



**St James' Church of England Infant and
Nursery School
21st March 2025**





Welcome to our weekly newsletter.

The highlight of this week was our U Dance performance '*We are Water Protectors*' at the Carnegie Theatre. Our group of dancers did us proud, performing in front of our parents and parents from other schools. They remembered their routine well and showcased their talents brilliantly. Once again, a huge well done and thank you to all involved.

It was lovely to hold our parents meetings this week to chat with parents about well-being and pupil progress. This time we trialled a new approach to nursery meetings by introducing a 'stay and play' session in small groups. This was well received and they both worked out well. The feedback gathered showed that parents welcomed the opportunity to play alongside their child in the nursery classroom. Thank you for supporting our Scholastic Book Fayre. We have raised £301 over the two nights.

Nursery have been reading the classic story of 'Elmer' this week, learning about difference. In their maths activities, the focus has been on patterns. The children spotted different types of patterns in 'Elmer' such as stripes, dotted, heart and patchwork and they have created their own versions.

Reception have been learning about famous landmarks in London as a stimulus for their writing. They have been writing sentences to describe why they are iconic. This afternoon they have been using their observational drawing skills to draw flowers in their sketchbooks, producing beautiful art work that they are proud of!

In Year 1 and 2, the classes have been focusing on learning their times tables (x2, x 10, x 5). The children have recognised this is something that takes lots of practise so they have been playing games and rehearsing the number facts with their friends. In their Geography lessons they have been making comparisons between the different explorers and in science they have been distinguishing between deciduous and evergreen trees outdoors.

Next week Mrs Chambers will be carrying out her half termly phonics assessments to check where each child is in terms of their phonics knowledge across the school. It is also assessment week from Reception upwards. This will be our spring term data collection to inform next steps in teaching and learning for the summer term. I'm sure our children will have their chance to shine!

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Moore







Parent feedback

Parent Feedback

Thank you for the very supportive responses to our parent survey at the parent teacher evenings. We have taken the time to read every single one and we are delighted with the feedback.

The main strengths of the school highlighted time and time again are:

- Welcoming and approachable staff
- Overall friendliness
- Staff connections with the children
- Attentive staff
- My son loves it here, we have no regrets changing his school
- Very personalised
- Keep being as wonderful as you are
- Excellent and friendly staff
- We never hear anything negative about this school
- The staff treat the kids like their own
- Attention to each of the children
- Good feedback system
- I love how the classes are mixed in Y1/2- this brings on the younger children
- I wish my girls had come here sooner, they adore coming everyday
- The teachers and staff genuinely care for the children- for parents this means the world
- Supportive and open teachers- always available to help
- I love how safe I feel leaving my children here daily and how the staff treat them
- Great teaching
- Staff passion for learning and fun engagement- awesome!
- Overall communication

- This a fantastic school and my son has come on in leaps and bounds.
- Very welcoming and happy place for the kids
- Always lots going on to benefit the kids
- OPAL play- the variety of play on the playground is great!
- Children are at the heart of everything this school does
- Knowledgeable staff and great provision
- My children have been helped and supported so well to settle into school
- All the amazing facilities and the way the school is constantly improving
- Plenty of resources- educational and play based
- Accommodating for needs
- Good communication
- I love how amazing everyone is
- Such a welcoming place
- Thank you for always caring about our children as if they were your own

Some people have provided some pointers for improvement which we value. Again we have taken every one on board. Here are the explanations for the suggestions made:

- *Maths lessons for parents*- we can provide a 'cakes and calculations' session to model the different calculation strategies
- *Disabled access*- We would love to do this. We had an Accessibility Audit carried out and the cost of the necessary works were in their thousands therefore this is not viable financially at the moment for the school.
- *Longer provision of breakfast club*- We will keep re evaluating this- we have tried this in the summer term last year and it only suited one or two children and the attendance was not consistent for staffing costs to be covered.

We rely heavily on word of mouth recommendations for prospective parents who rightly value the opinions of current parents. If you know of any family or friends with little ones approaching three, ready to start school, we would really appreciate you letting them know about us and our offer of Infant school provision.

Every recommendation is massively appreciated by all of the staff team here.

Final lunch menus for the summer term



We recognise that pupil voice is vital in school improvement. We like to gather the children's views to aid our school development priorities in all aspects of school life. Following a school council meeting last week, the children put forward their requests for the summer lunch menu. Suggestions included: An all-day breakfast, a chicken and tomato pasta bake, cucumber sticks and tray bakes. We have taken their ideas on board and a new three week cycle of menus have been created in consultation with our lovely kitchen staff.

Here is an example below of one of the weeks:

School Lunch Menu

SUMMER WEEK 1

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

Thank you to Mrs Jones



Thank you to Mrs Jones, our lay reader, from the church who has kindly volunteered some time to plant some flowers at the entrance to the school and in our court yard.

OPAL donations welcomed



We would welcome donations for our **'wheelie zone'** if your child has outgrown any of the items listed below:

- trikes
- Little Tykes style cars
- small go karts
- 'skuttle bugs'

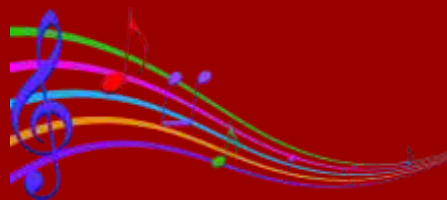


Easter Egg Decorating Competition



As ever, we will be running our annual competition to find the best decorated eggs (hard boiled of course!) Now is the time to start thinking of ideas. Children can bring in their decorated eggs on Thursday 3rd April and there will be winners in each class.

Moo Music sessions during the Easter break



Here are two fun sessions being run in our community centre for children aged 0-5 during the Easter holidays. Anyone who attends these sessions speaks very highly of them. They are run by a Nursery teacher and teaching assistant, who make them fun and interactive. The first one is 'Messy Moo' and the second one is the Easter session 'Music Moo'.

If you are free, please feel free to book by visiting their Facebook or Instagram pages- 'Moo Music West Cumbria'.

MESSY MOO

Suitable for ages 0-5

Join us at St James Church Hall on Tuesday
8th April 10-11am for our Easter theme
Messy Moo 🐮

To book a place, please message us
on our Facebook/Instagram page
'Moo Music West Cumbria'

Come join us for our....
Easter Special

Join us for our Easter Special Moo
Music sessions at St James Church Hall

Tuesday 15th April 🐣
9.30-10.15am
10.45-11.30am

Ages 0-5
@moomusicwestcumbria

Leavers Hoodies for Year 2



Burgundy leavers hoodies are available to order via School Money. The cost is £20. The children can wear them in school after the May half term holiday. Please can all payments be made by Friday 28th March as they take a while to process due to demand across the country.

Our weekly celebrations



Headteacher Award- Charlie-Cole

Learners of the week

Great Gable- Beau

Melbreak- Madison

Catbells- Sienna

Scafell- Ollie

Skiddaw- Indie

Handwriters of the week

Well done to Blake, Mollie, Ella and Ayden

Also a big well done to Remi and Cora for achieving the bronze and gold level reading certificates.

Well done to the group of children with achievements outside of school.





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



SCAN ME

happierhealthiercommunities.



Family Service

MONTHLY

11.30am til 12 noon

At St. James' Church

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



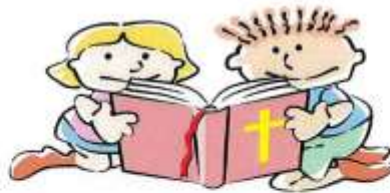
**A service specially for families with young
children, but all are most welcome!**

2nd of March

30th of March for Mothering Sunday

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)

4th & 18th March

1st & 22nd April

6th & 20th May

(with refreshments)

Attendance and punctuality



Melbreak were our joint attendance winners with **99%** ! 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 **96.6%**, 2% higher than the Primary National of **94.6%**.

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





















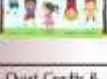









Breakfast club/ After school club



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 2024 - 2025 Spring 2					
W/C	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
24th Feb	Mindful Colouring 	Small World Play 	Outdoor Play 	Relaxation and Reading 	Games & Jigsaws 
3rd Mar	Legos Club 	Painting and Arts 	Small World Animals 	Mindful Colouring 	Clay Model Making 
10th Mar	Quiet Crafts & Movie Night 	Small World Play 	Dressing Up & Role Play 	Clay Model Making 	Relaxation & Reading Night 
17th Mar	Music & Dance 	Outdoor Play 	Small World Trains & Cars 	Arts & Crafts 	Legos Club 
24th Mar	Outdoor Play 	Small World Play 	Dressing Up & Role Play 	Games & Jigsaws 	Clay Model Making 
31st Mar	Quiet Crafts & Movie Night 	Easter Crafts 	Small World Play 	Outdoor Play 	Eggart Decorating 

*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.

St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School Menu Spring 2024/25



Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main	Chicken or Quorn Nuggets, Potato Wedges	Tomato Pasta	Fish Cake & Rice with Tomato Ketchup	Pepper Pizza with Sweetcorn	Roast Turkey, Potato Waffles & Beans
Options	Sticky Beef & Noodles	Roast Ham and Cous Cous	Cheese Pie with New Potatoes	Beef Lasagne with Celery and Raisin Salad	Vegetable Noodles with Garlic Bread
Vegetables	Sweetcorn	Broccoli	Peas		
To Order *	Jacket Potato or Sandwich	Jacket Potato or Sandwich	Jacket Potato or Sandwich	Jacket Potato or Sandwich	Jacket Potato or Sandwich
Dessert	Chocolate Krispie Cake Or Fruit	Iced Coconut & Lime Sponge or Fruit	Vanilla Biscuit & Hot Chocolate or Fruit	Fruit or Yoghurt	Apricot Flapjack or Fruit
* Jacket Potato options: Cheese; Tuna or Beans.			*Sandwich options, Ham, Cheese, or Tuna.		

Please note that the responsibility of food in school remains generally with the parent.

Upcoming diary dates



Monday 31st March 2.45pm - Hawse End meeting for Year 2 parents

Tuesday 1st April- Easter Gardens for Year 1 and 2

Wednesday 2nd April- Easter Experience at the church for Year 1 and 2

Thursday 3rd April- Decorated egg competition

Friday 4th April- End of the spring term.

1pm Juniors Easter Fayre - all welcome

- **Additional dates will be added in bold throughout the term**
- Catbells 'Dream Jobs' session is the following half term.

Contact Us



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