



**St James' Church of England Infant and
Nursery School**

24th April 2026



Welcome to our weekly newsletter!

As always another amazing week in school, the highlight being the introduction of our new OPAL play areas. I cannot thank the staff enough, especially Mrs Pattinson, for all the effort and enthusiasm they have put into this. We are delighted with how well the children are using the areas. On the 2nd June our OPAL Mentor, Anna Dutson, will be in school to talk to parents about OPAL and then we will offer you the chance to 'stay and play' with your child, so you get to experience OPAL first hand.

This week the staff had training from Laura Watson who is the Deputy Director of Education for Cumbria Diocese. This was to focus on Spirituality in our curriculum and how we communicate this to the pupils. We already do lots of this in school and Laura was pleased with what she heard from staff. Our Christian Value this half term is Respect and linked to the Bible story 'The 10 Commandments'. The value of respect is something that we use in every day life and in school this week we have linked this to the use of our OPAL play equipment and respecting other child's right to play how they want to play. For more information about our Christian Vision and Spirituality, please click on the link below.

[Our Christian Distinctiveness | St James' CofE Infant and Nursery School](#)

Early Years have had a busy week. In Nursery, children are continuing with their learning about Bears and Growth. This week they have looked at the book 'I Want My Hat Back' in structured story and have designed their own hats. They used printing skills in art to make their own bear masks. Yellow group have read the book 'Hey Water!' and have explored the properties of ice.

Reception children are continuing with their learning about growth and I have loved seeing them plant their own seeds. They couldn't wait to tell me about how they did it. In maths they have been looking at compositions of 9 and 10.

KS1 have started a new book in literacy this week called 'Yeti and the Bird', with lots of fabulous role play going on from staff and teachers. In DT this week, the children have used a range of tools to make Potato Rosti.

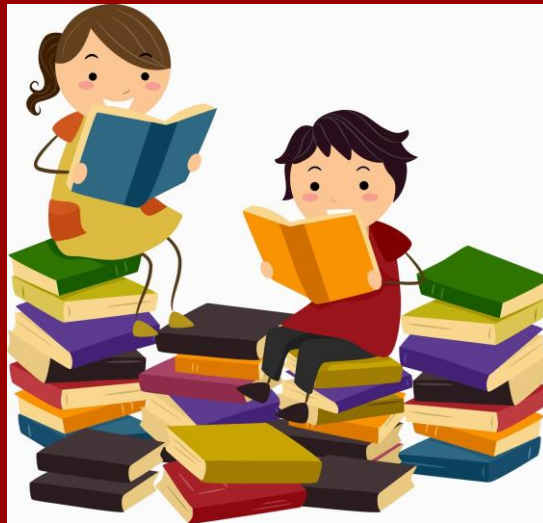
Enjoy your weekend,

Miss Sapsed





Read, Write Inc. and Literacy



Please can all parents in Reception and Key Stage 1 ensure that your child brings their book bags to school each day along with their Read, Write Inc. or Literacy books. It is getting increasingly difficult for them to access the lessons if they don't have the correct books. Thank you!

Leavers Hoodies



Year 2 Leavers Hoodies are available to order from the shop on SchoolMoney now. Please order before 1st May so that we can get them made up in time for half term. Any orders received after the closing date may be subject to additional costs such as postage etc,

The hoodies will be burgundy with all of the children's names printed inside a 26 outline. The Year 2 children will be allowed to wear their hoodies after half term.

Sport's Day



This year, our Sport's Day is a little earlier than usual. This is to link with our annual Sport's Week and we were able to get more guest coaches in May. Throughout the week the children will get to take part in a range of activities such as skateboarding and wheelchair basketball.

Sport's Day will be the afternoon of Wednesday 20th May and be on the church grass. Over the next few weeks, you will be reminded of or given your child's team colour and will receive more information about timings. We hope that you can join us!

Reminder



Just a quick reminder that the school gates are locked at 8.50a.m. as our official starting time is 8.45a.m. We would therefore encourage the children to be in class in class and ready to learn promptly. This is also a safety measure to ensure our children are secure in school as soon as possible. After 8.50 a.m. you will need to come to come into school via the main entrance. Thanks for your understanding.

Upcoming Church Services and Community Events



FAMILY SERVICE
In St. James'
Church
1st SUNDAY
OF THE MONTH

11:30am

**Followed by bacon butties &
hotdogs in the community centre**



**YOU ARE
WELCOME
HERE**





FootyTykes run fun and engaging football classes for toddlers and young children. They're excited to be launching new sessions in Whitehaven starting on Sunday 3rd May, designed for children aged 18 months to 5 years.

Parents can find more information and book a place here:

<https://footytykes.classforkids.io>

Sessions focus on building confidence, coordination, and a love for being active in a friendly and inclusive environment.

Our weekly celebrations



Headteacher Award- Emelia T

Learners of the week

Great Gable- Esme and Emily-Mae

Melbreak- Amelia

Catbells- Narla

Scafell- Rory

Skiddaw- Ayden

Handwriters of the week - Albert, Martha, Amelia H and Bella

Achievements outside of school - . Bradley and Florrie

Superstar Readers - Daisy, Asal, Alexia, William, Dan and Thivien

Golden Wellie - Ivy and Bella







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?



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



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**

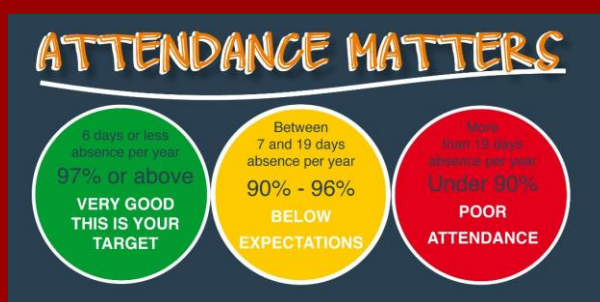
Please read the information leaflet or visit:
www.cumbria.gov.uk/ph5to19

You can telephone for an appointment
01228 603973 Mon-Fri 8-4pm



happierhealthiercommunities.

Attendance and punctuality



Scafell 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 98.3%, **2.9% higher** than the Primary National average of 95.4%! Well done to everyone who came into school this week. 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 middle Key Stage 1 classroom (door with the ramp on the bottom yard)..

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 Summer 1					
W/C	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13th April	Quiet Crafts 	Small World Play 	Outdoor Play 	Relaxation and Reading 	Games and Jigsaws 
20th April	Lego Club 	Outdoor Play 	Small World Animals 	Mindful Colouring 	Small World Cars and Trains 
27th April	Games and Jigsaws 	Small World Play 	Lego Club 	Outdoor Play 	Relaxation & Reading Night 
4th May	School Closed May Bank Holiday	Outdoor Play 	Small World Trains & Cars 	Arts & Crafts 	Lego Club 
11th May	Painting and Arts 	Construction Club 	Small World Play 	Games and Jigsaws 	Outdoor Play 
18th May	Teddy Bear's Picnic 	Small World Play 	Lego Club 	Quiet Crafts 	Jigsaws 

*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

St James' C of E Infant and Nursery School

SUMMER WEEK 3				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Tomato Pasta & Garlic Bread or Sticky Beef & Rice Peas Ginger Sponge & Custard Fruit	Cod in Batter, Potato Wedges & Beans or Beef Lasagne with Cucumber and Pepper Sticks Anzac Biscuits Fruit	All Day Breakfast: Lorne Sausage / Vegan Sausage Hash Brown Omelette Spaghetti Hoops or Chicken Kebab, Lettuce, Tomato & Tomato Sauce Krispie Cake Fruit	Shredded Beef in Gravy with Mashed Potato, Broccoli & Yorkshire Pudding or Vegetable Noodles and Naan Bread Iced Chocolate Red Velvet Cake or Fruit	Margherita Pizza or Pork & Pineapple Curry & Rice Sweetcorn Fruity Jelly Yoghurt

Upcoming diary dates



- 30th April to 1st May - Hawes End for Y2
- 4th May - Bank Holiday Monday - School Closed
- 12th May - Class Photos
- Sport's Week - Monday 18th May to Friday 22nd May (more details will follow)
- Sport's Day - Wednesday 20th May (more details to follow)
- **22nd May Break up for Half Term (normal finishing times)**
- **2nd June at 2.00 - OPAL Stay and Play session for parents**

**Please note further dates will be added as they arise throughout the 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

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