

BECKSTONE PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

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Newsletter no. 4
December 2025



Dear Parents/Carers

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

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

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a magical Christmas and here's to a fabulous 2026!



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



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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



Christmas 2025 @ Beckstone



Christmas time is a key fundraising time for the 'Friends at Beckstone'. The group however is aware of the financial pressures on families in the lead up to Christmas so the fund-raising activities will be mainly online allowing families to spend as little or as much as they like outside of public view. Each Stage will be putting a large hamper together which will be packed full of goodies. There will be 4 hampers altogether. Donations to these hampers of edible treats or bottles - bubble baths, wines etc would all be most welcome to make excellent hampers for prizes.

**THANK
YOU**

Christmas Hamper Raffle



Raffle tickets (£2) for the hampers are now available to purchase on ParentPay. There are some amazing prizes, see below. Tickets cost £2 on ParentPay.



Beckstone Christmas Raffle

Tickets £2

Prizes include:

- £60 Lakes Escape Voucher
- Family Day Pass to The Beacon Museum
- Family Day Pass to Maryport Coast Aquarium
- Cuddly Toys donated by Fearons Flowers
- £15 Mental Chef Gift Voucher
- X2 tickets for The Alhambra Cinema
- and many more!!

Please pay via Parentpay by Thursday 18th December.
The raffle will be drawn on Friday 19th December.

Children's Christmas Raffle

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



2026 School Calendar

Every Stage has produced a 2026 Calendar which will include your child in their birthday month, as well as a Stage one a whole school one is also available. They are great fun and would make lovely Christmas presents for friends/ relatives etc. They are prepopulated with all the dates in the final column of the dates page of this newsletter plus dates to Christmas 2027 too. **These are available to order on ParentPay for £3 .**

The photos for the 2026 version are absolutely amazing.





Christmas Bingo Night

This takes place **THIS** Wednesday, 3rd December. We have to put a limit on the number of people who can attend due

to the size of the hall! A popular event! The **£5** ticket includes one bingo book, a hot dog and a cold drink.

Deadline is tonight!

Christmas Discos

The Bright Stars Club are running 2 Christmas Disco Parties with a professional DJ with all profits going to the Arabella playground. The cost will be £6 including refreshments. They will take place on Monday 8th December with Reception and Key Stage 1 after school from 3.15 to 4.15pm. The Key Stage 2 one will run after that from 4.30pm to 5.30pm...children can go straight from Beckstone Xtra or can go home, get changed and come back.



Christmas Products

The Bright Stars Club will provide the Christmas goodies listed below before the end of term. They can be ordered on ParentPay.



Christmas Cracker Workshop



Christmas Party Day

Parties across the school take place on Thursday 18th December for Nursery to Y6. Children can come dressed in non-uniform if they wish or Christmas jumpers/outfits etc.



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 CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS AND BUSINESS ADVISERS

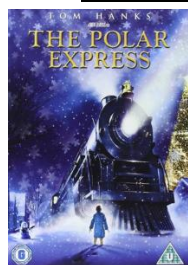
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Christmas Movie Nights



These take place on Monday 15th December for Reception & KS1 & on Tuesday 16th December for KS2. The film is Polar Express. Children going to these events can come to school in Christmas Pyjamas if they want. The cost is £6 and is on Parentpay.



Christmas Hamper Donations

Each Stage is putting a Christmas Hamper together for the raffle. If you can please can you donate any hamper gifts that will enhance the hamper...bottles of any type, cakes, goodies, toys etc. Your support for this would be greatly appreciated.



Christmas Carols

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



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

Christmas Dinner



This takes place on Thursday 11th December; the canteen staff do sterling work to make a wonderful Christmas dinner for over 400 people which is no mean feat. Our thanks go to them. The whole of Nursery will have a Christmas dinner, parents will need to pay on ParentPay. Children on packed lunches have been contacted to book their child a Christmas dinner on that day if they so wish – information went out 2 weeks ago).

Please pay £3.10 on ParentPay using the School Meal Booking section.



Christmas Post Boxes

Christmas Card Post



Boxes will go out for internal mail on Monday 8th December for any children wishing to send cards to friends in the school. **Please check the recipient's name and class is on the envelope.** Cards can be home-made or purchased (you can get cheap boxes of cards from many retailers e.g. from as low as 16 for £1 or £2.00 for 50 from Asda)

Christmas Nativities & Events

SAFEGUARDING

No photographs/ videos can be taken by parents

All performances are recorded by school and a protected download can be purchased via Parentpay

If you want to take a photo of your child please wait until the end of the performance and they can come to you, you must ask for parents permission to take a photo of your child with their friend

THANK YOU

These are all listed on the dates page on the back of this newsletter. Reception and Early Years are performing Nativities for parents and there is a LKS2 and an UKS2 Carol Service at Church. KS1 performed a Harvest Festival for parents earlier in the term.

There is no charge for any of these events or programmes but there will be a donation buckets (cash on the door) and there will be videos of **all the events** above available priced £3 for a download available on ParentPay. There will also be collections at all these events in support of our stretched school fund.

Christmas in the Community

Thursday 4th – UKS2 visiting Harrington Over 55s
Wed 10th – Nursery singing at the Galloping Horse
Wed 17th – Y2 visiting Allerdale Disability Association

Details of all Church services in the locality can be found on their web sites.

Finally, please remember the Community Carol singing event in Victoria Square, see details on the flyer at the below. Do come along if you can, this event really feels like the start of Christmas!



Workington November Light Festival



Workington shines bright this winter with a magical light festival for all the family

This winter, Workington is set to dazzle residents and visitors alike with Hall

Park Light Works - a spectacular new Cumberland Council Light District event bringing seasonal sparkle to West Cumbria.

Taking place THIS Saturday (6th) and Sunday (7th) December, this enchanting event for all ages will transform the heart of Workington into a glittering wonderland after dark.

Supported by the UK Government and Arts Council England, the event is free to attend - no ticket is

required, just turn up. It will run each night from 5.30pm to 8.30pm, the event will be fully accessible.

Our Key Stage 1 pupils will have designed some of the winter scenes that will be projected on to Curwen Hall and some of our UKS2 pupils will be parading lanterns with their families made in November to parade on one of the nights.

Online Christmas Goodies

Tracking Santa



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

www.noradsanta.org



Santa Video

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

www.portablenorthpole.com

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



Elf Yourself



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

www.elfyourself.com

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



Santa Yourself



You can put your face into Santa's to make personalised cards

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





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Christmas Holiday Activity Zone



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



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

St Mary's Church – Christmas Card & Magazine



The Church organised a Christmas Card competition for children to design a card that will go out in the Parish and also be reproduced on the cover of the December Parish Magazine.

The winner was Lilly from Y6 with Remi (Y6) and Ella (Y5) as runners up. All received boxes of art materials.



Mayor's Christmas Card Competition

Councillor David Farrar, the Mayor of Workington held a competition across all schools in Workington to design the Mayoral Christmas Card with a theme of a 'Happy Healthy Christmas'.

Adalyn from Y5 was the runner up and as part of the prize she assisted with the 'Workington Christmas Light Switch On' Saturday 29th November. Her design is pictured as well as her with the Mayor on the night.



A595 Puffin Crossing

After many years of lobbying the authorities by Governors the Puffin crossing was finally in place and operational last month. This will greatly enhance the safety of our pupils and it is great news.

At a later date the 'pupil bollards' mentioned in a previous newsletter will be installed as well.



Coats

All children now need to wear their coats at lunchtimes and playtimes. There is no rule on coats with regard to the uniform policy, just something to keep your child warm and dry. Please ensure they come to school with a coat and **one that has their name in** – thanks!

School coats which are fully waterproof and have a hood and reflective strips are available online from Border Embroideries.... <https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/beckstone-primary-school.html>

There are also coats available for free via our uniform exchange. To enquire simply email uniform@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk or use the QR code.





Governors' Board

Hi All,

Welcome to the month of December and the magical time of year it is for all the little ones.

Firstly, I would like to say a huge well done to all who took part in ETL's Spinathon on Saturday 15th November, to raise funds for Arabella and the Adventure Playground, A 3-hour set, with all of Beckstone staff and Governors. This was an amazing turnout and for those of you that managed to conquer more than one session, you all truly deserve the recognition. A true team effort.

Reception have been on of their first School trip to visit Santa at Whinlatter Forest on Monday 24th November, and I am sure that they will have had the most magical day, thank you to all those parent helpers who were able to lend a hand.

With plenty to look forward to over the next couple of weeks, A Christmas Cracker Workshop for year 2 children and above and the Christmas Bingo night and more little fundraising purchases i.e. Reindeer food, Christmas sweet cones and Christmas hot chocolate, please log on to ParentPay to see what is available for you.

If you haven't already, please do get your tickets for the Christmas Bingo night on Wednesday 3rd December, I can vouch that this is a brilliant night, the atmosphere is an absolute hoot, with plenty of chocolate to be won.

To end this, I would like to wish you all a lovely Christmas, spending time with your loved ones. Some of you parents may be working over the Christmas period and I understand how hard this can be being away from your loved ones on Christmas day, so we learn to cherish the days that we can spend with our families. It is not what is under our trees in the morning after Santa has been, it is about, who is around our tree that matters.

Please all stay safe and I wish you all the best for the Christmas period, and a very very Happy New Year.

See you all in the New Year!!

Fiona Grierson (Parent Governor)



Governor				Gallery		
						
From: 15.05.25 To: 15.05.25 Chair BCo-opted	From: 27.12.25 To: 27.12.25 Vice Chair & LA	From: 28.05.25 To: 28.05.25 Co-opted	From: 14.10.25 To: 14.10.25 Parent	From: 28.05.25 To: 28.05.25 Parent	From: 28.05.25 To: 28.05.25 Parent	From: 28.12.24 To: 28.12.24 Co-opted
						
From: N/A To: N/A Headteacher	From: 12.07.25 To: 12.07.25 Staff	From: 12.06.25 To: 12.06.25 Co-opted	From: N/A To: N/A Clerk	From: 26.11.24 To: 26.11.24 Staffing & Finance Associate	From: 26.11.24 To: 26.11.24 Co-opted	From: 28.12.24 To: 28.12.24 Parent

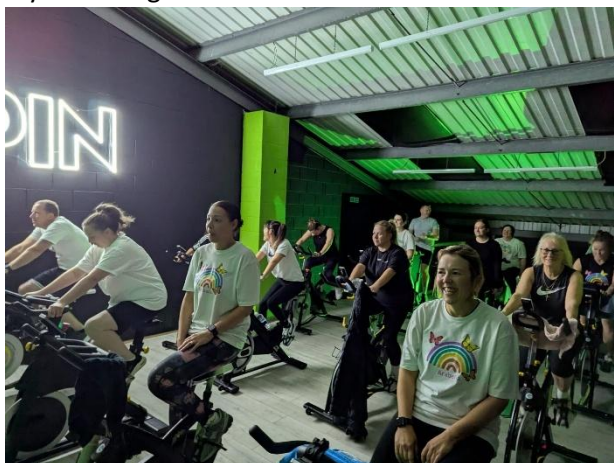
Harrington Light Switch On

The Youth Club are organising the Harrington Light Switch on TODAY – 1st December. Details are below. There are many things to do on your way home for school so why not call in!



School Staff Spinathon

The vast majority of school staff/Governors and some parents of the school took part in a Spinathon on the morning of Saturday 15th November to raise money for the Arabella Playground via a sponsored gym bike 'Spinning Session' at the ETL Gym. All at the school are very proud of their efforts. The event was organised by Mrs Vaughan.



Community Champion Cup

In light of the previous article the decision on the awarding of this trophy was unanimous and it was agreed to award it to the 'Spinathon Staff'



The Marie Wright Kindness Cup



Everly from Year 4 was awarded the Kindness Cup. She always shows exceptional kindness to her classmates and celebrates their successes. She goes out of her way to support her fellow pupils and has shown great support in helping a pupil new to the school.

Creativity Cup

Eadie-Mae has been taking great time and care in art lessons to produce super pieces of work. Eadie-Mae is also very adept at drama and loves to perform.





Sporting Success

LKS2 Benchball

Our LKS2 Benchball team recently took part in the second inter school competition of the year and emerged as champions just like the UKS2 counterparts in the previous month. They are pictured here with their trophy and certificates.



Non-Uniform Days

Thank you for the donations of chocolate and the monetary donations to Children in Need (over £250 raised and donated). The absolutely fantastic support from our parental community is really treasures, than you all so very much.



The final non-uniform day of 2025 is on the Christmas Party Day on Thursday 18th December. Children can wear Christmas jumpers, other Christmas outfits or any non-uniform. This is a FREE non-uniform day.

Poppy Appeal

Thank you to all who donated in support of the Poppy Appeal. The school will have raised a lot of money for the British Legion as the collecting pots were very heavy. We have yet to hear of the total. Thanks to everyone for their support.



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THURSDAYS 6pm-8pm
SUNDAYS 5pm-7pm

LORTON YEW TREE HALL
TUESDAYS 6pm-8pm

LAMPLUGH VILLAGE HALL
MONDAYS 6pm-8pm

THE GATHER ENNERDALE
WEDNESDAYS 6pm-8pm

LEARN KARATE IN A FAMILY FRIENDLY CLUB
BUILD SELF CONFIDENCE
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

Blain Rooney Sporting Trophy

Anderson from Y5 was awarded the trophy. He possesses all our sporting values, always shows a really positive attitude and the effort he puts into everything is amazing. In addition to all that the kindness and empathy that he shows to his peers is lovely.



Remembrance Silence



Sadly the weather didn't allow us to line the hill for the silence, We held a silence within school and hope to make it a community event next year and ensure the hill is adorned with the nearly 1,000 poppies made since the end of Covid.

Remembrance Parade

The school took part in the Harrington Remembrance Parade on the morning of Sunday, 9th November. The Parade left the British Legion at 9.15am and arrived at Church at 10am for a service and then a commemoration at the Cenotaph afterwards. The pupil volunteers represented the school excellently. Mrs Beecroft & Mrs McAdam kindly volunteered to escort the Parade for the school. There are many photos on the web site such as the one below: https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/pupil_zone/film_photo_gallery/2024-2025/remembrance-parade/index.html



Attendance

Please can all families ensure their child attends school as regularly as possible and on time – indeed this is a statutory duty on parents.



There is a duty on schools to chase up any children who are missing when the school is not informed. This used to be passed to the Police but now the

Police won't act unless the school carries out a home visit first. On a couple of occasions recently school staff have had to be taken out of their usual roles to carry out home visits (a minimum of 2 staff have to carry out the visits). As you can imagine this is a huge drain in resources on a school day. On every occasion to date it has been a result of families not informing the school of illness and not answering phones, responding to texts or emails!! Please can all parents ensure the inform school when their child is not attending to prevent this happening.

On another attendance matter we are aware of some incidents this term where parents have told the school their child is ill/has an appointment when they are actually on holiday/or on an out of school trip and unauthorised absences are not wanted. The County Attendance Policy is stating schools must report this and untruths may lead to fines/prosecutions and irrespective of this it is not good parenting to make out to your child it is alright to lie.

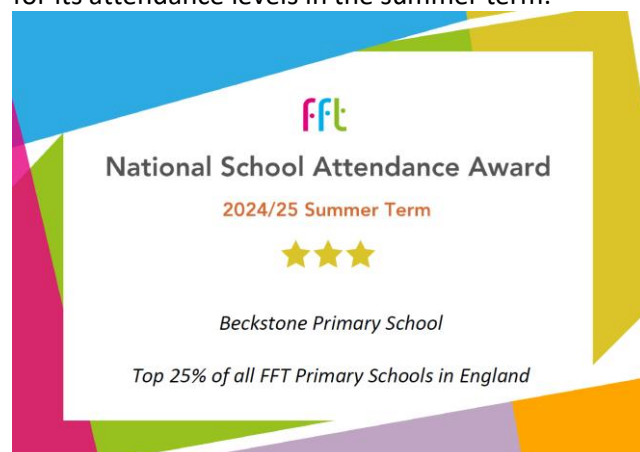
Attendance Cup

The class with the best attendance for the first half of the Autumn term was 3/4LB with an amazing 98.12% attendance.

The class are pictured below:



The school recently received the following certificate for its attendance levels in the summer term:



Currently every week this term the school has been above the national attendance levels. This is great news and it is important the children understand that attendance at school equates to learning, lost learning can never be replaced and education is the key to success in life.





The Wobbly Wand

Handmade, whimsical
arts & crafts

www.wobblywand.co.uk

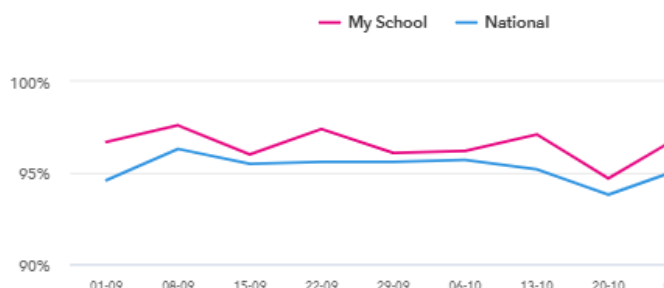


Wobbly Wand's Page



National Comparisons

AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE - 2025-26



Term Time Holidays & Tests



There is active discouragement of taking holidays in term time as it disrupts a child's learning.

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

If you are planning trips next year, please avoid the following dates in 2025:

KS1 Optional SATs – The month of May 2026

KS2 SATs - Week beg. 11th May 2026

Y1 & Y2 Phonics Screening Check Week – Week beg. 8th June 2026

Y4 Times Table Check – 2 weeks from Monday 1st June



Foodbank

Please note we collect for the Foodbank all year round and there is a collection bin in the green shelter in front of school. Donations are welcome at any time of year. We received a 'Thank You' from the North Lakes Foodbank for your Harvest Donations. The certificate below is a formal recognition of thanks and hopefully is gratifying for



all those that donated on our Harvest day.



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!

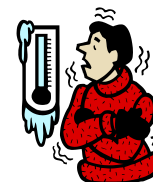
- * Milk (Full Fat or Semi- Skimmed UHT)
- * Fruit Juice (1 ltr carton UHT)
- * Pasta Sauces (jars or sachets)
- * Biscuits or snack bars
- * Cereals (Medium sized boxes)
- * Tinned Meat
- * Tomatoes (Tinned or Carton)
- * Tinned Fish
- * Tinned Fruit
- * Tinned Vegetables
- * Soup (Tinned no Cuppa Soup)
- * 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

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 Cumberland Council web site carries information on schools that are closed
- Radio Cumbria will be informed and closure details will be included in their broadcasts

The school web site will be updated underneath the 'Weather Warnings' link.



It is very rare for the school to close and it has to be something very serious to do so. The recent flooding caused a number of schools in the area to close as they were concerned staff couldn't get in for the start of the school day. We already had contingency plans in place to host whole school events with the staff who could make it in to support our families and their work demands as well as maintaining your child's school experience.



Facebook & Instagram



Instagram

The school is on Facebook and Instagram.



Facebook

You should be able to search for the pages or you can use these

addresses/QR codes.

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

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

Give Blood – Help Save a Life!



The next donor sessions are at the Energus on Friday 19th December from 12pm to 3pm.

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



Food & Drink

♦ **School Meals** currently cost £15.50 per week (only £3.10 a day) payable on ParentPay. This is great value when you look at prices of goods in supermarkets for packed lunches and the hassle of putting them together. We would recommend a hot meal for all the children, particularly as we return to school in the Autumn and would encourage those on packed lunches to make a change.

Menus are always on our school web site.

- **Milk** is vital for growing children as it strengthens bones and teeth. Children in Reception and Nursery

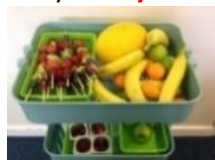
are entitled to free milk as are children who are eligible for free school meals and clothing vouchers (not the universal free meal for all Reception & KS1 children).

- The cost of milk for next term is **£15** and needs to be paid by **Friday 9th January 2026** 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.



Milk for THIS half term costs £15.00 payable by Friday 9th January 2026.

- Snack money for Nursery and Reception is **£15** for this half term. This is paid on ParentPay and please pay by **Friday 9th January 2026**.



- Fruit is **£15.00** for this half term, again payable on ParentPay by **Friday 9th January 2026**. This is for playtime snacks.



Nursery Intakes



The above picture is a screen grab from an excellent video promoting Nursery places at our school which can be seen on the school's Facebook page. The video has already had over £10,000 views since its release a couple of weeks ago!

The flyer below explains times that children are eligible to start Nursery:

If you know of any children with birth dates between the times shown on the flyer below and would like their child to come to this school, then please ask



BECKSTONE NURSERY PLACES 2025/26

JANUARY 2026
Children born between 1st Sept - 31st Dec 2022

APRIL 2026
Children born between 1st Jan - 31st Mar 2023

SEPTEMBER 2026
Children born between 1st April - 31st Aug 2023

JANUARY 2027
Children born between 1st Sept - 31st Dec 2023

Children can attend 'Afternoon Nursery' as soon as they turn 3 - further information is available from the school office.

Nursery application forms can be collected from the school office or found on the Cumberland website.

Please apply as soon as possible!

them to get in touch with the School Office as soon as possible.

Forms for applying for any of these intakes can be downloaded from the Cumberland website for application forms:

<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.



From January 2026 there will be some alterations to some aspects of the payments and timings, Nursery parents will receive a letter about this soon. It will not involve significant changes to overall timings and costs but will be tweaks to ensure compliance with new funding rules but also make the Nursery offer here parent support focused.

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 on the next page – please note these places **(MUST BE BOOKED IN ADVANCE)** with pick up times at 2.15pm and 3.15pm.

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

Beckstone Xtra runs from the end of the school day until 5.15pm (the cost is £5 per hour). 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




Beckstone Xtra Themed Days

Monday Art & Crafts	Tuesday Dancing
Wednesday Homework	Thursday Baking
Friday Computers	

Beckstone Primary School Nursery

Morning nursery sessions run every day from:
8:45 a.m.—11:45 a.m. (3 hours)

If you would like your child to stay in afternoon nursery, our 30 hours runs from Monday morning – Friday lunch time (12:45pm).

Pick up times on Monday – Thursday afternoons are 2:15pm or 3:15pm. If you are entitled to 30 hours there will be no charge for these sessions.

Unfortunately, there is no option for 2:15pm pick up on a Friday.

The cost for a Friday afternoon is **£7.50**.

The cost of a lunch is **£2.50** to be paid via Parentpay.

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

£2.50 per day for a school dinner

£11.50 (plus £2.50 for dinner) until 2:15pm

£15.50 (plus £2.50 for dinner) until 3:15pm

Unfortunately, there is no option for 2:15pm pick up on a Friday.

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 until Friday 12:45pm or banked for Summer Camp (this must be agreed in advance).

Please inform the office as soon as your child starts 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.

****** 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 *****

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 cost £15.00 per half term.

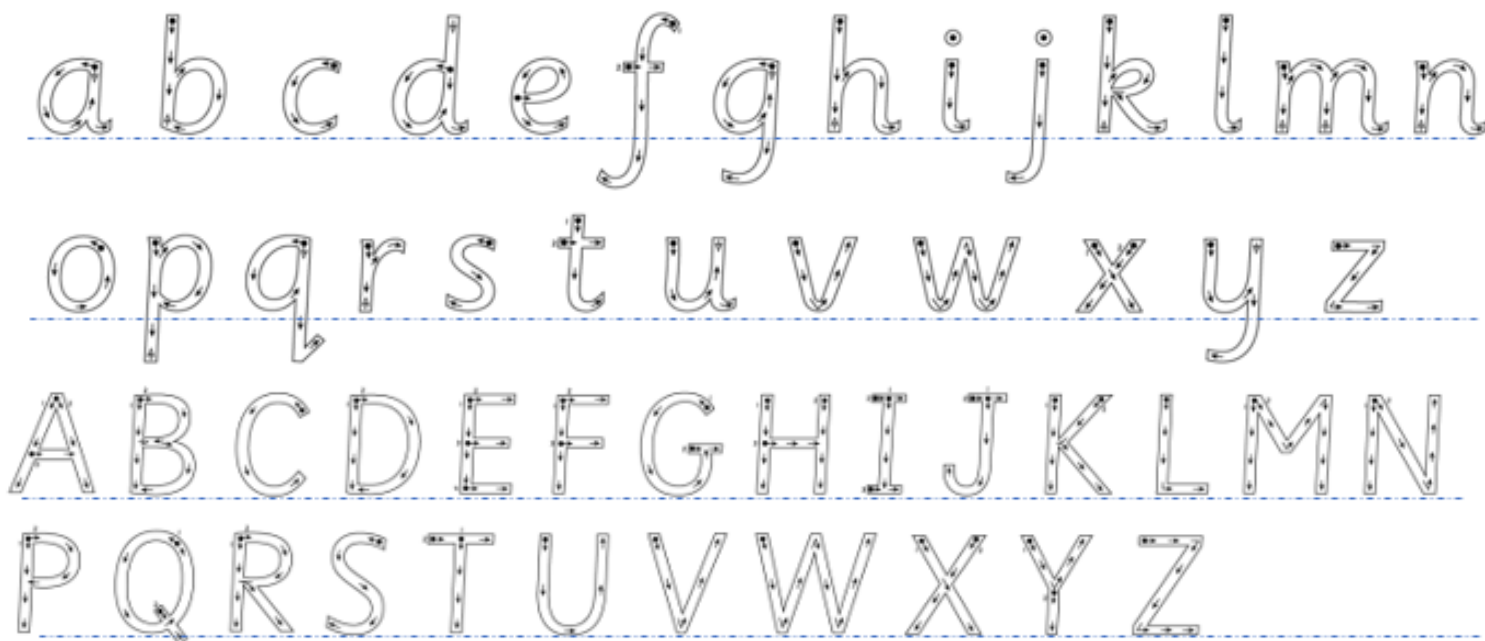
Advertisements



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.

Letter Formation

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





Gritting

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

Reading With Your Child

This is SO VERY important to your child's development and has come up as an issue at pupil progress meetings as many children are not being asked to read or being read to regularly. Indeed a recent school survey showed only 96 out of 250 of our children who were asked said this was a regular event in their household. This needs to be put right, please can everyone make this a New Year resolution.



Reader Teacher

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

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



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



Simply click on the Year Group and browse all the titles. Clicking on the book cover takes you to Amazon to read more about the book and to order it if you wish. The site also has reviews, book listings by author, genre and details of new releases.

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



Curriculum Visions

This is an amazing site for reading. It's full of excellent children's non-fiction books that cover a vast array of topics and reading ages. Reading these volumes will greatly enhance your children's understanding of their studies and widen their general knowledge and understanding of the world and its history.

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

The username is **beckstoneprimary** and the password is **CA145PX**. Using these will give you and your child access to 1,000s of reference books across a wide range of subjects. Do have a good look.



Safeguarding/Child Protection

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



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

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



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

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:



School Kitchen

Our new cook, Ellie Armstrong, and new kitchen have had a dramatic impact on lunchtimes with pupils really enjoying the food on offer and many pupils who had packed lunches during the kitchen closure period returning to school meals as well as some entirely new to school meals.



As a school we would thoroughly recommend school dinners as they are nutritious, have the weekly nutritional and dietary national requirements

checked as standard as part of the contract and in the winter months what better way of keeping warm from the inside than a hot meal.

If you want to change your child's lunchtime choice to school dinners then simply let the school office know,

Packed Lunches

Packed lunches are subject to nutritional policies as equally as school dinners. Whilst there are appropriate checks for compliance to nutritional standards via our meals contractor the school is responsible for ensuring packed lunches comply to national health standards.

The school policy is clear, no chocolate based/sugary items, no crisps and no fizzy drinks. Non-compliance will result in your children not being allowed to eat these items and if they are hungry we will provide a meal that you will be charged for and repeated non-compliance will result in the open invitation for your child to be in school over lunch to be withdrawn and you can then feed the unhealthy items to them at home over this period.

Messy Mary's at St Mary's Harrington

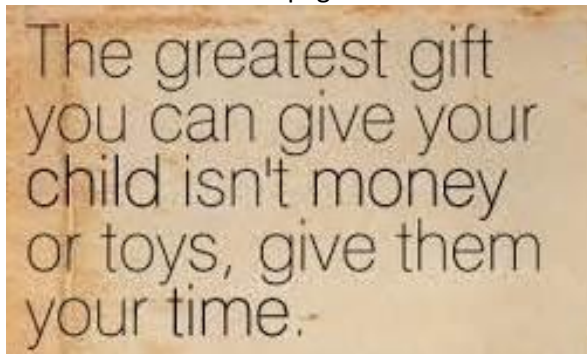
Messy Church is held on the third Saturday of every month in St Mary's



Church Hall from 4pm to 6pm. The next one is on the 18th of October.

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.

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

Please help if you can by donating to this fund.

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

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 now for **Year 5 and 6** children who can attend one or both.



Donations Needed

The school would very much welcome

- Christmas Hamper donations

- Raffle Prize Donations
- Barbie & Ken dolls/clothes
- Clothes for doll babies
- Hot wheels type cars
- Wet playtime games



CBeebies Parent Zone

CBeebies PARENTING

Looking for parenting and pre-school tips? Maybe you're after ideas for a creative activity, delicious recipe or the perfect party? You'll find all those here, along with insights into our CBeebies shows and how they support your child's development.

The Parenting Zone of the CBeebies web site is very impressive. It can be found by following the link or QR code below,

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/parenting>



The site has helpful videos on supporting your child from pre-birth through to Key Stage 2. It also has helpful answers to common questions and concerns about children such as bedtime routines, language acquisition, food issues, car

journeys, family based activities etc. There are also links to great educational shows for your children as well as Nursery Rhymes and Early Maths.

It is definitely well worth a look.



The Arabella Adventure Area

The planning committee regularly meet and there is a lot going on behind the scenes. We are very appreciative of the role AtkinsRealis are taking and project managing the development as part of their social impact support in the area. We are awaiting a ground survey to ensure the land is stable and in the meantime we are in touch with a number of playground designers. They have a brief to design a playground within the area shown in the photo incorporating



exciting and fun filled features, butterflies and a seated area,
The timescale is tight as we are hoping to have it ready for the start of the end of the Spring Term.

The Heart at the Front of School



We were donated 300 purple crocus bulbs by Working Derwent Rotary for planting in the school grounds, they form part of the Rotary Club of Great Britain's prostate cancer awareness campaign. Our Chair of Governors has planted them in the shape of a heart and has then edged the area in wood to protect them from the groundsmen and their strimmers. The heart should be blooming in purple when the above playground is opened (incidentally Arabella's favourite colour},

The Curse of WhatsApp & Primary Pupils



WhatsApp has a minimum age of 16 as children do not have the maturity to use it effectively and have difficulty understanding messages out of

context. This school, along with many over the country, have issues with parents allowing their children to use WhatsApp and then upset spilling into school. We are aware there are a number of pupil WhatsApp groups and there has already been **a lot of upset since September.**

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



happening and to keep your child safe.

There is further information on the dangers that WhatsApp poses for children in the 'Social Media & Your Child' Zone of our web site.

https://www.beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk/parents_info/social-media-your-child.html

Please protect your child's childhood and don't buy them Smartphones this Christmas!



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!

Social Media & Staff

Whilst on the subject of Social Media please don't contact or request staff as friends via any platform. Staff have signed a social media policy with regard to such contact with school families for clear reasons and do not like having to refuse such or respond to such approaches but they can't, so please can all understand this.

New Parental Service – Neurodiversity & Emotional Wellbeing

This new service started last month. From the site:

- Our mission is to create acceptance and understanding of neurodiversity and nurture the emotional wellbeing of every child and young person.
- We are committed to ensuring the development of safe and inclusive environments where individual strengths are recognised, voices are heard, and support is compassionate and personalised.



- Through strong collaborative partnerships and evidence-informed approaches, we will help children and young people flourish—emotionally, socially, and developmentally—so they can lead confident, connected, and fulfilling lives.

What we do

- We offer a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for children, young people, families and professionals. You can get advice, early support, and signposting in one place.
- We help families understand different ways of thinking, feeling and experiencing the world.

Our service includes a:

- dedicated section with advice, information and strategies
- single point of contact for parents, carers, young people, and professionals
- new strengths and needs assessment to help plan the right support for each child or young person

Who we are

Our team includes:

- 2 social prescribers
- 5 support workers
- 1 health and wellbeing coach
- 3 emotional resilience nurses
- 1 clinical psychologist (available for clinical support and guidance)
- 1 assistant psychologist

The site can be accessed here or use the QR code
<https://cumberlandfamilyhubs.org.uk/neurodiversity-and-emotional-wellbeing/neurodiversity-and-emotional-wellbeing-service>

SCAN ME



**Reading with your child
over Christmas will
make it a special season
for them!**



Toy Safety Concerns

Please don't send your child in to school with any toys containing liquid or slime. There have been a couple of concerns recently with damage being caused by liquid and slime.

Thank you in advance.

Kevin Sinfield Charity Run – 5th December



Kevin Sinfield will run through Workington on December 5th, 2025, the 5th day part of his "7 in 7: Together" ultramarathon challenge to raise money for Motor Neurone Disease

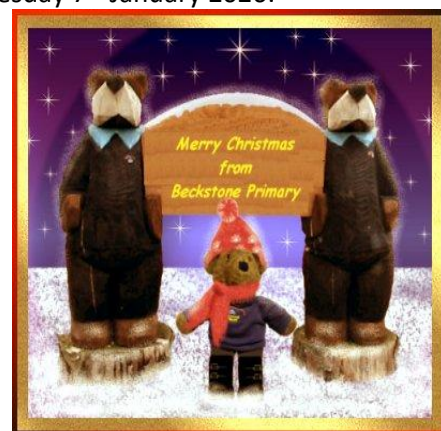
(MND) charities in remembrance of his close friend and fellow Rugby League player Rob Burrow.

He will be running past school just after the start of the school day which is a difficult time for pupils to support him. We are asking UKS2 children to come in early at 8.30am and get their registration mark and then they will be escorted to the A595 to line the route, all other children will need their registration mark and will be in school.

Donations can be made through the [Give as you Live website](#)



All associated with the school would like to wish all our families a very 'Merry Christmas' and a fabulous festive season. School breaks at normal time on Friday 19th December (there is no Educare or Beckstone Xtra that day). The children then start back on Wednesday 7th January 2026.



and a



Term Dates until Summer 2027

	Autumn 2025	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Autumn 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027
Start of Term	Wednesday 3 rd September	Wednesday 7 th January	Monday 13 th April May Day – Mon 4 th	Thursday 3 rd September	Tuesday 5 th January	Monday 12 th April May Day – Mon 3 rd
Half Term	Monday 27 th October - Friday 31 st October	Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February	Monday 25 th May - Friday 29 th May	Monday 26 th October - Friday 30 th October	Monday 15 th February – Friday 19 th February	Monday 31 st May - Friday 4 th June
End of Term	Friday 19 th December	Friday 27 th March	Friday 17 th July	Friday 18 th December	Thursday 25 th March	Friday 16 th July



Diary Dates

December

Tue 2nd – Nursery Nativity for parents 9.30am

- KS2 Boccia tournament at St Joseph's



Wed 3rd – Christmas KS1 Crafternoon

- Christmas Bingo Night



Thu 4th – NISCU Puppets Visiting

- Christmas KS1 Crafternoon
- UKS2 visiting the Over 55's



Fri 5th – Josh McAllister M.P. visiting for Parliament Week

Sat 6th & Sun 7th – Workington Light Festival



Mon 8th – Christmas Postboxes go out

- Christmas Discos: 3.15 - 4.15pm YR & KS1; KS2 – 3.15 - 5.15pm

Tue 9th – Reception Nativity for Parents 9.30am

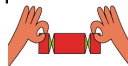


Wed 10th – Reception Nativity for Parents 2.15pm



- Nursery singing Carols at 'the Galloping Horse'
- Christmas Cracker Craft Session 3.15 - 4pm

Thu 11th – Christmas Dinner Day



Mon 15th – Christmas Movie Night – Reception & KS1 3.15-5.15pm

Tue 16th – LKS2 Carol Service at Church 2pm

- Christmas Movie Night for KS2 3.15-5.15pm



Wed 17th – Y2 visiting Allerdale Disability Association

- UKS2 Carol Service at Church 2pm

Thu 18th – Christmas Party Day



Fri 19th – Carols in the Square 10.30am



- No Beck Xtra or Afternoon Nursery,
Break up for Christmas



Dates for 2026!



Wed 7th Jan – Children start back

Tue 13th Jan – KS1 Dodgeball 9.30-12

Fri 23rd Jan – 1/2LJ Class Assembly

Thu 22nd – Young Voices after school Singalong 3pm

Tue 27th Jan – Governors' meeting

Fri 30th Jan – 3/4SF Class Assembly

Wed 4th Feb – Key Steps Gymnastics @ Netherhall

Fri 6th Feb – 1/2DT Class Assembly

Wed 11th Feb – KS2 Cinema Night

Thu 12th Feb – 3/4LS Class Assembly

Thu 12th Feb – KS1 & R Cinema Night

Fri 13th – Young Voices Trip

Week beg. 16th Feb – Half term

Tue 24th Feb – KS2 Table tennis 9.30-12

Thu 5th March – World Book Day

Fri 6th March – AK Day

Fri 13th March - Poetry by Heart Showcase

Sun 15th March – Mother's Day

Week beg. 16th March – Nursery Come & Play week

Tues 17th & Wed 18th March – Parents' Evenings

Thu 19th March – UKS2 Party night

Fri 20th March – Year 5 Assembly

Week beg. 23rd March – Easter Party Nights YR- Mon; Y1 – Tue; Y2; Wed; LKS2 – Thu.

Week beg. 23rd March – Egg & Bonnet Design Week

Tue 24th March – LKS2 Football Competition 9.30-12

- Governors' Meeting & Challenge Day

Fri 27th March – Egg Dumping Final

-School breaks up for Easter, no Beck Xtra or Educare

Mon 13th April – Children start back

Wed 22nd April – 5/6CC cooking experience @ Pizza Express

Thu 23rd April – Schools Cricket Day ' Netherhall

Fri 24th April – 1/2AF Class Assembly

Tue 28th April – KS1 Kicky Rounders 9.30-12

Thu 30th April – Class Photo Day

May – KS1 Optional SATs Month

Week beg. 11th May – KS2 SATs

Mon 4th May – Bank Holiday

Tue 5th May – LKS2 Rounders competition 9.30-12

Fri 1st May – 1/2TM Class Assembly

Fri 15th May – Y6 children can wear their Leavers' Hoodies

- School Swimming gala

Mon 18th May – KS1 & R Cinema Night

Tue 19th May – KS1 Football 9.30-12

- Staffing & Finance Committee & Main Governors

Thu 21st May – KS2 Cinema Night

Fri 22nd May – Y6 Takeover Morning

Week beg. 25th May – Half term

2 weeks from week beg. 1st June – Y4 Times Table Check

Week beg. 8th June – Y1 Phonics Screening Check Week

Weeks beg. 1st & 8th June - UKS2 Intensive Swims

Wed 3rd June – Sports Day

Tue 9th June – Governor Challenge Day

- Reception Multi Skills 9.30-12

- 20 years celebration

Tue 16th June – UKS2 Football 9.30-12

Sun 21st Jun – Father's Day

Tue 23rd – Thu 25th June -UKS2 Newcastle residential trip

Week beg. 29th Jun – Summer Trips week

Thu 2nd July – Y6 Leavers' Photos

Fri 3rd July- Year R Trotters trip

Week beg. 6th July – Summer Party nights; Mon: YR; Tue: Y1; Wed: Y2; Thu: LKS2; Fri; UKS2.

Tue 7th July – Governor Main Meeting

Thu 9th & Fri 10th July – Meet new classes mornings

Mon 13th Jul - Reports Out & Curriculum Evening

Tue 14th July – Y6 Graduation

Thu 16th – FUN day

Fri 17th Jul – Beckstone's Got Talent

- School Year Ends, no Beck Xtra or Educare

