



13/02/2026



The last half term has flown by.

We have had a wonderful Spring term and start to 2026 at Victoria Infant and Nursery School.

The Class dojo and Facebook posts have shared all the wonderful learning across the school. It is wonderful to see our curriculum come alive through the pupils learning and development.

Thank you very much to all our parents/carers for your support with your child's learning. The progress has been amazing we are proud of our pupils' achievements.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all our staff for their dedication to the pupils and school.

We hope you have a lovely half term break.

We return to school on Monday 23rd February.

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

We have had a very busy 4 weeks of after-school clubs in preparation for the UDance festival. We have finished learning the routine this week and you are all in for a treat! Mrs Hepburn-Fish and other staff members came to watch our practice on Wednesday and they were blown away with how quickly the children have learned the steps and how much effort they are putting into the dance.

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.

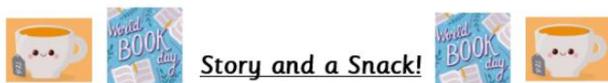
Winmarleigh Hall residential

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.)



Story and a Snack!

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.

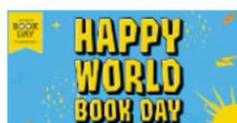
Tuesday 3rd March Reception- 2:30pm in the hall

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 though 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

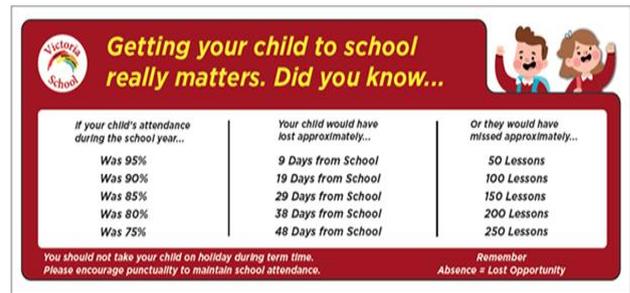
Earrings that have just been newly pierced must be covered each day. After 8 weeks the earrings need to be removed. We have a number of pupils who are wearing hoops/fashion earrings and covering these over. These must be removed. Thank you.

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

Feeling a sense of belonging plays a vital role in children's wellbeing, confidence and gives them the ability to thrive, both academically and emotionally.

This weeks **#WakeUpWednesday** guide explores why belonging matters and how small, everyday interactions can make a meaningful difference in helping children feel accepted and included.

Download your FREE copy here >> <https://vist.ly/4r52x>

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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators FOSTERING A SENSE OF BELONGING

Helping children feel like they belong is vital for their emotional wellbeing, academic success, and overall development. A true sense of belonging reduces anxiety, builds confidence, and supports resilience. These ten tips are designed to help parents and educators create inclusive, caring environments where children feel accepted, safe, and valued.

- 1 USE EVERYDAY MOMENTS**
Belonging is built in the small moments. Use daily routines to create a sense of belonging, such as drop-off, or quiet time. These moments can be meaningful if they are consistent and predictable. Children who feel connected and accepted from children and adults are more likely to feel safe, supported, and truly part of the home or classroom community.
- 2 INVOLVE THEM IN RULE-MAKING**
Involve children in help create rules or routines. Give them a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. When they voice their views, they are respected and included in the decision-making process. This empowers children, fosters cooperation, and reduces resistance. Whether at home or school, co-created expectations are more likely to be followed because they come from a place of mutual respect.
- 3 VALIDATE ALL EMOTIONS**
Acknowledging a child's emotions, whether positive or challenging, helps them feel accepted as they are. Validating statements like "I can see that made you upset," or "that sounds really exciting," suggest that all emotions are valid and accepted. Children who feel their emotions are more likely to seek help, participate openly, and find the adults around them all of which contribute to a sense of belonging.
- 4 HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN STRENGTHS**
Go beyond academic success or good behavior and take time to notice a child's less visible qualities, such as thoughtfulness, resilience, or humor. Making these strengths visible provides a message that they are valued for who they are, not just for what they do. This builds self-esteem and helps children feel accepted in a way that often focuses on external accomplishments.
- 5 SHOW CURIOSITY ABOUT CULTURE**
Ask respectful, open questions about a child's cultural backgrounds, family customs, or celebrations. These conversations create opportunities for children to share what matters to them and to feel proud of their identity. Whether at home or at school, making cultural expectations helps all children feel that their heritage is respected, and that they belong in a diverse, inclusive environment where every voice counts.
- 6 BELONGING BUDDIES**
Pairing children with a peer they might not typically choose can foster new connections and break down social barriers. Pairing children with different abilities, ages, or interests, buddy systems help sustain or build connections between their individual needs. Over time, these intentional connections can develop into meaningful friendships, strengthening the web of support and community and inclusion.
- 7 AVOID LABELS AND COMPARISONS**
Avoid labeling children by intelligence or capability. Labels tend to stick, so they can damage self-esteem and hinder education. Use phrases like "You don't do that like," they unintentionally hinder individual progress and growth. Encouraging children to celebrate their own achievements, however small, helps them develop confidence and feel proud of their own progress.
- 8 MAKE TIME FOR ONE-TO-ONES**
Spending regular one-to-one time with a child shows that they matter as an individual. These moments can be as simple as reading a book together or playing a board game. Focused attention on playing and talking builds trust and emotional connection. It lets the child know they are important and cared for, which is crucial for meaningful connections.
- 9 REFLECT THEIR INTERESTS**
Whether at home or at school, including children's interests in daily life reinforces their importance. During free time, look beyond their favorite books or hobbies. Ask them their identity and what is their most important belief or value. Show that their passions, preferences, and contributions are valued and that they have a place in the group.
- 10 EMPHASISE 'WE' OVER 'THEY'**
Use inclusive language that reinforces unity and shared identity. Phrases like "let's figure it out together," or "we can help each other," promote collective responsibility and cooperation, avoiding divisive terms like "some children," or "most children." Language shows how we see the world and how we see ourselves. Inclusive language builds environments where every child feels safe, welcomed, and included.

Meet Our Expert
Home to the world's largest CPD library for educators, The National College has transformed the way education establishments go about developing their workforce and managing progress. Our three headquarters help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of engagement.

#WakeUpWednesday **The National College**

Twitter: @wake_up_weds Facebook: /www.thenationalcollege Instagram: @wakeup.wednesday TikTok: @wakeup.weds

This guide is for their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.02.2022

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
- Cumbria 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 13/02/2026

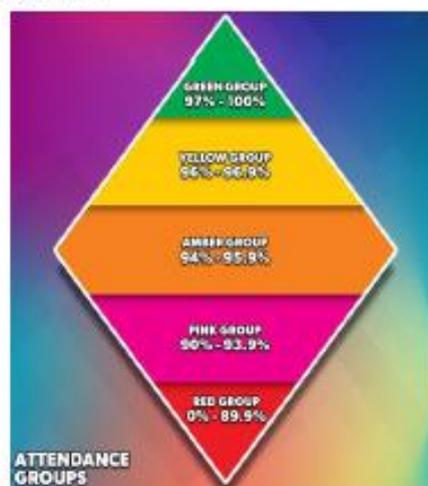
School Attendance Matters (SAM)

Class	Last Week	This Week	Trend
Rainbow Nursery	70.6%	71.2%	▲
Piglet AM	84.5%	86.9%	▲
Piglet PM	85.5%	94.4%	▲
Eeyore	90.4%	99.4%	▲
Tigger	81.5%	89.3%	▲
Roos	91.7%	85.4%	▼
Blencathra	94.7%	95.9%	▲
Great Gable	97.9%	97.3%	▼
Helvellyn	98.3%	92.7%	▼
Catbells	97.2%	94.8%	▼
Red Pike	93.1%	94.8%	▲
Scafell Pike	96.7%	95.7%	▼
Skiddaw	93.9%	95.8%	▲
Rainbow Room	97.6%	79.8%	▼
Whole School	93.20%	93.30%	▲

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	19 DAYS MISSED



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.

Friday 13 th February	School breaks up at normal time for February half-term.	
Monday 16 th February – Friday 20 th February	SCHOOL CLOSED February half-term	
Monday 23 rd February	Pupils return to school.	
Tuesday 24 th February		
Wednesday 25 th February		
Thursday 26 th February		
Friday 27 th February		
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		
Tuesday 10 th March		
Wednesday 11 th March	Udance practice	
Thursday 12 th March		
Friday 13 th March		
Monday 16 th March		
Tuesday 17 th March	Udance show: First show 3pm Second show 5pm.	
Wednesday 18 th March		
Thursday 19 th March		
Friday 20 th March		

FREE Parent Carer Sensory Processing Training On Tour 2026!

(With Free Lunch)



Zena Cassels -
Children's Occupational Therapist

- ✓ **FREE** sensory processing training session for parent carers.
- ✓ Delivered by **NHS Occupational Therapist Zena Cassels.**
- ✓ For parents of children with additional needs/ disabilities. (your child does not need a diagnosis for you to attend)



Choose **one** of the following dates - ALL 10:00 am - 2:30pm

 **Seascale | 3rd March**
The Windscale Club

 **Carlisle | 16th March**
Harraby Catholic Club

 **Wigton | 9th March**
The Market Hall

 **Penrith | 17th March**
Penrith Cricket Club

 **Maryport | 11th March**
Crosscanonby
Community Centre

 **Whitehaven | 18th March**
Whitehaven Football Club


North Cumbria
Integrated Care
NHS Foundation Trust


SENDAC
Cumbria's
SEND voice

Hosted by SENDAC




**Booking
required**
-
**Limited
spaces!**

CHANCE CAMP

OUR SCHOOL HOLIDAY SPORTS
CAMPS ARE BACK FOR 2026!

🕒 Ages 4 - 14 years old

📍 Cockermouth Rugby Club

🕒 9am - 4pm

100%
RECOMMEND
(Facebook reviews)

"Highly
recommend!"

"What a great
camp, the girls had
the best time"



**SCAN TO
BOOK YOUR
PLACE NOW**



FOR UPDATES FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK @CHANCECAMPSPORTS
OR EMAIL ROBWRIGHTSPORTSERVICES@GMAIL.COM