

Beckstone Primary Newsletter

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Newsletter no. 7

March 2024



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the March edition of our school newsletter. I hope and trust you all had a fabulous half term which seems a while ago now! There is a lot happening between now and the Easter holidays in just under 4 weeks' time - we hope this newsletter will keep you up to speed with everything that you need to know about school life this month.

The month of March will see World Book Day, chicks hopefully hatching, 'Poetry by Heart', Bikeability training for Year 4, many trips out, further sports events, Easter party nights, a school Bingo night, egg decorating and egg dumping. All important dates are on the back page of this newsletter. You will see what an eventful few weeks we have by the long list of dates for this month there. Further details of all these events are contained within this newsletter. Please take time to read it so you are fully aware of all aspects of the life of the school.

In addition to all of the above there are also parents' evenings this month. Please ensure you book your slot on Calendly when you receive notification from your child's teacher. It is school policy now to only have one appointment per child. All educational research shows that when school and homework together to support a child they have greater educational success so please do attend.

Wishing you all an eggsellent Easter when it comes.

Best wishes,
Mr Warbrick




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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!!

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 Sat 9am-12.30pm



Social Media & Pupils

Despite regular newsletter features, talks at curriculum evenings, texts home and now many national disturbing events and reports on the harm social media apps are causing to children’s mental health there are STILL families that are allowing their children to have unfettered use of them. The age ratings as shown below are clear and are there as children below those ages are not mature enough to understand remote conversations out of context and the harm they can cause. Anything written on these apps can be found years later and could spoil a child’s future.

APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS

13+	Facebook, Snapchat	16+	WhatsApp
13+	Instagram, Twitter	17+	Sarahah
13+	TikTok, Kik	18+	MeetMe
13+	YouNow, Yubo	18+	YOLO
13+	House Party, Monkey	18+	LiveMe

In response to some recent concerns the following letter was sent to parents of children in Upper Key Stage 2 but we feel it is important all parents see it:

Dear Parents,

Social Media & Children

I am writing specifically to you as a group of UKS2 parents. We have grave concerns as a school about children accessing social media apps and being in chat groups. It is illegal for them to be used and they do not have the maturity or sense to use them sensitively.

We already have had some upsets about their use this year with children being deliberately ignored, belittled and most recently grossly insulted (using an AI chat bot that issues insults and can be added as an extension to one of these apps).

Children’s mental health, wellbeing and happiness and self-worth are being affected by the use of these apps which is devastating to see and is robbing them of a care free childhood.

The media currently is full of articles on how dangerous the use of these apps is and how they have led or are leading to an increase in sexism, racism and homophobia as well as suicides. Indeed, many papers carry such articles today on safer internet day. There is currently a national petition for children to have phones unable to access these apps set up by the mother of a child who was recently murdered, Brianna Ghey, as a result of it being planned using these apps. The petition is already close to reaching the 1,000-signature mark, and if you would like to sign, visit change.org/p/change-the-law-to-make-phone-companies-more-responsible-for-children-s-online-welfare

The school’s position cannot be clearer. Children should NOT be accessing these apps. We have a clear policy now which is that if upset from use of these apps spills into school then users involved will face a one-day suspension that will appear on their records. The school will not investigate as it is a parent’s responsibility to ensure their children are not using these apps as it is illegal for them to be used underage, nor will it consider appeals from parents if this happens as the position is clear – stop them accessing these apps. This is a final reminder!

In short, we expect all children’s access to social media to be restricted and our aim is to have a school where all children are completely safe from online bullying and harassment.

Kind regards,
 Mr Warbrick

There is a WhatsApp information zone on our web site for parents too:

https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/statutory_info/safeguarding/index.html



Social Media & Parents

If you have an issue with the school, then please do not air it on social media but discuss it with school. The school staff are a welcoming and supportive group of people who will do their utmost to resolve any concern you may have.

In addition, please do not name any children in any posts or indeed share images of children who are not your own either from your own camera or from our learning platforms, Seesaw and Tapestry.



Respect

ZERO TOLERANCE

Our staff have the right to be treated with respect and dignity at all times.

Aggressive and abusive behaviour will not be tolerated.

We are here to help you, please treat others as you wish to be treated.

We all want what is best for your child. As a school we are striving hard to ensure we support your child and in turn you support the school in its endeavours. The school is very approachable, and we will do our utmost to sort any problems or issues, all has to be dealt with in a courteous manner though.



Following some disrespectful instances last academic year and ongoing staff concerns raised with Governors on the Challenge Day we are re-stating our policy that any abusive behaviour either verbally, on the phone or in writing will be taken very seriously and sanctions will be put in place to prevent any further instances. We would expect that the sanctions

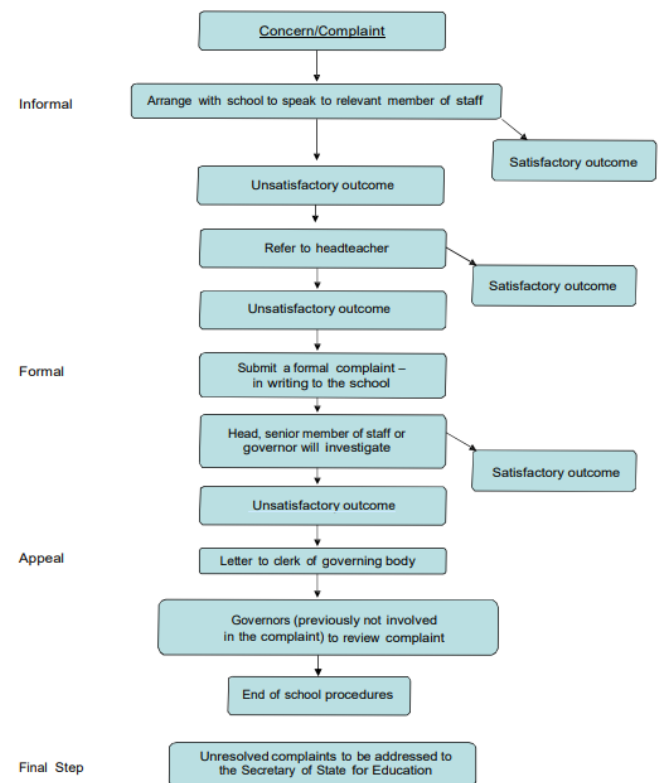
would be very rarely needed as all should now be aware we now have a zero-tolerance policy for any such behaviour.

We are very pleased that the 99% of you reading this do treat staff with respect and many are often praising the good work staff do. This was reflected in the overwhelmingly positive outcomes of the parent questionnaires.

Complaints Flow Chart

The screen grab below is from the County complaints procedure and can be found via the 'Statutory' drop down menu on our web site. Please note that the vast majority of issues can be solved in step 1. If a parent has an issue please contact the child's teacher in the first instance, this should resolve most issues. Please do not resort to social media and only contact the headteacher if matters are unresolved.

Appendix 1: General Complaints Procedure



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Governors' Board

For our Governor's blog this issue, we are switching the spotlight from the school to our newest Governor and so we have asked Rev Dom de Mattos if he would introduce himself.

Governor Blog – Rev Dom de Mattos

I am Rector of Harrington and Distington and am so new as a governor, I have yet to attend my first meeting! I have been Rector for a little over a year now, and if you were wondering what the difference between a Rector and Vicar is - there isn't any difference! (It is all to do with whether the Patron is a landowner or the Bishop, so Rectors tend to be the incumbent of older parishes). I have been taking assemblies at Beckstone over the last year and have been so deeply impressed by so many aspects of the school. There is a fantastic heart to the school, and this is evident in the joy and enthusiasm I see among the children (and teachers!). The children have been polite and well-behaved in assemblies, and their commitment to school life is fantastic. I was particularly impressed by the outstanding performance of Macbeth last year.

St Mary's church hosts the Key Stage 2 Christmas productions, and it was lovely to welcome the children and their parents in December, and to hear their enthusiastic signing and recital of poetry. Some of the children also came into the church during the year to learn something about what is what in a church and engaged with lots of questions.

We have just started the period of Lent and are looking forward to Easter at the end of March. I will be talking to the children about Easter at an assembly nearer the end of term. Easter is rather more than a celebration of chocolate eggs, chicks and bunny rabbits! Although these do give us a clue about what Easter is all about. They are symbols of the new life that we see all around us in Spring, and they speak not only of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but also of the new life that Christians believe can be found in him.

I am really looking forward to being a part of the team that help to ensure that Beckstone Primary School provides the best educational experience possible.

Rev Dom de Mattos



Governor



Gallery

						
From 15.03.22 To 15.03.26 Simon Turk Chair & Co-opted	From 07.12.21 To 07.12.25 Kate Mahone Vice Chair & LA	From 08.02.22 To 08.02.26 Andrew Kilgour Parent	From 19.10.21 To 19.10.25 Laurie Black Parent	From 17.05.22 To 17.05.26 Blain Rooney Parent	From 21.11.23 To 21.11.27 Zoe Hannah Parent	From 12.07.21 To 12.07.25 Kate Pearson Co-opted
						
From N/A To N/A David Warbrick Headteacher	From 12.07.21 To 12.07.25 Hayley Gorman Staff	From 18.10.22 To 18.10.26 Jude Yoxall Co-opted & Deputy Head	From N/A To N/A Nichola Rosser Clerk	From N/A To N/A Philippa Vaughan Staffing & Finance Associate	From 30.01.24 To 30.01.28 Rev. Dom de Mattos Co-opted	Co-opted Vacancy

Mobile Phones



In line with recent Government Guidance the school continues to have a Governor agreed no mobile phone policy unless there are exceptional circumstances e.g. split families and a child changing residence mid-week. Where there are exceptional circumstances, a form needs to be completed and this has to be agreed by the Headteacher.

- If collection arrangements change then please ring the School Office, the children don't need a phone.
- Children are found to be less safe if they carry a phone as they can be attacked and stolen. If parents are worried about safety on the way to and from school, then please accompany them.

Non-compliance with this policy will result in a range of sanctions which can include confiscation of phones for a period of time.



Parents' Evenings

Parents of children in classes from Reception to Year 5 (apart from 3LS who their meetings after Easter) will have will have received booking information for a 10 minute appointment with your



child's teacher on Tuesday 26th March or Wednesday 27th March. Year 6 families had their parents' evenings on the last 2 Thursdays of last month.

The appointments are for you and your child (one appointment per child...if there are difficult circumstances then a Zoom appointment at the same time as the in person one could be set up on request but only on an acute need basis). It really is important parents do attend so they hear the same message and so can support their child effectively. The appointment will focus on an interim report on your child's progress along with RAG ratings for attendance, behaviour, uniform



compliance etc. as well as reviewing school life in general following on from the Autumn evening. The report will look like the one displayed for Y1 to Y5 at the bottom of the last column and the second one for Reception alongside.



Please note that brothers and/or sisters should not be at these meetings but should be in the FREE crèche provided. We will also be asking you to support your children by setting targets for you to support them at home

Summer Camp

We are again hoping to run our successful Summer Camp that offers childcare at a very competitive price. It is intended to be run for the first 2 and last 2 weeks of the holidays. A Google form will be texted out immediately after the easter holidays to register your interest and it will include booking and other further details.

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Egg Dumping

Children are invited to take part in an egg dumping competition in the last week of this term in their classes. Each class winner will then go through to the 'Grand Final' on the last Thursday (28th March) morning assembly where the 'School Champion' will be crowned. Children wishing to take part will need to bring a **hard-boiled** hen's egg to school (not duck, not dinosaur or concrete and not varnished!) on the Monday of the last week- we will endeavour to remind you about this.

Bingo Night

The Easter Bingo Night will take place on Wednesday 20th March from 5.30pm. It is for one night only numbers were capped at 120 and sold out very quickly.



All tickets were priced at **£3.50 (which includes a Bingo book, a hot dog and a drink)**. Additional books will be on sale at the door priced at £1 plus a raffle (£1). Additionally, there will also be traybakes for sale and a 'stand up bingo' game after the interval costing £1 with a prize for the last standing adult and child.

Living Eggs

The school again is incubating eggs which will hopefully hatch into chicks within a week. The incubator will be in Mrs Trotter's room but all classes can watch events within school via a live webcam. The eggs will arrive on Tuesday 12th March. The hatching process is very exciting and certainly catches the children's imagination as well as raising their awareness of life cycles. When the chicks hatch they are either yellow (male) or brown (female). Your children will no doubt keep you up to date with developments particularly as they should be really cute!



Non-Uniform Day

The non-uniform day for this half term is on Friday 15th March where



we will be asking for donations of chocolate in return for wearing no uniform. The chocolate will be used for Bingo prizes and for egg and bonnet prizes, see below. Children are also invited to come in non-uniform or as a book character on World Book Day (7th March) see later.



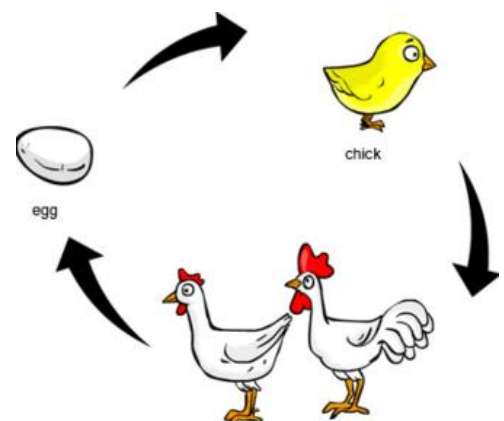
Easter Competitions

Children in Nursery & Reception are invited to bring bonnets that they have decorated at home with a parent in the last week of term. There will be prizes for the most original and they will go on display outside the classrooms.



Children in Key Stage 1 & 2 are invited to bring in **hard boiled** eggs (i.e. they will need 2, one for decorating and one for dumping) in the last week of term.

They will decorate their eggs in school and they will be judged by the cook towards the end of that week.



Easter Rabbits



The school (courtesy of our Chair of Governors) offered an Easter keepsake of a wooden bunny painted by your child. The cost was £5 inclusive of the bunny, 2 cream eggs

and your child's painting at an after-school session as well as cellophane wrapping. The unpainted version is shown above and the painted one below. These bunnies were available to order on ParentPay and have now sold out!

Every child who has a rabbit ordered will need to attend the after-school painting session from 3.15 to 4.30pm on Wednesday 13th March, preferably with a parent/adult if possible.

World Book Day – Get Cosy & Read

Your child will receive a 'World Book Day' voucher on Tuesday next week. The token is worth £1 and it will allow your child to buy this year's World Book Day's book or will give £1 discount at book shops.

On World Book Day itself (Thursday, 7th March) our focus this year is again purely on reading rather than dressing up. Our theme is cosy up to read so children can come in pyjamas, tracksuits, hoodie blankets etc or they can simply come in non-uniform or can come dressed as a book character if they so wish but it is purely optional.



Most importantly your child is invited to bring their favourite items to read to school from home as they will have the opportunity to read for pleasure at various points throughout the school day. The school tannoy will announce ten-minute reading sessions within each lesson across the course of the day. They can bring in comics, picture books, novels or factual books. We will also provide reading material for them.

Your child will also receive a free keepsake, World Book Day book, during the day to take home and keep. It is a book they chose themselves earlier this year and has been funded by the school.

Easter Raffle

There will be an Easter children's raffle at £1 per entry in the run up to the holidays. Further details will be released and tickets can be bought on Parent Pay.

Comic Relief

Given World Book Day, egg decorating, egg dumping, chocolate non-uniform day, Easter party nights, Bingo and many other exciting events this short half term, the school will not be officially taking part in Comic Relief. It may be something you want to do with your family instead.



Easter Party Nights

Beckstone's Extended Services are hosting some Easter party nights with food, party games, dancing etc. The dates are on the back page (there have been some changes since the last newsletter/calendar) and we are now taking bookings on ParentPay. The absolute deadline for bookings is Friday 15th March as refreshments and prizes etc are then purchased. Please do not ask for your child to be included if you have missed the deadline. The cost for each night is £6. The cost includes care and copious refreshments and prizes.

Holiday Activities

In the run up to the Easter holidays we will be adding any information or flyers we receive about Easter holiday activities into our 'Holiday Activity Ideas' zone of the web site, which can be found in the Parents' drop-down menu or by following the QR code. Do have a look as there may be activities of interest to you and your family.

Information is also sent out on Seesaw/Tapestry so please make sure you check your account.





Sporting Success



Our Key Steps Gymnastics team took part in the area gymnastics championships last month. The team's routines were of real high quality and they shared their routines with the rest of the school in a special assembly.

Our team performed brilliantly in the area final at Netherhall. Everybody in the hall looked in awe, as we entered with our brand new, shimmering leotards (thanks to Friends at Beckstone)! Everyone in the hall was very intrigued to see how we performed. The girls were very calm and focused. Again, when they performed the vault and floor routines, the Sports Hall was quietly watching. This didn't distract our girls though! They truly did our school proud.

They now go on to take part in the County Finals later in the year. The winning team is pictured below.



Cross Country

Our Year 3 & 4 teams took part alongside teams from across the area...there were about 50 children in each race. Our girls' team did really well and our boys team not only won the event but Leo and Luca from Year 4 were first and second respectively. The team photos are below.



KS2 Dodgeball

Our Dodgeball Teams played really well in the recent tournament with our 'B' team being runners up and our 'A' team third.



Table Tennis

Finally, in February we entered 2 teams into the Allerdale table tennis tournament. Both teams played brilliantly with our Team A winning outright and Team B the winning runner up team. This is the only event where school staff (Mr Warbrick & Mrs Chambers) have to take part as well. Pictured below are the 2 teams and the winning team with their trophy.





Attendance

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 as this will ensure they have better chances of academic attainment and personal achievement. Equally important is the fact that regular attendance promotes positive peer relationships, mental health and overall wellbeing.

At the upcoming parents' evenings you will receive a report on their attendance, it is important they have a green rating. When attendance falls below 90% then this is classed as persistent absenteeism even if it is a result of health or holidays and it is incumbent on schools to contact families when this occurs.

As always, if there are issues with your child and attendance please do contact school and we will do our utmost to support you.

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 Winner

The class with the best attendance for last half term was 4KB with an attendance rate of 97.92%, well over the national. They are pictured below with their trophy.



Have your say on the future of family services in Cumberland

Complete our online survey and you could win a £100 Amazon gift card

We are transforming our services to better meet the needs of children, young people and families in Cumberland. We want to hear from you.

Use the QR code to take part in our anonymous survey.



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

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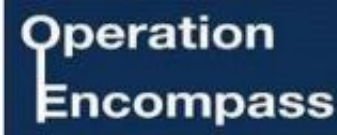
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Domestic Violence

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.



Site Safety – Nursery Cars

Please can all Nursery parents now note that the school gates are closed



over the lunchtime pickup and we request children are picked up on foot unless the vehicle has a blue badge or we have received prior medical notification. The gates MUST NOT be opened as we need to ensure proper access for emergency vehicles at all times. The car park simply isn't big enough to accommodate the large number of vehicles that were using it at this pick-up time.

Poetry by Heart

Children from Reception upwards will be learning poems for a showcase of poetry on Tuesday 12th March with some of the entries being entered into a national 'Poetry by Heart' competition.



Each Reception and Key Stage 1 class will recite a choral class poem.

Classes in Y3&4 will be 'freestyling' their poems and our older children will be choosing 'classic' poems. These year groups will have a mixture of individual, group and class performances.

Workington Academy Award Winner

Some of our Year 5 children go to the Academy for enrichment sessions for Maths and English. These are attended by pupils from many other schools and an award is given for the



outstanding pupils of the week...our pupils have been having a run of success in receiving these which has made us all proud. The latest winner is Bella pictured below, awarded for her brilliant Maths work.

The Marie Wright Kindness Cup

Remi from Y4 was a deserving winner of the Kindness Cup. She is such a thoughtful pupil who always goes out of her way to support others and to do things to make people feel good about themselves. A very popular choice.



Portrait of King Charles the Third

Schools across the country have received framed portraits of King Charles III for display in the building. We have received ours and it is on display in the School Office, you can see it clearly as you come down the stairs in school.



The photograph was taken in autumn 2023 and he is wearing the uniform of the Admiral of the Fleet, the Garter collar & Sovereign's Badge, Garter Star, Thistle Star, The Bath Sovereign's Badge, the Order of Merit, the Royal Victorian Order's Royal Victorian Chain, the GVC O Sash and medals!!

Reception Intake Numbers



The school is increasingly popular and combined with the number of new houses it is now almost at capacity. We understand there may be more applications than our published admission number of 45. If this is indeed the case we will do our utmost to include more Reception children however our 2 Reception classrooms which, in their day, were designed for 30 pupils now can only take a maximum of 24 & 27 pupils. This means we have a have an absolute maximum capacity of 51. If the number of

applications exceeds this then the final decision on the allocation of places is made by Cumberland Council and NOT the school. There really needs to be investment in the school building to enable us to take 2 classes per class year group in the right size classrooms given the numbers we are dealing with.

Thank You 🙏

We would like to thank Cumbria Family Support for their generous donation of £250 which we have used for items of clothing needed for EY children among other things.



17:23 🔄 🗑️ 📱



← Cumbria Family Support 🔍



Our fabulous Family Support Worker Kirby dropped off some much needed supplies to Beckstone Primary School in Harrington, Workington this week.

CFS were only able to provide them with underwear and baby toys to support their families because of the generosity of [Cumberland Building Society Charitable Foundation](#).

Thank you for making families lives a little easier.



Y4 & Y5 Bikeability



All Year 4 families were contacted last month to book a place for their child on 'Bikeability' training. This takes place on Thursday 21st March.

All children taking part will need warm and waterproof clothing. They will also need a cycle helmet (the instructors will have spares if they forget). In addition, all bikes need to be road worthy and have air in their tyres and brakes that work!

The pupils' bikes can be locked in the front yard and will need to go home at the end of the day.

Year 5 children will have their Bikeability sessions in the week beginning Tuesday 7th May and information went out earlier this week to book your child on it with a return date of **next Friday (8th March)**.

Further information on Bikeability is available for parents via the displayed QR Code.



Supporting your child with Phonics

There is FREE training available aimed at parents of children in EYFS and primary school.



Learning to read and enjoying reading is fundamental to children's life chances. Phonics is key to decoding and parental support is a crucial factor in ensuring success in reading progress. The aim of this session is to give parents the confidence to support developing readers and writers, so they make great progress in reading...and love it!

In this free 1 hour session they will explore:

- What phonics is and why it is important.
- Phonics terminology.
- How phonics is taught in schools.
- How you can help your child with their phonics at home.

Dates:

Friday 26th April 2024 10am – 11am

Monday 17th June 2024 7pm – 8pm

To book follow the link or the QR Code.



<https://www.dandelionlearning.co.uk/free-online-training-phonics-for-parents-supporting-your-child-at-home/>

After School Clubs

The following clubs are currently taking place. Information went out about them, if you missed it then contact the School and we will see if there any spaces left.

Clubs 2023 - 2024



Monday				
3:15 – 4:15 p.m	Cricket	Mrs Chambers & Chris	Sports Hall	Year 4 & 5
3:15 – 4:15 p.m	Maths	Miss Crook	Computer Room	Year 6

Tuesday				
3:15 – 4:15 p.m	Moving Minds	Debbie & Miss Jackson	Sports Hall	Nur – Y6
3:15 – 4:15 p.m	Animation	Miss McKeating	Computer Room	KS2

Wednesday				
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	Lego	Miss McKeating	Computer Room	KS2
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	Lego	Mrs Trotter	JT Classroom	Year 2 & 3
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	SPAG	Miss McGill	JM Classroom	Year 6

Thursday				
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	Coding	Miss McKeating	Computer Room	Year 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	Gymnastics	Miss Jackson	Sports Hall	Year 5 & 6



Friday				
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	Rounders & Handball	Mrs Chambers & David Wise	Sports Hall	Year 3 & 4

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

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 childcare 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.**

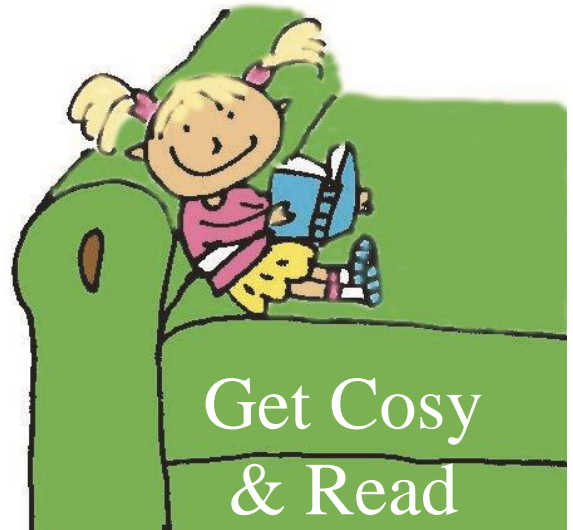


Beckstone Xtra runs from the end of the school day until 5.15pm (the cost is £4 per hour)



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.



Get Cosy & Read



Thursday 7th March

Come to school in pj's, Hoodie Blankets, tracksuits or any non-uniform or as a book character.

Revisewise



REVISE WISE CLUBS

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.



Give Blood – Help Save a Life!

Giving blood to support others is a wonderful selfless act that 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 Thursday 28th March at the Oval Centre from 3 to 7pm or on Monday 8th April from 3 to 7pm at Energus.

Do something worthwhile and save someone's life.



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



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.

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.





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.



Please note that your child cannot change from packed lunches to school meals or vice versa without a week's notice.



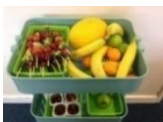
Milk for NEXT half term costs £7.00 payable by Friday 9th April 2024.

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 19th April 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 19th April 2024.**



Fruit is **£7.00** for the second half of spring term, again payable on ParentPay by **Friday 19th April 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!

Uniform

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' next month (see displayed information) with a 20%

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!

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 uniform@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk or use the QR code. Details are also on the image below.



Young Voices 2024

The school choir took part in 'Young Voices' at Manchester Arena on Tuesday 6th February. Choirs from across the North of England gathered for this musical spectacular which is greatly enjoyed by all who take part.



Everyone who took part in the trip really enjoyed it and despite the late night and late hours to bed they were buzzing about it the following day.

A big thank you goes to Mrs Yoxall who organised the trip and trained the choir – an amazing job.

There are a plethora of photos and videos on the school web site (one is reproduced below).

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



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.



Walk to School Week/Feet First

All children are encouraged to walk to school in the week beginning the 18th March. This is a nationally and County backed week and children taking part will receive bookmarks and stickers to add when they have walked to school.



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/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.

Facebook & Instagram



The school is on Facebook and Instagram.



Instagram

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



Facebook



GOOD FRIDAY

BIG

WEST CUMBRIA

EASTER EGG HUNT


This Good Friday we are going to be hiding goodies across Whitehaven, Workington & Maryport with over 90 Eggs to find as well as 3 Special Easter Hampers!

At 9:30AM on Good Friday we will release photos via our Facebook page to highlight where our goodies are.

The eggs will be off the beaten track, so you won't be able to get to them by car, so get ready to skip, bike, walk or run to grab yourself a treat!

For those that find an egg and have a dietary requirement we have reserved a small number of vegan/diabetic friendly eggs/alternatives that you can swap out.

With thanks to funding from 

CHARITY

COFFEE MORNING

SUPPORTED BY HARRINGTON OVER 55'S GROUP

MONEY RAISED WILL GO TOWARDS PLACING A DEFIBRILLATOR ON THE BUILDING (TO BE USED SHOULD IT BE NEEDED BY ALL THE GROUPS USING THE HALL AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY OF HARRINGTON)

TUESDAY 12TH MARCH 2024

10.00a.m. — 12.00noon

Cake stall, Raffle, Books,
Chocolate/Bottle Tombola,
Bric-a-Brac Stall,

Admission £1.00 to include

Tea/coffee biscuits

HARRINGTON YOUTH CLUB

Church Road, Harrington

ALL WELCOME

JOIN US FOR FREE this

EASTER



Face painting, crafts, games, activities, Pokemon Hunt, food & drink

Sun 7th April

10am-2pm

at The Harrington Youth Club

Thanks to funding from 

Harrington Youth Club

Easter Noticeboard

BSL Kids Project

Easter Sessions

FREE

Fully Funded—no cost to parents.

A 2-day "camp" for children to learn British Sign Language (BSL).

BSL will soon be available as a GCSE. Until then, we are finding new ways to encourage children to learn BSL.

This course will teach them our Basic Introduction to BSL course in a fun and interactive way

2 full day sessions.

Monday 8th April and Tuesday 9th April 2024

9am to 3pm.

The Harrington Youth Club, Workington

Children must bring a packed lunch for both days. They can also bring money for the tuck shop if they wish.

Spaces are limited so booking is essential.





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.

To support this initiative please think of our more vulnerable community members and buy some non-perishable food 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 <https://toogoodtogo.co.uk/en-gb/consumer>



HOW IT WORKS



DISCOVER

Search for unsold food near you



COLLECT

Buy and collect it for a great price



ENJOY

You've saved great food



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

PARENTAL FEEDBACK

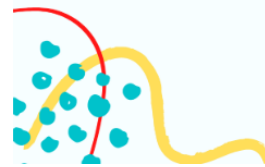
We hope that the information on our website and newsletters are useful in keeping you updated on what's going on at Beckstone.

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



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.

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:

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 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.

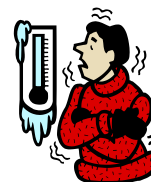


With the ParentPay system we can offer the facility for families to make an automatic School Fund donation on a monthly basis, from their bank account even £2 per month would accumulate in to a great fund to support activities in school.

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.



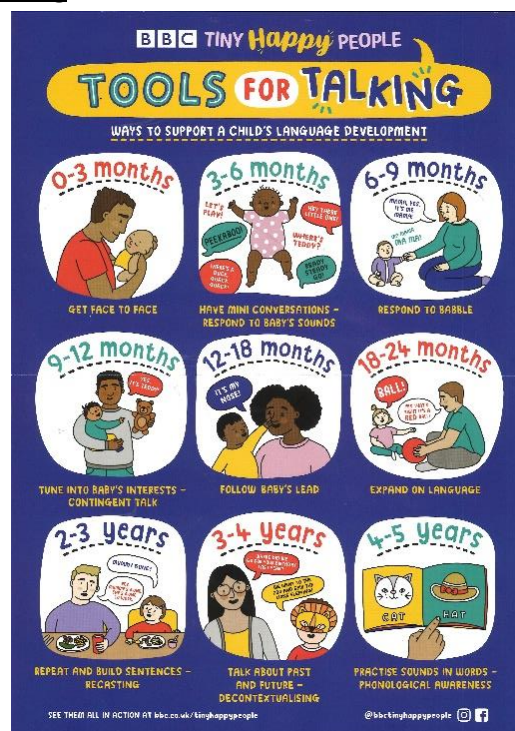
Extreme Weather/Heating Emergencies



With winter still with us 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.

Tools for Talking



The BBC has put together some very useful free activities to support the development of children over a range of ages The activities can be found here and they are well worth a look.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>



when it comes!!!

CHILDREN ARE
MADE READERS
ON THE LAPS
OF THEIR PARENTS.

Diary Dates



Term Dates until Summer 2026

	Spring 2024	Summer 2024	Autumn 2024	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Autumn 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026
Start of Term	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 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	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 27 th March	Friday 17 th July

March

Fri 1st – 4KB Class Assembly

Wed 6th – KS1 Multi-Skills Festival 9.20-12.30 Lakes

Thu 7th – World Book Day

Fri 8th – NISCU puppets in assembly for Easter

- National Girls' Football Day

Sun 10th – Mother's Day

Tue 12th – Incubating Eggs arrive.

- 'Poetry by Heart' Showcase

Wed 13th – Educare Afternoon Tea

- Rabbit painting after school 3.15 to 4.15pm

Thu 14th – Y6 Athletics Event

- Educare Afternoon Tea
- New Nursery Starters Meeting 3.45pm

Fri 15th – 1/2DT Class Assembly

- Chocolate Non-Uniform Day

Week beg. 18th – Nursery 'Come & Play' week, 2-3pm

- Reception Easter Party Night
- Hatched chicks on tour
- Walk to School Week

Tue 19th – Y1 Easter Crafts afternoon 1.45 to 3pm

- LKS2 Easter Party Night
- Governors meeting

Wed 20th – LKS2 Handball – 9.15-12.30 – Lakes College

- Easter Bingo Night 6pm

Thu 21st – Y4 Bikeability

- UKS2 Easter Party Night

Fri 22nd – Y2 Parent Easter Crafts 1.45 – 3pm

Week beg. 25th – Egg & Bonnet Design Week

- Circuits week

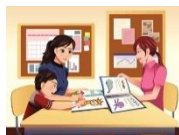
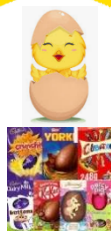
Mon 25th – KS1 Easter Party Night

Tue 26th – LKS2 Football – 12.15 – 2.45 – St Josephs

Tue 26th & Wed 27th – Parents' Evenings YR to Y5

Thu 28th – Egg Dumping Final & Raffle Draw

- No Educare
- No Beckstone Xtra
- Break up for Easter!



Dates for rest of the year.

Tue 16th April – Children start back.

16th, 17th & 18th – Nursery New Starter home visits

Wed 17th April – FAB Meeting

Mon 22nd April – 3LS Parents' Evening

Tue 23rd April – Wheelchair Basketball

Wed 24th April – Pie, Peas & Quiz Night

Thu 25th April – 3LS Parents' Evening

Tue 30th Apr – Y3&4 Rounders tournament

Thu 2nd May – Class photos

Mon 6th May – Bank Holiday

May – KS1 Optional SATs Month

Week beg. 7th May – Y5 Bikeability

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 College

- 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

Mon 10th -& Wed 12th June – YR 'Come & Play' 2-3pm

Tue 11th June – Sports Day

- Reception Multi Skills event

Sun 16th June – Father's Day

Mon 17th June – KS1 Kinder Cricket – 9.15 – 12 – Workington C.C.

Tue 18th & Wed 19th June – Planetarium Visit

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 mornings.

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

- No Educare or Beckstone Xtra today

- School Year Ends

