



27/02/2026

The first week of Spring term two has been very busy at Victoria School.

The pupils have all really enjoyed learning about their new topic and the information will be sent on class dojo through the parent/carer curriculum newsletters.

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.

World book week

Next week is world book week and our English leads have planned some brilliant activities. We look forward to you joining us at the story and snack.

Monday 2nd March Year two/ Rainbow room

Tuesday 3rd March Reception

Wednesday 4th March Two-year-old nursery

Thursday 5th March Three-year-old nursery

Friday 6th March Year one and Red Pike

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



Your child will bring their PE kit home for the half term.

School will finish for half term at the normal time on Friday 13th February.

UDANCE 2026

The next rehearsals will be on Wednesday 4th March and Wednesday 11th March. The show will take place on Tuesday 17th March 2026 and tickets have been assigned onto parent pay. If you still need to book a ticket, please contact the office; however, we are very limited now. A text message will be sent out when UDance tickets can be collected.

Our theme this year is 'Achieve, Believe and Learn Together'. We are dancing to: Proud - Heather Small, Don't Stop Believing - Journey, Respect - Aretha Franklin and We're All In This Together - High School Musical. Well done, UDance 2026 team!



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 Hepburn-Fish will be happy to help.

Mental health first aid

We are delighted to congratulate Mrs Milligan and Mr Starr on becoming certified Mental Health First Aiders this week. By completing their training, they have strengthened our school's commitment to mental health awareness and wellbeing. As proud holders of the Orange Button, they are now recognised as safe and supportive adults who can be approached for guidance, a listening ear, or help in accessing further support. Their achievement is a wonderful step forward in continuing to champion positive mental health across our school community.



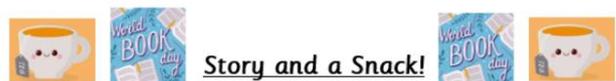
Winmarleigh Hall residential

The deposits have now been paid for our Year two Winmarleigh Hall residential. Please see below the next payment schedule which is on ParentPay:

Instalment 6: £30.00 27 Feb 2026
Thank you.

WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

On Thursday 5th March your child can dress up for school as a book character to celebrate World Book Day! (If your child does not wish to dress up, please come in full uniform.)



During World Book Day week, (Monday 2nd March- Friday 6th March) we would love to see you all! We are inviting you all to come and read a story with your child and have a snack.

Tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided, and lots of books will be available to read!

Monday 2nd March- Year 2- 2:30pm in the hall

Rainbow Room, 2:30pm in the Rainbow Room.

Tuesday 3rd March Reception- 2:30pm in the hall

Wednesday 4th March 2's Nursery- morning pupils- 9:30am in the 2's nursery, afternoon pupils- 2:30pm in the 2's nursery.

Thursday 5th March - Nursery- morning pupils- 9:30am in the hall, afternoon pupils- 2:30pm in the hall

Friday 6th March - Year 1 and Red Pike - 2:30pm in the hall.

We hope to see you all there!





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

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

With its end-to-end encryption and huge popularity, WhatsApp is often seen as a private and secure way to stay in touch; however, that same privacy can make it harder for trusted adults to see when things go wrong.

This week's [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide explains how features like group chats, disappearing messages, 'Channels' and location sharing can expose young users to pressure, unwanted contact and inappropriate content.

Download your FREE copy here >> <https://vist.ly/4ryfu>

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, allowing users to send text and voice messages, share multimedia, make video calls, and chat in groups. With end-to-end encryption, only the sender and receiver can view messages. This may offer privacy, but it also comes with risks that parents and educators need to be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

- GROUP CHAT PRESSURES:** Group chats enable multiple users to message in the same space, but this can also make it easier for group chats to be excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and young people may feel pressure to respond or stay engaged even when they don't want to.
- EXPOSURE THROUGH CHANNELS:** Channels are an optional feature that allows users to follow updates from public figures or organisations. However, there is no way to block this feature or filter its content by age. Young users may encounter adult or disturbing content, including misinformation and harmful messages.
- UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING:** WhatsApp users can share their live location and if not managed carefully, this can reveal where a user is at any time. This can be used by strangers to track someone's whereabouts. Also, group location sharing settings, young users may be contacted by strangers.
- SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS:** Scammers are increasingly using WhatsApp to trick users into sharing personal information. Common tactics include impostors posing as family members in an emergency or leading users into phishing security codes. These can lead to identity theft or access to private information.
- DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES:** WhatsApp offers features like disappearing messages and 'Chat Lock', which give users a false sense of security. While intended to protect privacy, they can be used by young users to hide inappropriate communications or content, making it harder for adults to spot potential issues.
- COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT:** WhatsApp now includes ads in the 'Sponsored' feed and has introduced an AI assistant - 'Meta AI' - across the app, which cannot be removed. These additions raise concerns about targeting young users and the type of content children and young people might interact with.

Advice for Parents & Educators

- REVIEW PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER:** Help young users check who can see their profile photo, status, and location. Advise the 'Ignore Unknown Contact' setting and set group chat invitations to 'My Contacts' or 'My Contacts Except...' for added safety.
- TEACH HOW TO SPOT SCAMS:** Encourage caution around unusual and unexpected messages, especially if they involve money or codes. Help young users understand the signs of scams and what to do if they receive a suspicious message. Enable two-step verification to add an extra layer of protection.
- BE OPEN ABOUT HIDDEN CHATS:** Discuss why children and young people might use features like disappearing messages or 'Chat Lock'. Encourage them to share if something feels uncomfortable, even if the messages are gone. Let them know that privacy should not mean secrecy.
- TALK ABOUT ADVERTISING AND AI:** Explain that WhatsApp now includes ads and AI tools. Discuss the difference between genuine and sponsored content, and the potential for AI to share inaccurate or age-inappropriate messages. Encourage young users to think critically before trusting or interacting with these features.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Kutherford is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and presented research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and wellbeing behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

#WakeUpWednesday The National College

@wake_up_weds | www.thenationalcollege | @wake.up.wednesday | @wake.up.weds

This guide is for informational purposes only. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 18.02.2025

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.



The infographic features the Victoria School logo (a rainbow over the text 'Victoria School') in the top left and a cartoon illustration of two smiling hearts in the top right. The main text reads: 'Life has its ups and downs, and sometimes, a little support can make all the difference.' Below this, seven support organizations are listed, each with a QR code, logo, name, brief description, and website URL:

- 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
- Cumbria Family Support**: Our charity offers support for children and families who are experiencing stress or difficulties. www.cumbriafamilysupport.org.uk

A cartoon illustration of a smiling orange character with arms and legs is shown meditating on a blue mat in the bottom left corner.

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 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 27/02/2026 School Attendance Matters (SAM)

Class	Last Week	This Week	Trend
Rainbow Nursery	71.2%	85.0%	▲
Piglet AM	86.9%	92.9%	▲
Piglet PM	94.4%	100.0%	▲
Eeyore	99.4%	100.0%	▲
Tigger	89.3%	88.0%	▼
Roos	85.4%	93.8%	▲
Blencathra	95.9%	100.0%	▲
Great Gable	97.3%	99.1%	▲
Helvellyn	92.7%	94.8%	▲
Catbells	94.8%	95.8%	▲
Red Pike	94.8%	98.8%	▲
Scafell Pike	95.7%	96.0%	▲
Skiddaw	95.8%	100.0%	▲
Rainbow Room	79.8%	71.4%	▼
Whole School	93.30%	95.90%	▲

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 2 nd March	World Book Week	
Monday 2 nd March	Year Two story and snack at 2:30pm in the school hall.	
Monday 2 nd March	Rainbow Room story and snack at 2:30pm in the Rainbow room.	
Tuesday 3 rd March	Reception story and snack at 2:30pm in the school hall.	
Wednesday 4 th March	Two-year-old nursery story and snack in the nursery: AM pupils at 9:30am PM pupils at 2:30pm.	
Wednesday 4 th March	PSCO Assembly	
Wednesday 4 th March	Udance practice	
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day Your child can dress up as a character from a book. If your child does not wish to dress up please wear full school uniform.	
Thursday 5 th March	Three-year-old nursery story and snack in the school hall: AM pupils at 9:30am PM pupils at 2:30pm.	
Friday 6 th March	Year One and Red Pike story and snack at 2:30pm in the school hall.	
Monday 9 th March	Science week	
Tuesday 10 th March		
Wednesday 11 th March	Udance practice	
Thursday 12 th March		
Friday 13 th March		

Monday 16 th March	Parents meeting	
Tuesday 17 th March	Udance show: First show 3pm Second show 5pm.	
Wednesday 18 th March	Parenting meetings	
Thursday 19 th March		
Friday 20 th March		

