PERKSTONE PRIMARY NEWSLETTER



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Newsletter no. 6 February 2024



Dear Parents,

Half term is just over a week away and we will actually be half way through the school year tomorrow! School has been so busy with so many things happening time has just flown!!

School continues to be a very busy place. Please take the time to read all the articles so you are fully up to date with all events and issues around our school community.

In the second half of this term there will be Parents' Evenings, please make a note of the dates (on back page). I would urge each family to ensure they attend as this is an opportunity to learn about your child's academic progress. All educational research shows that where school and home work closely together the child flourishes.

We hope you find this newsletter informative and useful and would very much welcome feedback either verbally or in writing. Please use the Parent Suggestions box at the top of the school hill or indeed the 'Parents' Online Suggestion Box' on our web site. If ever you wish anything to be included in a newsletter, then please do let me know

I hope you all have a fabulous half term when it comes

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
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- Premier Blinds & Curtains
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- Step by Step
- The Wobbly Wand



WhatsApp & other Social Media	2
Ofsted Inspection	
Attendance	
Attendance Cup Winners & 100% Certificates	
Sporting Success	
Sporting Values Trophies	
Safeguarding/Child Protection	
Domestic Violence	
Respect to Staff	
Heathy Eating	
Food & Drink	
Revisewise	
Give Blood – Help Save a Life!	
Creativity Cup	
Blain Rooney Sporting Trophy	
Community Champions Cup	
Times Tables	
Writing – Spelling & Grammar Zone	
Names in Clothing	
Coats	
Uniform	
Advertisements	
Free School Meal Vouchers	
Scooters	
Nursery Intakes	
Beckstone's Extended Services	
Carer & Toddler Club	
Extreme Weather/Heating Emergencies	
Gritting!!!!	
Non-Uniform Days	
Strive for Five	
Cinema Nights	
Site Safety	
Road Safety	
Foodbank Donations	
Too Good to Go	
Young Voices 2024	
Easter Rabbits	
Bright Stars Club	
World Book Day	
Facebook & Instagram	
Easy Fund Raising	
Donations Needed	
School Funds	
PE & Hair	
And Finally	
Diary Dates	20

Harrington Pharmacy



25 Church Road Tel 01946 833565

Free prescription collection service from Workington and Distington surgeries, for all ages

Regular promotions throughout the shop

Selection of household, baby and toiletry products. Plus, perfumes and gifts

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<u>Opening hours</u> Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm Sat 9am-12.30pm





WhatsApp & other Social Media

Very disappointingly and despite numerous articles in newsletters we still have parents who are allowing their children to be part of

WhatsApp groups with other children at the school. These can cause a lot of upset and spill into school life as has happened again recently in Year 4!! Please can all families check their child's phones and restrict WhatsApp groups and abide by the legal restrictions...WhatsApp people is for over 16...children under this age and particularly Primary aged pupils do not have the mature understanding or concept of how their messages could be hurtful or offensive.

Finally, please remember the school has a parent online policy and that no parents should ever be disparaging or critical of school or people in school online.

Thank you!

Ofsted Inspection



The school received its latest OFSTED Inspection in December 2023 and the ensuing report early last

month. The inspectors found that the school continues to be a good school and there was a high standard of education provided. The full report (and previous ones) can be accessed through our web site.

Key points were:

- Pupils are happy at Beckstone Primary School. They come to school eager to learn and are excited to see their friends and their teachers.
- The school has high expectations for all pupils' achievement.
- Pupils behave well and are polite and well mannered. They speak articulately when sharing their own views.
- The school has designed a broad and wellordered curriculum for pupils.
- The school has identified the essential knowledge that pupils should learn and has ensured that this builds logically over time.
- The school has prioritised reading from the beginning of the early years. Pupils often read from a wide range of books and poems in and out of school.
- The school has established a successful phonics programme.
- Attendance is a high priority for the school. It challenges any low levels of attendance but also provides effective support for pupils and their families to reduce rates of absence.
- The school supports pupils' personal development well. Pupils are taught how to keep themselves physically safe and mentally and emotionally well.
- Governors understand their roles and carry these out effectively.
- The school is well led and managed.
- Safeguarding is very effective.
- Pupils speak very highly of the school. One comment was 'It is just like a big happy family.

<u>Attendance</u>



It is of the utmost importance to your child's education that they attend school

consistently as learning is planned in a progressive way and one day follows on from the next in each subject. The issue of school attendance has been prominently featured in many news items since the start of the year. We want to ensure all our children are good attenders. Please note the following:

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 a 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.

If a child is registered at a school, they must by law attend that school regularly and punctually. Children should only miss school if they are ill or unable to attend for some other unavoidable reason.

At Beckstone Primary School, we believe attendance is a shared responsibility, involving the whole school community and local community. We will work with families to identify the reasons for poor attendance and try to resolve any difficulties.

Reporting an absence

When a child is absent from school without prior permission, parents/carers should inform the school bytelephone on the first day of absence by 8.50 am and every day thereafter to give the reason for absence.

To report an absence, you should call the school office on **01943 830423**

- Provide medical evidence (medical appointment card/GP /hospital note/prescription) for length absences (more than 3 days)
- If you do not inform school about an absence, school will contact you. If school cannot reach you by telephone, a maximum of two texts will be sent. If no contact is made, a home visit will be carried out and external agencies contacted.

Illness

Most cases of absence due to illness are short term, but parents/carers will need to make a phone call to alert the school on each day of absence.

Medical or dental appointments

Parents/carers should make every effort to ensure appointments are made outside of school hours. Where it cannot be avoided, pupils should attend school for as much of that day as possible. Parent/carers should show the appointment card or hospital letters to the main office so that the absence can be authorised.

What is an unauthorised absence?

These are absences which the school does not consider reasonable and for which "leave" of absence has not been given. This also includes where the school is not informed of why a child is absent. Some examples of this type of absence include:

Parents/carers keeping their child away from school unnecessarily – this can be due to childcare arrangements, to look after siblings or relatives or because parents are unwell. In thiscase, alternative arrangements should be in place to ensure the child attends school;

- Shopping trips;
- Birthdays;
- Day trips and holidays in term time that have not been agreed by the Headteacher.

Family holidays and term time leave

Parents/carers should ensure that family holidays and any term time leave are arranged outside of school term time. Parents/carers should not remove their child from school during term time without having first filled in a leave of absence form in advance. (Form can be obtained from the main reception or on the school website.)

Planning holidays in term time is to the detriment of your child's education.

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

Test dates this year are:

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 & 100% Certificates



In the first assembly of 2024 all children with 100% attendance in the Autumn term were awarded a certificate. In addition, the class with the best attendance for last term was 6CC with an attendance rate of 97.23%, well over the national. They are pictured

below with their trophy.





Sporting Success



LKS2 Indoor Athletics

Our Lower Key Stage 2 indoor athletics team were runners up in the Workington inter school competition. The team is pictured below with their certificates and trophy.



KS1 Dodgeball

Our Dodgeball team were runners up in the inter school competition and were a credit to the school. The enthusiasm and sportsmanship of the team was a wonder to behold.



Sporting Values Trophies

The school awards trophies for sporting behaviour on a termly basis. The children who won trophies for showing specific sporting values last term can be seen in the Sporting



zone of our web site. They are also shown on the next pages and they were awarded the trophies in assembly in early January. Their trophies are kept with them in class for the term. Trophies will be re-awarded at the start of the Summer term. Key Stage 1









Key Stage 2































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

<u>www.cumbrialscb.com</u> 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.



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



Domestic Violence

Operation Encompass

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.

Respect to Staff

There will be a more detailed article next month but please can we

remind all parents to be respectful and speak nicely to all staff either in person or on the phone.



6

Governor Blog – Andrew Kilgour

Spring term is now well underway and Christmas seems but a distant memory.....

Looking back:

As many of you will know, prior to the Christmas break Beckstone School had the pleasure of welcoming the Ofsted inspectors. They attended school on the 5th and 6th of December and their final report was formally published on 15 January 2024.

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On behalf of the Governors, I want to thank not only the staff at Beckstone School but each and every single pupil as well as their parents/guardians for their support and contributions towards the Inspectors visit. The feedback from the Inspectors was extremely positive with their formal report including fantastic comments like:

"Pupils are happy at Beckstone Primary School. They come to school eager to learn and are excited to see their friends and their teachers. Pupils are greeted warmly by staff as they arrive each day. They flourish in the welcoming and friendly environment across the school, including in the early years."

"Pupils behave well and are polite and well mannered. They speak articulately when sharing their own views. They also listen sensibly to opinions that are different to their own and respond in a considered way. Older pupils regularly help younger children and are positive role models for them. They make sure that everyone is welcome."

Myself and many of the other Governors were onsite during parts of the inspection and it was fantastic to see how well the children reacted to what can be a strange and unsettling few days.

Looking forward:

As always, there are plenty of things for the pupils and staff of Beckstone Primary School to look forward to this month including cross county events, cinema nights and the annual trip to Young Voices to name but a few – all surrounding a well-deserved break for half term.

As a Governing body we are looking to continue to build on the links the School has with the local community and do all we can to ensure the School continues to put the pupils first and offer them the support they need to ensure they achieve their potential.

Looking forward to the rest of 2024 and all that it may bring.

Andrew Kilgour

Governor Challenge Day – 30th January

The Governors came into school on Tuesday last week and had a very busy day....

- They met with all the non-teaching staff to talk about the school
- They visited all Early Years areas to focus on provision for our youngest children
- They met with some children from Key Stage 1 to talk and to look at their books
- They had some finance training & observed many areas of the school at work.
- Finally they visited Beckstone Xtra

The day was focused on ongoing evaluation of the school and the standards of education and support it provides.



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Heathy Eating

The children received a talk from Public Health 5-19 team (NHS) last month all about healthy eating and healthy food choices. As many of you will know there is





anational concern over rising levels of obesity in young people who will go on to suffer health complications in later life and we don't want that for any of our children.

If you would like to find out more please find below some links and resources you may find useful:

Healthier Families - Home - NHS (www.nhs.uk)

https://healthysteps.betterhealth-

<u>healthierfamilies.co.uk/signup</u> you can sign up for 8 weekly emails with top tips and ideas on healthy lifestyles.

NHS Food Scanner app - Healthier Families - NHS (www.nhs.uk) this app will read bar codes in the supermarket and tell you how much sugar is in each one.

https://www.activecumbria.org/

https://www.facebook.com/cumbriasmile4life/ Brush DJ

In addition, if you are a parent or carer and would like health advice or support regarding a child or young person aged 5-19 years old, you can contact the Public Health 5-19 Team to book an appointment in the E-School Nurse clinic on 01228 603973 Mon-Fri 9-5pm, or for further support with healthy lifestyles contact us about our Healthy Habits 4 Life programme. (see posters in the next column for further information).).

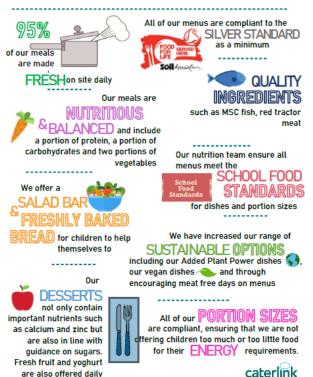


Food & Drink

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.

WHY CHOOSE A CATERLINK SCHOOL MEAL?



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are the School Food Standards?

The School Food Standards were developed by government and are a set of food-based standards to ensure menus are nutritious, balanced and healthy. Examples include offering wholemeal starchy foods, having oily fish on the menu, and limiting pastry. Find out more www.schoolfoodplan.com

How much sugar are in your desserts?

In line with recommendations to reduce free sugars (free sugars are added sugars – those not naturally found in fruit or milk) and the Children's Food Trust guidance, Caterlink have reduced the sugar content of all desserts to under 6.5g of free sugars per portion. Across our menus the average sugar content per day is 4.5g of free sugars, so you can be sure your child is getting healthy desserts

Is my child getting enough food? All recipes are created in line with the School Food Standards recommended portion sizes and are checked by a nutritionist. As well as the main meal, vegetables and dessert, we also offer bread and salad daily for the children to take.

What is MSC fish?

By choosing fish with a Marine Stewardship Council blue label, we can ensure that we are supporting sustainable fisheries and protecting the ocean. All fish on our menu is MSC certified.

What is red tractor meat?

Red tractor ensures that we can trust that all of the meat that we buy and know that it has to meet strict standards such as animal welfare, traceability, food safety and environmental protection. We have a British First Policy and all of our meat products are traceable from farm to fork.

How much salt is in your food?

We work with suppliers to ensure products are in line with the Government Salt Targets. We also don't add salt to our recipes as per the School Food Standards

What is the Food for Life Served Here award?

Food for Life Served Here is a set of criteria ensuring that food served is healthy, local, easonal and fresh. We operate all of our schools on their silver standards as a minimum. W vere the first education caterer to be awarded the Food For Life award. Find out more www.foodforlife.org.uk

What are Added Plant Power dishes?

Added plant power dishes are recipes where the protein comes from a mixture of meat and plant-based proteins such as beans, chickpeas, or lentils, such as a chilli con carne with kidney beans in. This makes the dishes more environmentally friendly (a 50% reduction in greenhouse gases), whilst reducing saturated fat content and increasing fibre.

caterlink

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 second half of the spring term is £7.00 and needs to be paid by Friday, the 23rd February 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 23rd February 2024.



Fruit is £7.00 for the second half of spring term, again payable on ParentPay by Friday 23rd February 2024. This is for playtime snacks. Children in EY & KS1 also get fruit free during the day.

When using ParentPay please can you check your payment has gone through - you should get an email to confirm payment. The school does not receive notifications of attempted payments. Thank you!

Revisewise



Free revision classes for Year 6

children now take place weekly on THURSDAY at 8.15 - 8.45 and again on a Wednesday lunchtime 12.15 -12.45. Y6 pupils have the choice to attend either club. All Year 6 children should be attending one of the sessions



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9



Give Blood – Help Save a Life!

Giving blood to support others is ave a life a wonderful selfless act that ve Blood helps fellow citizens. Who knows, a member of your family may rely on someone else's blood donations to save their life at some point. The next donor sessions are on Friday 9th February from 3 to 7pm at the Oval Centre.

Do something worthwhile and save someone's life



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

Blain Rooney Sporting Trophy



The trophy was awarded to Annabel. She was chosen as the sports trophy winner for LKS. She is football mad! At least once a week Annabel tells us about the matches she is competing in, it is clear how much she adores playing football.

We hope this award shows her how proud we all are of her sporting achievements.

Community Champions Cup

The second winner was Mrs Cunningham, а unanimous agreement from the staff. Mrs Cunningham goes out of her way all the time to help raise much needed funds for the school and in turn to support and enhance the experience of all the children. She is full of great ideas and initiatives and it



is lovely she was able to receive this accolade in front of the whole school. A well-deserved winner - school's own Del Boy 😊



Creativity Cup

Isabella from KS1 won the trophy. She is an incredible artist. She mimic artists' can styles easily, can use various techniques including painting, sculpture and drawing,

with ease and precision and really enjoys creating individual art works. Isabella always chooses to draw and colour in free time and she also loves being creative in other pursuits such as dance and gymnastics too.



Times Tables

One of the major keys to success in Maths is knowing the times table off by heart as these impacts on a child's ability to work with fractions, perform long division and apply maths to problem solving questions. All children are tested in Year 4 (in June this year for their times tables up to 12X). It is vital however that children above Year 4 keep their times table knowledge on the boil and this is particularly important in Year 6.

The national expectations for children under the age of Year 4 are:

Year 1: To count in 2's. 5's and 10's

Year 2 – To know the 2X, 5X and 10X tables and be able to quickly multiply and divide using their knowledge

Year 3 – As year 2 plus the 3X, 4X & 8X tables.

Please, please help your children learn them and keep testing them in a fun way. The table at the bottom can be used to support you in helping them. This would be a great half term homework activity.

As well as learning by rote there are many sites that offer music-based times tables songs e.g., <u>https://childrenlovetosing.com/times-tables-</u>

<u>multiplication-songs-album/</u> ...these can be played in the house/car via your phone or Bluetooth speaker to support learning and often music helps retention of this knowledge.



Finally, there are YouTube pop song videos with the times tables being lyrics, these are in the 'Home Learning Zone of our web site:

https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/home_learnin g/times-tables.html

Writing – Spelling & Grammar Zone



In the same 'Home Learning' zone as the times table one above there is also a new

'Writing' zone with a selection of YouTube videos explaining specific aspects of spelling and grammar and again put to music. It is well worth letting your children

1x table	2x table	3 x table	4x table	5x table	6x table
$1 \times 1 = 1$	$1 \times 2 = 2$	$1 \times 3 = 3$	$1 \times 4 = 4$	$1 \times 5 = 5$	$1 \times 6 = 6$
$2 \times 1 = 2$	$2 \times 2 = 4$	$2 \times 3 = 6$	$2 \times 4 = 8$	$2 \times 5 = 10$	$2 \times 6 = 12$
$3 \times 1 = 3$	$3 \times 2 = 6$	$3 \times 3 = 9$	$3 \times 4 = 12$	$3 \times 5 = 15$	$3 \times 6 = 18$
$4 \times 1 = 4$	$4 \times 2 = 8$	$4 \times 3 = 12$	$4 \times 4 = 16$	$4 \times 5 = 20$	$4 \times 6 = 24$
$5 \times 1 = 5$ $6 \times 1 = 6$	$5 \times 2 = 10$ $6 \times 2 = 12$	$5 \times 3 = 15$ $6 \times 3 = 18$	$5 \times 4 = 20$ $6 \times 4 = 24$	$5 \times 5 = 25$ $6 \times 5 = 30$	$5 \times 6 = 30$ $6 \times 6 = 36$
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$7 \times 1 = 7$ 8 × 1 = 8	$7 \times 2 = 14$ 8 × 2 = 16	$7 \times 3 = 21$ 8 × 3 = 24	$7 \times 4 = 28$ $8 \times 4 = 32$	$7 \times 5 = 35$ $8 \times 5 = 40$	$7 \times 6 = 42$ $8 \times 6 = 48$
$9 \times 1 = 9$	$9 \times 2 = 18$	$9 \times 3 = 27$	$9 \times 4 = 32$ $9 \times 4 = 36$	$9 \times 5 = 45$	$9 \times 6 = 54$
$10 \times 1 = 10$	$10 \times 2 = 20$	$10 \times 3 = 30$	$10 \times 4 = 40$	$10 \times 5 = 50$	$10 \times 6 = 60$
$11 \times 1 = 11$	$11 \times 2 = 22$	$11 \times 3 = 33$	$11 \times 4 = 44$	$11 \times 5 = 55$	$11 \times 6 = 66$
$12 \times 1 = 12$	$12 \times 2 = 24$	$12 \times 3 = 36$	$12 \times 4 = 48$	$12 \times 5 = 60$	$12 \times 6 = 72$
7x table	8x table	9x table	10x table	11 x table	12x table
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watch and indeed you may learn things yourselves as many of these aspects were not explicitly taught in schools until recent years. A screen grab of the zone is below.

Names in Clothing

The lost property box was bulging at the end



of term!!! Please, please, please put your child's name in their clothing. When this happens their clothing is easily returned. The

amount of money some families lose by not doing this is staggering when you see how much is left unclaimed!



playtimes.

<u>Coats</u>

We need all children to wear their coats at lunchtimes and . We have an external



thermometer and when the outside temperature drops below 13°C then coats are mandatory. Please ensure they come to school with a coat and **one that has their name in** – thanks!

<u>Uniform</u>

The only supplier that is currently providing the school uniform colours with our logo is Border Embroideries (the colours can be found in shops like Matalan and Asda without the logo and that is acceptable uniform too). Border Embroideries will have a 'Savings Window' after the Easter holidays (see

displayed information) with a 20% discount so if uniform needs replacing or you are getting ready early for next year that would be the time to buy.



Please also note that uniform and coats are available

via the school uniform exchange at no cost. To enquire simply email <u>uniform@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk</u> or use the QR code. Details are also on the image below,





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 Vouchers

These will again be issued to any families who have registered for free school meals over half term. The vouchers have a value of £22.25 [5 days at £4.45 per day] for each eligible child; these are fully funded by Cumberland Council using the Household Support Fund grant.

If you are eligible for free school meals and have not claimed then it is very much worth your while to do so even if your child gets free meals anyway as a KS1 or an early years child as you will receive holiday meals money and a uniform grant worth £50.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018

your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)



Further information can be found here: <u>https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-</u> education/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers

ALL ELIGIBLE PARENTS OF PUPILS should fill in the school meals registration form that is available online through the Cumberland County Council 'Citizen Portal'. This can be found by searching for it on the internet, using the link below or following the QR code. If you need help, please ask the School Office.

https://ems.cumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/e

<u>n</u> If you're eligible, make sure you apply for free school meals if you haven't already so that you receive your school clothing grant too. It only takes 5 minutes.



To apply follow the above link or the QR code. Once completed the system will let you know if you are eligible.

Scooters



We have received a few concerns from parents and local residents that have

experienced a near accident as a child has crossed their path whilst riding their scooter or bike without showing consideration for pedestrians, or who have been concerned for the safety of a child who is travelling at great speed without a cycle helmet. To keep everyone safe, please ensure you reinforce the following rules with your children:

1. <u>Wear a helmet</u>: no matter how short the journey, or how much you care about helmet hair. They save lives!

2. Be seen: particularly on darker days/evenings. Wear a reflective jacket or strip and perhaps attach a light to your scooter. If there is any doubt, get off and push the scooter, it is better to take a bit longer than to have an accident.

3. Check your scooter: regularly check to make sure it is in good working condition. Do the brakes work properly? Do the wheels spin correctly? Do the handlebars turn smoothly?

4. Be heard: Attach a bell to your scooter, roads and pavements are noisy, so it's important that other people can hear you coming. Please remember, it is important to be considerate, having a bell is no excuse for scooting at speed and using it to tell people to get out of the way.

5. Control your speed: The faster you go, the longer time you will need to come to a stop. Never go too fast on pavements or anywhere near roads, as you (or vehicles coming towards you) might not have the space to slow down!

6. Be aware of other people: Pavements, streets and roads are used by lots of other people who are walking, bicycling, skateboarding and driving, so always look around carefully to see where they are. Do not try to push past other pedestrians, or weave in and out of pedestrians.

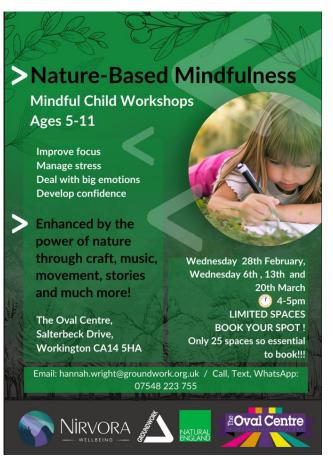
7. Stop at the kerb and be aware of driveways: ALWAYS STOP at kerbs, and be AWARE that cars may be entering or exiting driveways. Stop your scooter by bending your knees and pressing firmly on the brake. When crossing the road, dismount from your scooter.

8. Never scoot on the road: Never, ever, ever scoot on the road, not even for a second. Always push your scooter when crossing.

9. Travel with an adult: Even if it's just a short distance, make sure you have a parent, school teacher or another adult who you know accompanying you so that you can learn the route.

10. Remember the Green Cross Code: Always STOP, LOOK and LISTEN before crossing any road, and if possible, use a designated crossing point or subway.

In the near future KS1 children will be able to use scooters in the yard at play and lunchtimes. They will have helmets and we have risk assessed their use. Hopefully this will develop scooter skills and safety into the future.



Nursery Intakes

Children born between **1 January 2021** and **31 March 2010** 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**.

Children born between **1 September 2021** and **31 December 2021** can receive their free 15 or 30 hours a week from January 2025.

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/childrensservices/sch oolsandlearning/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.

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 in next column –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.

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.



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



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, 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.

Shelley, the main road crossing officer has been very kindly gritting the road and the slope on the back path to support families and children. Please note this is not custom and practice as it may not always happen so, please ensure you and your children walk carefully in icy situations.

Non-Uniform Days

The school is actively reducing the number of nonuniform days to support



everyone during the cost-of-living crisis. The school is very short of funds too and would like to do more in developing the outside areas for the children. As a result, there will be one non-uniform day this half term on the very last day, Friday 9th February. All money raised will go to this cause but donations will be totally optional and as they will be through ParentPay there will be no knowledge of how much or if anyone donated.

The non-uniform days are next half term with a free non-uniform or World Book Day outfit themed day on Thursday 7th March and another on Friday 15th March which will be a chocolate themed one to support the Easter Bingo night.

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. The latest winners are pictured below.





<u>Cinema Nights</u>

other half term. The ones planned for this



half term take on Wednesday 7th (Reception & KS1) and Thursday 8th February (KS2).

The cost for each night is £6, which is payable on ParentPay. The cost includes care and copious refreshments.

The film for both nights is Disney Pixar's Elemental.

Site Safety



Please can all parents note that the car park around the start and end of the school day should

only be used if the driver has submitted a medical note to the School office or has a blue disabled badge. This is important as there is limited parking and we also must keep children safe as they walk through the car park, we have had some cars moving before the site is cleared at 3.30pm!!

Road Safety

Shelley, our lovely Road Crossing Officer, has been equipped with a body cam as there are still cars breaking the law by not stopping when she signals she is stepping out into the road. The Police will prosecute offending vehicles





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.

To support this initiative please think of our more vulnerable community members and buy some nonperishable food



In the midst of this cost-of-living crisis donations would be more



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)

the trussell <u>No Low Calorie Foods</u>

items you think would help feed children and donate regularly.

Too Good to Go

There is a useful app called 'Too Good



to Go'. It is designed to stop good food going to waste as it approaches sell by dates etc. At a time when the cost of



living is putting a squeeze on everyone's finances this app can really help with food costs. Full details are

on their web site which can be visited here or by using the QR code <u>https://toogoodtogo.co.uk/en-</u> gb/consumer

HOW IT WORKS



Search for unsold food near you





Buy and collect it for a great price

t for a great price You've saved great food

Young Voices 2024

The school choir will be travelling to Manchester Arena on Tuesday 6th February to attend the Young Voices 2024 concert. Choirs from



across the North of England will gather for this musical spectacular which is greatly enjoyed by all who take part.

Details of the trip have been issued to all taking part. The school will endeavour to keep all parents up to date by text about what is happening and time of return as it will be late.



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



Easter Rabbits

The school (courtesy of our Chair of Governors) is offering an Easter keepsake of a wooden bunny painted by your child. The cost is £5 inclusive of the bunny, 2 cream eggs and your child's painting at an after-school session as well as cellophane wrapping. An ideal gift or indeed a keepsake. The unpainted version is shown at the top of the next column.

The rabbits are available to order on ParentPay and there is limited stock so please purchase early if you are interested.

Every child who has a rabbit ordered will need to attend the after-school painting session which is from 3.15 to 4.30pm on Wednesday 13th March, please note in your diary if you purchase one.. You are more than welcome to attend as parents and paint along with your child.



Bright Stars Club

Our Bright Stars club received a commendation and certificate from the entrepreneurial competition they entered. The certificate below can be seen in the entrance of school. Well done to all.



Circuits



'Circuits Days' will take place each half term this school year. They will be in the final week before a holiday in the main and will take place on the day your child

has their PE session. As they come to school in PE Kits on those days anyway there is no need for different clothing on these days.



World Book Day

This takes place on Thursday 7th March. All children will receive a World Book Day book purchased for them by the school. They will also be



given a World Book day token which entitles them to £1 off books in a book shop or to purchase other World Book Day books outright.

On the day itself children can come dressed as book characters or simply in non-uniform. The following may be of use:

Cumberland Libraries · Follow 3 h · O

Unused dressing-up clothes cluttering the house? Has a beloved Spiderman costume been outgrown? Don't throw them away, donate them to our popular World Book Day Costume Swap and give them a new home!

We'll be holding Costume Swaps in some of our libraries over February half-term, just in time for World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 📚

Heither bring them along on the day or contact Carlisle, Workington or Whitehaven Libraries to drop them off in advance. All we ask is that they are in a clean, gently used condition and definitely no longer wanted!!

Keep an eye on social media for exact dates and times of Costume Swap events! №



World Book Day Costume Swap Have you any unwanted children's fancy dress costumes?

Donate to us for swap events in half term

Facebook & Instagram



and

The school is on Facebook Instagram.



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=nametag

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 make a donation – 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:

- Go to <u>https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/</u> <u>beckstoneprimary/?utm_campaign=raise-</u> <u>more</u> 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 make a donation 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.

Thank you for your support.

Donations Needed

The school would very much welcome any of the following;

- Board games
- Construction Equipment e.g., K'Nex,
- Meccano
- Railway or road sets
- Bikes and Trikes for Nursery & Reception
- Comics/games for wet playtimes





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.



With 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.

PE & Hair

Children with long hair need to have it tied back in PE & Gymnastics lessons for safety reasons. If your child has long hair then please ensure you send them with a hair bobble. Thank you in advance.





A huge congratulations to Ms Ferris who left on maternity leave before Christmas and who gave birth to Cody Stephen on Saturday. We are all thrilled for her, her partner and her 2 other boys.





