, residential, special curriculum events, visitors and extra-curricular activities.



Extra-Curricular Activities

We have a variety of clubs that run throughout the year which take place after school.

We will let you know at the beginning of each term what clubs will be running. Clubs are run by members of staff or outside agencies.

Educational Visits

Visits and residential trips are an extremely important and enjoyable part of our enriching Curriculum.

All trips and visits are planned to support and enhance the curriculum and learning for the children.

"Fantastic first year at BCJS. We are so very proud of as school is not her favorite place to be!" Parent of Y3

The School Day

8.30 am School gates are open
8:40 am Breakfast bagels are available
8:50 am Registration (Playground gate is locked)
8:55 Learning starts
10:20 am to 10:40 am Break time
12:15 Lunchtime
13:00 pm Afternoon registration
3.30 pm School finishes
4.30 pm After school clubs finish

We request that you time your child's arrival between 8:40 am and 8:45 am ready to start the school day at 8.50am.

Children arriving after 8:50 will need to go to reception at the front door to gain entry to the building. Children arriving between 9.00 am and 9.20 am will be registered as late.

Regular attendance is essential to gain a good education. Children need to be at school to learn! Persistent absence not only affects academic progress, but it can also lead to social isolation as the child may find it difficult to maintain friendships. The school is committed to working with parents to ensure that children attend both regularly and punctually. We follow the Cumberland Attendance Pledge.

Parents should ensure that, if their child is absent from school for any unavoidable reason such as sickness, they contact the school on the first morning of absence. This can be done by telephone, email, or our Reach More Parents app ([our preferred method of communication.](#)) We have a dedicated answer machine where you can leave a message should you need to keep your child at home. If your child needs to take prescribed medication on their return to school, you will be asked to fill in a medical form available on the app or from the school office.

Children who are collected from school to attend a health appointment must be signed out from the school office and a copy of the appointment card copied at school.



"He loves coming to school and has come o leaps and bounds since September."
Parent of Y3

Eating together

Breakfast

Fresh bagels are available every morning from 8.40 and break time.

Bagels give the children the energy boost they need to power them through the morning.



Snack Time

Children are able to bring a healthy snack, fruit, vegetables or cereal bars, from home to eat at morning break.

Water Bottles

All children will be provided with a school water bottle. We only allow school water bottles to be used so please clearly label your child's bottle. Filtered water is available in school for children to refill their bottles throughout the day. Children can take their bottle home every day for cleaning. A replacement bottle will cost £2.50

NO OTHER WATER BOTTLES ARE ALLOWED IN SCHOOL

Lunchtime

We are extremely lucky to have all food cooked on site. Orian, the school caterers, produce a three-week menu. You can book meals online - Log in details will be sent to you at the start of term. Payment is needed in advance and should be made online through 'School Hub'. Orian operates a strict no debt policy. Pupils can choose to bring a packed lunch to eat. We do encourage healthy balanced lunches and avoid chocolate, sweets and fizzy drinks. All of those things can be saved for the weekend!

- - - - - WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL - - - - -

Message from Orian:

Orian offers bespoke school meals catering services for schools.

We use fresh produce, provided by local suppliers wherever possible, to create menus and meals which children of all ages will enjoy.

Through 'School Hub' we can deliver high quality school meals which meet all nutritional standards, are freshly prepared and delicious.

There is always choice available including allergen and any other dietary requirements.

Parents can choose meals and make payments online via mobile phone, tablet or computer.

"She has developed her learning in all areas, especially maths. We are very proud of her." Parents of Y6

School Uniform



All children should wear school uniform throughout the year.

The standard Black Combe Junior School uniform consists of:

- A plain white shirt or polo shirt
- A navy-blue jumper or cardigan with the school badge
- Black/grey school type skirts/trousers (knee length skirt) **NOT LEGGINGS**
- Sensible flat black shoes (no high heels, platform shoes or trainers).
- A blue gingham dress or black shorts or lightweight skirt with a white polo shirt may be worn in the summer.



PE KIT: Trainers, black shorts, a white t-shirt, Navy-blue jogging bottoms and hooded sweatshirt for outdoors.



Please clearly label all clothing and belongings as it helps you and your child quickly identify them and reclaim them if they are lost. We always encourage children to take care of their belongings but cannot take responsibility for lost items.

Jewellery should not be worn in school.

Children with pierced ears may wear small plain studs (one per ear), although **your child must remove these for PE lessons**. If your child is going to have their ears pierced, please ensure that this is arranged for the beginning of the summer holidays. Other forms of body piercing are not allowed in school.

School uniform, embroidered with the school badge, can be obtained from:

- Fergusons in Wellington Street, Millom
- Coniston Corporate (order online or by telephone, free home delivery)
- Identity in Barrow (order online or by telephone)

"..... has continued to flourish and her confidence with school work and in herself has improved so much!" Parent of Y5

Keeping you informed

reach **more** parents
by weduc

Digital Communication

We use a variety of digital ways to keep parents informed. Our website has lots of information about the school.

Reach More Parents app is our way for staff and the school office to communicate with you and share with you what is happening in school. Parents are also able to send confidential messages to school.

You will receive a log-in and instruction letter and it is simple and straightforward to use.



Annual Reports

An annual report is sent home with your child in the second half of the summer term. This will contain a detailed account of your child's progress. Parents may make an appointment to discuss reports with class teachers.

Parents Evenings

We offer Parents and Carers two opportunities to come into school and speak with Teachers about how your child is getting on in school. Once in Autumn Term and once in Spring Term.



Photographs in School

We have a strict policy regarding anyone taking any images on school premises. This is to protect all of the children on site. Only school employed staff may do so and only for classroom use or to display on the school website. The child's full name is never recorded next to their picture and all photographs are checked to ensure that we have permission from you to use photographs of your child.

"Thank you for four amazing years at BCJS"
Parent of Y6

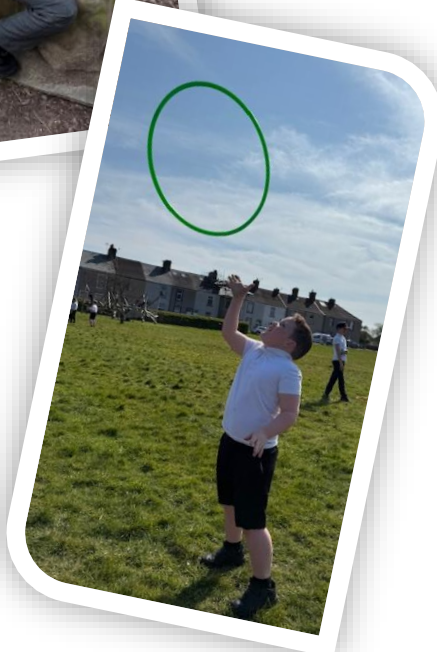
Having your voice heard

Listening to Children

We want all our children to be happy, motivated and successful during their time with us. We listen to their ideas and opinions regularly and try to show how this process can improve our school.

The Headteacher regularly meets with children from each year group to talk about their learning and the activities they are doing in class.

We have a very active School Council which canvases the views of all of the children on different topics as well as trying to solve their more general concerns.



Listening to Parents

Similarly, we listen to the views of our parents so we can be effective in our partnership with you. There are formal invitations to come into school where you will have time to talk to key members of staff.

Questionnaires are another way for school to find out what you think, sometimes these will be general and other times more specific.

Please remember that your child's teacher will always make time to talk to you, either before or after school, if you have any concerns or questions just ask at the office.

"Thank you for an AMAZING trip to London. You guys are the best!"
Y6 pupil

Finally . . .

Our school is a very busy place and regular updates are made to our policies and procedural documents

We try to keep the information on our website and Weduc up-to-date so that you can find the information you are looking for which includes:

→ Administration of Medication (We need signed instructions - form available either on Weduc or a paper copy from the office.)

→ Behaviour Policy

→ Child Protection - The Designated Safeguard Lead is Mrs Dennison.

The Deputy Designated Safeguard Leads are Mr Dodd & Mrs King

→ Complaints Procedure

→ Data Protection Act- GDPR:

Black Combe Junior School is a "data controller & a data processor"

→ Health & Safety

→ Safeguarding

Documents referred to in this prospectus are available for your inspection in school at any reasonable time. If you wish to see any of them, please contact the school office to arrange a time.



"It's been an absolute pleasure to be a part of your team this year - I am really rather sad to not be able to finish the year!" Supply Teacher