



HAYTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Mighty oaks, from little acorns grow"



Thursday 12th March 2026

An AMAZING National Achievement for our school

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am absolutely **thrilled to share some truly wonderful news** with you about our school.

I am delighted to announce that **Hayton C of E Primary School** has been selected by the DfE (**Department for Education**) as a **RISE (Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence) Reception Network Lead School** as part of the national *Best Start in Life* programme which is part of the government's most recent White Paper on Education for 'every child to achieve and thrive'.

This is an **extraordinary national recognition of the quality of education across our school**, and particularly in our Early Years provision.

Across the **entire country, only 45 schools have been chosen** for this role after a rigorous selection process. Within our region, **Hayton C of E Primary School is the only school in Cumberland to be chosen and just one of two schools across the whole of Cumbria** to receive this designation.

This is a **very special moment for our school community**.

The Reception Year and Early Years is such a vital stage in a child's education. It is where children begin their journey of discovery in school—where curiosity is sparked, confidence grows, friendships blossom and the foundations for lifelong learning are built. Through the national *Best Start in Life* strategy, the government is working to ensure more children across the country leave Reception ready to thrive, and we are incredibly proud that our school has been chosen to lead this work.

Being selected as a RISE Lead School recognises the **consistently high quality of teaching, learning and care in our Early Years provision**. As part of this role, we will work with other schools to share the practice that makes our Reception classroom such vibrant, nurturing and inspiring place to learn. We will welcome teachers and leaders to visit our school, host professional learning opportunities and collaborate with colleagues across the North West region and nationally so that more children benefit from the very best early education. Alongside this we will be working with the DfE on new research and initiatives to strengthen our practice further – such an exciting opportunity for us all!

Head Teacher: Mrs. S Threlkeld-Brown BA Hons, NPQH

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This achievement reflects the **strength, dedication and expertise of every member of staff across our whole school**. From our teachers and teaching assistants to our support staff, office team, lunchtime staff and governors—everyone plays a vital role in creating the warm, ambitious and caring environment that defines us as #TeamHayton.

This recognition now sits alongside the **Outstanding judgements we received from Ofsted**, which celebrated the exceptional quality of education, care and ambition that exists throughout our school. Together, these acknowledgements reinforce what we already know: that **Hayton is a very special place for children to learn and grow** – where little acorns flourish into mighty oaks.

Most importantly, it reflects the wonderful children and families who make up our school community. Your support, encouragement and partnership help create the strong foundations that allow our pupils to thrive.

We are immensely proud to be able to contribute to improving education on a regional and national level, whilst continuing to give every child at Hayton the **very best possible start to their school journey**.

Thank you for your continued support and for being such an important part of our school family. This is a **celebration for all of us**.

We look forward to sharing our journey with you as it develops and grows.

With warmest wishes,

Mrs. S. Threlkeld-Brown

Mrs. D. Grant

Head Teacher

Early Years Leader

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