

Newsletter

Spring Term 2026

Week 8



Allergies in Schools

You may have seen in the news this week that allergy training is to become compulsory in schools in England under new statutory guidance announced by the Department for Education. We are pleased to assure you that we have been completing this training for a number of years now, and we also have spare adrenaline auto-injectors on site for emergencies involving children without a prior allergy diagnosis.

We always have and will continue to take allergies in school very seriously, and we do have a number of children with nut allergies. We are a nut free school and children are unable to bring anything into school which may contain nuts - if a parent is to bring in a birthday cake, these are all checked and sent home if not suitable. We appreciate your support and understanding.

Dress as a Scientist Day

On Friday 13th March, to celebrate Science Week, children can come to school dressed like a scientist! This can

be as simple as you like, use your imagination! If not joining in, please wear full uniform.

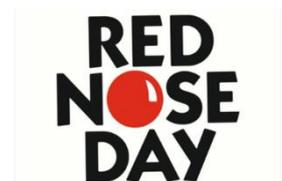


U Dance

Pupils are currently rehearsing for the U Dance event on 17th March at the Carnegie Theatre. Thank you for all ticket orders, and these will be sent home in due course. We are holding practices after school every Monday and Wednesday until 4pm until the event. Children are all working really hard preparing for this and we cannot wait for you to see it!

Red Nose Day

On Friday 20th March, children can come to school



wearing RED! All children will receive a Red Nose - this year the theme is 'Design-Yer Own'. Children will design this in school on Thursday 19th, and be given this to wear and take home on the day. Red Noses are £2, and although every child will receive one, we are asking if parents feel they can, please make a donation of £2 to cover the costs. Donations to be made via ParentPay.

Easter Church Service will be held on Monday 23rd March this year, and is led by Year 4 pupils.

Ticket information to follow.



Easter Activities Wednesday 25th March 2026

For just £3.00 paid through ParentPay, children can sign up to take part in the following:

Egg and Spoon Race

Egg Dump

Guess the Eggs in the Jar

Last entries Sunday 22nd March 2026

Design an Egg/Bonnet will also be taking place, this is done at home and brought into school. Please have entries in school by Tuesday 24th March.

Free of charge

Raffle - £1 per ticket

Hampers and eggs to be won!



Every student. Every day.



Wellbeing Guide

With reading for pleasure in decline, this practical guide offers ten thoughtful ways to reignite children's enthusiasm for books. From valuing all forms of reading to broadening access to diverse materials, it explores how adults can nurture positive reading habits both at home and in school. Digital tools, audiobooks and augmented reality are also considered as engaging ways to support today's readers.

It also highlights the power of social connection - recommending books, reading together and meeting authors - alongside the importance of modelling reading ourselves. With expert insight from literacy specialist Carl Pattison, this edition provides supportive, achievable

ideas to help young people reconnect with reading and see it as a meaningful part of everyday life.

Guide at the end of the newsletter.

Team Bassenthwaite

This week, Team Bassenthwaite have enjoyed lots of busy learning.

As clever writers this week we have been looking at the story, 'The Disgusting Sandwich' and using our inverted commas to show when someone is speaking. This week we also focused on using either a question mark, an explanation mark or a comma before we close the inverted commas.

As mathematicians we have been looking at the relationship between 2s, 4s and 8s and using the skills to solve word problems.

This week we have also celebrated World Book Day. We took part in some shared reading with the year 6s and also enjoyed a non-fiction half 'wowed'. We worked through a BBC live lesson and created a 'book jacket' for our favourite book.

As scientists this week, we began our new topic, 'animals including humans', by looking at the different food groups and discussing what makes a healthy diet. Well done, Team.



WORLD BOOK DAY 2026

Team Buttermere

Team Buttermere have had a fantastic week of learning across the curriculum! In maths, we have been developing our column addition skills, carefully lining up digits by place value and remembering to carry when a column total is more than 9, showing great focus on neat presentation and checking our answers. In English, we have been exploring inverted commas through our class story 'The Disgusting Sandwich', retelling parts of the story and writing speech sentences while learning to spot the difference between spoken dialogue and narration. As historians, we have been investigating how food has changed from the Stone Age to the Romans,

discovering some fascinating facts about what people ate in the past. In art, we have been building our sketching and drawing skills, taking care to add detail and improve our techniques. Well done to everyone for your brilliant effort this week.



Team Crummock

In spellings this week, we have been using our dictionaries to try to find pairs of homophones. We have then been spotting them in our other work throughout the day too. As mathematicians this week, we have been focusing on using the column addition method to help us to work out our addition equations. As writers this week, we have been continuing to focus on using speech in our retell of the story of *The Disgusting Sandwich*. This week we have been making sure that we have been including punctuation before we close our inverted commas. In PE this half term, we will be doing tennis. This week, we have been developing our hand eye coordination and racket control. On Thursday, it was World

Book Day, 2026. We all looked very cosy in our pyjamas. Throughout the day, we had an assembly, took part in a live lesson through the BBC website, enjoyed reading non fiction books from our library, shared reading with the year 5 pupils from Ullswater, drew either our favourite book cover (or created our own) and shared and read our favourite books that we brought into school. As scientists this week, we have looked at the Eatwell plate, learning about the different food types.



Team Derwentwater

It has been another busy and exciting week for our Derwentwater pupils, with lots of engaging learning taking place across the curriculum.

In Literacy, pupils have been developing their understanding of sentence structures and paragraphing. They have been learning how to organise their ideas clearly, ensuring their writing flows logically and is easy for the reader to follow.

In Maths, pupils have been practising multiplying numbers by 10 and 100.

They have explored how the value of

digits changes and used place value knowledge to help them solve problems efficiently.

In French, pupils have been learning how to describe themselves. They practised using simple phrases to talk about their names, age and personal characteristics.

In Music, pupils have been busy rehearsing for the Easter Service. They have been practising the songs and working hard to ensure they sing confidently together.

In Computing, pupils have been learning about programming. They explored how instructions can be given to a computer and how simple algorithms can control actions on screen.

In PE, pupils have been developing their tennis skills. They practised basic techniques such as controlling the ball, rallying and improving their coordination.

In RE, pupils learned about the impact of Hajj and why this pilgrimage is important for Muslims. They discussed how the journey can influence a person's beliefs, identity and community.

During Online Safety lessons, pupils explored how to recognise fake news.

They discussed the importance of checking sources, questioning information and thinking critically about what they read online.

This week, pupils took part in an exciting clay workshop. They experimented with creating different textures and shapes using an ocean theme, designing waves, sea creatures and other imaginative pieces.

We also celebrated World Book Day! Pupils enjoyed sharing their favourite books, discussing characters and celebrating the joy of reading together. Some pupils also took part in Bikeability training, learning important skills for riding safely and confidently on their bikes.

Team Coniston

As clever writers, our focus text has been The Three Little Pigs. This week, our focus skill has been using paragraphs to organise our ideas clearly. We have all worked incredibly hard to include fronted adverbials and direct speech in our writing.

As mathematicians, we have continued to develop our understanding of perimeter. We focused on measuring the perimeter of squares using our times tables knowledge to help us. Everyone has worked hard to use mathematical language during our lessons.

As scientists, we continued our topic, Living Things and Their Habitats. This week, we explored what biodiversity is within a habitat. We all enjoyed using

pitfall traps to help us identify different living things in the field.

In history, we continued to explore Crime and Punishment. This week, we are learning about what happened in Medieval Britain. There were some gory punishments!

In RE, Team Coniston explored Hajj, an annual pilgrimage made by Muslims.

In music, we practised the songs we will be performing at the Easter service.

This week, Team Coniston also took part in a clay workshop. Everyone worked hard to create different shapes using a range of tools and techniques to produce a seaside tile. The finished pieces were fantastic, and we were so impressed with everyone's creativity.



Team Loweswater

This week team Loweswater have been creating paragraphs in English. We used the story of the three little pigs to help us practice writing sentences and paragraphs. In maths this week we have been working on the divisibility rules for multiples of 3 and 6. In history this week we started our new topic of crime and punishment. We learned about werewild and how the Anglo-Saxons

kept law and order. In science this week we learned about pitfall traps and how these can be used to find out about creatures living in a habitat. This week we enjoyed a fantastic clay workshop. We created ocean themed tiles using clay and various tools. We learned how to make different textures in clay and how to create different sea creatures. On Thursday it was World Book Day. We dressed in pyjamas, took part in a live lesson and read a book with Y6 students.



Team Ullswater

Such a busy week for Team Ullswater! We have started new units in both RE and Maths, had a Clay Sculpture session, World Book Day and completed our final write for David Attenborough's biography!

As Historians, we learnt more about the slave trade and Britain's involvement in this, especially when discussing the journey and conditions of the people involved. There are always such fascinating questions and thoughtful discussion in these lessons, which helps everyone learn from one another. Using

our understanding, we then had a fantastic art session in the hall, where we used pictures of artefacts to recreate clay masks, depicting the different cultures and practices of the time. As Mathematicians, we are using stem sentences to compare various objects using phrases like 'three times the size of' or 'half as many', making great use of our multiplication and division skills. As Musicians, we are practising songs for our Easter service, which we are very excited about, it is always such a lovely celebration and the children really enjoy singing along. As part of World Book Day, we were all very lucky to be given a free book, which the children chose, and enjoy spending some time with year 3, helping them to read and develop their fluency skills. Next week, we will be showing off our Scientific understanding through lots of experiments and practical activities, it will be another very busy but exciting week!



Team Grasmere

This week in Maths, we have been continuing to develop our multiplication skills by learning how to multiply 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit number using the expanded multiplication method.

In English, we have been writing diary entries inspired by Diary of a Killer Cat by Anne Fine, taking on the role of Tuffy and describing his dramatic trip to the vets.

In Art, we have been learning how to sketch using one-point perspective and exploring how street artists use perspective techniques to create depth in their work. On Wednesday, year 5's also enjoyed an additional art session creating ocean scenes using clay, where they focused on different techniques to create texture and detail.

In Geography, we created our own relief maps of Grasmere using cardboard. Our maps will show the height of the land through layer shading and contour lines. On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day and enjoyed coming to school in our pyjamas while sharing our love of reading.

During our Online Safety session, we learned how to identify real and fake news and discussed ways to stay safe online.

In French, we have been learning how to say which musical instruments people like to play.



Team Ennerdale

This week in Year 5 the children have been working incredibly hard across the curriculum and showing a really positive attitude towards their learning. In English we have been very busy writing our own biographies based on what we have learnt about David Attenborough. In Maths we have continued exploring area, calculating it for different shapes and applying our reasoning skills. On Wednesday we had a fabulous session in the hall where each pupil created a piece of African art. On Thursday it was World Book Day 2026 - the pupils enjoyed an assembly by Mr Stilwell before joining a live lesson to celebrate reading - let's all get reading! The children also enjoyed a brilliant PE session with Kane focusing on backhand and forehand strikes in tennis. Well done to Sophia, last week's Reading Heroes competition winner, and to Arya, our Class Dojo Draw winner - fantastic achievements all round. Finally, Ennerdale won the attendance trophy

last week which we are really proud of - well done everyone!



Team Thirlmere

It's been another busy week for Team Thirlmere. In English, we have started a new unit on non-chronological reports, using a text about Everest to show us the features of text we should be using and a range of devices that we can include. As mathematicians, we have done some work on ratio and measurement. I am so pleased with how everyone is persevering in maths and showing great resilience. We are much more confident on how to convert between units of measure. On Thursday, it was World Book Day, we took part in a BBC Live Lesson, did some reading with Loweswater class and shared our favourite book with each other. As scientists, we began a new topic on Light, we learned about how light travels in a straight line and cannot bend around corners.

We have been doing lots of SPAG revision this week, going over past papers and trying to think of tips and tricks to help us remember how to answer questions.

In music with Mr Milner, we have been continuing our work on using GarageBand to layer instruments.

We enjoyed PE, dance and computing this week too,

Well done Team Thirlmere, keep up the hard work!



Team Windermere

Windermere have been very productive this week, working really hard on their revision and learning new content. I was really pleased to be able to meet with parents and pupils this week to discuss progress and next steps - so many positive conversations!

In English, we have started writing a non-fiction text based on 'Everest'. We have been learning about grouping content together in a non-chronological report and organising information into sentences.

In Maths, we have covered two areas this week, ratio and measurement. We have been jotting down the basics and

then applying them to different reasoning questions. Pupils are transferring knowledge sensibly and are constantly checking their work.

We continued with our iPad performances in Music and in PE pupils have been working on their tennis skills.

We celebrated World Book Day 2026 in PJ's on Thursday. We took part in the BBC Live Lesson and joined up with Bassenthwaite for Reading Buddies in the afternoon.

Another busy week in Windermere



**Please note:
Diary dates are subject to
change - please check
back weekly for updates**

March

9th - 13th - Science Week
9th & 10th - Science Fiction workshops
10th & 11th - Forces and Magnets workshops
10th - Boccia tournament
12th & 13th - Forensic Science workshops
13th - Dress as a Scientist Day
16th - 20th - Year 4 swimming
17th - U-Dance
20th - Red Nose Day - wear RED
23rd - Easter Service at St Michaels Church
2pm (tickets on sale soon)
25th - Easter Activities
24th - 26th - Year 4 swimming
26th - Phunky Foods Year 6 parents

Easter Holidays

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

April

14th - Swimming gala
15th - PCSO assembly
27th - 29th - Y4 Winmarleigh Hall trip
27th - 29th - Phunky Foods Y4

May

4th - Bank holiday SCHOOL CLOSED
5th - 6th - Y3 Winmarleigh residential
11th - 14th - Y6 SATs Week
11th - Y4 trip to Vindolanda
13th - 15th - Y5 York Residential
18th - 21st - Year 6 London Residential
18th - Y4 Phunky Foods
19th - Y5 Phunky Foods Parent workshop
19th - PCSO to meet Year 5 pupils
21st - Break up for half term 3:20pm

**Do you have concerns
about a child in Cumberland?**



If you are worried that a child is at risk of immediate harm please contact:

**Cumberland Safeguarding Hub on
0333 240 1727**

Email: safeguarding.hub@cumberland.gov.uk

(PLEASE PASSWORD PROTECT THE EMAIL AND SEND THE PASSWORD
IN A FURTHER EMAIL)

**Out of working hours – contact the
Emergency Duty Team on 0300 373 2724**

**To speak to a Local Authority Designated Officer
(LADO) for advice call**

0300 303 3892
or email lado@cumbria.gov.uk

To speak to the Cumberland Early Help Team call

0300 303 3896

Or email early.help@cumberland.gov.uk

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

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 8- 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 young person reading a fictional novel; however, reading is so much more than this. To help them understand, why not show them how to create a 24-hour reading diary? Jot down all reading and then discuss this with them. By doing this, you can demonstrate the many ways we turn to 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 consider the range of material that is available within them. Then consider 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. Gifting a book adds value and shows it's something to be treasured. Whether it's as a reward or for a celebration like a birthday, let the young person choose a title or pick 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 in a school/bookshop or by using the wealth of online material that is now available. Encourage young people to look at ways to connect with authors using free resources such as Authorly and Just Imagine's Children's Authors Live.



5 BUILD YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Access training about reading for pleasure to widen your understanding of this topic and, more importantly, how to develop 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 factor in discussion time. Reading the same book gives two people a connection and the opportunity to voice their thoughts and questions about it. Why not buy two copies of a book and read it together? Start the connection.



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 it. How often have you watched a film or series because someone else has recommended it? It's the same with books. If you know the young person well, you can tailor your recommendations and share why you think they'll enjoy it.



8 GO DIGITAL

With the rise in online digital material, we can easily focus on the negatives; however, it also brings a wealth of opportunities. Resources can aid and enhance the reading experience for young people. They can read along with audiobooks, translate, and track their reading goals with resources like PolyIno and apps like Goodreads for older 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. It does not mean it's gone forever; 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 National Year of Reading focus of 'Go All In' captures this well as it is their key 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 matters. Share why you enjoy it. Is it to relax, escape the world, learn something new or to be entertained? 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 Pattison 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 independent work, he also works for a large academy trust in the East Midlands as the strategic lead for their English Hub and Literacy Excellence Centre.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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