# eckstone Primary Newsletter



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Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the penultimate newsletter of 2023.

I hope you all had a lovely half term and your children are rested and raring to go for a busy yet lovely half term, a magical time in the school year in the lead up to Christmas. Please take note of all dates and articles etc so you don't miss anything.

We have been closely analysing attendance and attainment. As parents it is so very important that your child's education is your priority as it impacts their life chances and future. Analysis is showing that children taken out of school on holiday receive 'gaps' in their knowledge as learning and teaching moves on in their absence and in many cases, they simply don't catch up and fall below what they are potentially able to achieve. This is particularly noticeable in Maths. Whilst I understand that prices are cheaper in term time and have empathy with that the impact of a holiday on your child's education is huge and this needs to be a major consideration when taking such decisions.

Please take the time to read this newsletter as it is full of useful information and news about the school. If there is ever you want any issues covered or further explanations of school policies then please let me know and we will try to cover them in subsequent editions.

Best wishes,

Mr Warbrick

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

- Cumbria Coast Karate Harrington Pharmacy
- L&K Curwen
- Robinsons & Co
- > Step by Step
- > The Laundry Studio
- The Wobbly Wand



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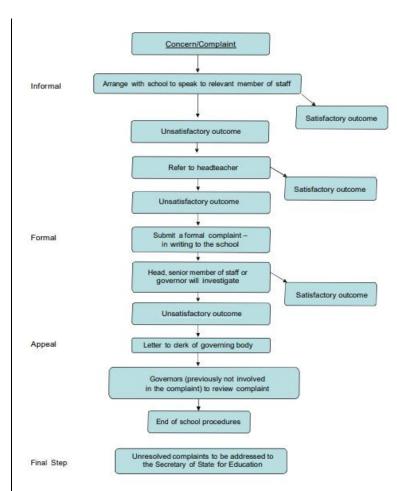
### Social Media & Parents & 'The School'

If you have any issues with the school please can you contact school so any concerns are solved quickly with full co-operation and positive communication.

If there are continuing concerns then the flow chart displayed opposite shows the steps available to parents. Please note that resorting to social media is not one of these.

School staff strive hard to do their best in supporting your child with their personal and academic development. They do this in an ever challenging job. All staff do this with good heart as they find their roles rewarding in supporting children. They should NOT face public discussion which can be by association if it is 'the school' that is mentioned. and this will not be tolerated and we have procedures we will follow if there is misuse of social media. Everyone is striving to provide the best service they possibly can.

If you have a concern then the following steps should be followed in the order described and which is County Policy for all schools... and Governors should only be referred to if a situation has not been resolved following earlier steps:





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### Harvest

Thank you for the donations to the Foodbank for Harvest. Our



Key Stage 1 children performed songs, readings and poems brilliantly for the school, families in Church and Harrington Over 55's. We were very proud of them.



# New Road Crossing Officer

Contrary to the previous newsletter please note that the



location of the new Road Crossing officer has changed to the Main Road to enable pupils to cross that busy road to use the back path to the school. Shelley, the Road

Crossing Officer, says the children were a delight and so polite and that she appreciated the positive responses from parents. What was concerning however were the number of cars that continue to drive up and down the road whilst she is trying to stop the traffic. This is highly dangerous for her and a worry. If you no anyone who drives on that road please make them aware there is now a road crossing officer and that traffic MUST STOP when she enters the road space.

From the Highway Code: If a school crossing patrol steps out into the road with a 'stop' sign, you must stop.

### **Remembrance Day**

Like last year we are hoping to decorate the school hill with poppies and weather



permitting have the whole school out on the hill for the silence at 11am on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November. Parents are welcome to join with us on the steps of the road hill or at the bottom of Eadie Street. Above is an image from last year:

### **Remembrance Parade**



The school will also be joining in the Harrington

Remembrance Parade in the morning of the 12th November. The Parade will

leave the British Legion at 9.15am and arrive at Church at 10am for a service and then a commemoration at the Cenotaph afterwards. A letter will go out this week via text message for pupil volunteers to represent the school on this historic occasion. Mrs Beecroft, Ms McKeating, Mrs McAdam and Mrs Holliday have all kindly volunteered to lead the Parade



### Poppies and other items

These go on sale from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> for the week.

Poppies require a minimum donation of 20p. Other items such as pencil sharpeners, zip tags and

bracelets are 50p and slap wrist rulers are £1. Year 6 children will go round with them each day next week.

### **UKS2 Intensive Swim Weeks**

Each of the UKS2 classes has a week of swimming this month (dates on back page). The sessions will be an



intensive one week of one-hour sessions with an aim to get all children being able to swim 25m before the week is out (the minimum National Curriculum expectation). Swimming times in the morning for all classes.

Children will need a bag, a towel, appropriate swimwear and a hair brush or comb. Time is tight and the children will not have time for any 'beauty' treatments before returning to school on the bus!

Please note that spectators are not allowed in for these sessions.



# Vice Chair of Governors Blog

Well here we go, ho ho...our half term run up to Christmas.

The start of the Autumn term is time for re-elections of positions within the governing body. We are all volunteers and we put ourselves forward because we are invested in Beckstone, in the staff, in your children and in the community. We had 2 resignations this term and whilst we are sad to see people leave we absolutely appreciate all the work, support, effort and commitment both Nick Whitehead and Vicky Sparshott have given the governing body and thank them immensely for their motivation, leadership and contributions over their terms of serving. We wish them the best. I would like to congratulate Simon Turk on his election as Chair of Governors, he has launched himself into the role with gusto.

Before we get into Christmas mode we commemorate those who sacrificed their life for our freedom. For all the parts of our life we take for granted our access to food, our ability to choose, our voice, and our education for our children to achieve the potential they all have within them, we thank those who fought for us. We are so fortunate that our teachers are skilled and experienced in delivering the important messages about war and why we remember those who fought for us in an appropriate way for each class. Please talk your children about the importance of this time and why we celebrate in such a joyous way.

To echo Mr Warbrick's message about social media, as the governing body we develop, sign off and review our policies to support parents, pupils and school staff if there is a concern with an event, issue or incident that happens within school. They are all available on our website and we will direct you there If there is a concern, we urge you to talk to us rather than social media. If you don't talk to us we can't help you.

As a governor we have some difficult decisions to make but I have to say none so difficult as being asked to judge the pumpkin design competition. That was so very hard, the entries were all amazing and it was clear so much hard work had gone into them. Well done to everyone who entered, you didn't make it easy for us.

We have a wonderful community of parents and carers within Beckstone. Our School was last inspected by OFSTED in 2017. We are well outside our routine inspection time mainly due to COVID pausing inspections. Everyone in Team Beckstone is prepping and waiting for the 24hr notice call. I would like to sign off by asking that whenever that call comes you as parents will be asked for your opinions. Please could you find the time to complete any online questionnaire you are sent. It's really important for our development as a school that we know your thoughts and opinions.

Happy, happiest half term of the year,

Kate Mahone Vice Chair of Governors

### **Parent Governor Vacancy**





We only received one nomination for our Parent Governor vacancy. As a result, Zoe Hannah, a parent of a Reception and a year 4 child has been elected unopposed. Her skills and knowledge of safeguarding, public funding and risk assessing will be an asset to the effective working of the Governing Body.



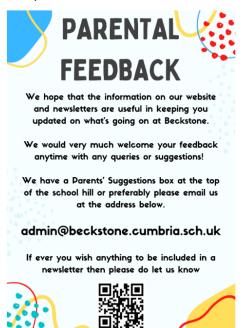
### **Extreme Weather/Heating Emergencies**

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 contacts for every child)
- The County Council web site carries information on schools that are closed
- CFM and Radio Cumbria will be informed, and closure details will be included in their broadcasts
- If the school web site will be updated underneath the 'Weather Warnings' link

### Y1 -Y6 Meet the Teacher -Wellbeing & Progress Update

We hope you found the recent parents' meetings useful and informative. We also hope you found the booking system easy to use. Thank you to all who attended, 96% of our children had parents attending on the nights which is a great turnout. We would welcome your feedback, see below:





### Term Time Holidays & Tests



There is active

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

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

3 weeks from week beg. 5<sup>th</sup> June – Y4 Times Table tests Week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> June –Y1 Phonics Screening Check

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

KS1 Optional SATs – The month of May 2024 KS2 SATs - Week beg. 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 Y1 & Y2 Phonics Screening Check Week – Week beg. 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Y4 Times Table Check – 2 weeks from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

### **Halloween**

Yesterday, the 31st October, was a

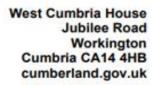


Halloween themed day in school. The day started with an assembly where all the children could see each other's costumes. There are many photos on the web site



https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/pupil zone/film\_photo\_gallery/2023-2024/halloween/index.html Or uSe the QR code and pictured here is Mrs Flook in the scariest costume of the day (as Mr Warbrick!). 
The photo below shows a selection of excellent costumes and balloon stacks very kindly donated by Gemma Mitchell. It was very kind of her.







Dear Parent/Carer

October 2023

### LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME

Absence from school due to family holidays taken in term time can be disruptive to children's education. It can also be disruptive to other pupils in the class. In addition, I am concerned that there could be some misunderstanding of the law in relation to absence from school because of holidays taken during term time.

Any absence from school should be avoided unless for medical reasons, as it can have a serious effect on your child's educational progress, and can create difficulties for them on their return to school, particularly if they are joining a new school or class. It is important to note that only the Headteacher can authorise absence from school. Parents/carers cannot authorise the absence themselves.

Changes to legislation have removed the discretionary 10 day period of absence which covered family holidays. Schools can only grant requests for a leave of absence in term time in exceptional circumstances. If you believe that your circumstances are exceptional you can make a request to the school. In considering your request, the school will take into account the child's age, the time of year of the absence and the nature of the visit. The Headteacher will also consider the child's stage of education and progress and the child's overall attendance record. It is highly unlikely that leave will be authorised if examinations or other important tests will be missed. Headteachers will not authorise absence unless they believe your circumstances are exceptional. In all cases it is best to have a discussion with the Headteacher in order to look at the issues as they affect your child.

All unauthorised absences, including holidays that have not been sanctioned by the Headteacher, are accumulated and parents who fail to ensure regular attendance of their children at school can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. The amount is £60 if paid within 21 days and £120 if paid between 21 and 28 days. It is therefore essential that parents take this into account if they are thinking of a family holiday in term-time.

The Department for Education define persistent absenteeism as below 90% attendance and schools may wish to use this figure to determine whether or not to pursue legal action such as the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice.

Many people are working very hard to help your child to succeed. I trust you will support us in this matter, in partnership with your child's school.

Yours sincerely

Sally Senejko

Senior Manager - SEND & Inclusion

Tel: 07812 972987

Email: sally.senejko@cumberland.gov.uk

### **Pumpkin Competition**

The Governors at the school organised a pumpkin design competition. Each Governor



judged a year group's entries (which were anonymous) and picked a winner. Our Chair of Governors, Mr Turk, then carved the winning designs into real pumpkins and these are all shown below. All winners also received prizes.

























### **Christmas 2023**

Christmas time is a key fund raising time for the 'Friends at Beckstone'. The group however



is aware of the financial pressures on families in the lead up to Christmas so the fund-raising activities will be mainly online allowing families to spend as little or as much as they like outside of public view. There will be no Christmas Fair as such. Each Stage will be putting a large hamper packed full of goodies together so there will be 4 hampers altogether. As a result, we would very much welcome a donation to these hampers e.g. chocolate, a bottle of something, toys etc. There will be a non-uniform day on Friday 1st December to support this.

Nearer the time we will also be selling reindeer dust and hot chocolate stocking fillers amongst other things.



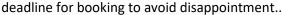
Finally, every Stage is producing a 2024 Calendar which will include your child in their birthday month. They are great fun and would make lovely Christmas presents for friends/relatives etc.

All items will be available through ParentPay, please support them as best you can. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

In addition, there are many other events and performances, all listed on the dates page at the end of this newsletter.

### **Christmas Party Nights**

These take place in the first full 2 weeks in December. More information will go out nearer the time, please do take note of the





### Nasal Flu Jabs

The children were very brave and took their vaccinations in their stride. We are very proud of them.



### **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





### Operation Encompass

### **Domestic Violence**

Debbie Cook, our Educational Support Manager has trained to

be a 'Domestic Violence Champion' and is a resource available to any adult who would like to confidentially share incidents with her and is a very good source of advice. Just contact the School Office to get in touch with her.

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

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

### Food & Drink

- **School Meals** cost £14.50 per week (£2.90 a day) payable on ParentPay. This is still great value when you look at prices of goods in supermarkets for packed lunches. The children have been consulted on the new winter menu and their top choices form the **new menu** which is reproduced on the next page. It has begun this week and we would recommend a hot meal for all the children during the winter and would encourage those on packed lunches to make a change.
- **Milk** is vital for growing children as it strengthens bones and teeth. Children in Reception and

Nursery are entitled to free milk as are children who are eligible for free school meals and clothing vouchers (not the universal free meal for all FS & KS1 children). The cost of milk for the second



half of the autumn term is £9.50 and needs to be paid by THIS Friday, 3rd November 2023 via ParentPay NOT



cash or cheque. Due to the administrative of checking burden attendance and the inability to change the order dailv unfortunately milk money cannot be refunded for absence.

 Snack money for Nursery and Reception is £16 for this half term. This is paid

on ParentPay and please pay by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November.



• Fruit is £9.50 for the second half of autumn term, again payable on ParentPay Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. This is for playtime snacks. Children in EY & KS1

also get fruit free during the day.

### **Takeover Morning**

The Children's Commissioner encourages schools to allow its pupils to 'run' their establishments to give a taster of responsibility and accountability. These sessions give Y6 children an exciting



insight into the working life of adults at the school. On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November the Year 6 children will take over the running of the school. This will involve children welcoming EY & KS1 children, taking assembly, taking lessons, working in the Office, working in the Canteen etc. Historically it has been a very exciting, stimulating and enjoyable day for our Year 6 children.

# Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Winter Menu

Cheese Bean Pasty Fish Fingers with Carrot Cake with Chips Quorn Quirky Bird Choc Chip Cookie Quirky Bird with with Wedges Sausage & Yorkshire Flapjack & Custard Yorkshire Pudding Quorn Sausage & with Roast/Mash Pudding with Roast/Mash Quorn Nuggets with Ginger Bread Man Chicken Nuggets with Potato Tots Potato Tots Meatballs with Pasta Jam & Cocount Cake with Pasta & Gravy Quorn Meatballs & Gravy Option 2 Dessert

Chips

Cheese & Onion Roll with Wedges/Pasta Sausage Roll with Australian Crunch Wedges/Pasta Lemon Drizzle Cake Quorn Roast Dinner Roast Dinner (Ham with Roast/Mash or Chicken) with Roast/Mash Cheese Pizza with Potato Tots/Pasta Jacket Potato Oaty Biscuit Tomato Pasta Bake Chicken Curry with Iced Choc Sponge Option 2

Fish Fingers with

Fish Fingers with Chips Je II All Day Breakfast Chicken Pie with Burger in a Bun with Bolognaise with Dessert Option 1

Turnover with Chips

Cheese & Bacon

Quorn Breakfast with with Hash Browns Hash Browns Cheese Pizza Swirl with Roast/Mash Roast/Mash Quorn Burger in a Bun with Potato Tots Potato Tots Quorn Bolognaise

Macaroni Cheese with

Choc & Orange Cookie Ice Cream Choc Drizzle Cake & Choc Custard Melting Moment Biscuit Iced Sponge Cake Option 2 Dessert

### **Beckstone's Extended Services**



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



### 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.



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.

### Revisewise



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



ID Buddle Road, Workington Cumbria, CA14 3YD
 info@thelaundrystudioltd.com
 ∅ @thelaundrystudioltd

All Year 6 children should be attending one of the sessions

### **Nursery Intakes**

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

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

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

If you know of any children with birth dates between



these times and would like their child to come to this school, then please ask them to get in touch with the School Office as soon as possible.



Nathan Doyle - Cert RP Education Consultant

Telephone: 01772 713819
Mobile: 07930530076
Fax: 01772 774137

Step by Step Education Ltd

80 Lytham Road

Fulwood

Preston

PR2 3AQ



www.stepbystepeducation.co.uk

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



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

### Give Blood - Help Save a Life!



Giving blood to support others is a wonderful selfless act that helps fellow citizens. The next donor session is on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December from 10am to 2pm at the Oval Centre, Salterbeck. You can book an appointment online, just register and book.

Do something worthwhile and save someone's life Further details and booking details can be found at www.blood.co.uk





### 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.



Reg Charity No 1067541

### Shopping List

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

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



No Low Calorie Foods

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.

### Messy Mary's at St Mary's Harrington

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





### **Easy Fund Raising**



Did you know that whenever you buy anything online – from your weekly shop to

your annual holiday – you could be raising **FREE** donations for Beckstone Primary School with easy fundraising?

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



All you need to do is:

- Go to
   <a href="https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/">https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/</a>

   beckstoneprimary/?utm\_campaign=raise-more
   and join for free.
- 2. Every time you shop online, go to easy fundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.
- 3. After you've checked out, the retailer will donate to Beckstone Primary School at no extra cost to you whatsoever!

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

### **Donations Needed**



The school would very much welcome any donations of Lego

for a Lego club. Thank you in advance.



### **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.

### **Reading with Your Child**

We want to promote 'Share a book every day' with children at home with their family and friends.



Sharing books with children is fun, it can be a time for closeness, laughing and talking together and it can also help your child to become a lifelong reader and have a love of books.

There is no right or wrong way of doing it and it is never too early to start reading to your child

### Tips for sharing a book

- Try and find somewhere away from noise and television and make sure you are not using your mobile phone
- Make sure you take time to look and talk about the pictures on the pages
- If your baby chews books to start with, it doesn't matter. They will soon enjoy helping you to turn the pages
- The use of sound effects for example animal noises will help to bring the story to life and make you both laugh
- Encourage family members such as siblings to join in and share a book with your child
- For older children, ask some questions when reading together, for example; what can you see on this page? How do you think Goldilocks felt when she saw the bears? What do you think is going to happen next?
- As your child's language develops encourage your child to tell the story. They can read the pictures to you and talk about what's happening on the page



 If you think you are not a brilliant reader it doesn't matter because just hearing and listening to your voice is comforting for your child.

### How to read aloud to older children

### 1. Keep it fun

Reading shouldn't be a chore! When children's experiences are pleasant they are more likely to develop a life-long love of reading

### 2. Read with energy

Use lots of energy! Using facial expressions and emotion: different voices for different characters; and varying the tempo and volume that you read with will help to create an immersive storytelling experience your children will love.

### 3. Ask questions

Asking questions as you read can improve understanding and get the child to be an active participant in the reading experience

### 4. Explain as you go

Explaining what is happening on the pages and allowing time to talk about it as you go through the book can deepen your child's understanding and expand their vocabulary

### 5. Point out words

Pointing out words can really help younger children when it comes to learning to read. Scanning from left to right, as well as showing what a letter and a word is, has been shown to help develop advanced reading skills.

6. Look at the pictures/illustrations in the book Talking about the pictures in the book is just as important as reading the words

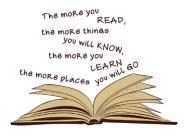
### 7. Get them to read along with you

This would work especially well with your favourite rhyming books that you have read so many times with them that they can remember parts

### 8. Reread the same book

This is linked to the above point as it will give them the confidence to join in and helps build

- fluency and a better understanding of rhythm and language
- Encourage the child to retell the story to you
   When they are confident with the story see if they
   can recite parts of it to you or someone else on
   their own. This will improve their confidence and
   help develop their memory and speaking skills.



### **Reader Teacher**

A really great web site is 'The Reader Teacher'. This can be a valuable resource in the lead up to Christmas as it suggests what it thinks are the best high quality reads for children at age appropriate levels.



Simply click on the Year Group and browse all the titles.

Clicking on the book cover takes you to Amazon to read more about the book and to order it if you wish. If you do please use Amazon Smile and select our school – see later article.



The site also has reviews, book listings by author, genre and details of new releases. The site is well worth a look and can be found at <a href="https://www.thereaderteacher.com">https://www.thereaderteacher.com</a> or by following the QR code.



### **Creativity Cup**

Charlie from
Nursery has only
been at school a few
weeks and already
has produced
massive amounts of
creative work. He
spends a lot of his
time in the writing
area drawing
pictures and writing
about them. His

favourite things to draw are his family, dinosaurs and rainbows. Although only 3 he can discuss in detail what he has drawn and his imagination runs wild. All winners of this trophy now receive a medal they can keep.

# The Marie Wright Kindness Cup



Hawley from Y2 was awarded the Marie Wright Kindness Cup for being kind to the other children and looking after them. He was particularly kind looking after a child that was new to the school. ΑII winners of this trophy now receive a medal they can keep.

### Cinema Trips this month

Each Stage has a special trip to the Cinema this month.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of November Year 5 & 6 are going to see 'Matilda the Musical 'at the Alhambra cinema in Keswick. The cost for this trip is £10 including transport and refreshments.



On the 9<sup>th</sup> November Key Stage 1 are going to the Parkway Cinema to see 'Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile'. The cost for this trip is £8 including transport and refreshments.

Finally, on the 13<sup>th</sup> November Year 3 & 4 are going to the Parkway cinema to see 'The Little Mermaid'





a live action remake of the classic animation.
 The cost for this trip is £8 including transport and refreshments.

Payment for the trips is on ParentPay

### **Anti-Bullying Week**

This takes place in the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> November. Pupils will have lessons on how to



combat bullying and how not to suffer in silence but to TELL an adult. They will also be taught the importance of not being bystanders but seeking help if they think someone is being troubled. Please talk to your children about bullying, what it means and how they should tell someone. Bullying is not one-off incidents but defined as repeated behaviour which is intended to hurt someone either emotionally or physically.

### **Health Advice**

We recently had a briefing from a member of the County Nursing team outlining offers of support to pupils and staff. They also can offer FREE support to parents. These are detailed in the following flyers:







## **Healthy Habits 4 Life**

Healthy Habits 4 Life is a FREE programme run by the Public Health 5-19 team for families in Cumbria with children in Reception to Year 7 who want to make the change to a healthier lifestyle. Families will be offered 1:1 support and advice on a range of areas:





A Public Health Practitioner will arrange to meet with you at a time and place to suit you and your family, this could be in your own home, at school or via video and will work with you over a number of weeks.

If you would like to know more or want your child to be included please contact us via the E-School Nurse clinic E-SchoolNurse@ncic.nhs.uk









# **E-School Nurse** Video Clinics



(By appointment only)

Twice weekly online health support and advice for parents, carers and professionals who are supporting children and young people aged 5-19 years old.

### **Tuesday and Thursday**

You will be able to talk to the nurse over a live video link using Attend Anywhere. The link is private, secure, confidential and convenient.

In consultation with you, the nurse will assess the child or young person's health problem and provide you with the support and advice needed.

For more information on the E-School Nurse video clinic Please read the information leaflet or visit:

www.cumbria.gov.uk/ph5to19

You can telephone for an appointment 01228 603973 Mon-Fri 8-4pm



NCIC/E-SN/Poster.All/022021 | APPENDIX 02

happierhealthiercommunities.

### Walk to School Week

There are goodies for children who walked to school every day in the week before half term. They will be distributed once we have received them.

### Uniform

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

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



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

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

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





### **Writing Hall of Fame**

Mrs Turk is the school's new leader for Writing and she wants to encourage the next generation of authors and to stimulate imagination and writing. As a result, each year group is on the lookout for pieces of writing that show great progress, composition or imagination. The impact of this initiative is:

- Every 2 weeks, 1 pupil will be chosen from each year group to have their success in writing celebrated.
- The pupil's work will be displayed on the wall outside of Mr Warbrick's office for all to celebrate.



 Celebratory certificates and a special writer's pencil will be awarded to children every 2 weeks in assembly.



### **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



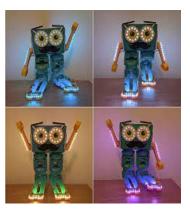
### **Computing & Careers**

To raise the profile of computing and its importance for 21<sup>st</sup> Century careers we would welcome anybody working with computers to talk to our Upper Key Stage 2 pupils about their job and the importance of computing in it. The children have already had presentations on careers

from the NHS, the Nuclear industry=try and STEM careers and we would like to further this with computing careers, a really gig employment growth area. If you feel you could stimulate interest by discussing your work with the future workforce then please make yourself known to the School office and Ms McKeating will get in touch with you.

### **Marty the Robot**

A further stimulus to computing is Marty the Robot. He has recently been adopted by the school (funded by FAB) and can be programmed by the pupils. He can dance, walk, talk, play football, pull faces and lights up.



He already is causing much excitement and we hope all pupils will learn how to program him, the future is here!



### **School Funds**

We need donations to this fund as funds are really REALLY tight. The

school fund is purely donation based and is used to buy many consumable items and fun activities outside the remit of the school budget for the pupils as well as many other things for school that enable us to provide services free of charge.

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

### Please help if you can by donating to this fund.

Now we have the ParentPay system we can offer the facility for families to make an automatic School Fund donation on a monthly basis, from their bank account

even £2 per month would accumulate in to a great fund to support activities



in school. If you would like to support the school in this way please contact the School Office for further details on how to set this up or, if you would rather, for direct debit details.



### Thank You

A very BIG thank you to



Ethan's Grandma and Grandad Dempster for collecting 20ps in a bottle since lockdown and then donating them to school. They raised an amazing £133.80!

### Non-Uniform Days



The next non-uniform day is on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November for Children in Need day. Children can wear anything they like but the

national theme is 'spots' or 'yellow'. If families want to donate to this national charity then donations can be made on ParentPay.

There will also be a non-uniform day on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December Rather than money we are asking for donations of chocolate (EY; KS1) and bottles or chocolate from KS2 children. Donations will help support our Christmas raffle by filling top prize hampers, please see later article.

### **Back Path**

The new School Council shared concerns they have about some children from upper Key Stage 2 being very rowdy, using inappropriate language and even trying to run down the steep embankments on either side! Indeed, they were concerned they were not setting a good example to younger children. The Council are going to write to the Council to see if the path can be fenced however we urge all families to talk to their children and stress they are able to use that path if they can be trusted to use it sensibly. Parents of children who are letting down the good reputation of the school on the way home will be asked to make alternative arrangements and have an adult to collect them from the school gate.

### **Sporting Success**

**Benchball** Our Benchball team came 3<sup>rd</sup> in a recent inter school tournament. They played very well and were a credit to the school.

Netball Our High 5 Netball team won the Workington inter schools tournament. The team were fantastic and won every game. Indeed, this school has won this event every year since the school opened in 2005!! The team will now play in the Allerdale finals later this month. They are pictured alongside.



### **Blain Rooney Sporting Trophy**

The first recipient of this trophy is Scarlette from Year 6. She was chosen as she has been an integral part of our ongoing Sporting success. She possesses all of Beckstone's Sporting Values and takes on any challenge and always gives 100% effort. She was

presented with the award and a medal by Mr Rooney himself in assembly yesterday.



Ms Gorman had her baby on the Tuesday of half term, a

girl called Wren Eleanor. We are all thrilled for her, her partner Chris and older sister Eden.



### CHILDREN ARE MADE READERS ON THE LAPS OF THEIR PARENTS.

# Diary )ates

### Spring 2026 2026 Tuesday 16<sup>t</sup> April Monday 13th Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January May Day -January January May Day -Mon 5<sup>th</sup> May Day – Mon 4<sup>th t</sup> Term Monday 17t Monday 16t February Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February Monday 27<sup>t</sup> ebruary -Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February Friday Thursday Friday Tuesday Tuesday Friday 19th July Friday 18th July Friday 17th July March

### November

### Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> – 1/2AN Class Assembly

Week beg. 6<sup>th</sup> – Parliament Week

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> – LKS2 Quicksticks hockey – 12.30 – 3pm – Lakes College

Wed 8th – UKS2 visit to Alhambra Cinema to see Matilda

Thu 9<sup>th</sup> – KS1 visit to Parkway Cinema to see 'Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile'

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> – Rev. Dom in assembly for Remembrance

Remembrance Silence 11am on School Hill

Sun 12<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Parade

Week beg. 13<sup>th</sup> Nov – Anti-bullying week

Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – LKS2 visit to Parkway Cinema to see Little Mermaid.

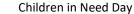
FAB Meeting 3.30pm

Tue 14<sup>th</sup> – LKS2 Benchball – 12.15 – 12.45pm – St Joseph's

Wed 15<sup>th</sup> – Y6 visiting the Beacon in Whitehaven

Thu 16<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Takeover Morning

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> – 3/4SF Class Assembly



Y5 trip to the Beacon

Week beg. 20<sup>th</sup> – Y6 classes intensive swim week 9.30-10.30am & 10.30-11.30am

20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Nursery 'Come & Play' sessions 2-3pm

Tue 21st – Governor Challenge Day,

Staffing & Finance Committee and Main Meeting

22<sup>nd</sup> & 24<sup>rd</sup> – Reception 'Come & Play' sessions 2-3pm

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> – NISCU Puppets in assembly – 'Follow the Star'

-Y6 visiting Helena Thompson Museum for a Victorian Christmas Week beg. 27<sup>th</sup> – Y5 intensive swim week 9.30-10.30am & 10.30-11.30am Thu 30<sup>th</sup> – Nursery January Starter Meeting 3.45pm

Fri 1st Dec – Reception trip to Whinlatter

- Vicar in assembly for advent
- Non-uniform Day Hamper donations/chocolate/bottles

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> – Nursery Nativity am

KS2 Boccia tournament - 12.15-2.45pm - St Joseph's

Wed 6<sup>th</sup> – A Y3/4 class is visiting East Croft to sing Carols 1.45pm

Thu 7<sup>th</sup> – 'A Christmas Carol' performance for the pupils

- A Y3/4 class is visiting West Winds 1.45pm
- YR Party Night

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Christmas Crafts – Sports Hall

Mon 11th – Reception Nativity for parents pm

- KS1 Party Night

Tue 12th - LKS2 Carol Service 2pm

Wed 13<sup>th</sup> – Reception Nativity for parents am

- **UKS2 Carol Service 2pm**
- LKS2 Party Night

Thu 14<sup>th</sup> Dec – Christmas Dinner Day

**UKS2 Party Night** 

Fri 15<sup>th</sup> – Y2 visiting Allerdale Disability Association

A Y3/4 class singing at the Galloping Horse

Mon 18<sup>th</sup> Dec- Christmas Party Day

Tue 19th Dec – Carols in the Square 10.30am

- Y6 singing Carols at Energus 1pm
- Break up for Christmas

# Dates for 2024 already

Mon-Giraffes

Wed – Lions

Tue – Elephants

Thu - Monkeys

Wed 3rd Jan - Children start back

Thu 4th & Fri 5th - January new starter home visits

Fri 12th Jan - 5LJ Class Assembly

Wed 10th Jan - LKS2 Indoor Athletics 9.20-12.30 - Lakes

Tue 16th Jan – KS1 Dodgeball, St Josephs, 12.15-2.45

Tue 30<sup>th</sup> Jan – Governor Challenge day & Main Governors Fri 2nd Feb - 3LS Class Assembly

Cross Country Event

Tue 6th Feb - KS2 Dodgeball

Young Voices Trip

- Key Steps Gymnastics Competition

Fri 9th Feb - 1/2AF Class Assembly

Week beg. 12<sup>th</sup> Feb – Half term

Tue 20th Feb - UKS2 Table tennis St Joseph's 12.15-2.45

Fri 1st Mar - 4KB Class Assembly

Wed 6th Mar - KS1 Multi-Skills festival 9.20-12.30 Lakes

Thu 7th Mar - World Book Day

Sun 10th Mar - Mother's Day

Thu 14<sup>th</sup> Mar – Y6 Athletics Event

Fri 15th Mar - 1/2DT Class Assembly

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

Tue 19th Mar – Governors meeting

Wed 20th Mar - LKS2 Handball - 9.15-12.30 - Lakes

Week beg. 25<sup>th</sup> Mar – Egg & Bonnet Design Week Tue 26th - LKS2 Football - 12.15 - 2.45 - St Josephs

Tue 26th & Wed 27th - Parents' Evenings

Thu 28th Mar – Egg Dumping Final School breaks up for Easter

Tue 16th April - Children start back

Tue 23rd April - Wheelchair Basketball

Tue 30th Apr - Y3&4 Rounders tournament

Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Class photos

Mon 6th May - Bank Holiday May - KS1 Optional SATs Month

### Week beg. 13th May – KS2 SATs

Tue 14th May - KS1 Kicky Rounders - 12.15-2.45 - St Joseph's 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

Staffing & Finance Committee & Governors Meeting

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> May – KS2 Athletics Event

Early Years Colour Run

Week beg. 27th May – Half term

2 weeks from week beg. 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Y4 Times Table tests Week beg. 10th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Check Week

Week beg 10th June - Nursery 'Come & Play' week 2-3pm

Tue 11th June - Sports Day

Reception Multi skills event Wed 12th -& Thu 13th June - YR 'Come & Play' 2-3pm

Sun 16th June - Father's Day

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

Tue 18th June - UKS2 football 12.15-2.45 - St Joseph's

Tue 25th June - LKS2 Sumer Trip to Mabie Farm Park

UKS2 Cricket 9.30 -2.45 – Workington C.C.

Wed 26th June - UKS2 Trip to Beamish

Thu 27th - Nursery Summer Trip to Planet Play

Reception Summer Trip to Lake District Wildlife Park Fri 28th June - KS1 Trip to Walby Farm Park

Week beg. 1st July - Olympics focused week

Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> July - Tennis - 12.15-2.45 - St Josephs

Thu 4<sup>th</sup> July – Workington Academy induction Day

Fri 5th July - KS1 Kinder Cricket 9.15 - 12.20 - Workington C.C.

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 16<sup>th</sup> July – Swimming Gala

Wed 17th July - Graduation

Thu 18th – FUN day Fri 19th Jul - Beckstone's Got Talent



