



**St James' Church of England Infant and
Nursery School
24th October 2025**





Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

The children (& staff!) have earned their week's break, we are really proud with how hard they have worked so far and already many of them are showing signs of great progress. It has been lovely to see the children's books, speak with them and listen to the staff sharing the children's achievements week on week in our celebration assemblies.

School closes today for the half term holiday and the second half of the autumn term begins on Monday 3rd November at 8.40am-it's going to be another busy one! The new after school club timetable has been updated at the foot of the newsletter ready for children to choose which nights they would like to attend.

This week we say goodbye to our undergraduate students Miss Crosby, who has been working in Catbells and Mr Parr, who has been working in Scafell. They have completed their initial two week placement. We are looking forward to welcoming them both back to school for their block teaching practice beginning in March.

Mrs Moore







Scafell classroom move

Scafell will be returning to the 'middle' Key Stage One classroom after the holidays. Please note that drop off and collection will now be at the foot of the ramp of the adjacent classroom.

Read Write Inc phonics- notice for yellow group



Has your child been in yellow group a while now? If so, it is likely due to their reading speed. The next reading group after yellow is blue. Mrs Chambers assesses the children each half term and to meet the criteria to be in blue group. It is a National theme that children can become 'stuck' in this group due to lacking reading fluency.

Fluency is 'reading a text aloud accurately with appropriate expression and pacing that reflects the meaning of the text'. Children need to be secure in all of the above and be reading at approximately **70+ WPM (words per minute)** to move into the next colour group.

We will be providing 10 minutes per day of extra reading practice for children who are not new to yellow group next half term to boost their reading ability.

What can you do at home to help your child?

- Practice reading the 'speedy green words' speedily from the grid of the story book
- Increase the frequency of reading at home to increase practice
- Time your child to see how many words they can read in one minute using their yellow story book. Can they beat their score each week? This could be a competitive game.
- See your child's class teacher for a link to the Virtual Classroom which has additional practice videos to help at home.

The next assessment will be at the beginning of December. The aim is for Year 2 children to be meeting the criteria for grey group by the end of the autumn term to be classed as on track.

Football after school club for Year 1 and 2



Mr Lightfoot will be running a football after school club next half term on Wednesdays between 3.15pm and 4.15pm. If you would like your child to take part, please sign up in the usual way via School Money.

Design Technology resources needed please

We are looking to collect resources to build a Design Technology area for children to use in Year 1 and 2.

If you have any of the following items available at home, we would be grateful of any donations:

- ❖ Kitchen roll tubes
- ❖ String
- ❖ Bottle tops- plastic
- ❖ Buttons
- ❖ Corks
- ❖ Washed out yoghurt cartons/ small tubs
- ❖ Washed shells
- ❖ Jar lids
- ❖ Egg boxes
- ❖ Small sized cardboard boxes e.g. variety pack of cereal
- ❖ Paper straws
- ❖ Wooden lolly pop sticks
- ❖ Cotton reels



Language development suggestions



We are continuing to have a focus on promoting high quality adult interactions with children in nursery and Reception. Research shows that high-quality interactions between adults and children make a big difference to how well communication and language skills develop. Children benefit from being with responsive and enthusiastic adults who show interest in talking with them.

Please follow this link for suggestions of what you can do to support your child with speech and language [Activities for 3-4 year olds - Tiny Happy People](#)

Stocks Wood visits for Year 1 and 2



A Forest School visit has been planned for each of the Year 1 and 2 classes after half term to Stocks Wood. The children will have the opportunity to carry out themed activities related to their current unit of science work related to '*living things and their habitats*'. Additionally, the children will be able to do pond dipping to explore an underwater habitat and discover the species that are common in this area.

Letters have been issued with further details.

Parent Teacher Association



We are beginning to plan ahead to organise our annual Christmas Fayre. We would like to involve our parent community to help us out before and during the event.

If you feel that you could provide support- please express your interest to Mrs Brown admin@st-james-inf.cumbria.sch.uk and we will plan a meeting to discuss ideas and roles.

Remembrance



Year 1 and 2 will be leading our annual Remembrance Service in St James Church on Friday 7th November at 10.30am. Year 1 and 2 parents are welcome to join us as we remember and pay tribute to those that sacrificed so much.

After half term we will once again be supporting the Royal British Legion by selling Poppies and other related items in school. Children can bring in their donations and our School Councillors will be visiting each class each day to give the children the chance to buy something.

Spare Clothing



We are in need of spare underwear and socks for when children have a little accident in school. Sizes needed are for anything from 3 years to 9 year old sizing.

Children In Need



BBC Children in Need is a charity that supports children across the UK who face challenges such as mental health, poverty and inequality. We will be getting involved by fundraising on Friday 14th November. The children are welcome to come to school dressed up, they can choose whatever theme they like and be creative in exchange for a £1 donation. Yellow and spotty outfits or pyjamas and onesies tend to be the firm favourites! Please visit [Dress Up Ideas - BBC Children in Need](#) for inspirational ideas.

Upcoming Church Services and Community Centre Events

Wesus

And

Me

 *the parish of*
WHITEHAVEN



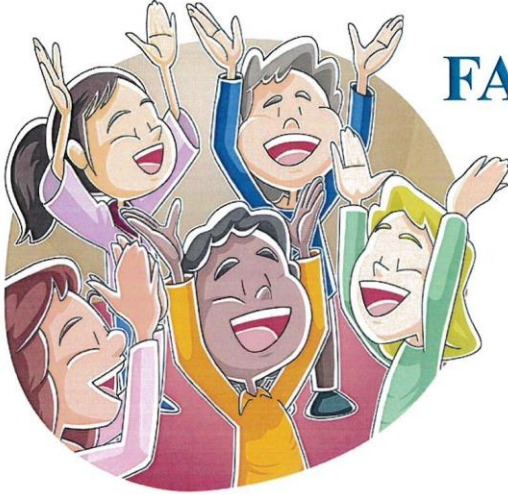
Church

**IN ST. JAMES' COMMUNITY
CENTRE 1:30pm to 3:30pm**

Monday 27th October

**Includes a tea of hotdogs &
snacks.**

Children must be accompanied by an adult



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**



October Half Term Events



The illustration features a large yellow sun in the center with the text 'HEAP ACTIVITY DAY 2' overlaid. To the left, a boy and a girl are looking at a map. To the right, three children are playing with large puzzle pieces. The background includes colorful bunting, balloons, and a dotted path leading to a house and a tree.

HEAP ACTIVITY DAY 2

Join us for:

- Fun activities for adults & children
- Free goodie bags for children
- Problem solving activities
- Lunch
- Meet companies & organisations from the local area including Morgan Sindall, OneAim, Sellafield Education Team

**Tuesday 28th October
10:00 - 14:00**
Howgill Family Centre,
Birks Road, Cleator Moor
CA25 5HR

Free Kids Goodie Bag!

Register Online Today!



For more information:
Call 01946 817900



HEAP



Howgill
family centre

Our weekly celebrations



Headteacher Award- Zayan

Learners of the week

Great Gable- Mylo

Melbreak- Elsie

Catbells- Rowan

Scafell- Mario

Skiddaw- Anandi

Handwriters of the week

Thivein, Isla, Leo and Emma

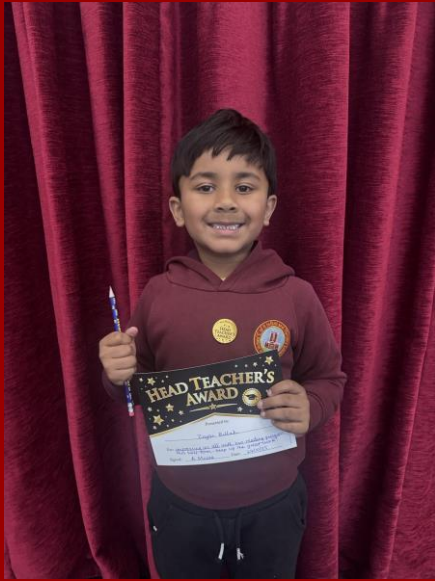
Achievements outside of school

Rugby- Beau Rob

Football- Elijah

Swimming- Ricardo, Skyla, Josie and Charlie-Cole

Well done to our group of children in Scafell for achieving their **bronze level reading award** this week.





Cumbria **Fostering**

Become part
of Cumbria's
biggest
Family

Find out about

Fostering



Visit our information stand at
West Cumberland Hospital

Come along to our information stand on
Friday November 7 in Whitehaven
from 11am to 12pm and talk to our
friendly team and foster carers



SCAN ME

 **0300 019 0200**

cumbriafostering.org.uk



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Working for Cumberland Council and
Westmorland & Furness Council

Cumbria **Fostering**

Become part
of Cumbria's
biggest
Family



Find out about

Fostering



Ready to take the first step
on your fostering journey?

Join our online information session from
the comfort of your home on **Wednesday
19 November** from 6pm to 7pm and talk
to our friendly team and foster carers



SCAN ME

 **0300 019 0200**

cumbriafostering.org.uk



Working for Cumberland Council and
Westmorland & Furness Council

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



**Cumberland
Council**



Parents/carers are
responsible for applying
for a school place by
15 January 2026

Starting School

Children born between

1 September 2021

and 31 August 2022

can start school in September 2026

You can apply online at: www.cumberland.gov.uk

or contact: 01228 221582

or email school.admissions@cumberland.gov.uk

cumberland.gov.uk

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

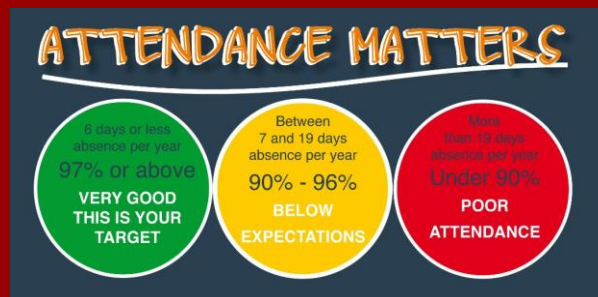
01228 603973 Mon-Fri 8-4pm



SCAN ME

happierhealthiercommunities.

Attendance and punctuality



Melbreak were our attendance winners this week with **98.8%**! 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 **96.7%** , **1.6% higher** than the Primary National of 95.1%. 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





























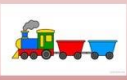




- 5 minutes late each day = 3 days lost per year
- 10 minutes lost per day = 6 days lost per year
- 15 minutes late each day = 10 days lost per year
- 20 minutes late every day = 13 days lost per year
- 30 minutes late every day = 19 days lost per year

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 enter via the door with the ramp on the bottom yard.

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 3				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Tomato Pasta with Garlic Bread	All Day Breakfast Sausage/ Vegan Sausage, Hash Brown, Omelette and Spaghetti Hoops	Pineapple Pizza	Beef Burger in a Bun	Roast Turkey with Mashed Potato and Gravy
or	or	or	or	or
Cheese Pie with New Potatoes	Sticky Beef & Rice with Green Beans	Roast Gammon with Potato Wedges	Vegetable Noodles	Tuna Pasta Bake
Sweetcorn	Yoghurt or Fruit	Peas	Sweetcorn	Broccoli
Chocolate Krispie Cake or Fruit		Ginger Sponge & Custard or Fruit	Anzac Biscuit or Fruit	Iced Carrot Cake or Fruit

Upcoming diary dates



Tuesday 4th November- Library bus visit

Skiddaw visit to Stocks Wood

Wednesday 5th November- Tullie House Toys from the Past interactive workshop for Year 1 and 2

Thursday 6th November- **Scafell visit to Stocks Wood**

Friday 7th November 10.30am- Remembrance Service for Year 1 and 2 in church

Friday 14th November- Children In Need

Monday 17th November- Road Safety Week

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



St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School

High Street

Whitehaven

CA28 7PZ

01946 691970

admin@st-james-inf.cumbria.sch.uk

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