



Victoria School

Achieve, Believe, Learn together.

Headteacher: Mrs V Hepburn-Fish

Email: admin@victoria-inf-workington.cumbria.sch.uk

Telephone number: 01900601489

Newsletter Spring Term 2026

06/03/2026

We have had a fantastic world book week at Victoria School. Thank you very much to our parents/carers and family members for your support in attending the share a book in school. The pupils have had a fantastic time. We were very impressed with all the world book day costumes and the pupils took part in a variety of activities during the day. The staff enjoyed dressing up too!

Parents/carers meetings

Please check your child's class dojo story for the parents/ carer's meetings and dates. Please use the link to book.

British Science Week



We have another exciting week ahead with Science week.

Next week (9th-13th March 2026) We will be celebrating British Science Week. Your child will be taking part in lots of lovely science activities in school.

The science gadget shop will be open in the school hall every morning and afternoon next week at 8:30am-8:45am and 3.15pm-3:30pm.

Please come along and have a look at all the science gadgets we have available.

♥ CHUF Day -Non-Uniform Wear Red ♥

On Friday 27th March we will be having a non-uniform-wear red day. This is to raise money and awareness for the Children's Heart Unit Fund (CHUF).

The CHUF Charity is particularly relevant to the family of Seb McAdam who attends our Nursery.

Seb's parent has shared- 'Seb was born with a heart condition called TAPVD which was unknown until he was born. This meant that at 4 days old he had to have lifesaving open heart surgery at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, where we spent 4 weeks. Seb is doing amazing and we have all at the Freeman Hospital (PICU and Ward 23) and CHUF to thank! We go every year to Freeman Hospital to have a little check up and see how his heart is doing ♥

More information about CHUF

Chuf's vision is to support pioneering services that will positively impact heart families, inspire hope and enable Heart Heroes to reach their full potential.

Chuf supports children and families who receive treatment at the Children's Heart Unit based at the Freeman Hospital and the many other hospitals providing care for cardiac patients throughout the North of England.

Every 15 minutes a child is born with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD). Chuf relies on the support of individuals, companies, trusts and organisations to continue to help people to achieve their dreams. Your sponsorship will help us to help more babies and children by providing lifesaving equipment, facilities, aftercare, and

research! We couldn't do what we do without you!

Parking

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON ISLAY PLACE.

On Wednesday when we have had a number of afterschool clubs Islay place has been getting very congested to the point where we are concerned about the safety of our pupils and parents/carers. There is not enough space to turn and when cars are parked on both sides it makes it difficult to see when crossing.

Dates for your  Please continue to check diary dates each week for updates or changes.

School will finish for the Easter Holidays on Friday 27th March at 12:30pm.

UDANCE 2026

Our UDance pupils have been working super hard learning the dance steps for our performance of 'Achieve, Believe and Learn Together'. We have been practicing in front of all the staff around the school and for some of the classes in school. Everyone gave it 10's! The UDance festival is on Tuesday 17th March 3pm and 5pm.



Pupil Achievements

We would also like to hear about and share on our newsletter any pupil who is proud of something they have achieved outside of school. We will put this into our newsletter each week. Please send the details to the admin.

Little reminder if you need to contact the Headteacher please ring the office for an appointment or send an email and Mrs He



Cumberland Neurodiversity and Emotional Wellbeing Service

Cumberland Council, in partnership with local NHS services, are pleased to announce the launch of a new Neurodiversity and Emotional Wellbeing Service. The service is being piloted for an initial 12 months in the Cumberland area from November 2025, and has been developed with the support of SENDAC, the statutory parent/ carer forum for Cumbria.

The service will focus on early intervention and prevention, offering support at soon as needs are noticed. It will provide support, advice and guidance to families with children who have needs related to neurodivergence or emotional wellbeing.

This includes children from 0-19, or young people up to aged 25 who have a diagnosed special educational need or disability. The Service team is made up of two Social Prescribers, five Support Workers, a Health & Wellbeing Coach, three Emotional Resilience Nurses, a Clinical Psychologist, and an Assistant Psychologist who can provide clinical support and guidance when needed.

The service has:

A Neurodiversity and Emotional Wellbeing section on the Cumberland Family Hubs website which has information, advice, and strategies to support families if they feel they need it.

A single point of contact for parents, carers, young people, and professionals to contact the service to receive further advice and support.

A new strength and needs assessment that can be completed with families to understand each child or young person and plan the right support.

You can find out more on the service webpages, hosted on the Cumberland Family Hubs website:

<https://cumberlandfamilyhubs.org.uk/neurodiversity-and...>

Or email the team at NDandEW@cumberland.gov.uk

Pupil Premium Grant

The pupil premium is **additional** government funding for pupils who are eligible and have applied for Free School Meals (FSM) or at any time in the previous six years, as well as Children Looked After (CLA), adopted children (Ad) and for service families. The funding goes direct to your school and makes a real difference to the opportunities and support available to all our young people

Free School Meals

All reception, year one and year two pupil receive universal meals but some parents/carers are eligible for free school meals. Please apply now and this will entitle you to food vouchers during the school holidays and additional foodbank vouchers for Christmas. Please apply through Cumberland Council <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-clothing-vouchers-and-activities/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers>



Behaviour update

The whole school have been working on updating our school rules. The student leaders held an assembly and shared the final ones with the whole school. You can watch the attached video to hear our school rules <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1PpusEwC8M/>



Health and safety reminders

All pupils must be brought to their entrance to their class by an adult so that they are handed over to the staff safely. Pupils must not be left at the gates or parts of the playground to walk to the class by themselves. Pupils can only be collected by one of the named adult contacts who has permission to collect. If for some reason your child will not be collected by a named contact please contact the school office so we can ensure that we are handing your child to the correct adult at the end of the day.

No dogs can be brought onto the school premises other than guide dogs.

No smoking, vaping or e cigarettes are permitted on school premises.

The main staff car park cannot be used at any time this includes dropping off for breakfast club or collecting for afterschool club.

Afterschool we request that parents/carers leave the school after collecting your child and not play on the equipment. We have a number of afterschool clubs running and we need access to the playground and the gates locked so the pupils can begin their club. Thank you



A little reminder that as the weather is colder that we ask for a coat and hat to be worn. The pupils are outside for playtimes and outdoor learning is a key part to our younger pupils.



The Safeguarding Hub has changed their name to Cumberland Children Advice & Support Service

As of 1 September 2025, the Cumberland Safeguarding Hub changed their name to **Cumberland Children Advice & Support Service (CCASS)**.

This change of name is to support the 'one front door' model, so any children requiring support from the Local Authority, whether this be extra help via the Family Hubs, or a safeguarding response, will have their needs assessed through the screening and triage services CCASS offer, this will ensure the right level of service at the right time for children.

Consultation on the new name has been undertaken with children from across Cumberland, through the Participation and Outreach Team. We are proud to hear their views and have adopted their preferred name.

How can a member of the public make a referral?

If a member of the public is concerned about a child, they can make a referral to CCASS. They can do this in a number of ways:

- Call the Cumberland Children Advice & Support Service on 0333 240 1727 during office hours (Monday to Thursday, 9am – 5pm, and Friday, 9am – 4.30pm).
- Discuss their concerns with someone who works with children, young people and their families, such as a Health Visitor, Social Worker, School Nurse or School Designated Safeguarding Lead.

- **Submit a Single Contact Form**, selecting 'I am an adult with concerns about a child'.
 - Cumberland Single Contact Form

If members of the public have a concern outside of office hours, which will not wait until the next working day, they should contact the Children's Emergency Duty Team on 0333 240 1727 and provide them with as much information as possible.

Lunch Time Menu

Our Lunch time menu is on a two-week rolling rota. Each week we will put a copy of the following weeks menu on the bottom of the newsletter. Please note this can be subject to change depending on supplier's availability.

Earrings

Earrings that have just been newly pierced must be covered each day. After 8 weeks the earrings need to be removed. We have a number of pupils who are wearing hoops/fashion earrings and covering these over. These must be removed. Thank you.

Baby Rainbows

Baby Rainbows runs every Thursday at 1:30pm – 3:00pm for under Two-year olds. Come and join us for a cake and a cuppa with other parents/carers



MATTERS- PUNCTUALITY MATTERS

Getting your child to school really matters. Did you know...

If your child's attendance during the school year...	Your child would have lost approximately...	Or they would have missed approximately...
Was 95%	9 Days from School	50 Lessons
Was 90%	19 Days from School	100 Lessons
Was 85%	29 Days from School	150 Lessons
Was 80%	38 Days from School	200 Lessons
Was 75%	48 Days from School	250 Lessons

You should not take your child on holiday during term time. Please encourage punctuality to maintain school attendance.

Remember
Absence = Lost Opportunity

Absence

It is parents/carers responsibility to report your child as absent, please contact the school before 8.45am and leave a message on the automated service using option 1, Failure to report absences will result in a phone call and a text from the school to explain the absence. If we are not informed about child's attendance our first day contact procedures are followed. This includes a home visit and after this if we cannot make contact to find out the reason for the absence the police will be contacted as the child will be classed as missing.

Absence due to reported illness / Appointments

If you have reported your child absent due to illness then school will contact you on the 3rd consecutive day of absence with a welfare call. On the 3rd day of illness we would be advising parents to seek medical advice as a prolonged period of illness would generally require medical attention. Where the illness continues into a 4th day and school have no supporting medical evidence such as a GP appointment then a home visit will be carried out to see the child.

If your child has a medical appointment then school are required to ask for

evidence of all appointments to authorise the absence. This could be in the form of a letter, appointment card or screenshot of text message etc...

Wake up Wednesday

Tomorrow is World Book Day, and it's the perfect chance to spark a love of reading in every child. Stories don't just build literacy skills, they inspire curiosity, boost confidence and open doors to new worlds. This week's [#WakeUpWednesday](#) highlights simple, practical ways families can make reading part of everyday life. From creating cosy reading spaces to showing children that reading is fun, small habits can make a big impact.

Download your FREE copy here >> <https://vist.ly/4tnsk>
[#WorldBookDay](#) [#WUW](#)
[#EncouragingReading](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators
CREATIVE WAYS TO ENCOURAGE READING

Reading regularly has a life-long impact, yet recent data from the National Literacy Trust shows a decline in reading for pleasure among 5- to 18-year-olds, with just 32.7% enjoying it in 2025. Despite growing distractions, there are practical ways adults can spark a love of reading. This guide offers strategies and resources to help inspire young readers.

- 1. VALUE ALL READING**
When we think about reading, it's very easy to picture a quiet person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help reading and to show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary, get diverse reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we can be reading.
- 2. WIDEN THE SELECTION**
Once we know reading can be varied, we need to think about the selection of reading material they can access. Visit a shop selling magazines, the library and a bookshop and bring home a range of material that is available within them. Think carefully how you might broaden their reading choices, so all young people have access to a wide and varied selection.
- 3. GIFT A BOOK**
One simple way to encourage reading is to make books feel special. Giving a book as a gift and showing it's something to be treasured, whether it's an e-reader or a collection like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or book one you know they will enjoy. You could also include a personal note inside.
- 4. CONNECT WITH AUTHORS**
Meeting authors can certainly spark an interest in their reading material. This might be through a live event or an authorial tour or the live wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to write or write to connect with authors using free resources such as [Author Mail](#) and [Just Imagine's Children's Authors](#) site.
- 5. BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE**
Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to deliver it. Explore a wide range of free resources that can be found online. The more you know, the better placed you are to inspire a love of reading in others.
- 6. TALK BOOKS**
There are times when we need silence to read and focus on our book; however, we know that reading is a social experience, so we must also focus on discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to pose their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Read the selection.
- 7. RECOMMENDATIONS**
As well as talking about the content of books, we can share what we are reading, or have read recently. This can often act as a trigger for someone else to explore a book which they have not read or have not read with books. If you know the young person well, you can make your recommendations and mean why you think they'd enjoy it.
- 8. GO DIGITAL**
With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negative; however, it can bring a wealth of opportunities. Resources can be used to enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like [Readers and Apps](#) like Goodreads for under children. Augmented reality books also bring books to life and offer a great way for engagement.
- 9. RECONNECT**
There can come a time when a love of reading seems to disappear or does not seem to 'come forward'. It generally means they have lost the connection. How do we get it back? Find the next piece of reading material that sparks their current interests. The featured hour of reading focus of '50 All in' captures this well as it is their bag theme. As children grow and change, so do their interests. A visit to the local library is a great way to support the reconnection.
- 10. LEAD BY EXAMPLE**
Let them see you reading. If you make time to read, you send a strong message to children reading material. Show why you enjoy it. It's to relax, escape the world, learn and explore new things. When children see reading as a normal and valued part of everyday life, they are more likely to adopt it themselves.

Meet Our Expert
 Carl Paterson is a literacy advisor and early reading expert at The National College. Through his programmes, he supports schools to enhance reading and writing. In addition to his leadership work, he also works for a large secondary trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.

[@wake_up_weds](#) [/www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake_up_wednesday](#) [@wake_up_weds](#)

Share of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of review: 04.03.2025

Well-being

Looking for ways to support your own and your family's wellbeing?

Please take a moment to explore our school Wellbeing Information Resource-it signposts you to useful contacts, and resources that are available to help!

More information and resources are available on the school and Cumberland Council Websites.

<https://www.victoriaschool.org.uk/school>

[Homepage | Cumberland Family Hubs](#)

[Wellbeing support and resources | Cumberland Council](#)

We offer an open-door policy at Victoria School. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further support or guidance.

Victoria School

Life has its ups and downs, and sometimes, a little support can make all the difference.

- YOUNG MINDS** You are not alone we are here to help. www.youngminds.org.uk
- NSPCC** Call if you need help on 0800 800 5000. www.nspcc.org.uk
- Every life matters** Action against suicide in Cumbria. www.every-life-matters.org.uk
- kooth** Get free, safe, anonymous support. www.kooth.com
- Child Bereavement UK** Get advice on coping with bereavement. www.childbereavementuk.org.uk
- Cumberland Family Support** Our charity offers support for children and families who are experiencing stress or difficulties. www.cumbriafamilysupport.org.uk

SEND Drop-in sessions



SEND drop in sessions
The last Friday in the month

Mrs Humble and Mrs Collins will be hosting SEND drop in sessions on the last Friday of the month. Cup of tea, Biscuit and a very warm welcome.

Are you and your child on a SEND journey?
Are you overwhelmed with new jargon?
Do you need guidance on where to go for help?

For any SEND related issues or questions we will aim to help, signpost you to the right resources and support you with any referral processes you are unaware of.

9. am-10.00 am Located in after school club.

Week Two Menu

Choice	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main One	Margherita Pizza Or Pepperoni Pizza	Pork Grills	Roast Gammon Joint	Chicken Goujons	Pork Sausages
Main Two	Meatballs in Gravy	Fish Nibbles	Cottage Pie	Fish fingers	Breaded White Fish
Main Three	Cheese Ham Or Tuna Sandwich	Cheese Ham Or Tuna Sandwich	Cheese Ham Or Tuna Sandwich	Cheese Ham Or Tuna Sandwich	Cheese Ham Or Tuna Sandwich
Sides & Vegetables	Rice, Smilie Faces AND Sweetcorn, Baked Beans	Mash Potato, Pasta Spirals AND Green Beans, Garden Peas	Mash Potato, Roast Potato AND Carrots, Garden Peas Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy	Oven Chips, Pasta Spirals AND Green Beans, Sweetcorn	Mash Potato, Oven Chips AND Sweetcorn, Baked Beans
Salad Bar	Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Boiled Egg, Cucumber, Peppers, Beetroot, Coleslaw, Carrot Batons, Pasta Salad, Red Onion, Grated Cheese, Fresh bread	Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Boiled Egg, Cucumber, Peppers, Beetroot, Coleslaw, Carrot Batons, Pasta Salad, Red Onion, Grated Cheese, Garlic bread	Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Boiled Egg, Cucumber, Peppers, Beetroot, Coleslaw, Carrot Batons, Pasta Salad, Red Onion, Grated Cheese, Fresh bread	Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Boiled Egg, Cucumber, Peppers, Beetroot, Coleslaw, Carrot Batons, Pasta Salad, Red Onion, Grated Cheese, Fresh bread	Lettuce, Cherry Tomatoes, Boiled Egg, Cucumber, Peppers, Beetroot, Coleslaw, Carrot Batons, Pasta Salad, Red Onion, Grated Cheese, Fresh bread
Dessert	Chocolate Sponge Or Raspberry Buns	Chocolate Brownie Or Sponge Served with Custard	Australian Crunch Or Grasmere Gingerbread	Chocolate Shortbread Or Flapjack Served with Custard	Doughnut Or Angel Delight
Daily Options	Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt	Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt

*Items are subject to change.

*Dietary options are available each day.



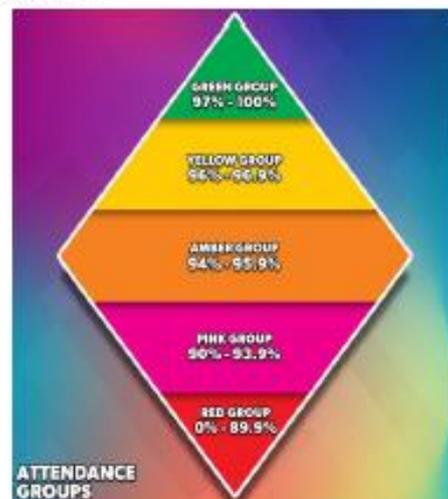
Whole School Attendance Week Ending 06/03/2026

School Attendance Matters (SAM)

Class	Last Week	This Week	Trend
Rainbow Nursery	85.0%	84.9%	▼
Piglet AM	92.9%	91.7%	▼
Piglet PM	100.0%	92.7%	▼
Eeyore	100.0%	96.8%	▼
Tigger	88.0%	87.3%	▼
Roos	93.8%	95.8%	▲
Blencathra	100.0%	93.1%	▼
Great Gable	99.1%	95.2%	▼
Helvellyn	94.8%	97.2%	▲
Catbells	95.8%	95.2%	▼
Red Pike	98.8%	100.0%	▲
Scafell Pike	96.0%	93.3%	▼
Skiddaw	100.0%	95.2%	▼
Rainbow Room	71.4%	78.6%	▲
Whole School	95.90%	94.00%	▼

Our attendance target is 96%

If your child has had 100% attendance this week then they will receive a prize draw ticket for the end of term draw. The more weeks they have 100% attendance the more chances they have to win.



Victoria School Nursery, Infant and Junior Term Dates 2025/2026

Autumn Term 2025

Starts: Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Half Term: Monday 27th - Friday 31st October 2025

Ends: Friday 19th December 2025

Spring Term 2026

Starts: Tuesday 6th January 2026

Half Term: Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026

Ends: Friday 27th March 2026

Summer Term 2026

Starts: Monday 13th April 2026

Half Term: Friday 22nd May - Friday 29th May 2026

Ends: Friday 17th July 2026

Good Friday: 3rd April

Easter Sunday: 5th April

Easter Monday: 6th April

May bank holiday: Monday 4th May 2026

INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026

INSET are determined locally

Please note these may differ from Cumbria County Council term dates

Victoria School Nursery, Infant and Junior Term Dates 2026/2027

Autumn Term 2026

Starts: Wednesday 2nd September 2026

Half Term: Monday 26th - Friday 30th October 2026

Ends: Friday 18th December 2026

Spring Term 2027

Starts: Tuesday 5th January 2027

Half Term: Monday 15th - Friday 19th February 2027

Ends: Thursday 25th March 2027

Summer Term 2027

Starts: Monday 12th April 2027

Half Term: Friday 28th May - Friday 4th June 2027

Ends: Friday 16th July 2027

Good Friday: 26th March

Easter Sunday: 28th March

Easter Monday: 29th March

May bank holiday: Monday 3rd May 2027

INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-2027

INSET are determined locally

Please note these may differ from Cumberland Council term dates

Dairy Dates

Spring term 2026 Victoria School, Infants and Nursery

Please check weekly as they can be updated and dates may change.

Monday 9 th March	Science week.	
Monday 9 th March	Science gadget shop all week, enter via the main entrance at: 8:30am – 8:45am And 3:15pm – 3:30pm	Science shop where scientific items will be sold.
Tuesday 10 th March		
Wednesday 11 th March	Udance practice until 4pm.	
Wednesday 11 th March	Reception afterschool club until 4pm.	
Thursday 12 th March		
Friday 13 th March		
Monday 16 th March	Parents meetings.	Appointments can be made via class dojo.
Tuesday 17 th March	Year One Udance show at The Carnegie: First show 3pm Second show 5pm.	
Tuesday 17 th March	April starters nursery inductions: 9:30am - 10:30am And 1:30pm – 2:30pm.	
Wednesday 18 th March	Parents meetings.	Appointments can be made via class dojo.
Wednesday 18 th March	April starters nursery inductions: 9:30am - 10:30am And 1:30pm – 2:30pm.	
Thursday 19 th March	Reception NCMP screening.	
Friday 20 th March	Rainbow Room trip	

Friday 20 th March	Comic Relief – Pupils can come to school dressed in red clothing.	
Monday 23 rd March	Easter Week.	
Monday 23 rd March	NHS Dental programme for five-year-olds in school.	
Monday 23 rd March	Primary puppets assembly.	
Tuesday 24 th March	Red Pike and Two-year-old Nursery are going to Morrisons for Easter singing at 10am.	
Tuesday 24 th March	Easter Church Service at St Michaels Church at 1:30pm. Parents/carers are welcome. Please do not park on Dean Street.	Reception, year one and year two.
Wednesday 25 th March	Easter performance for Three-year-old Nursery at: 10am and 2pm in the school hall.	
Thursday 26 th March	Easter raffle	
Thursday 26 th March	SAM Attendance assembly. Kindness awards/PE awards assembly.	
Friday 27 th March	CHUF Day: Non-Uniform Wear Red.	Donations would be greatly appreciated, we will have collection buckets around school.
Friday 27 th March	School closes for Easter Holidays at 12:30pm. There will be no afternoon nursery.	
Monday 13 th April	School returns after the Easter holidays.	



Family Community Team

Our DWP Family Community Team provides support for local families. We can help to make a brighter future for your family.

We can:

- Check your household income and benefits to ensure you are paid the right money at the right time to support your family budget.
- Refer you to local service providers and charities for 1-2-1 support depending on your individual needs.
- Provide regular progress updates to Lead Professionals where appropriate.
- We can support you through the process to show you how your finances can improve when starting work, when increasing your hours or when changing jobs.
- Signpost you to budgeting and debt support.
- Support you back into the workplace by accessing funding through your local Jobcentre, removing barriers to work such as upfront childcare costs, clothes for interviews, equipment needed for work and initial travel to work costs.
- Support you if you want to start your own business or become self-employed.
- Support you back into the workplace if you have recently lost your job or been made redundant.
- Support you or a family member with apprenticeships, traineeships, training, volunteering, work experience placements or want to improve your qualifications.
- Support you if you have a disability and want to get into work using the Government's Access to Work Scheme where appropriate.
- Advice on how to do on-line job searching using jobsites and social media platforms.
- Signpost you to organisations who can support you to update your CV and can carry out a skills audit to find out the jobs that best suit your skills.
- Provide you with ongoing in work support.

How you can contact your local Family Community Team:

Louise Armstrong, Vicky Norwood and Adele Aitken.

Email Family.CommunityTeam@cumbria.gov.uk

We are here to help you and your family

cumberland.gov.uk



Department
for Work &
Pensions