



**St James' Church of England Infant and
Nursery School
2nd May 2025**





Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

This week has been eagerly anticipated by our Year 2 children- they have been looking forward to their first overnight residential at Hawse End Outdoor Centre for months. They have experienced so many new activities such as: archery, bush craft, orienteering, ghyll scrambling, canoe rafting and problem solving. The children have behaved impeccably and demonstrated excellent resilience, team work, cooperation and communication skills. Thank you to the staff who have made this possible and were so keen to provide this wonderful opportunity which the children have relished.

Nursery have been busy this week reading '*Brown Bear Brown Bear*' linked to colour and using the book as a stimulus for creating collages from magazine cuttings. In maths, the focus has been patterns. They have related this back to pattern using different colours and they have started exploring AB patterns.

Reception were treated to a 'Pet Encounters' Rainforest workshop yesterday. The children had the opportunity to handle, observe and investigate a range of exotic animals. It was fair to say that we have some very brave children who were happy to rise to the challenge of holding unusual, unfamiliar creatures! The class were surprised to discover that the Rainforest is home to animals who like to live in the different layers. They have also started their weekly forest school sessions. Yesterday afternoon they had the opportunity to climb trees, paint with natural objects, build dens and explore the woodland habitat. They seemed to have a brilliant time!

Year 1 have been spending time with Mrs King and Mrs Bennett over the past two days. They have been reading '*Tadpole's Promise*' linked to their science work about life cycles. They have enjoyed all being together, making the most of the warmer weather and they have rounded off their week with a PE lesson with a focus on developing ball skills.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend and enjoy the sunshine,

Mrs Moore





Feedback from partnership with English Hub



We have had our final visit of a three year partnership with the English Hub on Monday. The aim of the partnership was to continue our positive trend in improving phonics learning outcomes for children across the school. Our phonics consultant Laura observed a selection of groups and met with our Reading Lead, Mrs Chambers, to discuss pupil progress. This was a successful visit and we have now graduated from the programme due to the consistency in the feedback received.

The feedback is a reflection of the effort of the whole team here 'I would just like to say thank you for making me feel so welcome in your school. From day one, your staff have been open to my support. It has been wonderful to be part of your journey and see how far you have come with leadership, confidence in delivery, building an expert team and organisation to meet the needs of all children. You have committed so much time and hard work to the teaching of Read Write Inc phonics in your school, you really are giving children the best start. Together you have built a very strong reading team- all staff teach with great fidelity and this ensures that ALL children learn to read. Your school has also embedded a culture that values and supports reading for pleasure. It has been a pleasure to work with you all at St James'

Reception Forest School weekly sessions



Please can all Reception children bring wellies each Thursday in a labelled bag and please can sun cream be applied before school as the children will be outdoors for the afternoon session.

Governor morning feedback

Some of our Governing Body spent the morning with us in school on Wednesday. During that time, they observed phonics lessons, visited English and Maths lessons in Year 1 and 2 and spent time indoors and outdoors in the early years provision. This was a more informal visit into school to see first-hand how we operate on a daily basis.

Here are a few of their comments:

Governor 1

I am not sure where to start to quantify in a couple of sentences how amazing the morning was to see live, the way in which this highly effective and incredible school runs!

It was the most calm, caring, loving environment, where no child was left behind. Speaking as a Governor and thankfully as a parent, the consistency of approach, adaptability of staff to the needs of the children and the support given to ensure success in every lesson was a masterclass – this is how ALL schools should teach. It was so hard to find any difference between the class teacher input and the support staff, only that the children were thriving with either teacher. The scaffolding and modelling was clear to see to ensure progressive steps in their skills in maths and literacy but healthily balanced with the independence the children had when producing their own ideas and writing. All the displays are purposefully created to drip feed previous learning to refer back to as well as challenge and support learning of their current topic/unit. The way the classrooms are laid out, all have an ease of access and the children clearly know where to go, how to use the resources as there was not one child off task or unable to access any learning – they are all equipped with a toolbelt for success.

I am thrilled to have had the privilege to see such expertise and fantastic energy, with a seamless transition from year group to year group, with very clear progression, with their reading skills and the impeccable consistency with their English and maths work too. The children write, in my opinion, ahead of their years, with beautiful hand writing and passion for the story they are studying. The children are able to express the joy for their work feeding back speaking in front of the class therefore aiding their oracy skills and confidence.

Skills Builder is a huge passion of mine to see where possible, links to problem solving, speaking and listening as demonstrated in the school council was a joy. The children all knew what we were talking about when asked about these skills.

The morning was an real eye opener and for fear of writing a book, which I could, complimenting the school's excellent teaching – I had better stop there.

Thank you to all the staff, every single one of them for their amazing planning, creativity and clear love and passion for the children they teach and to you Alex for driving this wonderful school in an ever upwards and forwards direction.

Governor 2

It was really interesting to see what happens during the school day. We visited all the classes, and all the children seemed happy and engaged in their learning. My highlight was meeting the school council, where I heard about how their views make a real impact on how the school is run.

As a parent I felt very proud that my child is part of the St James' community.

Governor 3

I am very impressed with what I have seen this morning, so much so that I want to enrol at school myself!

Governor 4

Atmosphere

Mood/Ambiance: Every classroom that I visited felt welcoming, peaceful, and calm with an overall nurturing, and safe, homely feeling.

Learning environment: Classrooms were meticulously well organised, neat and tidy and fully resourced. They contained continuous provision activities well placed to develop and consolidate learning in that week's lessons. Displays enveloped pupils in knowledge and consolidated their learning.

Classroom setting: Classrooms were very well organised and arranged to maximise pupil focus and engagement in learning. Seating arranged to enable pupil focus, minimising distraction, encouraging collaboration and enabling live marking.

Classroom Quality First Teaching and Learning

Teachers and teaching assistants provided exceptional quality first teaching. They focused on high quality teaching with differentiated instruction and ongoing formative assessment. All staff were enthusiastic and inclusive in their teaching. They ensured that all pupils could access the curriculum and make progress in their learning. They corrected any misconceptions and supported all pupils in their care. They had high expectations of pupils and included varying levels of challenge, scaffolding and specialized support in the educational experiences that they provided for pupils.

Inclusion

All pupils including those with SEND were treated equitably and included and engaged in learning. Pupils were supported by teachers during lessons and activities. Teaching assistants used a scaffolding method to engage pupils in learning. Live formative marking ensured that all pupils were able to make progress in lessons.

Pupil Behaviour

Pupil behaviour was exceptional. Pupils were calm and focused during lessons and listened intently to teachers and teaching assistants. They were joyful and excited on the playground but with positive behaviour towards their peers.

Phonics lessons

Phonics lessons were of exceptional quality. The teaching assistants employed the exact same teaching methods, challenge and support as teachers. We would not have been able to differentiate between the two had we not known who the staff were! As we walked through the school the progression throughout the Read Write Inc program could be seen. The pupils were being taught to their level of

need. The same teaching strategies were employed throughout the school. The focus of each lesson varied with the needs of the pupils.

Literacy lessons

All pupils in key stage one were taught to the same exceptional standard. It was very clear that staff plan the lessons together as a team and focus on quality first teaching. The only exception was the teaching style of each teacher. Teachers were enthusiastic motivating. They encouraged, challenged, and supported pupils. Teaching assistants were equally supportive of those with SEND and EAL. They used scaffolding techniques to reach pupils struggling. Pupils were all given the same tasks and it was clear staff were live marking and using the same marking system in pupils' books.

Numeracy

In all classrooms in key stage one the pupils were being taught the same lesson using quality first teaching. Teachers employed the same enthusiasm and motivating teaching styles. Pupils were taught as a class and then in year groups which helped to consolidate the knowledge for their year group. They were engaged in learning and provided with suitable resources as an aid. SEND and EAL pupils with supported exceptionally well. Marking was consistent with all staff using the same marking system.

EYFS

Pupils in the EYFS were fully engaged in the continuous provision. There were a variety of activities available to them. Pupils were all well behaved and enjoying their learning. Some of the activities were available linked to the topic based upon a book. The activities provided developed a variety of skills from finer motor cutting skills to creative thinking.

OPAL

The new OPAL primary program used on the playground at break and lunchtimes was amazing! It was wonderful to see all pupils having fun and enjoying the outside spaces of the school. There were so many varying activities available to pupils, which ensured that no pupil was left out or disengaged!

80th anniversary of VE Day



On Thursday 8th May, we are hoping to have a VE celebration picnic on the playground (weather permitting!) at lunchtime. The children are welcome to come to school dressed in red, white and blue on that day to commemorate the end of the Second World War in Europe.

Please order school lunches as usual and your child will be given a picnic lunch instead. We cannot change the choices for one day only as the system operates on a rolling programme.

Wanted please



We would be grateful of any donations of wooden pallets to help us to develop our next OPAL play zone. If you can help at all, please contact the school office.

Is your child ready to ready to stop wearing nappies?



Stopping using nappies (advice taken from Eric- The Children's Bladder and Bowel Charity website)

Stopping using nappies will be a big change for your child, however well prepared they are, and however much potty practice they have done.

So when is the right time to say goodbye to those nappies?

Every child is different so be guided by their progress with Step 1 – Preparation and Step 2 – Practice, and on your family situation.

Avoid stopping using nappies at a time when there are any big changes or disruptions anticipated, such as a change in childcare or a new baby about to arrive.

Make sure it is a clear distinction: goodbye nappies, hello pants. Chopping and changing between nappies/pull ups/pants will simply confuse your child.

Choose a time when you and your child can be at home together for the first few days, where there are fewer distractions.

Go for it – and be ready to be patient, persistent and positive!

After the first few days at home, you're ready to go out and about. Resist the temptation to put a nappy on. Instead, pack the potty and changes of clothes and protect the pushchair or car seat. Look in the [ERIC Online Shop](#) for things like portable potties and car seat protectors.

Further information can be found by following this link: [Advice about children's bladders and bowels – from birth, to potty training, to school - ERIC](#)

Upcoming Church Services and Community Centre Events



Family Service

MONTHLY

11.30am

At St. James' Church

**Followed by free bacon butties in the
Community Centre**



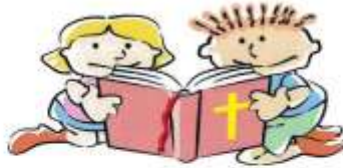
**A service specially for families with young
children, but all are most welcome!**

20th of April at 3PM for Easter Sunday

18th of May

ST. JAMES TODDLER GROUP

Come join us and be sure of a warm welcome, where everyone can feel relaxed. From the tiniest of babies, right up to those starting school and their carers.



1:30pm to 3pm

St James' Community Centre

(opposite Church)

1st & 22nd of April

6th & 20th of May

3rd & 17th of June

(with refreshments)

Our weekly celebrations



Headteacher Award- Rory

Learners of the week

Great Gable- Dan

Melbreak- Cleo

Catbells- Sam D V

Scafell- Beau

Skiddaw- Ayden

Handwriters of the week

Well done to Ziena, Reggie, Theo C and Alfie





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



Scafell and Skiddaw were our attendance winners with **99.1%** ! 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%**, 1.7% higher than the Primary National of **95%**.

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.

<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>After School Club Activities 2024 - 2025 Summer 1</p> </div>					
W/C	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
21st April	Bank Holiday School Closed	Small World Play 	Outdoor Play 	Relaxation and Reading 	Games and Jigsaws 
28th April	Lego Club 	Painting and Arts 	Small World Animals 	Mindful Colouring 	Small World Cars and Trains 
5th May	Bank Holiday School Closed	Small World Play 	Lego Club 	Quiet Crafts 	Relaxation & Reading Night 
17th Mar	Music & Dance 	Outdoor Play 	Small World Trains & Cars 	Arts & Crafts 	Lego Club 
24th Mar	Outdoor Play 	Small World Play 	Construction Club 	Games and Jigsaws 	Mindful Colouring 

*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.

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



School Lunch Menu



SUMMER WEEK 3

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Chicken Burger or Quorn Pieces with Wedges or Minced Beef Enchilada Peas Iced Chocolate Red Velvet Cake or Fruit	Chicken Pieces in Gravy with Roast Potatoes and Broccoli or Cheese Rolls with Beans Fruit or Yoghurt	Battered Cod with Mashed Potatoes and Tomato Ketchup or Baked Bean and Chilli Beef with Rice Sweetcorn Fruity Jelly or Yoghurt	Chicken and Tomato Pasta Bake or Pineapple Pizza Peas Vanilla Shortbread with Chocolate Milkshake or Fruit	All Day Breakfast Sausage/ Vegan Sausage, Hash Brown, Omelette and Spaghetti Hoops or Roasted Salmon Steak, Noodles and Broccoli Raspberry Bun or Fruit

Upcoming diary dates



Monday 5th May - School Closed Bank Holiday

Thursday 8th May - VE Day Celebrations

Friday 9th May - pm Catbells Dream Jobs STEM event

Tuesday 13th May- Year 1 and 2 'Blue Bots' STEM computing session with Sellafield Education Outreach Team

Wednesday 14th May at 2.45pm- Nursery Read Write Inc demonstration (for parents new to nursery)

Wednesday 21st May- Year 1 STEM workshop- 'Who uses this?' aspiration session

Date to be confirmed due to transport- Reception visit to the Lake District Wildlife Park

*****MAY HALF TERM WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 26TH
MAY*****

- **Additional dates will be added in bold throughout the term**

Contact Us



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