

BECKSTONE PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter no. 4
December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

The end of the calendar year is not far away but school is still very busy indeed as is witnessed by the dates on the back of this newsletter. It is my favourite month of the school year as the children are so excited by Christmas (as are many of the staff) and the school's efforts to make everything magical and special for our wonderful children are a wonder to behold.

The spirit of Christmas is integral to the ethos of the school not just at this time but it is evident all through the school year, it is in the 'togetherness' we promote, it's in the thought to which we put into thinking about others, we consistently take stock of what's important and hopefully continue to improve so we can offer you and your children a high-quality teaching and learning environment underpinned with enjoyment.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a magical Christmas and here's to a fabulous 2024!



Best wishes,
Mr Warbrick

This newsletter has been sponsored by the following local businesses, please look out for their advert and support them when you can. Please mention that you have seen their advert in the school's newsletter!!



- **Cumbria Coast Karate**
- **Harrington Pharmacy**
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- **Robinsons & Co**
- **Step by Step**
- **The Laundry Studio**
- **The Wobbly Wand**



The Curse of WhatsApp & Primary Pupils.....	2
Internet Safety	2
Poppy Appeal	2
Remembrance Silence	2
Remembrance Parade	3
Sporting Success.....	3
Workington Academy Awards.....	4
Christmas 2023	5
<i>Christmas Hamper Raffle</i>	5
<i>Children's Christmas Raffle</i>	5
<i>2024 School Calendar.....</i>	5
<i>Tracking Santa</i>	5
<i>Santa Video.....</i>	5
<i>Elf Yourself.....</i>	5
<i>Christmas Carols</i>	5
<i>Santa Yourself</i>	5
Christmas Dinner.....	6
Christmas Post Boxes	6
Christmas Nativities & Events.....	6
Christmas Party Nights	6
Christmas Party Day	6
Christmas Holiday Activity Zone	6
Reader Teacher	6
10 Incredible Benefits of Reading with your Child.....	7
Strive for Five	7
Messy Mary's at St Mary's Harrington	7
Governors' Board	9
Extreme Weather/Heating Emergencies	10
Term Time Holidays & Tests	10
Absence Procedures	10
Attendance.....	10
Attendance Cup Winners	11
Takeover Morning.....	11
Trophy Medals	11
Creativity Cup	11
The Marie Wright	11
Kindness Cup.....	11
Blain Rooney Sporting Trophy.....	11
Safeguarding/Child Protection	13
Domestic Violence.....	13
Food & Drink	13
Revisewise.....	13
Gritting!!!!.....	14
Foodbank Donations	14
Beckstone's Extended Services.....	14
Carer & Toddler Club.....	14
Nursery Intakes	15
Give Blood – Help Save a Life!	15
Donations Needed	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Advertisements	15
Free School Meal Children & Holidays	16
Learning to Talk.....	16
Uniform.....	16
Facebook & Instagram	17
School Funds.....	17
Brewery House.....	17
Workington & Derwent Rotary Dictionaries.....	17
Advice on a Healthy Day	18
FAB Meeting – 8th January	18
Community Champions Cup.....	18
Lib Balm.....	18
Homework	18
Letter Formation	19
Mrs White	19
And Finally.....	19
Diary Dates.....	20

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- ❖ Regular promotions throughout the shop
- ❖ Selection of household, baby and toiletry products. Plus, perfumes and gifts
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Opening hours
 Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm
 Sat 9am-12.30pm




The Curse of WhatsApp & Primary Pupils



WhatsApp has a minimum age of 16 as children do not have the maturity to use it effectively and have difficulty understanding messages out of context. This school, along with many over the country, have issues with parents allowing their children to use WhatsApp and then upset spilling into school. We are aware there are a number of pupil WhatsApp groups and there has already been upset in Year 5.



We are asking all parents to check their pupils' phones and delete WhatsApp. The school now has a policy that misuse of social media by pupils can result in immediate suspension which will go on your child's records so do take the action of deleting the app to prevent this happening and to keep your child safe.

There is further information on the dangers that WhatsApp poses for children in the Safeguarding Zone of our web site.

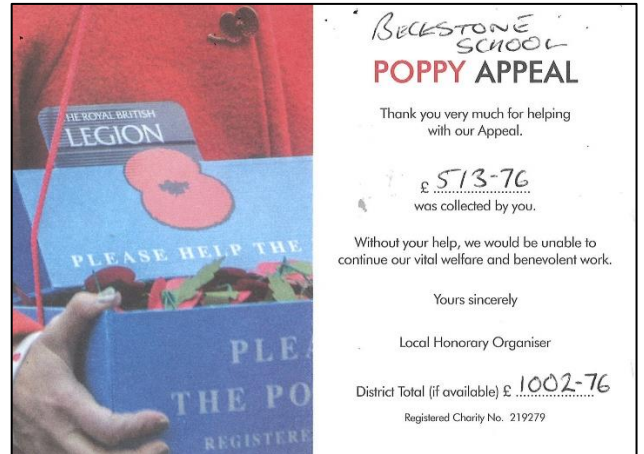


Internet Safety

In a survey of our UKS2 pupils 100% said they would not report inappropriate material that they had come across at home on the internet to their parents. This was a very worrying and concerning finding. When questioned on this the pupils said they would be scared that they would get in trouble. This is a large safeguarding concern.

We would urge parents to talk to their children that safety is paramount and is far more important than making inappropriate searches etc and that it is so important to report issues. If you have access to parental controls on your Wi-Fi or on your devices then please do ensure these are in place. You can download apps or software to computers that will help you to do this.

Poppy Appeal



Thank you to all who donated in support of the Poppy Appeal. And in particular Mr Turk who sold trees in support of this cause. As can be seen from the card above our school alone raised over half the money raised in the local area. Very impressive!

Remembrance Silence



This took place on Friday 10th November. The day began with an assembly with the Vicar talking to the children about the importance of Remembrance. The hall was lined with poppies, one made by every child. The children then prepared themselves for a silence at 11am which they respectfully observed. Photos from the event are at the top of the next page and there are more in the film and photo gallery of our web site



https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/pupil_zone/film_photo_gallery/2023-2024/remembrance/index.html



Remembrance Parade

The school took part in the Harrington Remembrance Parade on the morning of Sunday, 12th November. The Parade left the British Legion at 9.15am and arrived at Church at 10am for a service and then a commemoration at the Cenotaph afterwards. The pupil volunteers represented the school excellently. Mrs Beecroft, Ms & Mrs McKeating, Mrs McAdam and Mrs Holliday all kindly volunteered to escort the Parade for the school. There are many photos on the web site such as the one below: https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/pupil_zone/film_photo_gallery/2023-2024/remembrance-parade/index.html



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Sporting Success



As the calendar year comes to an end it is worthy of note that our school has won almost every sporting competition that it has entered. This shows the importance and focus the school has on sport. We comply fully with Government standards and children at the school have at least 2 hours sporting activity a week with their play and lunchtimes also enhanced with sporting activity. On top of that we have an excellent sporting team now led by Ms Jackson and praise is due to her, Mrs Chambers, Mrs Thompson and Mrs Neesham and the plethora of visiting sports coaches we actively seek to hone the pupils' skills. Long may it continue!

Quicksticks Hockey



Our Year 3 & 4 were runners up in the Workington tournament at the start of last month. The team is pictured at the top of the next page.

Allerdale Netball Champions

Our school represented Workington in the Allerdale Finals last month and won the event. Well done to the team and to their coach, Mrs Chambers. The team is the 2nd picture on the next page.



LKS2 Benchball

Our LKS2 team emerged as victors in the latest inter-school event. Our trophy cabinet is bulging at the seams.



Panathlon Event

We entered a team into a 'Panathlon' event which involved the children playing a variety of games and sports. Our team had a fabulous time and we worthy runners up. They are pictured at the top of the next column.



UKS2 Indoor Athletics Competition

Our indoor athletics teams took this week's inter school tournament by storm and were worthy winners. They are pictured below.



Workington Academy Awards

Since the start of the year some of our pupils have been attending Workington Academy for Maths and English enrichment. Four of our pupils have achieved awards,



Kate & Holly from Y6 were awarded 'Super Six' certificates for their English work and Tommy and Gracie for their Maths work.



Non-Uniform Days

Today, 1st December, is a non-uniform day with a chocolate and bottle themed day to support Christmas hampers and the raffle.



The final non-uniform day of 2023 will be free & on the Christmas Party Day on Monday 18th December. Children can wear Christmas jumpers, other Christmas outfits or any non-uniform.



Christmas time is a key fundraising time for the 'Friends at Beckstone'. The group however is aware of the financial pressures on families in the lead up to Christmas so the fund-raising activities will be mainly online allowing families to spend as little or as much as they like outside of public view. Each Stage will be putting a large hamper packed full of goodies together so there will be 4 hampers altogether.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Raffle tickets (£1) for the hampers are now available to purchase on ParentPay.



Children's Christmas Raffle

There is a Children's Christmas raffle with prizes of a large teddy and a children's hamper. Tickets for this raffle cost a £1 and again can be bought through ParentPay.



Nearer the time we will also be selling reindeer dust and candy floss amongst other things after school. You will be notified in advance.

2024 School Calendar



Every Stage is producing a 2024 Calendar which will include your child in their birthday month. As well as a Stage one a whole school one is also available.. They are great fun and would make lovely Christmas presents for friends/relatives etc. They are prepopulated with all the dates in the final column of the dates page of this newsletter plus dates in to Autumn 2024 too. These are available to order on ParentPay for £3 . And a whole school one is also available to order there.



Tracking Santa

On Christmas Eve you can follow Santa and where he is in the world using the USA's radar tracking system. It is a wonderful and very exciting site, particularly as Santa approaches us and can be found at:



www.noradsanta.org

Santa Video

Another good web site where you can make a video with Santa can be found at;



www.portablenorthpole.com

Santa and his elves will speak directly to you once all details have been registered. Please ensure you follow the 'FREE' links for an exciting experience



Elf Yourself

You can make elf dancing videos with up to 5 people in for free by visiting



www.elfyourself.com



or follow the QR code to download the app to your phone. By manipulating photos, the elves can sing and dance in a number of different scenarios.

Christmas Carols



If you go to the Home Learning Zone>

Christmas Carols area of our web site (or use the QR code) then you sing along to Christmas carols with lyrics and music. A big thank you to Wendy Bailey for setting up this page. We hope you make use of it.

https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/home_learning/christmas/index.html



Santa Yourself

You can put your face into Santa's to make personalised cards or gift tags etc or simply just to see what you would look like. You can also add frames and other objects. Go to <https://funny.pho.to/santa-face-in-hole> or follow the QR code.



Step by Step Education

THE SUPPLY TEACHER SERVICE



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Christmas Dinner

This takes place on Thursday 14th December; the canteen staff do sterling work to make a wonderful Christmas dinner for over 400 people which is no mean feat. Our thanks go to them. The whole of Nursery will have a Christmas dinner, parents will need to pay on ParentPay (£2.20) if not already booked for Educare. Children on packed lunches will also be able to book their child a Christmas dinner on that day if they so wish – a letter went out 2 weeks ago. **Please notify the Office if you have not already done so by THIS Thursday (7th).**



Christmas Post Boxes

Christmas Card Post Boxes will go out for internal mail on Monday 4th December for any children wishing to send cards to friends in the school. **Please**



check the recipient's name and class is on the envelope.

Cards can be home-made or purchased (you can get cheap boxes of cards from many retailers e.g. 20 for £3 from Asda)



Christmas Nativities & Events

These are all listed on the dates page on the back of this newsletter. Reception and Early Years are performing Nativities for parents and there is a LKS2 and an UKS2 Carol Service at Church. KS1 performed a Harvest Festival for parents earlier in the term. There is no charge for any of these events but there will be programs for sale at the Nativities for 50p (cash on the door) and there will be videos of **all the events** above available priced £3 for a download available on ParentPay. There will also be collections at all these events in support of our stretched school fund.

Christmas Party Nights

These take place on the following days:

Thursday 7th December – Reception

Mon 11th December – KS1

Wed 13th December – LKS2

Thu 14th December – UKS2

The cost of £6 includes party food, prizes, care costs etc. Payment is now live on parent Pay. Please ensure you have booked well in advance to avoid disappointment.



Christmas Party Day

Parties across the school take place on Monday 18th December for Nursery to Y6.



Children can come dressed in non-uniform if they wish or Christmas jumpers/outfits etc. Educare will have theirs on Monday 18th December.



Christmas Holiday Activity Zone



We are receiving a number of flyers about activities available for your children over the Christmas holidays, many of them are free. Please go to our 'Holiday Activity Ideas' zone on our web site or follow the QR code. There is information already in there about sporting activities at St Joseph's school and many activities with lunches for those who have benefits related free school meals. We will add any other information we receive into that zone

Reader Teacher

Looking for an idea for a Christmas present for a child that can be enjoyed again and again? A really great web site is 'The Reader Teacher'.

<https://www.thereaderteacher.com/>



This can be a valuable resource in the lead up to Christmas as it suggests what it thinks are the best high-quality reads for children at age-appropriate levels.



Simply click on the Year Group and browse all the titles. Clicking on the book cover takes you to Amazon to read more about the book and to order it if you wish.

The site also has reviews, book listings by author, genre and details of new releases.

10 Incredible Benefits of Reading with your Child



The importance of daily reading and reading throughout the holidays with your child is summarised on the next page.

Strive for Five



As a reward for those reading at least 5 times a week at home they become eligible to be part of the fortnightly 'Strive for Five' draw which will now precede the singing sessions on a Tuesday. Each year group winner will receive a book and chocolate for the parent(s) who have supported at home. Please use this as an incentive to read regularly with your child

PARENTAL FEEDBACK


We hope that the information on our website and newsletters are useful in keeping you updated on what's going on at Beckstone.

We would very much welcome your feedback anytime with any queries or suggestions!

We have a Parents' Suggestions box at the top of the school hill or preferably please email us at the address below.

admin@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk

If ever you wish anything to be included in a newsletter then please do let us know



BEGINNERS CLASSES ENROLLING NOW

www.cumbriacoastkarate.co.uk





ADULTS, TEENS, BOYS AND GIRLS, AGED 6 YEARS OLD ABOVE

Lamplugh Village Hall Monday 6-8pm	Lorton Village Hall Tuesday 6-8pm
High Harrington Community Centre Tuesday 6-8pm	Harrington Scout Hut Thursday 6-8pm
The Gather Ennderdale Wednesday 6-8pm	Sunday 5-7pm

LEARN KARATE IN A FAMILY FRIENDLY CLUB
 BUILD SELF CONFIDENCE
 IMPROVE SELF ESTEEM
 IMPROVE FITNESS
 LOSE WEIGHT
 LEARN HOW TO USE IN SELF DEFENCE
 FAMILIES TRAINING TOGETHER

FOR MORE INFO OR TO ENROL CALL
07543 876490
(THIS NUMBER DOES NOT ACCEPT TEXT MESSAGES)

ALL INSTRUCTORS ARE FIRST AID TRAINED AND DBS CHECKED

Messy Mary's at St Mary's Harrington

Messy Church is held on the third Saturday of every month in St Mary's Church Hall from 4pm to 6pm. Messy Church is for all the family and includes a number of craft activities, songs, a story and some prayers all based on the theme of for the day. It then finishes with a shared meal together. All are welcome. (Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult). For more information on Messy Church, please have a look on their Facebook page.

For all the family



MESSY MARY'S

Taking place every 3rd Saturday of each month

4pm - 6pm

In St Mary's Parish Church Hall

Come and join us for church with a difference

Messy craft, games, interactive worship and delicious food!

10 Incredible Benefits of Reading with Your Child



There are so many benefits of reading to and listening to your child read. It is one of the most special activities you can engage in. It is also one of the most important.

Research shows that children who are read to every day will have a 1.4 million word advantage over children who are not read to or read at home.

So, what are the benefits of reading to your child every night or listening to them read?

Vocabulary

Whether your child is reading a book about friends, sea creatures, or the adventures of an explorer, each book has its own set of vocabulary. Your child will be exposed to an endless array of genres and colourful language.

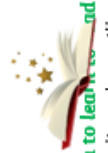
Children who are read to and who read have a far larger and more developed vocabulary than other children. This puts them at a huge advantage academically and will help them cope better at school.

Knowledge

Children are sponges, absorbing information from many sources during the first few years of their lives. In modern times, they learn from the television, internet, computer programmes, radio and other devices. And they learn from books. A lot.

Children who are read to tend to build a wide general knowledge and understanding of the world around them. They learn about different places, people, events and things.

Whether the stories are fiction or non-fiction, tales or information books, your children will learn a wide variety of concepts and ideas.



Independent Reading

One of the benefits of parents reading with their children is that it encourages them to learn to read themselves. Children learn from their parents before anyone else. If they see you reading, they will want to mimic you and learn to read as well. They will also experience the joy and fun of reading a story by listening to you and will want to learn to understand the words themselves.

Writing skills

Reading improves language skills which in turn improves writing skills.

Not only will your child understand correct sentence structure and be able to use parts of speech correctly, but their increase in vocabulary will help them write creatively. Reading stimulates the imagination. Your child's writing will come alive when that imagination shows up in their stories.

Bonding time

Is there anything better than snuggling together on the couch or tucking your child into bed with a good book?

The time you spend together is precious and priceless. The time you spend together is precious and priceless. The process of reading to your child or listening to them read is a bonding experience that they will look forward to daily. They will appreciate and feel closer to you because of your effort and undivided attention.



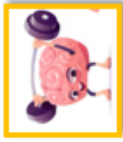
Concentration

When children listen to and read stories, they increase their ability to concentrate on what they are hearing. As they become enthralled in the details of a story, they push themselves to listen a little longer, thus increasing their attention span over time.

Reading can lengthen a child's overall concentration span. This spills over into other areas and helps them perform better at school and when working on activities.

Sometimes it can seem as though a child has a long attention span as they are able to watch movies and TV programmes for hours.

Watching images flashing at a pace unnatural to the brain is not focusing. It is more like a trance and many children who watch hours of television struggle to concentrate in class. Unlike watching screens, which negatively affects the brain, reading stimulates real focus.



Listening Skills

The ability to listen is one of the most vital skills for success at school. Unfortunately, it is also a skill many children struggle with.

When you read to a child or they read and talk about their book to you, they are actively listening for your answers or details of the story. Doing this for a few minutes every day will have a massive impact on their overall listening ability and help them concentrate better at school and at home!

Stress Relief

Reading is a calming activity and one that many adults engage in for relaxation. Some do it for stimulation and to learn, others just to relax and escape.

While using devices and watching screens before bed has been proven to negatively affect sleep, reading a book does the opposite. It calms the mind and is a healthy bedtime habit.

After a busy, active day, children look forward to reading their book or listening to a story, often drifting off to sleep mid-story.



Imagination

In the world of stories, anything is possible. Dragons, fairies, giant beanstalks and monsters are the norm.

These are great for developing your child's imagination and creativity. Creativity is one of the most necessary qualities for today's children living in a world far different from what their grandparents imagined it would be.

There are so many benefits of reading books to children. If you make it a priority and find the time to do it every day, you'll be giving your children so many experiences and wonderful memories to look back on.

And finally....

Love of Reading

One of the great benefits of reading together every day is that you are forming a habit – a healthy habit – from a very young age.

Children who are surrounded by books grow into adults who read.

Quite simply, reading to your children and surrounding them with books will develop a lifelong love of reading. Reading will become a part of who they are and a routine activity that they look forward to every day.

Long after finishing school, your child will continue to learn, whether for business, pleasure or research, through books and online reading.

PLEASE LISTEN TO YOUR CHILD READ DAILY





Governors' Board

Governor Challenge Day – 21st November

The Governors had an active day towards the end of last month, talking to pupils about their learning in the core subjects as well as talking to staff about how their subject is taught in the school and what standards of work are being produced. This has provided them with valuable knowledge of how the school is working and was fitted alongside meeting the school council, informally talking to the pupils and joining in singing!

Governor CHALLENGE Day

Tuesday 21st November 2023

8.40 – 9.00	Coffee & then meet & greet parents, watch children entering building front or back & witness start of day routines
9.00 - 9.05	Short briefing meeting
9.05 – 9.30	Singing &/or observe interventions
9.30 – 10.00	School Council
10.00-10.15	Coffee break
10.15 -11.30	Pupil Interviews on Reading, Writing & Maths
11.30 – 12.00	School Improvement Plan and Vision Wheel Update
12.00 - 1.00	Lunch & talk to pupils and staff at lunch and at play
1.00 – 2.00	Meet Subject Leads Part 1
2.00 – 2.30	Coffee break & Y6 tour of the school
2.30 – 4.00	Meet Subject Leads Part 2
3.00 – 4.00	S&F Members Meeting
4.00 – 6.00	Main Governors meeting

Governor Gallery

Co-opted Vacancy	Co-opted Vacancy	From 08.02.22 Andrew Kilgour Parent To 08.02.26
From 07.12.21 Kate Mahone Vice Chair & LA To 07.12.25	From 12.07.21 Hayley Gorman Staff To 12.07.25	From 18.10.22 Jude Yoxall Co-opted & Deputy Head To 18.10.26
From 12.07.21 Kate Pearson Co-opted To 12.07.25		From N/A Nichola Rosser Clerk To N/A
From 17.05.22 Blain Rooney Parent To 17.05.26	From 15.03.22 Simon Turk Chair & Co-opted To 15.03.26	From N/A David Warbrick Headteacher To N/A
From 19.10.21 Laurie Black Parent To 19.10.25	From 21.11.23 Zoe Hannah Parent To 21.11.27	From N/A Philippa Vaughan Staffing & Finance Associate To N/A

The Governing Body (pictured alongside) currently has 2 co-opted vacancies. They have plans to approach some community groups so there is representation from all areas of the school community on the Governing Body.

There is concern from Governors about the vehicles that are not recognising the School Crossing Patrol Officer on the Main Road and not stopping. They are writing to the Council to ask for a body camera so those not obeying traffic laws can be caught and dealt with.

To support community and help the pupils understand the value of community one of the Governors is setting up 'pen pals' between our year 5 children and children in the local old people's homes. On a similar theme another Governor is supporting an initiative which will involve our children producing cards and Christmas pictures for wards in the West Cumberland Hospital

Finally, a key role of Governors is Health & Safety. A new robust and coherent policy was passed at the last meeting and it is hopefully re-assuring for parents that there is a lot of focus on all aspects of safety.



Absence Procedures

A reminder to parents that we have a first day contact policy for any absences that we are unaware of to ensure the safety of all our pupils on roll. If the school has not been informed of an absence, then all contact numbers will be rung until we speak to a contact adult who can explain the child's absence. If there is no response there will be a home visit. If there continues to be no response the Police will be informed and the child will be treated as a 'missing person'.



Extreme Weather/Heating Emergencies

With winter here, it is to be hoped that inclement weather is not serious, and that the heating system works effectively. If this happens not to be the case and the school is forced to close, then the following will be sources of information;

- 📞 A text message will be sent to all parents (*it is of vital importance we have an up-to-date mobile number contact for every child*)
- 🌐 The County Council web site carries information on schools that are closed
- 📻 Radio Cumbria will be informed, and closure details will be included in their broadcasts
- 🌐 The school web site will be updated underneath the 'Weather Warnings' link

Attendance

In line with DfE Policy we are monitoring attendance very closely. At a recent series of pupil progress meetings with teachers it was attendance that is a key factor that is inhibiting progress and much of this is holidays in term time. We have recently sent letters to pupils who already have less than 90% attendance (apologies to the Nursery parents, these were sent in error and need to be ignored). Please can all parents please note the details below:



Why is good attendance and punctuality important?

Education lays the vital foundations of a child's life. Regular and punctual attendance at school is key to both academic and social development, which in turn will improve the life chances of children and young people.

What is good attendance?

Attendance	Description	Approx. Days lost per year	Approx. Weeks lost per year
98-100%	Excellent	0-4	Less than 1
95-98%	Good	5-9	1-2
90-95%	Below National Expectations	10-18	2-4
Below 90%	Persistent Absence	More than 19	More than 4

So what does 90% attendance actually mean?

90% attendance over a school year = ½ school day missed every week!

It's your responsibility as a parent/Carer.

Parents and carers have a legal duty to ensure that their children attend school regularly and punctually in order to optimise their learning, achieve the best they can and get the most out of their school experience. Failure to do so is an offence under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996.

Term Time Holidays & Tests



There is active discouragement of taking holidays in term time as it disrupts a child's learning. A letter from the new Cumberland Council about this is on the next page.

Taking time off at the statutory testing time needs to be avoided completely.

3 weeks from week beg. 5th June – Y4 Times Table tests

Week beginning 12th June –Y1 Phonics Screening Check

If you are planning trips next year, please avoid the following dates in 2024:

KS1 Optional SATs – The month of May 2024

KS2 SATs - Week beg. 13th May 2024

Y1 & Y2 Phonics Screening Check Week – Week beg. 10th June 2024

Y4 Times Table Check – 2 weeks from Monday 3rd June

Attendance Cup Winners

The class with the best attendance for the first half of the autumn term was 5LJ with an attendance of 97.31% collectively. They are pictured below with the trophy and their certificate.



Takeover Morning

The Children's Commissioner encourages schools to allow its pupils to 'run' their establishments to give a taster of responsibility and accountability. Our Y6 children had a great day on the 24th November.



All the Y6 children excelled in their roles and pupils and indeed staff described it as the best 'Takeover Day' ever. The next page describes the day, written by the two Headteachers (Maddison & George pictured alongside).

Trophy Medals

Since the start of September when a child now is awarded one of the 3 trophies in the column alongside, they will receive a medal that they can keep forever to remind them of their trophy win as the trophy comes back to school. The medals are pictured alongside.



Creativity Cup



Isabella from Reception was awarded the Creativity Cup today. Isabella is really creative and makes great use of all that is offered, making collages, jewellery, tickets for her own shows and much more.

She has even decorated her shoes.

Isabella has a lively imagination and her teacher can't wait to see what she will come up with next.

The Marie Wright Kindness Cup



Levi from Y5 was awarded the Marie Wright Kindness Cup for his kindness towards others and in particular he bought a child a poppy who had lost theirs and were upset, very thoughtful.

Blain Rooney Sporting Trophy

The trophy was awarded to Zach Bateman as he possesses all of the school's sporting values. He is an outstanding all-round young sportsman who will excel in any sport he chooses.

He puts 100% effort into any sporting activity but also encourages and respects the others around him. This makes him an excellent team player, promoting fairness and treating winning or losing with the same dignity and grace.





Beckstone Primary Take-Over Day

Mr Warbrick and Ms Warbrick did an amazing assembly on the 16th November 2023. Mrs Yoxall and Mr Yoxall also took part in the assembly. Their actual names are George Glithero – Mr Warbrick, Maddison Torney – Mrs Warbrick, Lara Kilgour – Mrs Yoxall – and Blake Jenkinson – Mr Yoxall.

Some of our friends where teachers and had to make a power - point to be able to teach the children lessons. Our friend Ollie was Debbie and our other friend Jude was Mrs Beecroft from our class – which is 6CC.

In the assembly, a lot of people got awards, like good work certificates and courtesy awards too. Mr and Mrs Warbrick checked all the classrooms and gave a Headteachers award to all of the people who were being very good and also who were working their absolute hardest. Well done to all the Year 6s!



There are many more photos on the web site and these can be seen at

https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/pupil_zone/film_photo_gallery/2023-2024/national-takeover-day/index.html



Safeguarding/Child Protection

Full details on the county's policies, procedures and processes with regard to safeguarding plus analysis of outcomes of serious case reviews can be accessed through the Cumbria LSCB website at www.cumbrialscb.com the site also has a parental information zone.

In addition to the above the school has a 'Safeguarding Zone' on its website which contains the above link as well as relevant school policies, further information and a diagram showing how we keep your child safe in school. It is well worth a look.

Sharing information is in the best interests of children and their safeguarding. The school reserves the right to share and receive information from other agencies that may have had dealings with your child.

If you ever have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, then you can ring your concerns through to the County's 24 hour 'Safeguarding Hub' number and you can remain anonymous if you wish. Callers can outline their concerns and the Safeguarding Hub will give advice (consultation) and if necessary, undertake an assessment of need.



0333 240 1727

There is now also an adult NSPCC helpline where any concerned adult can seek advice if they are concerned about a child and would like advice on whether to make a referral. The number to call is



0808 800 5000

Operation Encompass

Domestic Violence

Debbie Cook, our Educational Support Manager has trained to be a 'Domestic Violence Champion' and is a resource available to any adult who would like to confidentially share incidents with her and is a very good source of advice. Just contact the School Office to get in touch with her.

Domestic violence is on the increase and causes terrible harm to victims and the associated children.

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure it is eradicated. We are working closely with the Police and the school will learn of any incidents to support any children whose lives are affected by such an occurrence.

Food & Drink

School Meals cost £14.50 per week (£2.90 a day) payable on ParentPay. This is still great value when you look at prices of goods in supermarkets for packed lunches. We would recommend a hot meal for all the children during the winter and would encourage those on packed lunches to make a change.



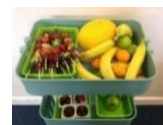
• **Milk** is vital for growing children as it strengthens bones and teeth. Children in Reception and Nursery are entitled to free milk as are children who are eligible for free school meals and clothing vouchers (not the universal free meal for all



FS & KS1 children). The cost of milk for the first half of the spring term is **£7.00** and needs to be paid by **Friday, the 5th January 2024** via ParentPay NOT cash or cheque. Due to the administrative burden of checking attendance and the inability to change the order daily unfortunately milk money cannot be refunded for absence.

• Snack money for Nursery and Reception is **£12** for this half term. This is paid on ParentPay and please pay by **Friday 5th January**.

• Fruit is **£7.00** for the second half of autumn term, again payable on ParentPay by **Friday, 5th January 2024**. This is for playtime snacks. Children in EY & KS1 also get fruit free during the day.



Revisewise

Free revision classes for **Year 6 children now take** place weekly on **THURSDAY** at 8.15 – 8.45 or at lunchtime on the same day. Y6 pupils have the choice to attend either club.

All Year 6 children should be attending one of the sessions



Gritting!!!!

The school does not own the land outside the fenced area and as such does not have the responsibility to grit the paths and have been advised not to. However out of good will and to support our families we will grit as best as we can when we can. If it is very icy, please don't always rely on this and an alternative route can be taken using the steps and entering through the gates at the front to walk round the back if that is the way you or your child comes onto site.





Reg Charity No 1067541

Shopping List

Please help local people in crisis by buying items from the list below and giving them to the North Lakes Foodbank
Thank you!

- * Milk (Full Fat or Semi- Skimmed UHT)
- * Fruit Juice (1 ltr carton UHT)
- * Pasta Sauces (jars or sachets)
- * Biscuits or snack bars
- * Cereals (Medium sized boxes)
- * Tinned Meat
- * Tomatoes (Tinned or Carton)
- * Tinned Fish
- * Tinned Fruit
- * Tinned Vegetables
- * Soup (Tinned no Cuppa Soup)
- * Rice Pudding (Tinned)
- * Instant Mash Potato
- * Sponge Pudding (Tinned)
- * Sugar
- * Jam
- * Pasta (Medium bags of dried pasta. No sachets of 'pasta & sauce' mixes)
- * Tea Bags/Instant coffee (Med)



No Low Calorie Foods



Foodbank Donations

In the midst of this cost of living crisis donations would be more than welcomed to help support the vulnerable families in the locality.

Recent events have shown that the school can be a focal point for supporting some of our more vulnerable school families. Donations continue to be very much welcome and there is a collection bin in the green shelter at the top of the school hill.

Beckstone's Extended Services

Our extended services include the Breakfast Club (£4.50 from 7.30am, £4.00 from 8am) Last entry is at 8.30am but the last time for breakfast food is 8.25am. Educare (our popular afternoon child care provision for morning Nursery children – see table below – please note these places **MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE**) with pick up times at 2.15pm and 3.15pm **Please note**



that unfortunately we are unable to offer facilities for packed lunches for Nursery children.



Beckstone Xtra runs from the end of the school day until 5.15pm (the cost is £4 per hour) with an earlier pick up time of 4.15pm if required. Beckstone Xtra is available from 3.15 to 5.15pm **for anyone who books in advance** at the Office or via bookings@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk or simply use the QR code.





30 HOURS ENTITLEMENT

Sessions will run from:

11:45 a.m. — 2:15 p.m. (2 hours)

11:45 a.m. — 3:15 p.m. (3 hours)

A charge of **£2.20 per day** will be required to cover the cost of a school dinner and is to be paid via Parentpay.

Please contact the office for further details.

NON-ENTITLEMENT

Sessions will run from:

11:45 a.m. — 2:15 p.m. = **£10.00**

11:45 a.m. — 3:15 p.m. = **£14.00**

Educare bookings and payment are to be made via Parentpay. Please note you will need to choose your child's lunch (top choice) and pay for this at the same time via Parentpay at a cost of **£2.20 per day**

Please contact the office for further details.

Please note 30 hour Scheme can be used in Breakfast Club and Beckstone Xtra.

Please be aware that Beckstone Xtra attendance is not logged on to ParentPay until the day after attendance so a Friday session will not be charged to your account until a Monday or if an end of term the first day back.

Please note after school learning/sport clubs now cost £12.50 per half term.

Carer & Toddler Club

This runs every Thursday afternoon from 1.30 to 3pm and is a very popular club. It is a great way to meet new friends. There is no cost to join but a £3.00 levy is charged to cover the cost of refreshments.





The Wobbly Wand

Handmade, whimsical
arts & crafts

www.wobblywand.co.uk



Wobbly Wand's Page



Nursery Intakes

Children born between **1 September 2020** and **31 December 2020** can receive their free 15 or 30 hours a week from **January 2024**.

Children born between **1 January 2021** and **31 March 2021** can receive their free 15 or 30 hours a week Nursery education from **April 2024**.

Children born between **1 April 2021** and **31 August 2021** can receive their free 15 or 30 hours a week from **September 2024**.

If you know of any children with birth dates between these times and would like their child to come to this school, then please ask them to get in touch with the School Office as soon as possible.

Forms for applying for any of these intakes can be downloaded from the Cumbria County Council website



<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrenservices/schoolsandlearning/lss/schooladmissions.asp> (or use the QR code) ring the School Office and we can post them out. When returning the form, we need to see the Birth Certificate and a proof of address

Give Blood – Help Save a Life!



Giving blood to support others is a wonderful selfless act that helps fellow citizens. The next donor sessions are on Friday 12th January from 3 to 7pm at the Oval Centre or Tuesday 23rd January at Energus 3 to 7pm. You can book an appointment online, just register and book.

Do something worthwhile and save someone's life

Further details and booking details can be found at www.blood.co.uk

Easy Fund Raising



Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to your annual holiday – you could be raising **FREE** donations for Beckstone Primary School with easy fundraising?

There are over 4,000 shops and sites on board ready to donate – including eBay, Argos, John Lewis, ASOS, Booking.com and M&S – and it won't cost you a penny extra to help us raise funds.



All you need to do is:

1. Go to https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/bECKSTONEprimary/?utm_campaign=raise-more and join for free.
2. Every time you shop online, go to easy fundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
3. After you've checked out, the retailer will donate to Beckstone Primary School at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and we will be really grateful for your donations that will enrich your child's experiences at school.

Advertisements



If you run a business or know of someone who does (even baby-sitting services) then please do get in touch with the School Office. An advert costs £5 a month, goes to at least 500 local households (parents, staff etc.) and also provides much needed funds for the school. Adverts are subject to the approval of the Governing Body.

Free School Meal Children & Holidays

Cumberland council has made provision, through the Household Support Fund, to ensure every benefits-eligible FSM young person is able to access a FSM voucher over the Christmas holiday. The vouchers have a value of £34.50 [10 days at £3.45 per day] for each eligible child. You will receive a text message on the first

day of the holiday from a company called WONDE where you will select the supermarket of your choice.

Learning to Talk

<https://www.nhs.uk/start-for-life/toddler/learning-to-talk/learning-to-talk-3-to-5-years/#anchor-tabs>



Learning to talk



There is some great advice and tips for parents of children aged 5 and under on how to develop talking. Well worth a look.

Cumberland Family Food Costs Survey

Cumberland Council have teamed up with the University of Liverpool to understand the extent to which people are struggling with food bills, whether they can get the food they need, and the impact of rising living costs in Cumberland. If you buy the weekly food shop for your household, please complete this short, anonymous survey. By taking part, you will be helping them understand where support needs to be directed, and you have the chance to win a gift voucher of up to £100. For more information and to complete the survey, go to



<https://melresearch.co.uk/cumberlandfoodsurvey>

Uniform

Border Embroideries are now offering 2-week windows when parents will receive a 20% discount for any uniform orders. This is a great offer and will make the uniform they supply extremely competitive and much cheaper.

Please remember that the colours for sweatshirts, cardigans and PE shirts are not matched by other embroidery companies.

Please also remember that items can be purchased from Supermarkets etc they don't have to have our logo in.

NEW Scan QR Code  **BE UNIFORMS** www.beuniforms.co.uk

REDUCED PRICE ORDERING WINDOWS

BE UNIFORMS RESPONDS TO COST OF LIVING CRISIS

With paying for school uniform being a struggle for a lot of parents, BE have been looking at options to help with the affordability. From October 2023 we will be launching Reduced Price Ordering Windows allowing parents the option to purchase their uniforms online with a 20% discount. Orders will be batched and delivered within 28 days of the window closure. There will be 3 windows in operation from the 1st October to 19th May.

We would encourage schools and parents alike to publicise the dates below as much as possible and advise all parents to order within these windows to benefit from the reduced pricing.

AUTUMN	WINTER	SPRING
Opens Sunday 1st October Closes Sunday 15th October	Opens Friday 15th December Closes Sunday 7th January	Open Monday 22nd April Closes Sunday 19th May

ALL ORDERS DELIVERED WITHIN 28 DAYS OF WINDOW CLOSURE



PLAN AHEAD & SAVE MONEY!

In addition, please remember we can supply second hand uniforms free of charge...see flyer below.

Finally, PLEASE put your child's name in uniform so it can be easily returned to them if lost!

BECKSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Uniform can now be ordered FREE without donating old uniform as we have large stocks.

UNIFORM EXCHANGE

NOW OPEN

To order uniform simply email uniform@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk or use the QR code 



UNDER 11'S CRICKET CLUB

JOIN THE TEAM!

Training on Mondays 6-7PM • Workington Academy

Opportunities for years 5 and 6

Boys and girls welcome

Under 13's and 15's also represented



@ Workingtoncricketyouth@gmail.com

facebook.com/juniorwcc

Facebook & Instagram



Instagram

The school is now on Facebook and Instagram with an updated presence!



Facebook

You should be able to search for the pages or you can use these addresses/QR codes.

<https://www.facebook.com/beckstoneprimaryschool/>

https://instagram.com/beckstoneprimary?r=name_tag



School Funds

We need donations to this fund as funds are really REALLY tight. The school fund is purely donation based and is used to buy many consumable items and fun activities outside the remit of the school budget for the pupils as well as many other things for school that enable us to provide services free of charge.

Please have a ratch down the sofa or anywhere to find some spare money to donate to the school to support all the children.

Please help if you can by donating to this fund.

Now we have the ParentPay system we can offer the facility for families to make an automatic School Fund donation on a monthly basis, from their bank account even £2 per month would accumulate in to a great fund to support activities in school. If you would like to support the school in this way, please contact the School Office for further details on how to set this up or, if you would rather, for direct debit details.



Brewery House

The following appeared on Facebook. Please can all parents use this kind offer with courtesy (we also understand from the owners that litter is also being dropped) as it would be a huge loss if this privilege was withdrawn. If you use it, please thank the owners for their support of the school.

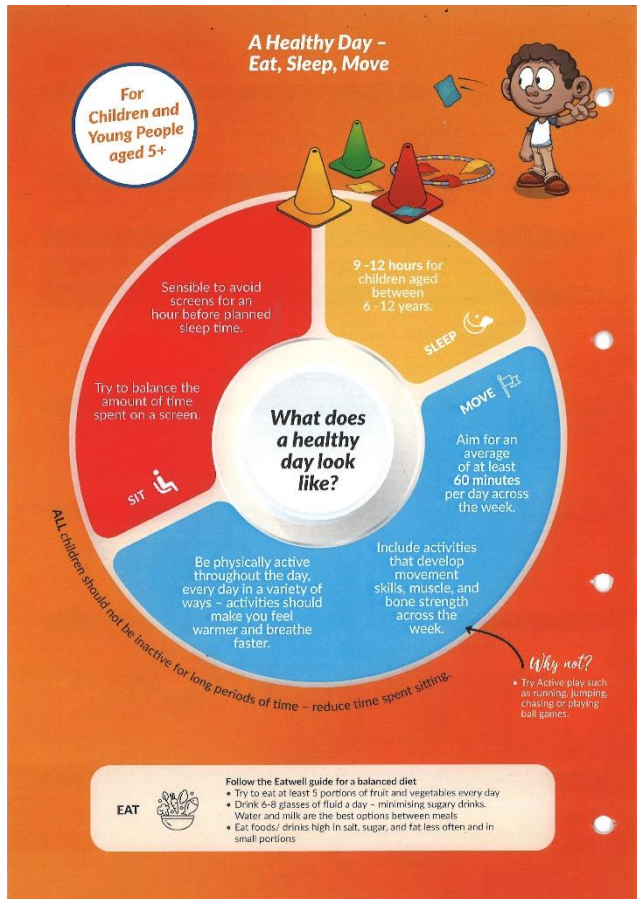


Workington & Derwent Rotary Dictionaries

Richard, Birkett and John (Secondary head to Debbie, Ms Gorman and Mr Warbrick!) from Workington & Derwent Rotary visited school last month to present every year 3 child with a Picture Dictionary. This is a custom that has lasted many years and we are very appreciative of the funding they raise to provide these valuable gifts to each year 3 cohort. One Year 3 pupil described the gift as 'awesome'.



Advice on a Healthy Day



FAB Meeting – 8th January

Please make a note of the next date for our PTA meeting – ‘Friends at Beckstone’. It will take place on Monday 8th January at 3.30pm. New members are welcome and you can book your child(ren) into Beckstone Xtra for FREE if you are attending.



Community Champions Cup



In addition to our other trophies described earlier we have a new cup. This was the brainchild of FAB and funded by them. The cup will be awarded to a child who has gone out of their way to support the local community through charitable work, community action or fundraising for good causes. The first winner will be announced in the assembly on Friday

15th December.

Lip Balm

A text went out recently following some up-to-date advice from Health & Safety regarding lip balms. These are not to be used in school as they contain chemicals that can cause



reactions (apparently some lip balms from the USA available in this country contain banned chemicals). School cannot police all lip balms that enter the school building so please do not send them in with your child. Your child may be fine with them but if they are used on another child then there could be issues so safety of all is paramount.

If a child's does have really dry lips and you have medical advice that lip balms are needed then please complete a medication form and it can be kept in the school office. Please note the advice states that Vaseline should certainly not be allowed as this has petroleum jelly as an ingredient.

Thank you in advance for your compliance with this,

Scooters, Politeness, Helmets & Bikes



It is great to see so many of our KS2 pupils coming to school by scooter using the back path. This is healthy and an enjoyable thing for them to do and we encourage it. Please, however, can parents note the following:

- The advice from the Police is that children riding scooters should be wearing helmets for their protection from head injuries.
- We have had concerns from other path users that some scooter users just plough through pedestrians rather than stopping/slowning and saying ‘excuse me’ which parents reporting say they would gladly do. As a consequence, if your child comes on a scooter, please remind them about politeness.

Children in the Early Years have scooter training and road safety lessons on scooters and very soon KS1 will have their scooters at play and lunch times and will be able to enjoy scooting with accompanying helmets if they want to and follow the safety rules.

Finally, is there anyone who could service the Early Years bikes and KS1 scooters for us...it isn't a big job but needs someone who knows what they are doing. Please let the Office know if you can do this. 😊

Homework

Recent meetings on pupil progress have shown that some children who would really benefit from homework are not completing it. Please, please, please support your child in doing their homework. If you have problems please do speak to your child's class teacher.

Letter Formation

Another barrier to progress, in this case, in writing is children not forming their letters correctly. If they can't do this they will really struggle when they come to join up their writing as they move through school. Please can you use the Christmas holidays to do a check with your child and ask them to form their letter. They should follow the direction as shown on the diagrams at the bottom of the page for lower case and capital letters. Where they are not forming the letters in the right direction please try and support them in forming them correctly. The diagrams below show the direction of formation with arrows and where they should sit on a line on the page. This would be a great investment of your time as it would really help your child for their future academic success.



Mrs White

Mrs White has taken the decision to not return to her teaching post. We are all very sad about this but wish her all the best for her future. As a result, Mrs Rushforth and Mrs

Potts will be the teachers of this class until Ms Gorman returns to teach the class and lead Early Years into 24/25.

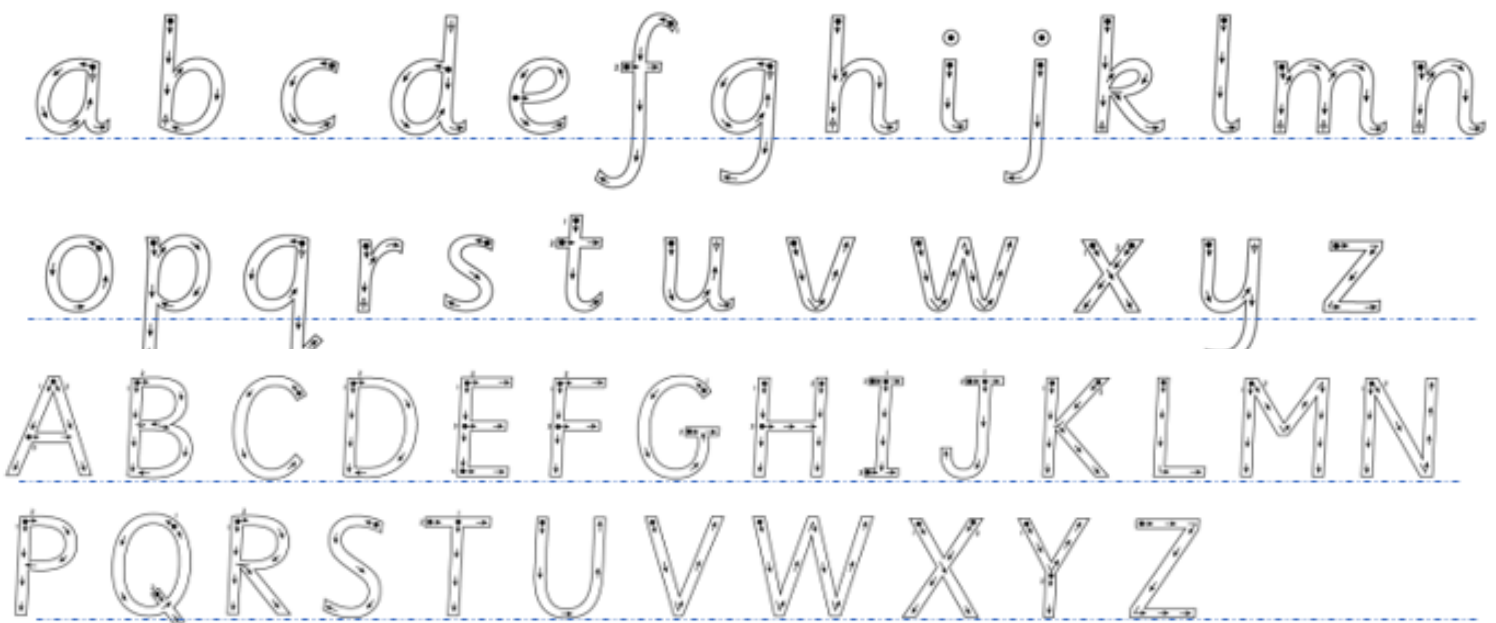
Mrs White has been at the school for nearly a decade and she has been instrumental and integral to the developments that have made Early Years the success it is has been with outcomes consistently above local and national rates. We would like to take to this opportunity to formally thank her for her hard work,

dedication and leadership over the years. She will be sadly missed.



All associated with the school would like to wish all our families a very 'Merry Christmas' and a fabulous festive season. School breaks at normal time on Tuesday 19th December (there is no Educare or Beckstone Xtra that day). The children then start back on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.


**Merry
CHRISTMAS**



CHILDREN ARE
MADE READERS
ON THE LAPS
OF THEIR PARENTS.

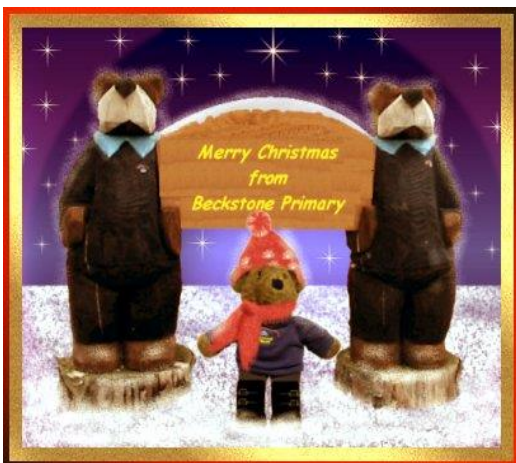
Diary Dates



	Autumn 2023	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Autumn 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026
Start of Term	Wednesday 6 th September	Wednesday 3 rd January	Tuesday 16 th April May Day – Mon 1 st	Wednesday 4 th September	Tuesday 7 th January	Tuesday 22 nd April May Day – Mon 5 th	Wednesday 3 rd September	Wednesday 7 th January	Monday 13 th April May Day – Mon 4 th
Half Term	Monday 23 rd October - Friday 27 th October	Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February	Monday 27 th May - Friday 31 st May	Monday 28 th October - Friday 1 st November	Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February	Monday 26 th May - Friday 30 th May	Monday 27 th October - Friday 31 st October	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February	Monday 25 th May - Friday 29 th May
End of Term	Tuesday 19 th December	Thursday 28 th March	Friday 19 th July	Friday 20 th December	Friday 4 th April	Friday 18 th July	Tuesday 19 th December	Friday 7 th March	Friday 17 th July

December

- Fri 1st Dec – Reception trip to Whinlatter
 - Vicar in assembly for advent
 - Non-uniform Day - Hamper donations/chocolate/bottles
- Mon 4th – Post Boxes go out.
- Tues 5th – Nursery Nativity 9.30am
 - Year 5 planting trees at Harrington Nursery Reserve am
 - KS2 Boccia tournament – 12.15-2.45pm – St Joseph’s
- Wed 6th – Nursery Nativity 9.30am
 - Y3/4 SF is visiting East Croft to sing Carols 1.45pm
- Thu 7th – ‘A Christmas Carol’ performance for the pupils
 - 3LS is visiting West Winds 1.45pm
 - YR Party Night
- Friday 8th – Y6 Christmas Crafts – Sports Hall
- Mon 11th – Reception Nativity for parents pm
 - KS1 Party Night
- Tue 12th - LKS2 Carol Service 2pm
- Wed 13th – Reception Nativity for parents am
 - UKS2 Carol Service 2pm
 - LKS2 Party Night
- Thu 14th Dec – Christmas Dinner Day
 - UKS2 Party Night
- Fri 15th – Y2 visiting Allerdale Disability Association
 - 4KB is singing at the Galloping Horse 2pm
- Mon 18th Dec- Christmas Party Day
- Tue 19th Dec – Carols in the Square 10.30am
 - No Educare or Beckstone
 - Break up for Christmas



Dates for 2024 already

- Wed 3rd Jan – Children start back
- Thu 4th & Fri 5th Jan - January new starter home visits
- Fri 5th Jan – Zoobidoo visiting KS1
- Mon 8th Jan – FAB Meeting 3.30pm
- Wed 10th Jan – LKS2 Indoor Athletics 9.20-12.30 – Lakes
- Fri 12th Jan – 5LJ Class Assembly**
- Tue 16th Jan – KS1 Dodgeball, St Josephs, 12.15-2.45
- Tue 30th Jan – Governor Challenge Day & Main Governors
- Fri 2nd Feb – 3LS Class Assembly**
 - Cross Country Event
- Tue 6th Feb – KS2 Dodgeball
 - Young Voices Trip
 - Key Steps Gymnastics Competition
- Wed 7th Feb – R&KS1 Cinema Night
- Thu 8th Feb – KS2 Cinema Night
- Fri 9th Feb – 1/2AF Class Assembly**
- Week beg. 12th Feb – Half term
- Tue 20th Feb – UKS2 Table Tennis St Joseph’s 12.15-2.45
- Fri 1st Mar – 4KB Class Assembly**
- Wed 6th Mar – KS1 Multi-Skills Festival 9.20-12.30 Lakes
- Thu 7th Mar – World Book Day
- Sun 10th Mar – Mother’s Day
- Thu 14th Mar – Y6 Athletics Event
- Fri 15th Mar – 1/2DT Class Assembly**
 - Week beg. 18th Mar – Nursery ‘Come & Play’ week, 2-3pm
 - Easter Party Nights; YR-Mon; KS1-Tue; LKS2-Wed & UKS2-Thu
- Tue 19th Mar – Governors meeting
- Wed 20th Mar – LKS2 Handball – 9.15-12.30 - Lakes
- Week beg. 25th Mar – Egg & Bonnet Design Week
- Tue 26th Mar – LKS2 Football – 12.15 – 2.45 – St Josephs
- Tue 26th & Wed 27th Mar – Parents’ Evenings**
- Thu 28th Mar – Egg Dumping Final
 - School breaks up for Easter
- Tue 16th April – Children start back
- Tue 23rd April – Wheelchair Basketball
- Tue 30th Apr – Y3&4 Rounders tournament
- Thu 2nd May – Class photos
- Mon 6th May – Bank Holiday**
- May – KS1 Optional SATS Month**
- Week beg. 13th May – KS2 SATS**
- Tue 14th May – KS1 Kicky Rounders – 12.15-2.45 – St Joseph’s
- Mon 20th May – KS2 Cinema Night
- Tue 21st –Thu 23rd May – UKS2 Residential trip to Edinburgh
- Tue 21st May – KS1 Football – 12.15-2.45 – St Josephs
 - Governors & Staffing & Finance meeting
- Wed 22nd – KS1 Football – 9.30 – 11.45 -Lakes
 - R & KS1 Cinema Night
- Fri 24th May – KS2 Athletics Event
 - Early Years Colour Run
- Week beg. 27th May – Half term
- 2 weeks from week beg. 10th June – Y4 Times Table tests**
- Week beg. 10th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Check Week**
- Week beg 10th June – Nursery ‘Come & Play’ week 2-3pm
- Tue 11th June – Sports Day
 - Reception Multi Skills event
- Wed 12th -& Thu 13th June – YR ‘Come & Play’ 2-3pm
- Sun 16th June – Father’s Day
- Mon 17th June - KS1 Kinder Cricket – 9.15 – 12 – Workington C.C.
- Tue 18th June – UKS2 football 12.15-2.45 – St Joseph’s
- Tue 25th June – LKS2 Sumer Trip to Mabie Farm Park
 - UKS2 Cricket 9.30 -2.45 – Workington C.C.
- Wed 26th June – UKS2 Trip to Beamish
- Thu 27th – Nursery Superhero Summer Day
 - Reception Summer Trip to Lake District Wildlife Park
- Fri 28th June – KS1 Summer Trip to Walby Farm Park
- Week beg. 1st July – Olympics focused week
- Tue 2nd July – Tennis – 12.15-2.45 – St Josephs
- Thu 4th July – Workington Academy induction Day
- Fri 5th July – KS1 Kinder Cricket 9.15 – 12.20 – Workington C.C.
- Week Beg 8th July - = Summer Party Nights; YR-Mon; KS1-Tue; LKS2-Wed & UKS2-Thu
- Tues 9th July – Governor Challenge Day & Main Meeting
- Thu 11th & Fri 12th July – Meet new classes meetings
- Mon 15th Jul – Swimming Gala Practice Session
 - Reports Out & Curriculum Evening
- Tue 16th July – Swimming Gala
- Wed 17th July - Graduation
- Thu 18th – FUN day
- Fri 19th Jul – Beckstone’s Got Talent
 - School Year Ends

