

Beckstone Primary Newsletter



Tel: 01946 830423

Email: admin@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk

Web site: www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk

Newsletter no. 8
April/May 2025



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Summer term. We hope you all enjoyed the holidays. We hope also that all the pupils are rested and ready for a hardworking and crucial term which features end of year assessments and pupil reports amongst many exciting and engaging activities.

This newsletter starts with the sad news of the death of Arabella, one of our Year 4 pupils at the start of the holidays. This followed a long illness with a brain tumour. She was an adorable pupil and will leave a huge gap in all our lives. I hope you found the letter sent in the first week of the holidays helpful, we will do our utmost to support your child in coming to terms with it.

We are already well halfway through April, but it is still a busy month in school with sporting value trophies being awarded in an assembly, sporting events, the new April Nursery starters starting school following home visits, Cinema Nights and much much more.

You will receive notification soon of our annual parental questionnaire. Please can you spare a couple of minutes to complete it, it would really help us.

Finally, if you use any of the services of our advertisers, please do let them know where you saw them as their advertising revenue really helps our school fund.

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**
- **Robinsons & Co**
- **The Wobbly Wand**
- **Premier Blinds and Curtains**



Arabella	2
WhatsApp & Social Media Concerns.....	3
Sporting Success Continues.....	5
Sporting Team Selection	6
Ear Piercing.....	6
Parents' Evenings	6
Governors' Board	7
Parent Governor Vacancy	7
Governors Blog	7
Easter Bingo Nights	8
FAB/PTA.....	8
Egg Dumping	8
Attendance.....	9
Safeguarding/Child Protection	10
Uniform Donations.....	10
Strive for Five	10
Uniform Offer	11
Wear a Hat Day	11
Non-Uniform Day	11
VE Day Celebrations	12
Advertisements	12
Summer Camp.....	12
New Prices.....	12
Annual Parents' Questionnaire	12
Visitors' Comments	14
Lambing Season.....	14
Easter Competitions	14
Foodbank Donations	14
Nursery Intakes	15
Early Years Summer Fair.....	15
Food & Drink	15
Beckstone's Extended Services	16
Revisewise	16
Class Photos	17
Give Blood – Help Save a Life!.....	17
Donations Needed.....	17
Messy Mary's at St Mary's Harrington.....	17
School Funds	18
Film & Photo Gallery	18
Facebook & Instagram	18
And Finally	18
Diary Dates	19



Arabella

As you are all aware Arabella, a pupil in Year 4, tragically died at the start of the holidays after sadly losing her long battle with a brain tumour.

She was such a popular little girl with a great sense of humour and love of school and will be truly missed. Indeed the packed funeral last week was testament to the huge number of lives she had been part of and had enhanced.

There will be many children who are experiencing death for the first time. As described in the letter sent in the holidays do talk to them and check they are ok and try to answer any worries or queries they may have.

We will do our utmost in school to help and support them too and this was described in an assembly this very morning.

Over the course of this term we will be collecting memories of her and sharing them in a Memorial assembly at the end of this half term to celebrate her life.

In the longer term we hope to have a permanent memory of her so that she live on in name. An idea from Governors is to develop the allotment into a KS1 adventure playground and name it after her. We have as non-uniform day at the end of this half term (see later) to begin to fund such a development.

The family have shared the following link to a gofund me page in support of brain tumour research to help children and families into the future as brain tumours kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer yet just 1% of the national spend on cancer research has been allocated to this devastating disease since records began in 2002. The recent 'Wear the Hat Day' funds (again see later) have been donated to this cause in Arabella's memory.



<https://gofund.me/ce0bef18>

Harrington Pharmacy



25 Church Road
Tel 01946 833565

- ❖ Free prescription collection service from Workington and Distington surgeries, for all ages
- ❖ Regular promotions throughout the shop
- ❖ Selection of household, baby and toiletry products. Plus, perfumes and gifts
- ❖ Free repeat medication check- up service

Opening hours

Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm
Sat 9am-12.30pm



WhatsApp & Social Media Concerns

This seems to be a common theme in newsletters and it is very concerning that it is seemingly falling on deaf ears.

There have been many recent upsets with children falling out over items written out of context in WhatsApp groups in Year 3 (!!) up to Year 6. There is a minimum age for WhatsApp as the children are not mature enough to cope with written text out of context and can say things they regret or don't realise the implications of what they have written.

Written material on the web can always be re-found even if deleted and could impact on your child's future life.

Of major concern has been adult males being invited into a Y6 WhatsApp group. They have shared inappropriate images and befriended some children. The implication of this is that all members of this group had their first names and phone numbers exposed to inappropriate and unknown adults. School advice is for all **Y6 children who were part of that group to have their phone numbers changed and to be taken off social media** as there is a potential they can be contacted!

The Governors have discussed WhatsApp on many occasions. They have a policy that WhatsApp issues should not be dealt with in school and if they spill into

school then children will be suspended and there will be no investigation as they should not be on WhatsApp - you have been warned. **Exclusions will go down on your child's record!**



In summary, recent concerns from this school and from the news:

- WhatsApp has a minimum age limit as Primary school children are not mature enough to understand some messages out of context.
- WhatsApp is the main cause of upset, anxiety and loss of friendships in Primary children
- WhatsApp groups are not secure. Adult males sharing pornographic pictures have been members of a Primary groups. This allows them to see first names and phone numbers of children as well.
- Contacts have been made between adults (who purport to be children) and befriend Primary pupils with clear dangers.
- Where security has been breached (which has happened at this school with a Y6 group) all parents of children in that group should change their child's phone number for their safety.

Please protect your child.

Social media apps and smart phones are exposing your child to unnecessary risks, bullying, depression, misogyny, porn to extreme levels and self-harm or worse.

WHY LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOUR PRECIOUS PERSON OR EXPOSE THEM TO IT!

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

WhatsApp is a free messaging service owned by Meta which allows users to send text and voice messages, make video calls, share multimedia – such as images, videos, documents and polls – and have group chats. WhatsApp messages are encrypted, meaning only you and the recipient can view what is sent. While this privacy may sound attractive on paper, this app unfortunately comes with several risks that must be considered – especially for younger users.

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

EVOLVING SCAMS

WhatsApp's popularity makes it a lucrative hunting ground for scammers. Recent examples include posing as the target's child, requesting a money transfer because of a spurious 'emergency' and even cons where fraudsters trigger a verification message by attempting to log in to your account, then, posing as WhatsApp, call or text to ask you to repeat the code back to them, giving them access to your private messages and personal information.

CHANNELS

Channels let users follow interests without sharing their phone numbers or sending direct messages, allowing only votes on polls and reacting to posts with emojis. However, fraudulent channels can impersonate legitimate organizations, tricking people into sharing personal data and even spreading misinformation or hate speech. Additionally, WhatsApp may collect details about followed channels and sell this information to third parties, raising data privacy concerns.

FAKE NEWS

WhatsApp's connectivity and ease of use allows news to be shared rapidly – whether it's true or not. To combat the spread of misinformation, messages forwarded more than five times on the app now display a "Forwarded many times" label and a double arrow icon. This makes users aware that the message they've just received is far from an original – and might not be entirely factual, either.

CHAT LOCK

Another new feature named 'Chat Lock' allows users to store certain messages or chats in a separate 'locked chats' folder, saved behind a passcode, fingerprint or face ID authentication. While this usually functions as intended, it can potentially be exploited by younger users to hide conversations and content that they suspect their parents wouldn't approve of – such as the sharing of age-inappropriate material.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES

Disappearing messages are useful for sharing personal or sensitive information, but young people may have a false sense of privacy regarding the content they share. These messages disappear after anywhere from 24 hours to 90 days – depending on the user's preference – or can even be set to be viewed one time only. However, the recipient can 'keep' the message by bookmarking or screenshotting it, making them not as private as they may first appear.

VISIBLE LOCATION

WhatsApp's 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, which can be helpful for friends meeting up or parents checking that their child's safely on the way home, for example. However, children are able to share their location with anyone in their contacts list or a mutual group – potentially letting strangers identify their live location.

ONLINE

Advice for Parents & Educators

EMPHASISE CAUTION

Encourage children to treat unexpected messages with caution. Get them to consider, for example, whether it sounds like something a friend or relative would really send them. Make sure they know never to share personal details over WhatsApp, and to be wary of clicking on any links in messages. Setting up two-step verification adds a further layer of protection to their WhatsApp account.

THINK BEFORE SHARING

Help children understand why it's important to stop and think before posting or forwarding something on WhatsApp. It's easy – and all too common – for content sent to one user to then be shared more widely, and even publicly on social media. Encourage them to consider how an ill-judged message might damage their reputation or upset a friend who sent something to them in confidence. Real-life friendships are far more important than likes, after all.

ADJUST THE SETTINGS

It's wise to change a child's WhatsApp settings to specify which of their contacts can add them to group chats without needing approval. To do this, go to Privacy, then Groups. You can give permission to My Contacts or My Contacts Except ... Additionally, if the child needs to use Live Location, emphasise that they should enable this function for only as long as they need – and then turn it off.

CHAT ABOUT PRIVACY

Have a conversation with youngsters about how they're using WhatsApp, emphasising that it's for their own safety. If you spot a 'Locked Chats' folder, you might want to talk about the sort of messages that are in there, who they're with and why a child might want to hide them. Also, if a young user has sent any 'view once' content, discuss their reasons for using this feature.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/whatsapp-2025>

@wake_up_weds

/www.thenationalcollege

@wake.up.wednesday

@wake.up.weds

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 13.03.2025

BEGINNERS CLASSES ENROLLING NOW
www.cumbriacoastkarate.co.uk

FREE TRIAL

CC **CUMBRIA COAST KARATE**

SAFEGUARDING CODE
 IN MARTIAL ARTS

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

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

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

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

ALL INSTRUCTORS ARE FIRST AID TRAINED AND DBS CHECKED



Sporting Success Continues



Key Steps County Gymnastics Final

Our gymnastics team represented the area, after winning the local heats, at the County Finals. The team were amazing on the day and were County Silver Medallists just missing gold by only 0.43 of a point!



The team are pictured above and on the podium below. We are all very proud of them:



LKS2 Football

Our mixed gender LKS2 football team took part in a tournament just before the holidays. They played excellent football and won the tournament. They are pictured below with the trophy and their certificates.



Swimming Panathlon

Some of our UKS2 children took part in a swimming Panathlon just before the easter holidays. It was a festival of swimming rather than a competition. Our

team however showed all the sporting values we expect of every team and were a huge success. They are pictured below with their medals:



KS2 Boccia tournament

Our Boccia team got through to the Quarter Finals of the recent competition. They are pictured below. They did very well and were unlucky not to progress to the semi-final. We are very proud of them.



Sporting Team Selection

We strive hard to be an inclusive school and try to give every child an opportunity to take part in competitive sport at school level and when appropriate at local and County level. Picking teams

to represent the school is a difficult thing to do and is heart wrenching for staff and children understand that there can't be a football team of 100 players and there will be tournaments when they are not selected.

Very disturbingly there have been a couple of parents recently complaining to staff and in the meantime making a huge issue of it with their own child. This is wholly inappropriate and we urge those parents to teach their child resilience and encourage them and say they will get a turn at competitive events at school or beyond.

Please think before upsetting staff and children!

Ear Piercing



Given you cannot take earrings out for a few weeks after ear piercing it would make sense that if you are thinking of getting your child's ear pierced you wait until the summer holiday so it can heal when at home. This would then mean you don't need to provide them with plasters to cover their earrings for PE.



Thank you to all who came to parents' Evening. The turnout was exceptional with 96% attendance over the nights.

We hope you found the evenings useful and you appreciated the report on your child's progress to date and the insights into your child at school from their class teacher.

The next report will be the year end one. Please instil in your child they need to continue or in some cases improve, their application to their work as there is still time to make a success of this year.

Please also note those areas where your child was not RAG (Red Orange Green) rated green as these areas you can help as a parent to put right for your child. Ideally every child should have a full set of greens by the end of the year!

Educational research shows that where home and school work together and want the same thing the child thrives and learns best.



Governors' Board

Governors Blog

On behalf of the Governing Body at Beckstone Primary School, I wish to pass our deepest and sincerest condolences to the parents and family of Arabella. The tragic loss of Arabella will leave a void in the hearts of everyone who were lucky enough to have had her in their lives. She was a caring, strong and determined young girl who did not let her health preclude her from taking part in anything.

She will be so sadly missed by everyone at Beckstone.

Our thoughts are with you at this very difficult time.

Mr Warbrick provides important information about the use of social media platforms and their age restrictions every month and it is up to us, as parents, what we choose to do with that information, to keep our children safe. Some may prevent their children from accessing age restricted apps, some may allow limited access, and some may be unaware of their children's social media profiles or presence.

Times have changed and children appear to want to grow up so quickly or keep up with their friends. As parents we are pressured to decide, so our child / children aren't isolated because they are not keeping up with the trend. As such, Santa, the Tooth Fairy and the Easter bunny are soon forgotten, replaced with TikTok, Facebook and WhatsApp on mobile devices.

The threat from social media has been receiving a lot of media coverage during the last couple of weeks and unfortunately, a recent incident involving Beckstone pupils has shown it can happen to anyone.

This is a very brief summary of the incident. A pupil was contacted by someone, unknown to them, on WhatsApp. The individual engaged in conversation then added one of their 'friends' to a private group before posting pornographic images and videos. The content was shared in a larger WhatsApp group of school children before the poster and their 'friend' were invited into that larger group. Worryingly, those individuals suddenly had access to children's first names, the school they attend and their phone numbers. We understand that by entering a mobile number into Snap Chat someone's location can apparently be traced.

Sadly, Cumbria Constabulary did not pursue this further, so it is not known whether these people were members of a larger paedophile / grooming ring.

This incident occurred two weeks prior to anyone reporting it. While staff can't police children and their use of social media outside of the school, we decided it was important to share what information we could with you.

Do you know enough about your child's online presence? Who they're communicating with? or, might there be something going on that they are uncomfortable talking with you about?

While a minority have vocalised their disagreement with the School and Governing Body's stance on children having access age restricted social media platforms, I hope the above information has helped explain why.

Thanks

Simon

Chair of Governors



Parent Governor Vacancy

A big thank you to Zoe Hannah (parent Governor) for her contributions to the Governing Board. She has now left which has resulted in a vacancy for a parent Governor. Zoe had a background in finance so there is a need for that expertise however we would welcome applications from parents without that background.

The Governors are looking for someone who will be committed to the role and are prepared to give time to make such a worthwhile community role an effective and rewarding one.

Applications are welcomed from anyone who has strengths to offer the Body. If you would like to be involved in shaping the policy and procedures of the school into the future, then please email :

bookings@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk

to express your interest with the subject: "Parent Governor and we will send an online form link and a role description.

The Chair of Governors is available to meet with any potential candidates if they would like more information, simply book an appointment through the School Office. The form needs to be completed by **Monday 12th May 2025**. In the event of more than two applications there will be a ballot later in that week in order for the new Governor to attend the next Governors' meeting on Tuesday 20th May.

Easter Bingo Nights

These were a great success and money raised really supports the school. We are planning one for the summer. They are very popular and sell out quickly so to avoid disappointment please act quickly once details are announced.



FAB/PTA

The next meeting will take place on Monday 12th May at 3.30pm in the staff room. New members are more than welcome and FREE Beckstone Xtra is available – just book via bookings@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk



Egg Dumping

All the children took part in an egg dumping competition in the last week of the Spring term in their classes. Each class winner went through to the 'Grand Final' in the assembly on the day we broke up. The finals were keenly contested and very much enjoyed by all in assembly. Each class champion received an Easter egg and the eventual champion also received a trophy



which doubles as an egg cup. The champion, Alexander from RJT, is pictured below with his trophy, winning egg and large chocolate egg.



Alongside the children's egg dumping the staff had their own competition with the final being played out in front of the assembly. The finalists were Hollie and Mrs Beecroft.



versus



The winner was Hollie from the Office, pictured below with her prize.





Attendance

Family holidays and term time leave

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

Failure to notify school of your child not being at school may result in Police involvement.

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

The school **now has a duty to report** any unauthorised absences of **5 days+** within a year to the County Attendance Officer who may issue fines to each parent. This was a policy agreed by the previous Government and has been adopted by the new one so there is political agreement on the importance of children not missing school.

A number of fines have already been issued to some of our families and one court order so please think hard before taking time out of school.

There have been some recent updates to school attendance that you need to be aware of:

- Attendance at sporting events is now just for the event itself in this country. 'Travel' days are counted as 'holidays'. For example those going away for a football weekend now need to take note, as the tournament is on a



Saturday any time off school will be counted as 'holiday'. For those taking part in sporting events overseas then the sporting event and travel for one day either side is allowed, the rest is counted as holidays.

- There are concerns that parents are claiming 'illness' and then going on holiday to avoid fines. This clearly is morally wrong and is teaching children it is OK to lie. Schools are now being asked to contact homes on the 3rd day of absence and if no-one is home and it is then found to they are on holiday then the fine is likely to be transmuted into a criminal prosecution.
- 15 days of holiday will result in an immediate prosecution and will bypass the staged approach.



Please note – this is now particularly important.... taking time off at the statutory testing time needs to be **avoided completely.**

KS1 Optional SATs – The month of May 2025

KS2 SATs - Week beg. 12th May 2025

Y1 & Y2 Phonics Screening Check Week – Week beg. 9th June 2025

Y4 Times Table Check – 2 weeks from Monday 2nd June

robinson+co
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND BUSINESS ADVISERS



Adding value - Talking Sense

- Accountancy
- Audit
- Taxation
- Payroll Services
- New Business Advice
- Independent Financial Advice
- Book-keeping services
- Retirement Planning
- Investments
- SAGE Software

www.robinsonco.co.uk
01900 603623
Also in Whitehaven

Registered to carry on audit work by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales and authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for investment business.

MEMBER FIRM ICAEW

Safeguarding/Child Protection

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




Domestic violence 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. 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


BECKSTONE PRIMARY

We are a Zero Tolerance School



We do not believe that the children at Beckstone Primary School should have a mobile phone and access to social media.

KEEP CHILDREN SAFE SAY NO TO...




Uniform Donations



Our stock of uniforms, sweatshirts, polo shirts, trainers, trousers etc are running low. Many families rely on this service we now provide as part of the 'Uniform Exchange' so please donate any uniform that no longer fits your child to support others – Thank you!

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' Please use this as an incentive to read regularly with your child. In addition, the class with the best record each half term will receive a class treat so don't let the side down!



Uniform Offer

Please see flyer below for discounts from Border Embroideries:



BE UNIFORMS
WORKWEAR | TEAMWEAR | SCHOOLWEAR

01361 810304
info@beuniforms.co.uk
www.beuniforms.co.uk

WE HELP PARENTS SAVE MONEY

15% OFF REDUCED PRICE WINDOWS

OUR REDUCED PRICE ORDERING WINDOWS ALLOW PARENTS TO PURCHASE UNIFORM ONLINE WITH A 15% DISCOUNT. ORDERS WILL BE BATCHED AND DELIVERED ONCE THE WINDOW CLOSES. WE HAVE THREE WINDOWS IN OPERATION.

SPRING WINDOW	AUTUMN WINDOW	WINTER WINDOW
7 APRIL - 18 MAY 2025	6 - 19 OCTOBER 2025	15 DECEMBER 2025 - 5 JANUARY 2026

Klarna

PARENTS CAN SPREAD THE COST OF THEIR NEXT ORDER ACROSS 3 PAYMENTS AT 0% INTEREST.

SPEND & SAVE

THE MORE PARENTS SPEND ONLINE OR INSTORE, THE MORE THEY CAN SAVE. WE CURRENTLY HAVE TWO SAVING BREAKDOWNS.

SPEND OVER £100 AND SAVE 15%
SPEND OVER £60 AND SAVE 10%

UNIFORM CLUB

PARENTS OF YOUR SCHOOL CAN JOIN OUR UNIFORM CLUB AND SPREAD THE COST OF BACK-TO-SCHOOL THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. THE EASIEST WAY TO START SAVING NOW FOR THEIR NEXT BACK-TO-SCHOOL ORDER. WITH WEEKLY & MONTHLY OPTIONS, THE CHOICE IS THEIRS! SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION.





Wear a Hat Day



The generosity and support of our parental community never ceases to amaze us and it makes this school such a very special place and one that everyone loves to work in or wants to work in. The support from you

all and the way we operate as a community is heart-warming. The children who appeared in hats in the assembly towards the end of last term resulted in a number of staff being really moved and tears were flowing. The ad hoc late notice support of brain tumour charities in support of one of our pupils raised an astonishing £500.. a record for a non-uniform day. This has been added to the 'Gofundme' appeal for brain tumour research set up by Arabella's family.

Thank you all so much, the family of the child have been informed and this was a record amount for a non uniform day ❤️



FREE HEALTH & WELL-BEING EVENT

REACH OUT

FRIDAY 30TH MAY 2025
11AM-4PM
VULCAN PARK, WORKINGTON

NHS Health Checks
Yoga
Meditation
Sign-Posting to vital services
Stress and Anxiety workshop
Climbing Wall
Mindfulness
Healthy Eating

 **VISITWORKINGTON.CO.UK**

Non-Uniform Day

The non-uniform day for this half term is on the last day, Friday 23rd May. **The theme is bright clothes in memory of Arabella.** If you would like to make a donation towards the development of a KS1 play area in memory of Arabella then this would be most welcome.

Workington Academy Award Winners

Ethan, Luca, Willow & Dillon from Year 5 won awards for their Maths achievement and Ben for his English





PREMIER
BLINDS & CURTAINS



CUMBRIA

Unit KB1, Reedlands Road, Workington
CA14 3YF

Tel: 01900 62727

Email: admin@premierblindsoffice.co.uk

PROVIDING QUALITY BLINDS AT AFFORDABLE PRICES

www.premierblindscumbria.co.uk |  

VE Day Celebrations



It will be 80 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe on Thursday 8th May. (VE {Victory in Europe} Day). The final end of the War, (VJ {Victory in Japan} Day) is on the 15th August this year.

We will mark the day in school as it is important the pupils know the sacrifices made by earlier generations and how devastating wars are. Workington Town Council are marking the day too with a lighting of beacon in Vulcan's Park at 9.30pm. This event includes free hot dogs!

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.



Summer Camp

We are again running our successful Summer Camp that offers childcare at a very competitive price. It will run for the first 2 and last 2 weeks of the Summer holidays.

A Google form with further details and booking information will go out this week. Please look out for it and respond as soon as you can if you are interested in taking advantage of this service.



New Prices

A reminder that due to increased costs from contractors due to National insurance increases and other costs rising in the new financial year the school has very reluctantly been forced to increase some prices. The price increases are simply to cover costs and we have strived to keep these to a minimum.

- School meal costs for those not on free meals are now £3.10 a day or £15.50 a week.
- Breakfast Club costs £5.50 from 7.30am until the start of the school day or £5 from 8am.
- Beckstone Xtra's hourly rate is now £5 per hour
- For Nursery children staying over lunchtime the cost of a meal and lunchtime care between the end of morning Nursery and start of afternoon Nursery is £4



Despite the recent price rises we are confident that the costs still show good value when compared to alternative provision.

Annual Parents' Questionnaire

A questionnaire will be issued in the very near future. It will be on a Google form. Please can you complete it as it will help us improve the school into the future.



Many thanks in advance.

School Meal Menu

The menu for this term is on our web site and is reproduced on the next page. The menu is very much based in the children's choices but also complies with nutritional standard - value for money and healthy for your child.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Macaroni Cheese Chicken & Peas Wedge Apple & Spagetti	BBQ Chicken Pizza Mild Mince & Chilli Rice Summer Lemon Cake	Sausage Vegetable Sausage Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Fruit Platter	Spaghetti Bolognese Cheese & Tomato Rice Chocolate Crunch	Haddock Chicken & Peas Pasta Chips & Sauce Strawberry & Lemon Mousse
Week 2	Selection of Sausages Chicken & Peas Pizza Ice Cream Sundae	Pork & Beans Vegetable Hot Dog Wedge & Sauce Crisper	Roast Chicken Queen of Pudding Roast Potatoes & Gravy Fruit Salad	Chicken & Chunks Pasta & Sauce Spaghetti & Veggie Mashed Potatoes Pudding & Ice Cream	Stuffed Fish Chicken & Peas Pasta Chips & Sauce Vanilla & Chocolate Mousse
Week 3	Margherita Pizza Wedge Vegetable Bolognese Vanilla Ice Cream & Spagetti	Thin Crust Chicken Curry Rice Fruit & Yogurt Chocolate & Cakes	Roast Turkey Vegetable Sausage Potatoes & Gravy Chocolate Shredded	Cheese Mince Spaghetti & Cheese Mashed Potatoes Cakes & Sauce Spagetti	All Day Breakfast All Day Vegetables Pudding Cakes & Sauce

https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/parents_info/school_meals.html



Monday				
Tuesday				
Wednesday				
Thursday				
Friday				
Week 1				
Macaroni Cheese	BBQ Chicken Pizza	Sausage	Spaghetti	Fishfingers
Cheese & Bean Whirl	Mild Mexican Chilli Rice	Veggie Sausage Mash Potato & Gravy	Bolognaise Chickpea Curry Rice	Cheese & Bean Pasty
Wedges	Summer Lemon Cake	Fruit Platter	Chocolate Crunch	Chips & Sauce
Apple Flapjack				Strawberry Jelly & Mandarins
Week 2				
Selection of Jacket Potatoes	Pork/Chicken Hot Dog	Roast Gammon Quorn with Stuffing	Chicken & Chickpea Korma & Rice	Battered Fish Cheese & Tomato Quiche
Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Vegan Hot Dog Wedges & Sauce	Roast Potatos & Gravy	Spaghetti & Vegan Meatballs	Chips & Sauce
Iced Vanilla Sponge	Cookie	Fruit Salad	Peaches & Ice cream	Vanilla Shortbread
Week 3				
Margarita Pizza Wedges	Thai Green Chicken Curry Rice	Roast Turkey Veg Wellington Stuffing, Roast Potatos & Gravy	Greek Macaroni Spinach & Cheese Whirl & Rice	All Day Breakfast All Day Vegetarian Breakfast
Vegan Bolognaise	Five Bean Jollof Rice	Chocolate Shortbread	Greek Salad Jam & Coconut Sponge	Oaty Cookie
Vanilla Ice Cream & Sprinkles	Cheese & Crackers			

Visitors' Comments

We have had a number of visitors recently, puppeteers, Bikeability trainers, Local Authority visitors and prospective Deputy Head candidates. To a person they have commented on how well behaved and enthusiastic our children are in comparison to other schools. A real accolade and a huge thanks to you, your support for school enables such a great atmosphere.

Lambing Season

Mrs Forsyth, parent, very kindly brought 4 lambs into school in the week before the holidays. Every class had a timetabled slot and were able to see, stroke and if they wanted, hold the lambs. The children learnt a lot and Mrs Forsyth also ran an art competition based on the day.

Our grateful thanks go to Mrs Forsyth who gave up her day, was on her feet all day and talked to nearly 400 children. She must have been exhausted however we are so grateful to her for giving this experience of the natural world to the children.



Photos of the day can be seen in our film and photo gallery.

https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/pupil_zone/film_photo_gallery/2024-2025/lambs/index.html

Easter Competitions

The standard of bonnets and eggs were amazing this year. The ideas for these creations were ingenious, clever, in many cases humorous and they were enjoyed by all and really brightened up the school.

Winners received recognition and Easter eggs in the final assembly of last term. The job of the judge, our cook Christa, was very hard this year and took ages to decide.

Photos of the bonnets and eggs are in the film and photo gallery of our web site, The eggcellent entries are well worth a look.

https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/pupil_zone/film_photo_gallery/2024-2025/easter-eggs-and-bonnets/index.html



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.



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

Nursery Intakes



Children born between **1 January 2022** and **31 March 2022** can receive their free 15 or 30 hours a week Nursery education from **April 2025**.

Children born between **1 April 2022** and **31 August 2022** can receive their free 15 or 30 hours a week from **September 2025**.

Children born between **1 September 2022** and **31 December 2022** can receive their free 15 or 30 hours a week from **January 2026**.

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 contact 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.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place-or-change-schools> (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 proof of address.

**** Please note that a child can attend afternoon Nursery as soon as they turn 3 so can settle in prior to starting properly in the term after their 3rd birthday. Further information is available from Nursery or the School Office.**



**Early
Years
Summer
Fair**



The Early Years are planning a Saturday summer fair on Saturday 14th June. More details will be released soon but it will include ice creams and traditional fair stalls. For the moment please save the date and support the fair, **Saturday 14th June**.

Food & Drink

School Meals currently cost **£15.50** per week payable on ParentPay. This is sgreat value when you look at prices of goods in supermarkets for packed lunches. We would recommend a hot meal for all the children and would encourage those on packed lunches to make a change.

Beckstone Primary School Nursery

Morning nursery sessions run every day from:

8:45 a.m. — 11:45 a.m. (3 hours)

If your child is staying in afternoon nursery after the morning session a charge of **£4.00 per day** will be required to cover the cost of a school dinner and lunchtime care from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. payable via Parentpay.

Unfortunately we are unable to offer facilities for packed lunches for nursery children.

Afternoon nursery sessions run every day from:

12:15 p.m. — 2:15 p.m. (2 hours)

12:15 p.m. — 3:15 p.m. (3 hours)

If you are entitled to 30 hours there will be no charge for these sessions.

If you are not entitled to 30 hours and your child attends afternoon nursery after the morning nursery session you will be charged as follows:

£4.00 per day will be required to cover the cost of a school dinner and lunchtime care from 11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Afternoon nursery sessions run every day from:

12:15 p.m. — 2:15 p.m. = **£10.00 (plus £4.00 for dinner & care)**

12:15 p.m. — 3:15 p.m. = **£14.00 (plus £4.00 for dinner & care)**

There would only be a charge if you go over your 15 hours in the week.

15/30 hours can be used for Breakfast Club and Beckstone Xtra (after school care), with another setting or banked for Summer Camp.

Please inform the office if you are doing this.

Afternoon nursery places must be booked in advance either in person to the office or via email bookings@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk

Bookings can be made in advance.



- **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 this half term is **£7.00** and needs to be paid by **Friday 25th April 2025** 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 **£10** for this half term. This is paid on ParentPay and please pay by **Friday 25th April 2025**.



- Fruit is **£10.00** for this half term, again payable on ParentPay by **Friday 25th April 2025**. This is for playtime snacks.

Children in EY & KS1 also get free fruit during the day.

Beckstone's Extended Services

Our extended services include the Breakfast Club £5.50 from 7.30am and £5.00 from 8am. **Last entry is at 8.25am.** Prices have risen due to increased costs but are still very competitive.

Our popular afternoon childcare provision is afternoon Nursery – 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 see prices poster on the previous page). **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 £5 per. 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 note after school learning/sport clubs cost £12.50 per half term.

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 also note that children need to be booked into Beckstone Xtra by 12pm. If a booking is cancelled after 12pm on the same day you will be charged ******

Revisewise

The Revisewise clubs are now on a Wednesday or a Thursday morning from 8.15am until the start of the school day and are for Year 6 children who can attend one or both. The sessions are designed to consolidate learning and will run up to SATs in Year 6.

Year 6 children will benefit enormously from attending at least one session.



REVISEWISE CLUBS

Cinema Nights



These take place each half term. The ones planned for this half term take place next month on Wednesday 21st May (Reception & KS1) and Thursday 22nd May (KS2).

The cost for each night is £6, which is payable on ParentPay. The cost includes care and copious refreshments. Details of the film(s) being shown will be released with booking details.



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





Class Photos

Class photos take place on Thursday 1st May. You will be sent proofs to order if you wish. They are quality photos and are a keepsake to look back on for years to come.



Holiday Activities

In the run up to the Summer half term holidays we will be adding any information or flyers we receive about 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 link below or the QR code. Do have a look as there may be activities of interest to you and your family.



https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/parents_info/holiday_activity_ideas.html

Give blood

Let's save lives together



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 29th May 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



Donations Needed

The school would very much welcome

- Barbie & Ken clothes
- Clothes for doll babies
- Hot wheels type cars
- Paw Patrol toys



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.



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 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 into 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.

Film & Photo Gallery

SCAN ME



The film and photo gallery of the site can be found in the pupil zone. We keep adding photos to it and it currently has the galleries listed below. It is well worth a look. The link and QR code are below.

Macmillan Coffee Morning KS1 Harvest Service Halloween Halloween Assembly

Remembrance Parade Remembrance National Takeover Day Christmas Craftersnoons

NISCU Puppets Christmas Visit Christmas Bingo Young Voices Poetry by Heart

Bunny Decorating Easter Eggs and Bonnets Lambs Visit Peer Reading

https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/pupil_zone/film_photo_gallery/index.html

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

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

<https://instagram.com/beckstoneprimary?r=nametag>

Staffing Change

Mrs Holliday has a new job and will not be returning to school. She has been at the school since it opened in 2005 and has worked across the school and has influenced and nurtured the lives of many children through the years.

We wish her all the very best for the future and she will be missed.



Don't forget there is a Bank Holiday on Monday 5th May, in less than 2 weeks and half term is the last full week in May.



CHILDREN ARE
MADE READERS
ON THE LAPS
OF THEIR PARENTS.

Diary Dates

April

Tue 22nd April – Children start back
Fri 25th Apr – Nursery new starter session 1.30 – 2.30
Mon 28th – New Nursery starters in from today.
Wed 30th – UKS2 litter picking at Salterbeck Reservoir

May

Thu 1st May – Class photos
- VE Day for Y5 at the Helena Thompson Museum
- Y6 visiting the Royal Shakespeare Company's 'The Tempest' in Barrow

Fri 2nd May – Class Assembly 5LJ

Mon 5th May – Bank Holiday

Tue 6th May – LKS2 Rounders
Wed 7th – Hockey County Final
Thu 8th – VE Day
- VE Day Beacon Lighting Vulcans Park 9.30

Fri 9th May – Class Assembly 1/2AN

May – KS1 Optional SATs Month

Week beg. 12th May – KS2 SATs

Date	Test
Monday 12 May 2025	English grammar, punctuation and spelling papers 1 and 2
Tuesday 13 May 2025	English reading
Wednesday 14 May 2025	Maths papers 1 and 2
Thursday 15 May 2025	Maths paper 3

Mon 12th – FAB Meeting 3.30pm
Tue 13th May – KS1 Kicky Rounders
Thu 15th – Y6 Leavers' Hoodies issued
Fri 16th May – Y6 treat day & can wear Leavers' Hoodies
- Staffing & Finance Committee 4.15pm
Mon 19th – 'Open the Book' presentation to pupils
Tue 20th – KS1 Football Tournament
- Main Governors 5pm
Wed 21st May – Netball County Final
- KS1 & R Cinema Night
Thu 22nd May – KS2 Cinema Night
Fri 23rd – Non-Uniform Day

Week beg. 26th May – Half term



PICTURE DAY



Term Dates until Summer 2026

	Spring 2025	Summer 2025	Autumn 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026
Start of Term	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 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	Friday 4 th April	Friday 18 th July	Friday 19 th December	Friday 27 th March	Friday 17 th July

Dates for next half term:

2 weeks from week beg. 2nd June – Y4 Times Table tests

Week beg. 9th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Check Week

Weeks beg. 2nd, 9th, 23rd & 30th – UKS2 Intensive Swims (Y4 & Y5)

Tue 3rd Jun – Water Workshops for UKS2 classes

Thu 5th June – Peter Nutsford Wild Africa talks to classes

Week beg. 9th June- Nursery Come & Play Week

Tue 10th Jun – Reception Multi-Skills festival

Fri 13th Jun – KS1 Kinder Cricket Competition

- Midsummer Night's Dream – UKS2

Sat 14th June – EY Summer Fair -All welcome

Sun 15th Jun – Father's Day

Tue 17th Jun – UKS2 Football Tournament

Wed 18th Jun- Sports Day 1.30pm

Thu 19th – UKS2 Dalscone Farm Trip

Fri 20th June – UKS2 Boys Football at Harraby

- Sports Experience Day- Fencing

Tue 24th Jun – UKS2 Cricket Tournament

Fri 27th June – LKS2 visting Dalscone Farm Park

Thu 3rd July – Transition days for Workington Academy & St Jo's

Fri 4th July – KS1 summer Trip to Walby Farm Park

- Reception trip to Lakeland Wildlife Park

- EY Summer Blast!

Week beg. 7th July – Summer Party nights; Mon YR;

Tue Y1; Wed Y2; Thu LKS2; Fri UKS2

- Nursery Come & Play week

Mon 9th July – 'Open the Door' presentation

Tue 8th July – Governor Challenge Day & Main Meeting

Thu 10th & Fri 11th July – Meet new classes mornings

Fri 11th – UKS2 Curriculum Evening

- Sports Experience day - Golf

Mon 14th – Wed 16th July – Langdale Residential

Mon 14th Jul - Reports Out & Curriculum Eve YR-Y4

Thu 17th – FUN day & **Y6 Graduation 6pm**

Fri 18th Jul – Beckstone's Got Talent

School Year Ends, no Beck Xtra or Afternoon Nursery

