



**St James' Church of England Infant and
Nursery School
18th October 2024**





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.

On Monday and Tuesday next week Mrs Chambers, our reading lead, will be assessing each child on an individual basis from Reception upwards in phonics. This is to determine the progress they have made so far this year and it will enable her to move children up the reading colours if they have made the expected level of progress. The children will start their new groupings after the half term break. You will be able to see if your child has moved on by the colour book that they bring home. I will share the colour progression as a reference guide in next week's newsletter.

Next week Year 1 and 2 are having a big focus on handwriting and presentation. They are dedicating a week in their English lessons to focus on children's individual weaknesses. At the start of the week the children will be writing a sentence which contains every letter of the alphabet- *The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog*. During the week they will be spending time rehearsing the letters that they are yet to refine and on Friday they will be having a competition to rewrite the sentence to demonstrate their progress! We are hopeful that the intensive focus will lead to a noticeable step change as each child will benefit from individual mentoring.

We finish next Friday for October half term at the normal school closure time.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Moore





Nursery and Reception places available



This term we are experiencing a high demand for our nursery and Reception places for September 2025. If you know of anyone who is hoping to start with us, please let them know that we are happy to arrange personal tours upon request so that they can see first hand what we offer. It is best to secure the place to avoid disappointment as we are approaching capacity.

We know how powerful word of mouth can be in this area. Please feel free to recommend our school to your friends!

Feedback from Parent Surveys



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-

- Engagement with real life situations
- Always confident my child is being well looked after
- Lovely teachers and staff

- My child is so happy in this school
- Nurturing, child centred and empathetic- so caring
- Love this school, we couldn't be happier
- Everything, such a lovely environment
- Cannot thank you all enough
- Constant updates
- Values
- Support when needed
- Love that it's like a little community
- My child is coming on in leaps and bounds
- How friendly and welcoming the school is
- Amazing and supportive staff
- Accommodating for all children's needs
- Open door approach
- Lots of enriching opportunities
- We couldn't say a bad word about anything
- Staff are the best ever. It's a lovely place for learning
- Best school ever
- Very informative, love the regular updates
- Absolutely love the school
- Open communication
- My child loves coming everyday
- Variety in engaging activities throughout the year
- Child centred approach with friendly and approachable staff

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 trialled 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.*
- *Better app than Tapestry for Reception- we appreciate the downsides to this particularly with the lack of notifications. This is the best available at the moment as it allows the staff to tag the early years objectives which helps them to track children's progress.*
- *Bigger seats- we do have six bigger chairs which we will make available in the future at parent events*
- *Homework sheets for those who need extra help- please can the individual mention this to the class teacher as we would need to know more details here e.g. which subject*
- *Timings included on the newsletter- I will take this one as an action and do this wherever possible*
- *Two way path for nursery- We agree and unfortunately the only barrier here is the cost. We wanted to have a double path when the nursery was built but it increased the total cost significantly (into the thousands). This will remain on our 'to do' list though.*

Nursery bedtime story day



Next Friday Nursery are having a pyjama day as part of their bedtime stories theme. The class will be having cookies and hot chocolate whilst enjoying a range of stories throughout the day. Please can nursery children come to school wearing their pyjamas/ onesies on that day.

STEAM events coming up



Next week we have a variety of STEAM events planned.

Nursery- A workshop about how simple machines work

Year 1/2- A woodwork workshop making hedgehog houses as part of their seasonal change science theme (the children will be working in groups of 4 with close adult supervision and assistance to make a half crossed lapped joint with STEM ambassadors). This will involve the children using a saw, chisel and hammer which have been appropriately risk assessed.

Year 2- STEM event at Whitehaven Academy

Great Fire of London workshops for Year 1 and 2

On Monday 4th November Year 1 and 2 will be treated to a virtual Great Fire of London workshop provided by 'The Drama Hut'. The children will have the opportunity to chat with virtual figures such as Thomas Farriner, Sir Christopher Wren and The Lord Mayor of London who will recall the events of the fire and take the children's learning further. This will launch our new unit of work after the holidays and bring the unit alive!

Further information about the workshop can be found using the link: [Great Fire of London Workshop - The Drama Hut](#)

As a drama-led company, The Drama Hut encourage children (and teachers) to dress up for the workshops. This is by no means compulsory but it will certainly enhance the experience. Please see the images below for costume suggestions.

In the afternoon on the same day Cumbria Fire Service will be delivering mini bonfire safety talks on the lead up to the 5th November. This is part of our preventative safeguarding curriculum.



Remembrance Service for Year 1 and 2

Year 1 and 2 will be leading our annual Remembrance Service in St James Church on Friday 8th 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 15th 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 Challenge - BBC Children in Need](#) for inspirational ideas.

Design Technology Resources wanted 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



Year 1 and 2 would be grateful of any donations of children's underwear to use as spares when children have accidents in school.

Parent Teacher Association



We are keen to restart our Parent Teacher Association with volunteers who can help us with fundraising for the school. Please express an interest to cbrown@st-james-inf.cumbria.sch.uk if you would like to join in.

Our weekly celebrations



Headteacher Award- Theo S

Learners of the week

Great Gable- Max B

Melbreak- Reggie

Catbells- Matei

Scafell- Rory

Skiddaw- Ricardo

Handwriters of the week

Ferne, Kain, Indie and Sid

Well done to our HUGE group of bronze reading certificate winners!

Congratulations to Isaac, Anderson, Alfie, Bodhi and Kain for achievements outside of school in rugby, football and swimming.








Fancy Dress Party



We are holding two fancy dress parties on Thursday 24th October. The Early Years children (Nursery and Reception) can attend 4pm-5pm and Key Stage 1 children can attend 5pm-6pm. Tickets are virtual and are priced at £3.00, these are available to buy on School Money. There will be hot dogs and cakes available as well as the usual games and dancing.



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



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NCCE-SNP/wh/AM02021 | APPENDIX 02



HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN DAY

Halloween themed arts & Crafts, Face Painting,
Games & Activities! (This session also includes Babbling
Babies Group 10am - 11am)

Monday 28th October
9am - 12pm

Family Hub
The Old Bank, Swingpump Lane
Whitehaven, CA28 7LZ

No need to book. Just pop along and join us. Refreshments provided for carers and children

Attendance and punctuality



Catbells and **Skiddaw** were our joint attendance winners this week with **100%** .

Melbreak	99.4
Catbells	100.0
Scafell	96.31
Skiddaw	100.0
Great Gable	97.5
Whole School	98.54

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 side entrance of the school on the top yard.

Activities

Feel free to book any session as a one-off if your child would like to attend that activity.

Please see below for the overview of available activities for after school club.

After School Club Activities 2024 - 2025 Autumn 1					
M/C	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2nd Sept	INSET DAY	INSET DAY	Small World Animals	Wildlife Colouring & Reading	Dressing Up & Role Play
9th Sept	Legos Club	Cars & Trains	Small World	Arts & Crafts	Elmer's Night
16th Sept	Dressing Up and Role Play	Wildlife Colouring & Reading	Games & Puzzles	Small World Castles & Dolls	Music Night
23rd Sept	Elmer's Night	Small World Role Play	Legos Club	Construction, Cars & Trains	Fairy Bread Posing
30th Sept	Arts & Crafts	Music Night	Dressing Up & Role Play	Small World Animals	Clay Model Making
7th Oct	Construction, Cars & Trains	Games & Puzzles	Small World Castles & Dolls	Sea Building	Legos Club
14th Oct	Wildlife Colouring & Reading	Dressing Up & Role Play	Small Storytelling	Arts & Crafts	Music Night
21st Oct	Legos Club	Small World Animals	Elmer's	Games & Puzzles	Arts & Crafts

Please don't book on the night or over the weekend if your child would like to attend. Sessions start 3.15pm and run from 3.15pm to 5.15pm pick up at any point in between these times. All bookings should be made via SchoolMoney.

Upcoming diary dates



Monday 21st October- Full Governors meeting

Tuesday 22nd October (am)- Whitehaven cluster STEM event for Year 2

Thursday 24th October Fancy Dress Parties (4pm-5pm Early years children, 5pm-6pm Key Stage 1 children)

***** OCTOBER HALF TERM (Monday 28th October to Friday 1st November)

Monday 4th November- KS1 Great Fire of London workshops and Bonfire safety talk from Cumbria Fire Service

Friday 8th November at 10.30am- Remembrance Service at church. Year 1 and 2 parents welcome

Friday 15th November- Children In Need

Monday 18th November- Road Safety week and Anti Bullying week

Friday 22nd November- Non uniform day in exchange for item donations for Christmas hampers

Friday 6th December- Christmas fayre (pm)

Monday 9th December- Early Years nativities

Tuesday 10th December- Year 1 and 2 nativities

Wednesday 18th December- Christmas dinner and party afternoon

Friday 20th December 12.15pm- Christmas service at church (joint with our Juniors)

Break up for the Christmas holidays after the service in church.

**Further dates will be added throughout the term in bold*

Contact Us



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