



**St James' Church of England Infant and
Nursery School
28th November 2025**





Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

Our nativity rehearsals are ongoing now and it's great to see that they are both taking shape already! The classes have been learning the songs and they have had their rehearsals on the stage. Some of our youngest children look like they've been up there performing before! All of the songs have been uploaded to our website so the children can practice at home. They can be found under the "Children" drop down menu on our main page. Our dress rehearsals take place on Thursday and the children will have a live audience as some of our Junior children are coming over to join us.

As we get closer to the beginning of December we have lots of exciting Christmas events going on in school. The first event we have booked is for the whole school to visit the Carnegie Theatre to see the Beauty and the Beast pantomime. Please see further details below.

Nursery have been sculpting leaf designs using a range of different cutting and mark making tools. In their maths lessons they have been deepening their understanding of numbers 1, 2 and 3, looking at how they can recognise different representations at a glance (subitising) and they have been thinking about how we can show kindness to our friends.

Reception have enjoyed reading *The Magic Paintbrush* by Julia Donaldson, sparking their imaginations as they thought about the power of art and storytelling. In Maths, they have worked on the concept of 'one more and one less,' building strong number sense. Art lessons were full of discussion as the children compared figurative and abstract styles, learning to express their ideas about what makes each unique. Meanwhile, in Years 1 and 2, the children have been captivated by *Jim and the Beanstalk*, exploring themes of adventure and problem-solving. History came alive during a hands-on 'Toys in the Past' workshop, where the children explored how play has changed over time. In RE, the focus was on the symbolism of gifts, encouraging thoughtful conversations about kindness and meaning.

Our Messy Church group recapped the Bible story of Jonah and the Whale this week and they followed this up with a song, game and craft activity. Mrs Jones said that it was lots of fun!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Moore





Nursery punctuality



We have a number of nursery children who are frequently late to school. We appreciate there are days where traffic can be an issue but the staff need to lock the gate to ensure site security at 8.50am.

The teaching session begins at **8.40am**. We want our children to develop good habits to attendance and punctuality right from the start as we are school nursery.

Pantomime



We are taking the whole school to see Beauty and the Beast at the Carnegie Theatre, Workington on Tuesday afternoon next week. The payment for this is on SchoolMoney, if you have any issues with payments, please call in and see Mrs Brown or Mrs Moore. We think this will be a fantastic experience for the children. We will have an early lunch as the performance starts at 1.30pm and is due to finish at 3.00pm. Traffic permitting we should arrive back at school for the end of the school day but be aware we may be a few minutes late.

Christmas Fayre

Our **Christmas Fayre is on Friday 5th December at 2.00pm**. We would ask all parents to collect their children at 2.00pm and join us at our Fayre. If you cannot join us we will have some limited childcare available, but staff will be manning the stalls.

We will have lots of lovely stalls, cakes, chocolate tombola, raffle, crafts, meet the Grinch, festive games and it is always a lovely afternoon. We really appreciate your support in attending.

Face painting / Glitter Tattoos will be available during the morning only. Children should bring in £1 that morning if they would like to participate.

We would really welcome donations of cakes for our cake stall - these can be brought in on the morning of the fayre.

We will also be selling some specially designed tea-towels at the Christmas Fayre but we thought some parents may want to purchase these separately so they will be available to buy in the "shop" on SchoolMoney from today. They would make a lovely Christmas gift or keepsake, however please be aware we only have limited stock so once they're gone, they're gone!



Christmas lights switch on



Each year children can enter a draw to be the child who is drawn out to switch on our school Christmas tree lights. If your child would like to be with a chance to win this opportunity, please enter via the School Money shop. **The cost is £1.** All proceeds will go towards equipment for the children's benefit.

Reception Crafty Workshop



On Wednesday 3rd December, The Craft Workshop will be coming into school to work with the children enhancing their Art curriculum. The children will have a chance to paint a clay ornament which will be taken to be fired. They will then be returned to the children to bring home. There is a cost for the ornament of £8.50 which has been added to your SchoolMoney account.

Icy mornings



Our play equipment is slippery on icy mornings. Please can you keep your children away from the climbing frame and slides before school as we do not want any of our children getting hurt.

We will continue to grit the main walkways to keep the paths safe. Thank you.

Winter Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF)

On Monday 10th November Cumberland Council Winter Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) was launched. HAF provides funded holiday activities for children and young people in receipt of means tested free school meals and other groups identified by Cumberland Council, these include:

- Cared for or care experienced.
- Young carers.
- Child or young person on a Resettlement Scheme or seeking asylum.
- Home educated.
- Child or young person who is classed as SEND or on a EHCP but not on free school meals, up to the age of 18.

There is a wide range of activities taking place over the winter holidays, some of these can be accessed by the whole family including tickets to see Carlisle United and Cinema Tickets in Carlisle, Workington, and Whitehaven. Places are filling fast so please can you share our winter offer with any family that would be eligible for a funded place.

The Cumberland offer is available to view here: [Cumberland HAF - Eegu](#)

Applying for Reception and Transferring to Junior School



Cumberland School Admissions are reminding parents of the deadline to apply for places in Reception and Year 3 for September 2026 is 15th January 2026. All children moving from our Nursery to Reception next year still need to apply through Cumberland Council as do our current year 2 children moving onto the Juniors. You can use the link below to apply:

[Apply for a school place or change schools | Cumberland Council](https://cumberland.gov.uk/applyforaschoolplace)

Dentist Places Available



Queen Street Dental Practice have been in touch to say that they have children's places available in the dental practice. Please get in touch with them on (01946) 590388 if you need a dentist for your child.

Upcoming Church Services and Community Events



FAMILY SERVICE

In St. James'

Church

2nd NOVEMBER

7th DECEMBER

11:30am

Followed by bacon butties &
hotdogs in the community centre



YOU ARE
WELCOME
HERE



CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 29th November

9.30am-2pm

St. Nicholas Centre

RAFFLE

TOMBOLA



CAKE STALL

CRAFT STALL

COFFEE SHOP

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Hensingham ARLFC Recruitment!






Under 12's, years 6 & 7.
Training Tuesdays 7.15pm - 8.15pm @
Whitehaven School Astro.



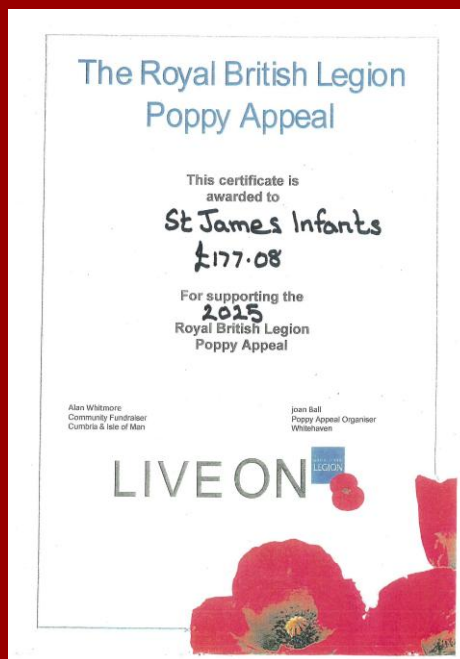
Girls, years 6 - 9
Training Wednesdays 7pm - 8pm @
St Benedicts School Astro.



Under 15's, Years 9 & 10.
Training Mondays 6pm - 7pm & Thursdays 7pm - 8pm @
St Benedicts School Astro.

This team are in NWC's league, commitment to travelling is
a must (transport provided).

British Legion Poppy Appeal



Many thanks to everyone who donated to this year's Poppy Appeal from the Royal British Legion. We raised a brilliant £177.08 for them.

Staffing Changes



Mrs Maiden, the School Business Manager at St James' Junior School is moving onto pastures new from 8th December. We are sorry to see her go as we have always worked closely with staff at the Junior School as part of our St James' family. In the interim period until the end of the academic year, Mrs Brown will be splitting her time working at both schools. She will, as always, be contactable by email through both schools.

Nativity



Some children may have received a slip/text asking them to bring in additional clothing for our Nativity performances. If you have not received a slip it means that school is providing everything your child needs for their part in the plays.

Our weekly celebrations



Headteacher Award- Josie

Learners of the week

Great Gable- Mason

Melbreak- Rosie

Catbells- Noah

Scafell- Georgie

Skiddaw- Charlie-Cole

Handwriters of the week

Ezra, Beau Rout, Oliver and Dan

Bronze Reading Certificate

Harper

Achievements outside of school

Ezra- rugby

Isaac and Madison- swimming





Cumbria Safeguarding
Children Partnership



C S C P

If you **SEE** something... **SAY** something!

Are you concerned about a child or family?

If you **see** or hear something that worries you...
say something!

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

To report a child safeguarding concern call:

Cumberland Safeguarding Hub – **0333 240 1727**

Westmorland and Furness Safeguarding Hub – **0300 373 2724**

NSPCC on **0808 800 5000**

In an emergency call **999**

Help us keep our children safe in Cumbria

Got an itch? Tummy trouble? Tickly cough?

NHS



Head to your
local pharmacy.

Did you know?
Pharmacists across
the North East and
North Cumbria can
offer advice and FREE
treatment for a wide
range of common
conditions* – just like
having a prescription
from your GP!

**Please ask your
pharmacy team
for more details
and eligibility.**

UTI's non pregnant women 16–64 years

Shingles 18 years+

Impetigo 1 year+

Sore throat 5 years+

Sinusitis 12 years+

Infected insect bites 1 year+

Earache 1 to 17 years

Additional conditions can be treated, without the need to visit a GP.
Ask a member of your pharmacy team about the minor ailments scheme.

Step 1

Go to your local community pharmacy (chemist) about your illness and they will offer advice.

Step 2

If needed, you will be offered treatment and if you qualify, this will be given free of charge.

Step 3

A suitable medicine may be offered to you.*

*You qualify for free treatment if you do not pay for your prescriptions.



Find further information at:
www.thinkpharmacyfirst.health

HERE
TO
HELP



E-School Nurse Video Clinics (By appointment only)



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

Tuesday and Thursday

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

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

For more information on the **E-School Nurse video clinic**

Please read the information leaflet or visit:

www.cumbria.gov.uk/ph5to19

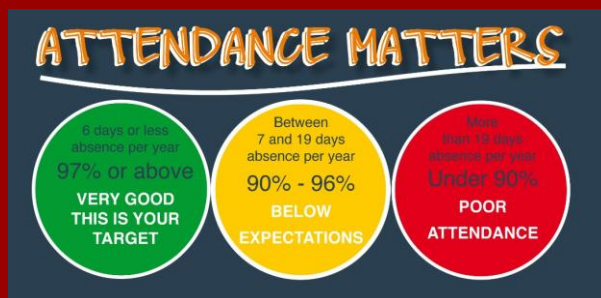
You can telephone for an appointment

01228 603973 Mon-Fri 8-4pm



happierhealthiercommunities.

Attendance and punctuality



Catbells and Skiddaw are our joint attendance winners this week with **98%**! Well done everyone !

The more children are in school the more the children have chances to succeed. Good attendance correlates strongly to good attainment and progress.

Our whole school attendance this week was **94.9%** , **0.6% higher** than the Primary National average of **94.3%** but we have had a number of viruses circulating this week. Hopefully we will be back up to our usual excellent attendance next week. Thank you, we appreciate your commitment to helping us secure very good attendance. It really does pay dividends for your child's progress.

Attendance %	Days present in a school year	Average number of days missed per term	Days missed in a school year
100%	190	0	0
90%	171	6.33	19
80%	152	12.66	38
70%	133	19	57
60%	114	25.33	76
50%	95	31.66	95



































- 5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost per year
- 10 minutes lost per day = 6 days lost per year
- 15 minutes late each day = 10 days lost per year
- 20 minutes late every day = 13 days lost per year
- 30 minutes late every day = 19 days lost per year

Breakfast club/ After school club

Breakfast and After School Club Bookings are to be made in advance via our online system School Money. Please note that you cannot book via School Money on the day, all bookings must be made by midnight the day before. For emergency bookings at short notice you can still ring the school office. Feel free to book in for any odd sessions that your child would like to attend. Sessions run from 3.15pm-5.15pm. The cost is £5.50 for the session, and pick up can be anytime up until 5.15pm from the middle Key Stage 1 classroom (door with the ramp on the bottom yard)..

Activities

Lots of different activities are provided each day for the children. They are welcome to choose from a variety of different games, crafts, construction and many other activities as well as our set activity for the day.

After School Club Activities 2025 –2026 Autumn 2					
W/C	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3rd Nov	Cars & Trains 	Bonfire Night Crafts 	Clay Modelling 	Lego Club 	Small World Animals 
10th Nov	Board Games & Jigsaws 	Small World Play 	Pirates & Dolls 	Arts & Crafts Hand Print Acorns 	Dance and Party Games 
17th Nov	Arts & Crafts Autumn Trees 	Lego Club 	Phunky Foods Biscuit Decorating 	Construction, Cars & Trains 	Movie Night 
24th Nov	Phunky Foods Sandwiches 	Small World Dinosaurs 	Games & Jigsaws 	Mindful Colouring & Reading 	Arts & Crafts Autumn Paper Chains 
1st Dec	Lego Club 	Arts & Crafts Snowflakes 	Dance & Party Games 	Clay Modelling 	Board Games & Jigsaws 
8th Dec	Small World Play Animals 	Mindful Colouring & Reading 	Arts & Crafts Christmas Baubles 	Board Games 	Cars & Trains 
15th Dec	Christmas Crafts 	Lego Club 	Christmas Activities 	Dance & Party Games 	No After School Club

Feel free to book on for regular or one-off sessions if your child would like to attend. Sessions cost £5.50 and run from 3.15pm-5.15pm pick up at any point in between these times. All bookings should be made via SchoolMoney.

Lunch Orders



School lunches need to be ordered through the School Money system. They can be ordered in advance for the rest of the half term but they must be ordered by the day before at the latest. If your child is bringing in a packed lunch from home, please ensure you select that option on School Money so that the office are aware. Packed lunches must not contain fizzy drinks or (as stated above) any items that contain or may contain nuts.



Plus: Filled Jacket Potato options and Wraps/Sandwiches Available each day

School Lunch Menu



AUTUMN WEEK 1				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Margherita Pizza or Roast Salmon and Noodles Sweetcorn Vanilla Sponge & Custard or Fruit	Chicken Burger in a Bun / Quorn Pieces in a Wrap with Cucumber Sticks & Raisins or Beef Lasagne with Broccoli Digestive Biscuit with Cheese & Apple or Yoghurt	Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding, Roast Potatoes, Cabbage and Gravy or Vegetable Stir Fried Rice with Garlic Bread Fruity Jelly or Yoghurt	Sausage Roll or Vegan Sausage with Waffles or Chicken Strips with Waffles Peas Flapjack or Fruit	Fish Fingers with Mashed Potato and Beans or Beef Curry with Rice and Broccoli Ice Cream Tub or Fruit

Upcoming diary dates



Tuesday 2nd December- Beauty and the Beast pantomime at the Carnegie Theatre

Friday 5th December 2pm- Christmas Fayre

Monday 8th December- Early Years Nativities (9.30am and 2.30pm)

Tuesday 9th December- Year 1 and 2 Nativities (9.30am and 2pm)

Wednesday 17th December- Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner and Christmas party

Friday 19th December- Break up for the Christmas holidays

**Please note further dates will be added as they arise throughout the autumn term.*

Contact Us



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Visit us on the web at www.st-james-inf.cumbria.sch.uk