



**St James' Church of England Infant and
Nursery School
17th October 2025**





Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

This is the penultimate week of the half term. As the weather is becoming colder, please could we ask that your child has a jumper or cardigan and a waterproof coat for playtimes.

Nursery have continued their focus about traditional tales this week, reading the classic story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. They are becoming more confident in retelling the story and joining in with the repetitive patterned language. They've also been busy making 'hanging hearts' as part of their PSHE unit of work about showing kindness to others. They've got lots of ideas about how they can do this everyday!

Reception have had a hands on week again, exploring capacity indoors and outdoors, learning the language of full, half full and empty in a variety of different contexts. During their science lesson they were investigating the sense of smell and this led to a class discussion about what smells they like and which ones are unpleasant.

In Year 1 and 2, we are promoting outdoor science opportunities where possible to increase children's connection with nature and the natural world. Yesterday the classes created food chains on a large scale, identifying the producers, predators and prey in small groups. In their English lessons, they have been mini reporters, presenting their knowledge about wolves to the rest of their class.

Yesterday we had our termly visit from the Deputy Director of Carlisle Diocese. She looked at our RE curriculum, examples of our children's work and she looked through our early years floor book which captures the range of activities we offer. She was suitably impressed with the range of experiences, breadth and balance of the curriculum.

After a few enquiries, just to confirm that we finish next Friday for October half term at the normal school closure time of 3.15pm.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Moore

NB- Melbreak parents please note that next week's Forest School session will be on Tuesday rather than Thursday. This will be the final session of the block.





Parent feedback



It was lovely to welcome parents into school for the autumn term parent/ teacher meetings this week. As part of this we like to carry out mini parent surveys to find out what you all think about the school and if there are suggestions for improvement we like to take those on board too.

Here is a summary of the feedback:

Things parents love about the school-

- *Fantastic school and amazing teachers
- *Lots of good communication
- *Very welcoming, friendly staff who are always approachable
- *Fantastic community feel- feel very content leaving my daughter each day
- *Varied programme- love Forest School!
- *The staff really care about my children
- *My kids are really happy
- *Great teaching environment, making my child want to come to school
- *Great advice and support from staff- good progression
- *Lovely caring environment, children's happiness is at the centre of the school.
- *Lots of activities to keep school exciting
- *We know how invested you are in the kids
- *We notice the visible improvements
- *The school works well with parents, keeping us informed
- *Huge promotion towards the child
- *The staff really understand the kids they work with individually
- *Lovely relaxed atmosphere and well organised
- *Amazing staff who go above and beyond
- *High expectations for achievement

*Brilliant communication

*School has done wonders

*Excellent teachers- feels like family!

*I could not ask for more- I feel so lucky our son is going to such a great school

*The love for the children shines through, my son is thriving

*Always someone to ask if you have questions- always kept informed

*Amazing school with staff who really care about the children

Some suggestions to make the school even better:

- *Sports day facility- we agree with this and we recognise that this has been put forward in the past. We have explored different facilities however none are currently viable due to cost, safeguarding, toilet facilities and distance away from school for our younger children.*
- *Earlier start for breakfast club- we trialed this in the summer term and we only had a maximum of 3 children coming and this wasn't regular. The issue we have is that we have to have two members of staff present therefore the extra time ran at a loss.*
- *Pink 'play doh'- we will see what we can do-haha!*

Fancy Dress Parties



We will once again be holding our spooky fancy dress parties next week. They will take place on Thursday 23rd October. Early Years will be 4pm-5pm and Key Stage 1 will be 5pm-6pm. Virtual tickets will be available to buy on SchoolMoney for £4.00. It will be a party of fun and games with hot dogs and drinks for refreshments. Children can be dropped off at their appropriate time and collected afterwards. For those children attending the After School Club, just bring in their costumes and we will ensure they are dressed ready for their party.

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.

Nursery and Reception Scissor skills



We rigorously track children's pencil grip and scissor control throughout the early years as these are vital skills for the future. We have noticed that a number of our children are finding the use of scissors increasingly difficult. This could be due to a lack of use at home before the children start school as the children tend to spend more time using screens.

We will be addressing this in school by continuing to offer hand and grip strengthening exercises and a variety of fine motor skills activities but we would be grateful of any parent support with this too.

What can you do at home to support your child with their use of scissors?

- Provide lots of opportunities to practice cutting skills (*under adult supervision*) using old magazines, newspapers and catalogues- show your child how to cut paper into strips and guide them to have a go themselves
- Draw a range of curvy, straight or zig zag lines on a piece of paper for your child to cut along
- Another great scissor activity for is cutting pasta. This will support not only their fine motor and scissor skills but will also promote hand/eye coordination. Just fill a tray or a shallow bowl, such as a washing-up bowl, with cooked pasta and let them get to snipping!
- As children's cutting skills develop, why not create a custom tray for the children with lots of different materials to choose from? This can contain any of the materials listed above as well as other material options, such as a sponge, foam sheets, kitchen foil, strings of beads, ribbon and soft card. To support fine motor skills further include a hole-punch and a variety of child-friendly scissors including ones that cut fancy patterns.

We recognise that this can be messy but practice really does make perfect with this skill. **The end goal is for each child to be able to cut out a circle with accuracy.**

School Council Meeting



Mrs King met with our school councillors yesterday to discuss what they like about school, what makes our school special and how we can make our school even better.

Some of the suggestions put forward for improvement include:

- a muga or a climbing wall
- swings
- a playhouse outside
- a day when you can bring your pets in

We love all of these ideas and we will keep them in mind when we are considering our next steps!

Remembrance Service for Year 1 and 2



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.

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



FAMILY SERVICE

**In St. James'
Church**

2nd November

7th December

11:30am

**Followed by bacon butties & hot-
dogs in the community centre**



**YOU ARE
WELCOME
HERE**



October Half Term Events



The poster features a large yellow sun in the background with the text 'HEAP ACTIVITY DAY 2' written across it. To the left, a boy and a girl are shown reading a book together. To the right, three children are playing with large colorful puzzle pieces. The top of the poster is decorated with colorful bunting, clouds, and balloons. The text is arranged in a clear, friendly layout with various colors and fonts.

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- Norah

Learners of the week

Great Gable- Jack

Melbreak- Skyla

Catbells- William

Scafell- Noah

Skiddaw- Finley

Handwriters of the week

Ember, Narla, James and Mollie

Achievements outside of school

Reya- Charity walk

Chloe and Alexia - swimming

Bodhi- Rugby





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.



**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

Attendance and punctuality



Melbreak and Skiddaw were our joint attendance winners this week with **100%**! 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 **96.8%** , **1.2% higher** than the Primary National of 95.6%. 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 Blencathra classroom which is around the back of school past the Nursery class.

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 1 | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| W/C | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| 1st Sept | Inset Day | Inset Day | Small World Play  | Construction Club  | Quiet Crafts  |
| 8th Sept | Quiet Crafts  | Small World Play  | Outdoor Play  | Relaxation and Reading  | Games and Jigsaws  |
| 15th Sept | Lego Club  | Outdoor Play  | Small World  | Mindful Colouring  | Small World Cars and Trains  |
| 22nd Sept | Games and Jigsaws  | Small World Play  | Lego Club  | Outdoor Play  | Relaxation & Reading Night  |
| 29th Sept | Music & Dance  | Dressing Up & Role Play  | Small World Trains & Cars  | Arts & Crafts  | Lego Club  |
| 6th Oct | Painting and Arts  | Construction Club  | Small World Play  | Games and Jigsaws  | Mindful Colouring  |
| 13th Oct | Teddy Bear's Picnic  | Small World Play  | Lego Club  | Quiet Crafts  | Jigsaws  |
| 20th Oct | Card Making  | Small World Play  | Mindful Colouring  | Cookery Club  | Crafts  |

*Feel free to book on for regular or one-off sessions if your child would like to attend.
Sessions cost £5.50 for up to 2 hours.
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.

School Lunch Menu

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

AUTUMN WEEK 2

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| Chicken / Quorn Nuggets Potato Waffles with Spaghetti Hoops or Cheese and Ham Toasted Wrap with Cucumber and Pepper Sticks Iced Chocolate Red Velvet Cake or Fruit | Lamb Meatballs in Gravy with Pasta and Broccoli or Chicken / Quorn Kebab with Lettuce and Raisin Salad Arctic Roll with Blueberries or Fruit | Sausages, Mashed Potatoes and Beans or Sweet and Sour Noodles with Naan Bread Raspberry Fairy Cake or Fruit | Battered Cod with Potato Wedges or Cottage Pie Peas Vanilla Biscuit & Chocolate Milk or Fruit | Pepper Pizza with Sweetcorn or Turkey Escalope with New Potatoes, Carrots and Gravy Yoghurt or Fruit |

Upcoming diary dates



Monday 20th October- Full Governing Body meeting

Thursday 23rd October- Forest School session 3- Melbreak (final session)

Fancy dress parties (optional attendance)

Early Years children- 4-5pm

Year 1 and 2- 5-6pm

***** OCTOBER HALF TERM *****

Tuesday 4th November- Library bus visit

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

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



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