

BECKSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Newsletter no. 6
February 2026



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Half term is 2 weeks away and we are exactly half way through the school year on Wednesday this week!

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

For some of the older children there will be parents' evenings this half term and for everyone else they will be in the second half of this term (booking details will go out after half term), dates are on the back page. I would urge each family to ensure they attend as this is an opportunity to learn about your child's academic progress. I was very pleased with the turnout for the last set of parents' evenings, 97% on the nights and then with follow ups almost 100%! All educational research shows that where school and home work closely together the child flourishes so they are vitally important.

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

I hope you all have a fabulous half term and Valentine's Day when they come.



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



Arbor

Arbor App

As you should all be aware the school has moved its data management program to 'Arbor' from Scholar Pack (which is being discontinued). The new system is quite different yet the transition has been smoothly managed by Mrs Tuck in the Office.

One impact of the transition is the new system charges very highly for text messages to parents (we are talking thousands & thousands of pounds). Given we want to prioritise funding on teaching and learning we are asking you to install the Arbor App on your phone and ensure notifications are turned on. In that way we can message you free of charge.

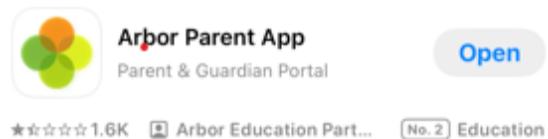
This transition will need a little effort on your part but it is worth it as it will help school funding and you will be accurately kept up to date with school events and messages will not be limited in length.

Please note, this is not a replacement for Tapestry/Seesaw...it is for communication between the Office and home.

The Parent App went live last Friday, 30th January and as of today, **Monday 2nd February 2026** any communications that would normally be sent via text to parents will come via the Arbor App.

We will only be texting in an emergency situation from this date.

You should now have received your log-in details for the App via email. You will need to have downloaded the Arbor Parent App (which looks like the image below) from your App/Play store and have logged in. Any problems with logging in, please contact the Office. We can help you get logged on as having access to this App is really important.



Please enable notifications for the App – again this is very important so that you do not miss any messages from us.

If you have any problems, can't get connected etc then please let us the Office know immediately as it is VITAL you have access to the app otherwise you will not receive important information from school.



Use of Social Media by Children

As mentioned in many articles in this newsletter over recent years the major concern and inhibitor of the happiness, mental wellbeing and curtailing of childhood innocence is the use of social media and smartphones. Despite please asking parents not to let children use apps which have a minimum age well above Primary

APPS AND THEIR AGE RATINGS





ages we know this continues as we are having to deal with the upset this causes to pupils on a regular basis.

It is your responsibility as parents to ensure your child is NOT using these apps to keep them safe.

We understand the pressure put on parents by pupils as they say 'everyone is using it' and also parents like to keep in contact with their children however that benefit can be far outweighed by the detrimental effect it has on your child once they get involved online.

The concerns over phone use by underage children is now in the mainstream news and an ongoing concern for all under 16 year olds. With the wealth of evidence about the harm they can cause as parents please think long and hard about what you are allowing them to do.

If nothing else STOP them from using social media apps and protect their childhood!

The national debate is moving towards a 'ban' which is in place in Australia and would be of use as all are then in the same boat, the peer pressure is removed and children will get their childhood back and be so much safer.

SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD

Below is a link from 'Smart Phone Free Childhood' to enable parents to reach out to your local M.P., Josh McAllister to make sure that parliament debates and actively considers implementing a ban on social media to under 16's (same as Australia). This could be discussed in Westminster in the near future. The form is really easy to fill in and literally takes 30 seconds. The form writes and sends the email for you so all you have to do is put in your contact details and press send.

<https://smartphonefreechildhood.eaction.org.uk/raise-the-age>

Please do this to protect not only your children but everyone's!

BEGINNERS CLASSES ENROLLING NOW

www.cumbriacoastkarate.co.uk



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

**HARRINGTON
ST MARY'S CHURCH HALL**
TUESDAYS 6pm-8pm
**HARRINGTON
SCOUT HUT**
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 SELF ESTEEM
IMPROVE FITNESS
LOSE WEIGHT
LEARN HOW TO USE IN SELF DEFENCE
FAMILIES TRAINING TOGETHER
(THIS NUMBER DOES NOT ACCEPT TEXT MESSAGES)

ALL INSTRUCTORS ARE FIRST AID TRAINED AND DBS CHECKED

07543 876490



Sporting Success



KS1 Dodgeball



Our dodgeball team came third in the recent inter school competition. For many it was their first sporting event representing the school and they did so very well. We are very proud of them and as well as their 3rd place certificate they got special certificates for being the best 'dodgers'. The team are pictured below:



Cross Country



We sent a large team of cross country runners to the Area cross country competition at Netherhall recently. They are pictured at the top of the next page. The children did well with them all finishing in the first half of their respective races. Zach D, from Y5, won the UKS2 event and was amazing! 19 of our pupils

qualified for the County finals in the Yorkshire Dales, the most of any local school!



Sporting Value Trophies

The school awards trophies for sporting behaviour on a termly basis. The children who won trophies for showing specific sporting values were awarded them last week. Their trophies are kept with them in class for the rest of the term.



Key Stage 1



Key Stage 2





The Wobbly Wand

Handmade, whimsical
arts & crafts



www.wobblywand.co.uk



Wobbly Wand's Page



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:



The 2 guides above are well worth a read and can be found here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>





Class Assemblies

The dates for these are on the back page of the newsletter. Please note that class assemblies are for classes from Y1 to Y5. EY and Y6 have other performances for parents over the year. Class assemblies start at 9.05am on a Friday in the Sports Hall which is accessed through the front playground gate and then walk round the back. Please note the displayed flyer for Safeguarding actions with regard to these 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



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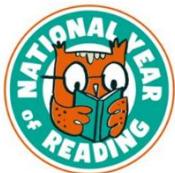
Young Voices 2026

The school choir will be travelling to Manchester Arena on Friday 13th February, the day before half term, to attend the Young Voices 2026 concert. Choirs from across the North of England will gather for this musical spectacular which is greatly enjoyed by all who take part.



Details of the trip have been issued to all taking part and parents can also attend the trip. The choir will be showcasing their songs to the school in Singing assemblies throughout this half term.

National Year of Reading



2026 is the 'National Year of Reading' and we are planning a raft of activities some of which are mentioned below. Of note to all families is that in recent meetings with class teachers to look at pupil progress it was noted that only around 50% of pupils in classes read regularly at home. This is extremely concerning!



Reading is vital to your child's education and impacts their attainment in every subject. Your child should be reading at least 5 times a week and ideally every day. Your role as a parent is to ensure this is happening, share books with them and ask them questions about it to check their understanding.

Reading with Your Child

CurriculumVisions



Hi, I am Henry, your learning assistant.
Please click on me...

Your school passwords:

Username: beckstoneprimary
Password: CA145PX (no gaps)

We want to promote 'Share a book every day' with children at home with their family and friends. Sharing books with children is fun, it can be a time for closeness, laughing and talking together and it can also help your child to become a lifelong reader and have a love of books.

There is no right or wrong way of doing it and it is never too early to start reading to your child. The Curriculum Visions site (<https://www.curriculumvisions.com/>) is a great resource for exploring non fiction.

SCAN ME



Tips for sharing a book

- Try and find somewhere away from noise and television and make sure you are not using your mobile phone
- Make sure you take time to look and talk about the pictures on the pages
- If your baby chews books to start with, it doesn't matter. They will soon enjoy helping you to turn the pages

- The use of sound effects for example animal noises will help to bring the story to life and make you both laugh
- Encourage family members such as siblings to join in and share a book with your child
- For older children, ask some questions when reading together, for example; what can you see on this page? How do you think Goldilocks felt when she saw the bears? What do you think is going to happen next?
- As your child's language develops encourage your child to tell the story. They can read the pictures to you and talk about what's happening on the page
- If you think you are not a brilliant reader it doesn't matter because just hearing and listening to your voice is comforting for your child.



How to read aloud to older children

1. Keep it fun Reading shouldn't be a chore! When children's experiences are pleasant they are more likely to develop a life-long love of reading
2. Read with energy. Use lots of energy! Using facial expressions and emotion: different voices for different characters; and varying the tempo and volume that you read with will help to create an immersive storytelling experience your children will love.
3. Ask questions. Asking questions as you read can improve understanding and get the child to be an active participant in the reading experience
4. Explain as you go. Explaining what is happening on the pages and allowing time to talk about it as you go through the book can deepen your child's understanding and expand their vocabulary
5. Point out words. Pointing out words can really help younger children when it comes to learning to read. Scanning from left to right, as well as showing what a letter and a word is, has been shown to help develop advanced reading skills.
6. Look at the pictures/illustrations in the book. Talking about the pictures in the book is just as important as reading the words
7. Get them to read along with you . This would work especially well with your favourite rhyming books that you have read so many times with them that they can remember parts
8. Reread the same book. This is linked to the above point as it will give them the confidence to join in and helps build fluency and a better understanding of rhythm and language
9. Encourage the child to retell the story to you. When they are confident with the story see if they can recite parts of it to you or someone else on their own. This will improve their confidence and help develop their memory and speaking skills.

World Book Day – Get Cosy & Read

This takes place on Thursday, 5th March. All children will be given a World Book Day token which entitles them to £1 off books in a book shop or to purchase other World Book Day books outright. **Please note:** The offer of discounted world book day books for schools for their pupils on this day is no longer available so we will endeavour to get the book tokens out early so you can use them to get the World Book Day Books from a book shop.



The theme for the day is either book characters or bedtime reading so children can come in costumes, nightwear, pyjamas, tracksuits, hoodie blankets, dressing gowns etc. There is therefore no need to buy costumes.

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

Non Fiction Reading Challenge

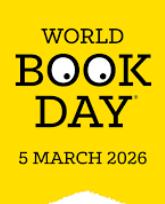


On World Book Day the Sports Hall will be turned into a non fiction reading area for the children to explore the world, history, geography and much much more. Non fiction books from around the school will be available for the children to dip into or quiz each other on.

Children reading non-fiction books builds knowledge, sparks curiosity, develops critical thinking, and improves reading skills by providing factual information on topics they love, from science and history to culture, often using engaging visuals, activities, and relatable stories that boost academic success and a lifelong love of learning.



We would very much welcome donations of any unwanted children's non fiction books, encyclopaedias etc that would support this event. Please help if you can.





Medicine Dispensed at Home

Please let your child's teacher know if they are taking medicine at home even if it is not being dispensed at school. This will help school if there are side effects that could potentially cause discomfort at school.

Creativity Cup

Greyson from Year 3 was the winner of the Creativity Cup. Greyson is outstandingly creative. He possesses a uniquely amazing skill for drawing. He uses line work, colour and perspective expertly. He'd make a fantastic book illustrator in the future!



Community Champion Cup



The Community Champions Cup was won by the 'Bright Stars Club'. They raised over £2,000 for the Arabella Playground through their fundraising events throughout the Autumn term at Halloween and Christmas, all giving

freely of their time. Indeed, their endeavours were recognised by the Bright Stars sponsor, the Centre for Leadership Performance, and were recognised as the winners of the 'Most Profitable Social Enterprise'. The next photo shows them with their winning cheque and their certificate is also shown.



The Marie Wright Kindness Cup

The winner of the Kindness Cup was Tillie from Y5. Tillie always puts others before herself and shows respect and understanding to both her peers and adults. She is a great role model to others!



The Blain Rooney Sporting Trophy



This was won by Zac from Year 4. Zac possesses all of the sporting values and shows kindness and empathy to all of his peers. Zac always has a positive attitude and puts 100% into everything he does!

Commendation Letter from the Secretary of State

The school recently received a letter of commendation for its valuable work in supporting disadvantaged pupils. It was lovely to receive and the team are very proud. It is self explanatory and reproduced on the next page.

A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear David,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Beckstone Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

There are real opportunities available for you to support improvement for a wider group of pupils including through:

- engaging actively with your region's RISE networks and partnering with nearby schools and trusts;
- contributing to regional roundtables and professional communities to spread the approaches that are working in your context; and
- sustaining excellence by continuing to focus on disadvantaged pupils

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bridget Phillipson".

Bridget Phillipson
Secretary of State for Education



Department
for Education



Governors' Board

Governors Blog

Welcome to February's Governors blog

February is a difficult month to cover as although we're heading out of 'the winter blues' we've still a little bit to go before Spring arrives. As such, I want to recognise the amount of support that exists both in school and within the wider Beckstone community.

Firstly, I would like to say congratulations to the staff, children and their families who have been recognised by the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson for the 'excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils achieved', at Beckstone Primary. This highlights the importance of staff and parents working together to encourage and support children to achieve their best but also to, more importantly, help children see what they are capable of.

One of the main reasons I became a governor was to better understand what goes on in the background of running a school such as how the curriculum is developed and delivered, how policies are set or how the schools' budget is set and managed. It has been a steep learning curve, however, as a parent, I think I probably took a lot of this for granted. One of the things that has stood out most to me during my time as a governor is the phenomenal support given by families with links to the school during the events that are organised each term. It's truly amazing!

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been working with a group of year 3/4 pupils who had an idea with the intention of raising funds to contribute towards the Arabella's Adventure Playground development at the front of the school. It's heartwarming that the two pupils thought of the idea and then approached Mr Warbrick to discuss it further. Well done Bobby and Oliver 3/4 LB. More details will be shared after half term about this as I don't want to steal their thunder.

While it currently looks like the playground project is at a standstill there has been plenty going on behind the scenes and we are hopeful that the groundworks will commence soon.

On behalf of the Governing Board, thank you for your continued support of the school. We hope you and your children enjoy a week recharging your batteries when half term arrives.

Thanks

Simon Turk
Chair of Governors



Governor



Gallery

From: Simon Turk To: Chair & Co-opted From: 15.03.22 To: 15.03.23	From: Kate Mahone To: Vice Chair & LA From: 27.11.22 To: 28.05.23	From: Laurie Block To: Co-opted From: 28.05.23 To: 28.05.23	From: Ryan Close To: Parent From: 14.03.23 To: 14.03.23	From: Danielle Miller To: Parent From: 28.03.23 To: 28.03.23	From: Sardhar Mistry To: Parent From: 28.03.23 To: 28.03.23	From: Brian Rooley To: Co-opted From: 08.03.24 To: 08.03.24
From: David Warbrick To: Headteacher From: N/A To: N/A	From: Hayley Wells To: Staff From: 03.07.23 To: 13.07.23	From: Mrs Needham To: Co-opted From: 13.06.23 To: 13.06.23	From: Claire Tuck To: Clerk From: N/A To: N/A	From: Philippa Vaughan To: Staffing & Finance Associate From: 08.03.24 To: 08.03.24	From: Rev. Dom de Mattos To: Co-opted From: N/A To: N/A	From: Flores Gledhill To: Parent From: 08.03.24 To: 28.12.24

Workington Academy Awards

Since the start of the new year some more of our pupils have been attending Workington Academy for Maths and English enrichment. Lily, pictured below, was recently awarded the English student of the week and Vejay for Maths from across all the schools who attend.



Lip Balm



Health & Safety have issued advice to schools regarding lip balms.

These are not to be used in school as they contain chemicals that can cause reactions (apparently some lip balms from the USA available in this country contain banned chemicals). School cannot police all lip balms that enter the school building so please do not send them in with your child. Your child may be fine with them but if they are used on another child then there could be issues so safety of all is paramount.

If a child's does have really dry lips and you have medical advice that lip balms are needed then please complete a medication form and it can be kept in the school office. Please note the advice states that Vaseline should certainly not be allowed as this has petroleum jelly as an ingredient.

Thank you in advance for your compliance with this.



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Chinese New Year

The new Chinese New Year starts on the 17th of this month and it is the 'year of the Horse'.



If you want to know which Chinese New Year sign you were born under see the table below:

Chinese New Year								
	鼠		豬		牛		虎	
1960	1984	2008	1961	1985	2009	1962	1986	2010
1972	1996	2020	1973	1997	2021	1974	1998	2022
rat	ox	tiger						
	兔		龍		蛇			
1963	1987	2011	1964	1988	2012	1965	1989	2013
1975	1999	2023	1976	2000	2024	1977	2001	2025
rabbit	dragon	snake						
	馬		羊		猴			
1966	1990	2014	1967	1991	2015	1968	1992	2016
1978	2002	2026	1979	2003	2027	1980	2004	2028
horse	goat	monkey						
	雞		狗		豬			
1969	1993	2017	1970	1994	2018	1971	1995	2019
1981	2005	2029	1982	2006	2030	1983	2007	2031
rooster	dog	pig						

 visit twinkl.com



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



Cumbria Fostering



Become part of Cumbria's biggest Family

Find out about **Fostering**
...and how you can change children's lives in 2026

Come along to our information drop in at Costa Coffee on Steelman's Way in **Workington** on **Friday 6 February** from 12pm to 1pm and speak to our friendly team and foster carers.

0300 019 0200

cumbriafostering.org.uk

Names in Clothing

The lost property box was bulging at the end of term!!! Please, please, please put your child's name in their clothing. When this happens, their clothing is easily returned. The amount of money some families lose by not doing this is staggering when you see how much is left unclaimed!

Coats

We need all children to wear their coats at lunchtimes and playtimes. We have an external thermometer and when the outside temperature drops below 13°C then coats are mandatory. Please ensure they come to school with a coat and **one that has their name in** – thanks! 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.



BECKSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Uniform can now be ordered **FREE** without donating old uniform as we have large stocks.



UNIFORM EXCHANGE

NOW OPEN



To order uniform simply email uniform@beckstone.cumbria.sch.uk or use the QR code



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.



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.

Give Blood – Help Save a Life!



The next donor sessions are at the Energus on Friday 20th February from 3pm to 7pm or Lakes College on 10th February from 3.15 to 7pm.



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



Attendance Cup Winners & 100% Certificates

In the first assembly of 2026 all children with 100% attendance in the Autumn term were awarded a certificate. In addition, the class with the best attendance for last half term was 1/2DT with an attendance rate of 96.04%, well over the national. They are pictured below with their trophy



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.

All schools are referring any child who has 10 unauthorised absences to the County Attendance Officer. The Attendance Officer, Linzi Bennet, will then be in touch with those families and will send a warning letter or a fixed penalty notice.



The decision to issue fines is not made by the school and any money that comes from this goes to the County NOT schools.

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 2026:

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.



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



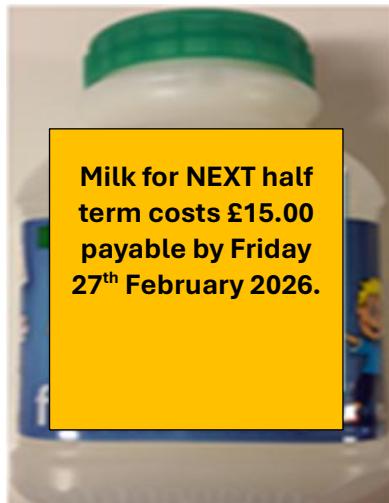
- **School Meals** currently cost £15.50 per week (only £3.10 a day) payable on ParentPay. Our kitchen received the top mark for hygiene last week 😊 We would recommend a hot meal for all the children, particularly as we are in the winter months and would encourage those on packed lunches to make a change. Menus are always on our school web site and one is displayed at the top of the next page.

Beckstone Lunch Menu

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Week 1	Sausage roll Quorn sausage roll Wedges Veg of the day Cheese & crackers	Beef lasagne Quorn lasagne Garlic bread Veg of the day Oatie biscuit	Roast Chicken Quorn fillet Mash, stuffing & gravy Veg of the day Jelly	Meatballs Quorn meatballs Pasta & gravy Veg of the day Syrup sponge & custard	Fish fingers Cheese & bean pasty Chips Veg of the day Ice cream
Week 2	All day breakfast Quorn breakfast Veg of the day Fruit salad	Spaghetti Bolognese Quorn Bolognese Veg of the day Chocolate brownie & chocolate custard	Roast Gammon & gravy Quorn mince Mash Veg of the day Vanilla sponge	Burger in a bun Quorn burger Tattie tots Veg of the Day Fruit salad	Breaded fish Fish fingers Chips Veg of the day Shortbread
Week 3	Cheese & tomato Rainbow pizza Pasta Veg of the day Peach cake	Tomato garlic pasta bake Mac & cheese Veg of the day Flapjack & custard	Sausage Quorn sausage Yorkshire & mash Veg of the day Melting moment biscuit	Chicken curry Vegetable curry Rice Veg of the day Ginger cookie	Fish fingers Cheese whirl Chips Veg of the day Chocolate cake sprinkles

Sandwiches (ham, cheese, tuna & jam) and jacket potatoes (cheese, beans & tuna) are available every day

- **Packed Lunches** a reminder of the following:
We encourage parents to provide healthy well balanced packed lunches.
Preparing a healthy well balanced child's lunchbox, includes:
 - Starchy foods – these are bread, rice, potatoes, pasta etc
 - Protein foods – including meat, fish, eggs, beans etc
 - A dairy item – this could be cheese or a yoghurt
 - Vegetables or salad
 - A portion of fruit
 - A healthy drink such as water or milk
- **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 half term is **£15** and needs to be paid by **Friday 27th February 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.

- Snack money for Nursery and Reception is **£15** for next half term. This is paid on ParentPay and please pay by **Friday 27th February 2026**.



- Fruit is **£15.00** for next half term, again payable on ParentPay by **Friday 27th February 2026**. This is for playtime snacks.

Cycle Helmets

Many children are coming to school on bikes and particularly scooters. Very few however come with a helmet.

Why insist your child wears a helmet?



- Helmets reduce severe head injury risk by nearly 70% and fatal head injury by 65%,-according to the brain injury association.
- They protect against common accidents: They cushion impacts from falls and collisions, protecting against common head injuries.

Please protect your precious child and insist they wear a helmet!



Nursery Intakes

BECKSTONE NURSERY PLACES 2025/26

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

APRIL 2027
Children born between 1st Jan - 31st Mar 2024

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!

If you know of any children with birth dates between the times shown on the flyer at the foot of the last page and would like their child to come to this school, then please ask them to get in touch with the **School Office as soon as possible**.

Forms for applying for any of these intakes can be downloaded from the 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.

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 apart from a Friday when it is 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



Themed Days

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

**** 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.



Non-Uniform Days

The next non uniform day is on the last school day of this month, Friday 30th January. Any donations towards the ongoing development of the playground in memory of Arabella would be most welcome.

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.

Donations Needed

The school would very much welcome

- Spare clothes for EY children
- Spare underwear for Early Years children
- **Spare clothes for KS1 children**

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.

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.

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.



Cinema Nights

These take place every other half term. The ones planned for this half term take place next month on Tuesday 10th (KS2) and Thursday 12th February (Reception & KS1).



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 over the 2 week period will receive a class treat so don't let the side down!



Advance Notice – Easter BINGO & RAFFLE



Tickets for the Bingo Night (£6 including books & refreshments) on Wednesday 25th March will go on sale from the day after half term as will tickets for the Easter Raffle - £2 with prizes of a large cuddly toy and a chocolate hamper.

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.

Facebook & Instagram



The school is on Facebook and Instagram.



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

Instagram



Facebook

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

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

Parents' Evenings

These take place over the next few weeks. The evenings for 6JM and 5/6CC take place on Wednesday the 11th and Thursday the 12th of this month. Parents should have received booking details on Calendly via Seesaw (the heading may have 'Autumn Term' due to a glitch, it is for the Spring Term). Please ensure you book your 10-minute appointment.



Appointments for the main school are on Tuesday the 17th and Wednesday the 18th March and booking details will come out after half term. There is one exception to this which is 1/2LJ whose evenings are on Monday 16th March as well as Tuesday 17th March.

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

Please note that brothers and/or sisters should not be at these meetings but should be in the FREE crèche provided or in Beckstone Xtra for the main ones on the 17th & 18th March, at other times Beckstone Xtra can be used up to 5.15pm so please make early appointments if you wish/need to use this service. We will also be asking you to support your children by setting targets for you to support them at home.



All at school would like to wish you all a fabulous half term. Enjoy Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day), the Tuesday of half term.



CHILDREN ARE MADE READERS ON THE LAPS OF THEIR PARENTS.



February

Mon 2nd – FAB Meeting

Wed 4th – Key Steps Gymnastics @ 

Fri 6th – 1/2DT Class Assembly

Mon 9th - Musical Monday

Tue 10th – KS2 Cinema Night

Thu 12th – KS1 & R Cinema Night

Wed 11th – Parents Evening for 6JM & & 5/6CC

Thu 12th – 3/4LS Class Assembly

– Parents Evening for 6JM & & 5/6CC

Fri 13th – Young Voices Trip

Week beg. 16th Feb – Half Term



Diary Dates

Week beg. 23rd Feb – Raffle & Bingo tickets go on sale

Tue 24th Feb – KS2 Table tennis 9.30-12

Thu 26th – Over 55's coming for lunch

March

Thu 5th – World Book Day

Fri 6th – AK Day – wear pink & purple

Mon 9th – 'Open the Book' Story of Esther

Tue 10th & Wed 11th – Nursery Afternoon Teas

Fri 13th – Chocolate Non Uniform Day

– Poetry by Heart Showcase

Mon 16th – NISCU Puppets are visiting for an Easter show

Sun 15th – Mother's Day

Week beg. 16th – Cyclewise Week

– Nursery Come & Play week

Mon 16th – Musical Monday

– 1 of the 2 Parents Evenings for 1/2LJ

Tues 17th (inc. 1/2LJ) & Wed 18th – Parents' Evenings

Thu 19th – UKS2 Party night

Fri 20th – Year 5 Assembly

Week beg. 23rd – Easter Party Nights YR- Mon; KS1 – Tue; LKS2 – Thu.

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

Tue 24th March – LKS2 Football Competition 9.30-12

– Governors' Meeting & Challenge Day

Wed 25th – BINGO Night

Thu 26th – UKS2 Snappy Opera Performance at Carnegie Theatre

– Nursery New Starters Meeting

Fri 27th March – Egg Dumping Final

– School breaks up for Easter, no Beck Xtra or Afternoon Nursery



Term Dates until Summer 2027

	Spring 2026	Summer 2026	Autumn 2026	Spring 2027	Summer 2027
Start of Term	Wednesday 7 th January	Monday 13 th April	Thursday 3 rd September	Tuesday 5 th January	Monday 12 th April
Half Term	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 27 th March	Friday 17 th July	Friday 18 th December	Thursday 25 th March	Friday 16 th July

Dates for Summer Term



Mon 13th April – Children start back

Fri 17th – New Nursery taster Session 1.30pm

Mon 20th – April Nursery starters start

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

Thu 23rd – Cricket Festival at Netherhall

Fri 24th April – 1/2AF Class Assembly

– Barnados visiting Y6

Tue 28th April – KS1 Kicky Rounders 9.30-12

Thu 30th April – Class Photo Day

Fri 1st May – 1/2TM Class Assembly

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 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

– Wed 20th – Takeover Morning

Thu 21st May – KS2 Cinema Night

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

Mon 22nd – Y6 Transition with Barnados -Parents invited 2.25pm

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

Tue 30th June – Nursery trip/Fun Day

Wed 1st July – UKS2 trip to Beamish

Thu 2nd July – Y6 Leavers' Photos

Fri 3rd July - Year R Trotters trip

– LKS2 trip to Mable Farm Park

– KS1 trip to Walby Farm Park

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

