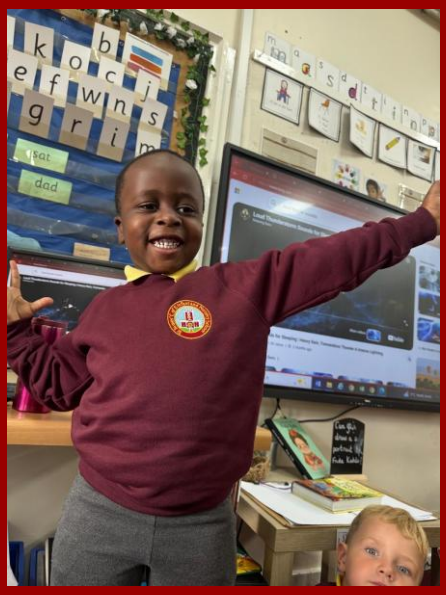


St James' Church of England Infant and Nursery School

16th October 2026



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.

It was wonderful to welcome so many parents and carers into school for our Early Years Stay and Play sessions and parent teacher meetings. The sessions were very well attended and appeared to be thoroughly enjoyed by families. Staff also felt extremely positive afterwards and appreciated the opportunity to share learning and spend time with parents.

In Nursery, the children have been learning about different types of weather and matching suitable clothing to different conditions. They have also been thinking about what fills our hearts with happiness and love, creating beautiful hanging heart decorations to celebrate their ideas.

Reception have begun reading their new text, *Anansi the Spider*, which has captured the children's imaginations. As part of their learning about life cycles, they were delighted to welcome a grandad into school for a question and answer session, sharing his knowledge and experiences. In mathematics, children have been learning about repeating patterns, such as *red, blue, red, blue.* Please help to reinforce this learning at home by spotting and creating patterns together.

In Year 1 and Year 2, children have been developing their persuasive writing skills through creating conservation leaflets about endangered animals. They have also been exploring how trees change throughout the seasons, observing and discussing the signs of seasonal change in the natural world.

After a few enquiries, just to confirm that we finish next Friday for October half term at the normal school closure time of 3.15pm.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Moore






THE GREAT BRITISH BRING





Parents Survey Feedback



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-

- lovely, approachable and friendly staff
- kids are at the forefront of everything
- Lots of different opportunities outdoors
- I loved the stay and play morning- it was a nice, relaxed opportunity to see how our daughter is getting on

- the staff are fantastic
- Kids always leave with a smile
- Nice to see children's books
- The staff provide good support and know the children well
- Everyone is really invested in the children's progress
- Encouraging and supportive environment
- Genuine care of the child
- Super supportive staff who know the children well
- Happy, supportive school
- Lovely learning environment
- All kids are at the forefront of what the school does
- Great play facilities
- Great communication
- Great school- always putting the children first
- Brilliant teachers who know the children really well
- Provision in Year 1 and 2
- Great communication
- Excellent school
- My child is really happy
- Welcoming school
- I was so impressed with the work in her books
- My child loves coming to school
- Great understanding of the individual child
- Staff always make you feel at ease
- Opal play
- The teachers are a credit to the school and community
- Open communication ethos
- Always a warm welcome

- Nothing is a bother to the staff

Some suggestions to make the school even better:

- **1-way system for drop off and pick up** Thank you for this suggestion. We are currently in the process of obtaining quotes to widen the pathway along the front of the school to better accommodate prams and the increased volume of pedestrian traffic at the start and end of the day. We will continue to review our arrangements to ensure they remain safe and practical for all families.
- **Building maintenance** Thank you for your feedback. Essential maintenance and health and safety works are always prioritised and carried out as required. Like many schools, we have limited budgets and must carefully prioritise spending. We are continually looking for opportunities to improve our buildings and site as funding allows.
- **Change yellow polo shirts/PE tops as they are always filthy from playing** Thank you for raising this. We completely understand that the lighter-coloured tops can show marks easily, particularly as we actively encourage outdoor play and learning. We have taken this suggestion on board and will explore sourcing burgundy polo shirts and PE tops, with the aim of making these available from next September.
- **Open the gates earlier at home time** Thank you for this suggestion. We appreciate that some families need to collect children from both schools and that timings can be challenging. To help support parents and carers, we will begin opening the gates five minutes earlier at the end of the school day.
- **Meals seem very fried, too much beef and far too many cakes** Thank you for sharing your views about our school meals. We would like to reassure parents that foods are not fried in our school kitchen as we don't have a fryer. We regularly review menus with our catering provider to ensure they provide a balanced diet and meet nutritional standards. We will, however, share this feedback regarding the variety of meals, meat options and desserts as part of our ongoing menu reviews.

School Photos



Your child came home with a QR CARD which gives you access to your child's recent school photos. To view your child's photos simply scan the QR code with your smart phone camera. Purchasing the digital download and then getting them printed online or locally is the most popular and cost effective way to enjoy your child's individual school photos and avoids postage costs.
Removal of watermarks is strictly forbidden and will result in your child being excluded from all future photography sessions. All activity on the website is monitored.

Family photographs

Thank you to everyone who supported our family photograph session. Due to its popularity this year, there was a very high level of demand and unfortunately some families may have been unable to have their photograph taken because of the length of the queue. If this affected you, please contact the photographer directly and she will be happy to let you know when she will next be visiting another local school. Following the success of this year's event, we plan to start the session at **8:00am next year** to give families more time and help accommodate demand. We are delighted that so many families enjoyed this opportunity.

Fancy Dress Disco



We will once again be holding our spooky fancy dress parties next week. They will take place on Thursday 22nd October. Early Years will be 4pm-5pm and Key Stage 1 will be 5pm-6pm. Virtual tickets will be available to buy on SchoolMoney from next week for £4.00. It will be a party of fun and games with hot dogs and drinks for refreshments. Children can be dropped off at their appropriate time and collected afterwards. For those children attending the After School Club, just bring in their costumes and we will ensure they are dressed ready for their party.

Storysacks and craft after school club



We're delighted to be offering another round of our popular **Storysacks and Craft Club**, delivered by **Whitehaven Library Service**.

The sessions will run every **Tuesday from 3 November to 8 December** (six weeks) from **3.15pm to 4.15pm**.

Each session will include a storytelling activity followed by a craft linked to the story, providing children with a fun and engaging opportunity to develop their love of books, creativity and imagination.

Parents and carers are very welcome to stay and enjoy the sessions with their child if they wish; however, parent attendance is entirely optional.

Places can be booked via School Money. We look forward to welcoming lots of children to this exciting after-school club.

Remembrance Service for Year 1 and 2

Year 1 and 2 will be leading our annual Remembrance Service in St James Church on **Friday 6th 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 13th 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 Ideas - BBC Children in Need for inspirational ideas.

Nursery and Reception Scissor skills



We rigorously track children's pencil grip and scissor control throughout the early years as these are vital skills for the future. We have noticed that a number of our children are finding the use of scissors increasingly difficult. This could be due to a lack of use at home before the children start school as the children tend to spend more time using screens.

We will be addressing this in school by continuing to offer hand and grip strengthening exercises and a variety of fine motor skills activities but we would be grateful of any parent support with this too.

What can you do at home to support your child with their use of scissors?

- Provide lots of opportunities to practice cutting skills (*under adult supervision*) using old magazines, newspapers and catalogues- show your child how to cut paper into strips and guide them to have a go themselves
- Draw a range of curvy, straight or zig zag lines on a piece of paper for your child to cut along
- Another great scissor activity for is cutting pasta. This will support not only their fine motor and scissor skills but will also promote hand/eye coordination. Just fill a tray or a shallow bowl, such as a washing-up bowl, with cooked pasta and let them get to snipping!
- As children's cutting skills develop, why not create a custom tray for the children with lots of different materials to choose from? This can contain any of the materials listed above as well as other material options, such as a sponge, foam sheets, kitchen foil, strings of beads, ribbon and soft card. To support fine motor skills further include a hole-punch and a variety of child-friendly scissors including ones that cut fancy patterns.

We recognise that this can be messy but practice really does make perfect with this skill. **The end goal is for each child to be able to cut out a circle with accuracy.**

Battery Recycling



We have a battery recycling box in the school office. If you would like to recycle your used batteries please hand them into the school office. Please note this is for household batteries only. We have arranged a collection for next half term.

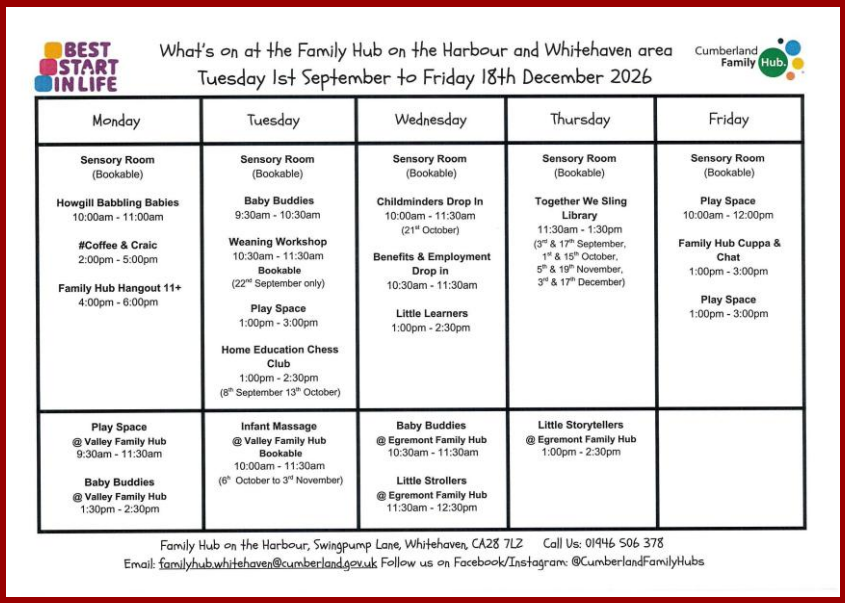
Half-Price Theatre Tickets for Families!



We are delighted to be working in partnership with Rosehill Theatre to offer St James' families **half-price tickets** for *Gaby Gulliver's Travels* during the October half-term holiday- Monday 26th October at 2pm. Thanks to this special arrangement, tickets are available for just **£6 per person** instead of the usual **£12**. This exciting family show is **recommended for children aged 5+** and promises a fun-filled adventure for all ages. A limited number of discounted tickets have been reserved for our school, so please book your tickets via **School Money** to secure your places. We hope many of our families will take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to enjoy live theatre at a reduced price!

For further information please visit: Gaby Gulliver's Travels | Rosehill

Whitehaven Family Hub



What's on at the Family Hub on the Harbour and Whitehaven area
Tuesday 1st September to Friday 18th December 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sensory Room (Bookable) **Howgill Babbling Babies** 10:00am - 11:00am **#Coffee & Craic** 2:00pm - 5:00pm **Family Hub Hangout 11+** 4:00pm - 6:00pm	**Sensory Room** (Bookable) **Baby Buddies** 9:30am - 10:30am **Weaning Workshop** 10:30am - 11:30am **Bookable** (22nd September only) **Play Space** 1:00pm - 3:00pm **Home Education Chess Club** 1:00pm - 2:30pm (8th September 13th October)	**Sensory Room** (Bookable) **Childminders Drop In** 10:00am - 11:30am (21st October) **Benefits & Employment Drop in** 10:30am - 11:30am **Little Learners** 1:00pm - 2:30pm	**Sensory Room** (Bookable) **Together We Sling Library** 11:30am - 1:30pm (3rd & 17th September, 1st & 15th October, 5th & 19th November, 3rd & 17th December)	**Sensory Room** (Bookable) **Play Space** 10:00am - 12:00pm **Family Hub Cuppa & Chat** 1:00pm - 3:00pm **Play Space** 1:00pm - 3:00pm
Play Space **@ Valley Family Hub** 9:30am - 11:30am **Baby Buddies** **@ Valley Family Hub** 1:30pm - 2:30pm	**Infant Massage** **@ Valley Family Hub** **Bookable** 10:00am - 11:30am (6th October to 3rd November)	**Baby Buddies** **@ Egremont Family Hub** 10:30am - 11:30am **Little Strollers** **@ Egremont Family Hub** 11:30am - 12:30pm	**Little Storytellers** **@ Egremont Family Hub** 1:00pm - 2:30pm	

Family Hub on the Harbour, Swingpump Lane, Whitehaven, CA28 7LZ Call Us: 01946 506 378
Email: familyhub.whitehaven@cumberland.gov.uk Follow us on Facebook/Instagram: @CumberlandFamilyHubs

Sensory Room: A calm and engaging space designed to stimulate senses through light, sound, texture and movement. Suitable for ages 0-19 (25 with SEND). **Please contact the Family Hub to book.**

Play Space: A parent led drop-in session where parent/carers are encouraged to play and interact with your child/ren in a friendly environment. Suitable for children 0-5 years.

Baby Buddies: An interactive group for bumps and babies 0-12 months and their parent/carers.

Weaning Workshop: Join us for a friendly session to help parents and carers feel confident as their baby begins the journey onto solid foods.

Infant Massage: An opportunity to help you to learn the techniques of baby massage and the benefits to your baby. Suitable from 6 weeks - mobile. **Please contact the Family Hub to book.**

Little Learners: Opportunity for children to play and learn together aged 1-4 years. Regular workshop sessions will be held focusing on eating, dental health, toileting and more.

Family Hub Cuppa & Chat: Family Hub Cuppa & Chat: A friendly drop in for parents and carers to chat about parenting, family life and any worries you have. Come and find out what support is available from your local Family Hub.

Family Hub Hangout 11 +: Family Hub Hangout 11+: A drop-in session for children and young people aged 11+ in a relaxed space to socialise, take part in activities and develop new skills. Come along to talk to the Family Hub team to get information or support on things that matter to you.

Benefits & Employment Drop In: Offering support on finances, benefits, employment and getting back to work.

Howgill Babbling Babies: Ran by Howgill - A drop in session with stories, rhymes and activities. From birth to active walking.

Together We Sling Library: Support for parents to carry their child with different types of carriers and slings.

#CoffeeandCraic: A drop in session for care experienced young people to speak to a Personal Adviser and access support from other organisations.

Home Education Chess Club: Join our friendly and welcoming club for home educated children and young people.

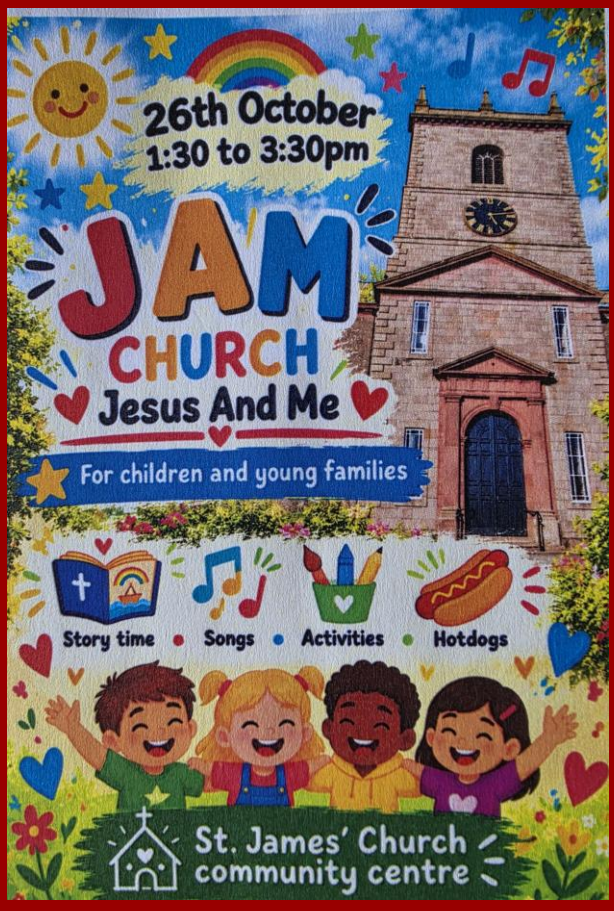
Childminders Drop In: Join us for our Childminders Drop-In session at the Family Hub. This is a welcoming space for childminders to meet, network, share ideas, and access information about local services and support.

Valley Family Hub - Whinlatter Road, Whitehaven, CA28 8DA

Egremont Family Hub - Southey Avenue, Egremont, CA22 2HH

Church and Community Events





family action

Young Carers Cumberland

Promoting and improving the health and wellbeing of young carers and their families.

We work with young carers (those aged 18 and under who have caring responsibilities) to help give them individualised support to help them thrive.

We work with each individual, as well as their family, to reduce caring needs where we can and help the young person to have as normal a life as possible - where they have access to the opportunities that others their age have.

Referrals

We welcome referrals from young people, parents and carers as well as professionals.

Visit our website to find out more and access our referral form - scan the QR code.

What is a young carer?

Young carers are children and young people, who help with practical or emotional tasks at home.

This may be because someone in their family has a disability, a long term illness, experiences mental ill health or has a problem linked to alcohol or drugs.

It may be that the young person helps with:

- getting a family member dressed or washed,
- reminding them or, or taking them to appointments,
- taking care of young brothers or sisters or family members,
- help with household tasks, e.g., cooking, cleaning, washing, shopping and paying bills,
- collecting prescriptions or helping the person you look after to take medication...

Every young carer's life looks different but helping to care in such a way often means that they might miss out on other opportunities. They may feel that they don't have enough time for themselves, friendships, homework or out of school activities.

How we help

All young carers that are referred benefit from an assessment to identify what support we can help them with, based on their individual situation.

Support may include a personal support plan (following their Young Carer Needs Assessment), 1:1 support sessions, whole family support, opportunities to meet other young carers, support with school or college, and signposting to other services, information and advice that could be helpful for the individual young person and family.

Who are Family Action?

Family Action is an award-winning national charity that works from the heart of local communities to support people through change, challenge and crisis.

We protect children, support young people and offer direct, practical help to families. It's what we've done for over 150 years.

Contact us: Young Carers Cumberland

Click here to email us | Or call us, on 01228 474171 | family-action.org.uk

family action

Parent Carers Cumberland

Promoting and improving the opportunities for parent carers in Cumberland.



family-action.org.uk

Who are Parent Carers Cumberland?

We work with parent carers (a parent or other primary caregiver who provides ongoing, substantial support and care to a child or young person with additional needs) in Cumberland to help them to access the right support at the right time. The child, or children, may have mental health concerns, be ill or disabled. The child may be over 18.

How we help

All parent carers benefit from an assessment to identify what support is needed based on their individual situation.

Support includes:

- a personal Parent Carer assessment - linked to wellbeing principles,
- a bespoke support plan, planning for needs identified,
- further referrals where needed (i.e., to Social Care)
- support to access peer groups in Cumberland
- signposting to other services, information and advice that could be helpful.

We work closely with Parent Carers to ensure their voices - as well as those of their children - are heard.

Contact us:

Click here to email us

Or call us, on 01228 474171

Are you a Parent Carer?

Parent carers are primary caregivers who care for a child, or children, that requires substantial support and care.

Not all parents are classed as 'parent carers'. Parent carers are those with parental responsibility who provide regular, unpaid care for their child beyond the typical parenting role.

This may be because the child:

- has a disability,
- a long term illness,
- experiences mental ill health, or
- has a problem linked to alcohol or drugs.

The child does not need to be under 18 years of age.

Every parent carer's life looks different, but you may be frustrated and not knowing where to turn as well as feeling increasingly isolated.

If you believe you might be a Parent Carer, you may be able to benefit from our support.

Contact us or click on - or scan - the QR code to visit our website. We accept self-referrals.

Cumbria **Fostering**



Find out about

fostering?

...and how you can change children's lives

Come along to our information drop in at **Workington Library** on **Wednesday 14 October between 1pm and 2pm**. Speak to our friendly team and foster carers and start your journey.

0300 019 0200

cumbriafostering.org.uk

Cumberland Council | Westmorland & Furness Council

Working for **Cumberland Council** and **Westmorland & Furness Council**


HAVEN WARRIORS
SQUAD BUILDER
RAISING FUNDS TO BUILD A STRONGER SQUAD FOR WHITEHAVEN RLFC
HALLOWEEN PARTY
GHOSTED BY TONY PEARCE
SPOOKY FUN FOR EVERYONE!
DATE
FRIDAY 30TH OCT
TIME
STARTS 4PM
FINISHES 7PM
ADULTS FREE!
KIDS £5
FOOD & DRINK INCLUDED!
FOOD & DRINK
AVAILABLE TO BUY
GAMES | TREATS | MUSIC | FUN & PRIZES
COME IN YOUR BEST COSTUME!
ALL WELCOME – KIDS, FAMILIES & SUPPORTERS
ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARDS BUILDING A STRONGER SQUAD FOR WHITEHAVEN RLFC
TOGETHER WE ARE HAVEN

Our weekly celebrations



Headteacher Award

Bodhi S

Learners of the week

Great Gable- Blake

Melbreak- Otis

Catbells- Rowan

Scafell- Thivein

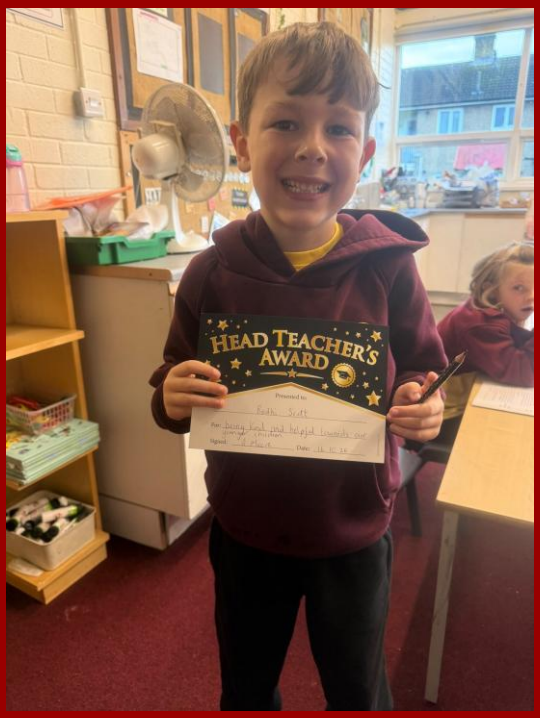
Skiddaw- Emma

Handwriters of the week

Elsie, Zara, Daisy and Beau

Achievements outside of school

Frankie, Ezra and Bradley


HEAD TEACHER'S AWARD

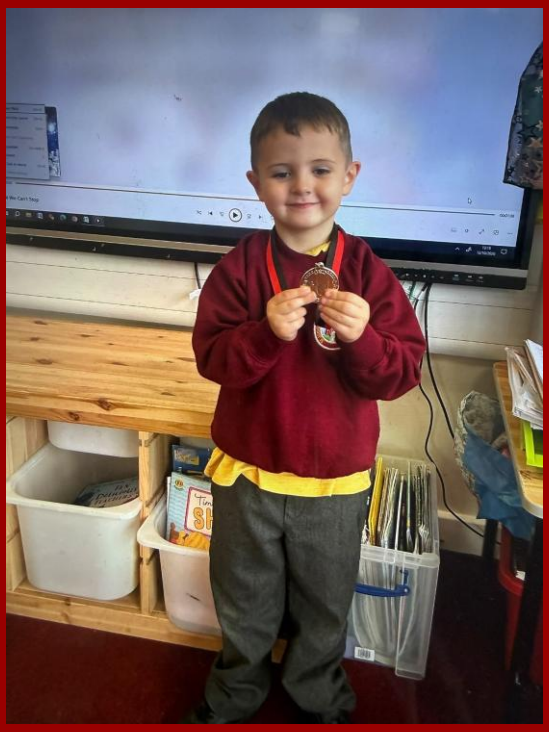

Melbreak
Learner of the Week


Courage
Daniel and the Lion's Den
Love
Loving God and One Another
Forgiveness
Scafell
Learner of the Week
Skiddaw
Learner of the Week
Catbells
Learner of the Week




The Prodigal Son
'Forgive us the wrongs we have done,
as we forgive the wrongs other have done to us.'
Matthew 6.12
Friendship
The Paralysed Man








FIRST A
HAPPY
Learn to Swim
2
Well done!
This certificate is awarded to
BRADLEY
LYNN
12-10-26
Brilliant!

Cumbria Safeguarding Children Partnership

CSCP



If you SEE something... SAY something!

Are you concerned about a child or family?

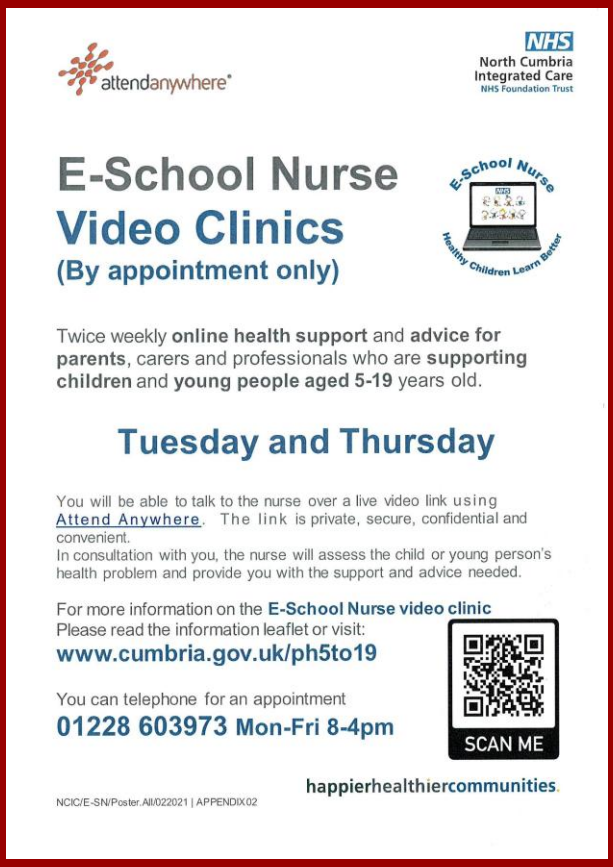
If you **see** or hear something that worries you...
say something!

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



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 Scafell classroom which is around the back of school.

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.

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.



Upcoming diary dates



Monday 19th October- Full Governing Body meeting

Tuesday 20th October- Whitehaven STEM event at Whitehaven Academy- Year 2 (pm)

Thursday 22nd October- Fancy dress parties (optional attendance)

Early Years children- 4-5pm

Year 1 and 2- 5-6pm

********** ****OCTOBER HALF TERM**********

Wednesday 4th November- Year 1 and 2 Moving Pictures Mechanisms workshop with Rosehill Theatre (in school)

Friday 6th November 10.30am- Remembrance Service for Year 1 and 2 in church

Monday 15th November- Road Safety Week

Tuesday 17th November- Skiddaw and Catbells Great Fire of London immersive cinema experience at Levels

Wednesday 18th November- Scafell Great Fire of London immersive cinema experience at Levels

Thursday 19th November- Year 1 and 2 Pyjama Drama Road Safety workshop

Friday 20th November- Children In Need- non uniform (see above)

Monday 30th November- Snow White pantomime at the Carnegie Theatre

Friday 4th December 2pm- Christmas Fayre

Monday 7th December- Early Years Nativities (9.30am and 2.30pm)

Tuesday 8th December- Year 1 and 2 Nativities (9.30am and 2pm)

Tuesday 15th December- New nursery home visits

Wednesday 16th December- Christmas jumper day, Christmas dinner and Christmas party

Friday 19th December- Christmas carol service in church

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

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