



**St James' Church of England Infant and  
Nursery School  
12th September 2025**





We have had a very successful first full week back at school and it has been wonderful to see the children settling into their new classes with enthusiasm and confidence. Our Nursery children are already showing promising signs of adapting to school routines – listening carefully to stories, practising lining up one behind the other, and learning to wait patiently for their turn to speak in group discussions. Reception have made a fantastic start to their new theme work, learning about the human skeleton and investigating different types of bones through hands-on exploration.

In Key Stage 1, Year 1 and 2 children have been busily engaging with their focus text *Billy and the Beast*, using it to inspire discussions and develop reading skills. In maths, they have been recapping their understanding of place value, while in science they have been looking for early signs of autumn around the school grounds. Their creativity has also been put to great use in design technology, where they have been exploring pattern using wrapping paper designs. Looking ahead, next week promises to be a busy and exciting one. Year 1 and 2 will take part in a workshop from Oak Tree Animal Charity, learning about how to care for pets and promote kindness, welfare, and responsibility.

If there are any of our families who have children aged between 2 and 3 years and haven't yet applied for a place for our nursery yet, please could you complete an application form as soon as possible. Our places are very limited for the remainder of the academic year and we would like to prioritise and secure places for our existing families.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Moore







## Reception Baseline tests



Each child starting Reception will take part in a very short baseline test on a 1: 1 basis with Miss Sapsed and Mrs Cocksedge in the next few weeks. The tests are designed to capture what your child already knows. It assesses children's abilities in early communication, literacy and maths. The children respond to the questions verbally and it is carried out as normal classroom practice.

Further explanation can be found at:

[Reception baseline assessment: information for parents - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents)

## Nursery and Reception finish time



Please note that the Reception school day finishes at **3:15pm**. At 3pm each day the classes have their story time. When parents are waiting on the terrace, please do not knock on the classroom doors as it disturbs the children.

Nursery children can be collected between **3pm and 3.15pm** to stagger their exit and give the staff an opportunity to pass any messages on to parents.

## General notices



- A reminder that the first session of Forest School starts on Thursday for Catbells. Please send your child to school with a bag (clearly labelled with their name) containing some wellies. They will also need a waterproof coat.
- **Reception** are learning about families this half term. If there are any grandparents that would be willing to come into school to chat to the children next week please let Miss Sapsed or Mrs Cocksedge know (*broad shoulders required as kids will ask you anything!*)
- **Year 1 and 2** children need to bring their book bags containing their **Read Write Inc book and reading record** to school everyday.
- **Nursery and Reception** - charges for weekly snack money are now on your SchoolMoney account. The children will be supplied with a snack daily giving them the opportunity to try new and exciting foods. You can also pay termly via SchoolMoney if you prefer.

## New staff member



Mrs Bullock will be joining our team at St James' on Tuesday. She is due to start her new role as breakfast and after school club assistant. She will work alongside Miss Bragg in the mornings and Miss Brown after school to provide a range of activities to engage our children. Mrs Bullock has got a wealth of experience working with this age group and we are looking forward to welcoming her here.

## Courage



Our new Christian value for the first half term is **Courage**. This links to our school vision '*Teach children to choose the right path and when they are older they will remain upon it-* (Proverbs 22: 6). We will be focusing on the Bible stories of Daniel and the Lion's Den, David and Goliath and Joshua and Caleb. Lots of children have shown courage already overcoming first day nerves as they've started in their new classes. Mrs Jones has kindly set up a new reflection area in our entrance linked to courage.

## PE days



**Nursery and Reception- Wednesday and Fridays**

**Year 1 and Year 2- Thursday and Fridays**

Your child can continue to come to school dressed in their PE uniform on their PE days.

Your child should wear:

- golden t shirt
- black shorts/ leggings/joggers
- optional burgundy school hoodie (these can be purchased via the School Money app and are worthwhile for the colder months)
- trainers

This term PE will be delivered by specialist sports coaches from Reds in the Community- Mr Marshall and Mr Lightfoot. We have also booked two weeks worth of cricket coaching as a taster experience for Key Stage One through Whitehaven Cricket Club. Thank you to Daisy's Dad for signposting us to this.

## Emergency contact details



If there are any changes to your home address, emergency contact number or email address, please ensure that the office staff are made aware of the changes as we need to ensure that we hold a minimum of 3 emergency contacts for each child.

If your child has dietary requirements or a medical condition, please ring the office to make sure we have the most up to date details.

## Disability Access fund eligibility



If your child is currently in nursery and you are in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) for them, the school may be eligible for extra funding to help support your child in the nursery setting. Please see Mrs Brown if you believe you may be eligible and she will be able to provide you with additional information.

## Pupil Premium



As all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free school lunch each day, many parents on low income do not apply for Free School Meals (FSM). We would like to stress that it is still worth applying as you may be eligible for a **clothing grant** as well. In addition to this, once your child is granted FSM the school receives extra funding to support your child in school meaning that we can help your child in many ways and they continue to attract this funding up until the end of Year 6 even if your circumstances change. So this is well worth applying for.

### Are you Eligible?

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

### Families with no recourse to public funds

Anyone who is subject to immigration controls may not have access to benefits.

Families who may be eligible include (but are not limited to):

- Zambrano carers
- have the right to remain in the UK under Article 8 of the ECHR
- receiving support under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- receiving support under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 AND are subject to a NRPF condition
- Chen carers

- families holding a BNO passport
- spousal visa holders
- Work visa holders
- Student visa holders
- those with no immigration status

All criteria and details on how to apply can be found at:

[Cumberland Free School Meals and Clothing Grants](#)

Please speak to Mrs Brown in the office confidentially if you have any questions.

## Upcoming Church Services and Community Centre Events



**FAMILY SERVICE**

**In St. James' Church**

**7th September**

**5th October**

**11:30am**

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



**YOU ARE WELCOME HERE**



**J**esus  
**A**nd  
**M**e

 *the parish of*  
**WHITEHAVEN**



**Church**

**IN ST. JAMES'**

**COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**29th September 3:30 to 5:30pm**

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

**Children must be accompanied by an adult**

## Our weekly celebrations



**Headteacher Award-** Martha

### **Learners of the week**

Great Gable- Carson-Jax

Melbreak- Amelia

Catbells- Brooklynn

Scafell- Alfie

Skiddaw- Hope

### **Handwriters of the week**

Dan, Mahnaz and Cleo

### **Achievements outside of school**

Anandi- baby tap and song and dance medals

Bodhi- rugby- collecting the most tags in his tag rugby game

Lowe- completing the children's Great North Run

Elilaj- being awarded the blue card for football



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](http://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](http://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](http://www.cumberland.gov.uk)

or contact: **01228 221582**

or email [school.admissions@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@cumberland.gov.uk)

[cumberland.gov.uk](http://cumberland.gov.uk)

## Attendance and punctuality



**Great Gable and Melbreak** were our 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 **97.2%** , **3.7% higher** than the Primary National of 93.5%. 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 Apaws 
15th Sept	Lego Club 	Outdoor Play 	Small World 	Mindful Colouring 	Small World Cars and Trains 
22nd Sept	Games and Apaws 	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 Apaws 	Mindful Colouring 
13th Oct	Teddy Bear's Picnic 	Small World Play 	Lego Club 	Quiet Crafts 	Apaws 
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.

AUTUMN WEEK 3				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Tomato Pasta with Garlic Bread	All Day Breakfast Sausage/ Vegan Sausage, Hash, Brawn, 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



Thursday 18th September- Forest School session 1- Catbells

Monday 22nd September 2.45pm- Year 2 curriculum meeting (for parents new to Year 2)

Tuesday 23rd September 2.45pm- Year 1 curriculum meeting (for parents new to Year 1)

Thursday 25th September- Andy Tooze Poetry workshops for Year 1 and 2

Forest School session 2- Catbells

Friday 26th September- Macmillan Coffee morning/afternoon

10.30am- Parents of Nursery and Reception children

2.30pm- Parents of Year 1 and 2 children

Monday 29th September- Cross curricular orienteering day (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)

Nursery '*Three Little Pigs*' STEM workshop

Thursday 2nd October- Forest School session 3- Catbells (final session)

Friday 3rd October 2pm Prospective Reception new starters open afternoon

Monday 6th October 2pm- Prospective Nursery new starters open afternoon

5pm- Prospective Nursery and Reception parents Open Evening

Tuesday 7th October 10.30am - Harvest Service in church

Thursday 9th October- Nasal Flu Vaccinations for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children

Forest School session 1- Melbreak

Monday 13th October- Parents Evening

Tuesday 14th October- Individual school photos

Nursery and Reception stay and play sessions

Parents Evening

Thursday 16th October- Forest School session 2- Melbreak

Monday 20th October- Full Governing Body meeting

Wednesday 22nd October- Whitehaven STEM event at Whitehaven Academy- Year 2

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

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](mailto:admin@st-james-inf.cumbria.sch.uk)

Visit us on the web at [www.st-james-inf.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.st-james-inf.cumbria.sch.uk)