



# Victoria School

Achieve, Believe, Learn together.

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## Newsletter Spring Term 2026

27/03/2026



We have had a wonderful Spring term and in a blink of an eye we have arrived at Easter.

We have covered so much learning and provided our pupils with such a wealth of opportunities and experiences.

We are very proud of all the pupil's achievements and all their effort.

We have had a fantastic run up to the Easter holiday with all the wonderful activities and, ending with our Easter service at St Michael's church and nursery Easter performance.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication to our pupils. Wishing you a Happy Easter and thank you for your continued support.

**We return on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

## Governors

We would like to thank our governors for the work they do to support the school. This term we say goodbye to a few governors: Richard Gregory, Martyn Benson, Neil Schofield and Carla Quirk who have provided so much support and advice to the school while they have been governors and a big thank you from all at Victoria for your time.

We have some new governors joining the governing body and are in the process of inductions. We would like to welcome Charlotte Wilkinson to the governing body and look forward to working with her.

## ♥CHUF Day -Non-Uniform Wear Red ♥

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> 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 life saving 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 ♡♡☒'

We will have collection buckets around school and we will announce the total soon...



## 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.

## Easter Holiday Activity and Food programme

The Easter Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme launched on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March. HAF provides funded holiday activities for children and young people in receipt of means tested free school meals and other groups identified by Cumberland Council, these include:

- Cared for or care experienced.
- Young carers.
- Child or young person on a Resettlement Scheme or seeking asylum.
- Home educated.
- Child or young person who is classed as SEND or on a EHCP but

not on free school meals, up to the age of 18.

We have a wide range of activities taking place including family trips to Walby Farm Park and Greenland Farm facilitated by our Family Hubs, these launch on Monday morning at 8am.

The Cumberland offer is available to view and book here: [Cumberland HAF · Eegu](#) To find out more about the HAF programme and eligibility visit: [Holiday activities and food \(HAF\) programme | Cumberland Family Hubs](#)

## Pupil Achievements

Well done to Maggie, Rosie and Norah who attended a dance competition at the weekend at Blackpool.



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 Hepburn-Fish will be happy to help.



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](mailto: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

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 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive day of absence with a welfare call. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

As exam season approaches, many young people rely on revision techniques that feel productive but offer limited long-term impact.

Rereading notes and highlighting can create a false sense of confidence, leaving gaps in understanding when it matters most.

Our latest [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide shares simple, evidence-informed strategies to support more effective revision, including:

- Retrieval practice to strengthen memory
- Spaced revision to improve retention
- Building manageable and consistent routines

With practical advice for parents and educators, the guide helps create a balanced approach that supports both confidence and wellbeing.

Access the full guide here:

<https://vist.ly/4w34t>

[#Revision](#) [#StudySkills](#) [#Education](#)  
[#WakeUpWednesday](#) [#DigitalWellbeing](#)

**10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators**  
**EFFECTIVE REVISION AND STUDY SKILLS**

- 1 DIAGNOSE BEFORE DOING**
- 2 TEACH REVISION EXPLICITLY**
- 3 PRIORITISE RETRIEVAL PRACTICE**
- 4 SPACE IT OUT**
- 5 MIX, DON'T BLOCK**
- 6 USE DESIRABLE DIFFICULTY**
- 7 CENTRALISE MATERIALS SIMPLY**
- 8 PLAN, MONITOR, EVALUATE**
- 9 WRAP MOCKS PROPERLY**
- 10 MAKE TIME VISIBLE**

Meet Our Expert: [@wake\\_up\\_weds](#) [www.thenationalcollege](#) [@wake.up.wednesday](#) [@wake.up.weds](#)

## 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](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)
- NSPCC** Call if you need help on 0800 800 5000  
[www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- Every life matters** Action against suicide in Cumbria  
[www.every-life-matters.org.uk](http://www.every-life-matters.org.uk)
- kooth** Get free, safe, anonymous support  
[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)
- Child Bereavement UK** Get advice on coping with bereavement  
[www.childbereavementuk.org.uk](http://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](http://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 SENCO 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 One Menu

Choice	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Main One	Margherita Pizza Or Pepperoni Pizza	Bolognaise	Roast Turkey Joint	Turkey Burger	Fish Cakes
Main Two	Fish Fingers	Homemade cheese pie Or Handmade sausage roll	Beef Grill	Chicken breast in gravy	Chicken mini fillets
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	Smilie Faces, Rice  AND Baked Beans, Garden Peas	Mash potato, Spaghetti  AND Green Beans, Sweetcorn	Mash Potato, Roast Potato  AND Carrots, Garden Peas Yorkshire Pudding, Gravy	Oven Chips, Pasta Spirals  AND Cauliflower, Garden Peas	Mash Potato, Oven Chips  AND Sweetcorn, Spaghetti hoops
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	Iced sponge Or Carrot cake	Shortbread Or Chocolate crunch, Served with Custard	Rice pudding, Peaches Or Chocolate chip cookie	Ginger bread Or Crispy cake, Served with Custard	Ice-cream Or Jelly
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 27/03/2026

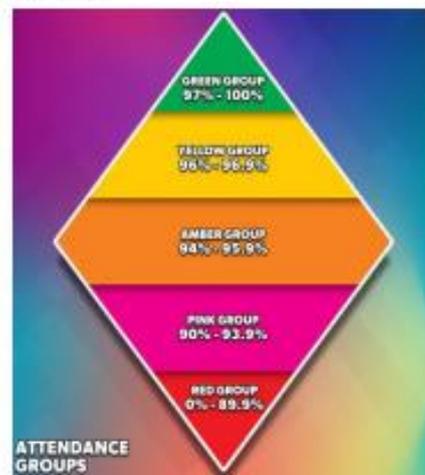
### School Attendance Matters (SAM)

Class	Last Week	This Week	Trend
Rainbow Nursery	65.9%	78.6%	▲
Piglet AM	98.8%	97.6%	▼
Piglet PM	88.9%	78.2%	▼
Eeyore	92.3%	98.1%	▲
Tigger	88.0%	92.7%	▲
Roos	85.7%	83.3%	▼
Blencathra	99.0%	97.0%	▼
Great Gable	96.9%	97.2%	▲
Helvellyn	100.0%	99.0%	▼
Catbells	93.4%	92.4%	▼
Red Pike	94.4%	96.8%	▲
Scafell Pike	96.7%	98.3%	▲
Skiddaw	98.1%	99.4%	▲
Rainbow Room	87.9%	82.2%	▼
Whole School	94.30%	95.10%	▲

**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.

100%	0 DAYS	0 DAYS MISSED
99%	1 DAY	1 DAY MISSED
98%	3 DAYS	3 DAYS MISSED
97%	1 WEEK	5 DAYS MISSED
96%	1.5 WEEKS	7.5 DAYS MISSED
94%	2 WEEKS	10 DAYS MISSED
93%	2.5 WEEKS	12.5 DAYS MISSED
92%	3 WEEKS	15 DAYS MISSED
90%	3.5 WEEKS	17.5 DAYS MISSED



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

### Autumn Term 2025

Starts: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Half Term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Ends: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Spring Term 2026

Starts: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Half Term: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Ends: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Summer Term 2026

Starts: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Half Term: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Ends: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Good Friday: 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Easter Sunday: 5<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Monday: 6<sup>th</sup> April

May bank holiday: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026

Half Term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Ends: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2026

Spring Term 2027

Starts: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2027

Half Term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2027

Ends: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027

Summer Term 2027

Starts: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027

Half Term: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2027

Ends: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2027

Good Friday: 26<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Sunday: 28<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Monday: 29<sup>th</sup> March

May bank holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 13 <sup>th</sup> April	School returns after the Easter holidays.	
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> April		
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Tempest photography for new nursery starters.	
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> April		
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> April		



Department  
for Education

# Cumberland's Holiday Activities and Food Programme



Book now [eequ.org/cumberlandhaf](https://eequ.org/cumberlandhaf)

## What is HAF

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme provides free, fun-filled activities and nutritious meals for children and young people during the school holidays. Designed to support families, HAF offers a wide range of sessions – from sports and crafts to cooking and outdoor adventures – delivered by local providers in a safe and welcoming environment. The programme helps children stay active, make new friends, learn new skills and enjoy healthy food throughout the holidays.

## Who is HAF for

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is aimed at statutory school-age children and young people (Reception-Year 11) young people who receive benefits-related free school meals, as well as families who may need extra support during the school holidays.

If you are not eligible for a funded place, many of our providers offer paid places.

To check eligibility  
please visit:



## How to book

All Cumberland HAF bookings are made through the EEQU booking system, on EEQU you:

- Do not need a HAF code to book
- Can contact providers with any questions through direct messages
- Check each providers SEND accessibility checklist
- Will see more detailed information about each activity
- Can access a more visual and user-friendly platform
- Can request bookings for multiple children at the same time

To see what's on offer and to book, visit: [eequ.com/cumberlandHAF](https://eequ.com/cumberlandHAF)



For any enquiries, please email [HAF@cumberland.gov.uk](mailto:HAF@cumberland.gov.uk)