



Victoria School

Achieve, Believe, Learn together.

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Newsletter Summer Term 2026

03/07/2026

Mrs Hepburn-Fish's reflection of the week and events

We have had a wonderful week in school and the children have enjoyed the different activities.

The leavers assemblies were wonderful and the pupils were so confident in sharing their memories and time at Victoria Infant and Nursery School. We are so proud of the pupils; they have been a brilliant year group and we wish them all the best for their future and next step in their education. Thank you to our parents/carers who attended but also for all your support with your child and worked in partnership with the school over the years. Thank you

Year one and two enjoyed their trips to Lowther Castle and Silloth. The pupils gained new knowledge and experiences during their time. Thank you to the staff who supported and organised this for the pupils. The pupils developed their learning when back in school to further develop their skills.

Rainbow ramble was a huge success for our baby rainbows and two-year-old nursery and parents and family members. The pupils enjoyed their sponsored walk around the field and all took part. Well-done to all involved.

We hope you all enjoy the summer fayre today and that the weather stays dry. Thank you to FOVISA- the fundraising committee who have organised and arranged the different stalls. Thank you to all the school staff who worked together to support pulling the stalls together. Let's hope we raise some funds for our playground!

Staff organisation

September 2026

We are delighted to confirm that we have started to prepare the class lists and organisation for September.

We will have two classes in each year group. Some of the teachers and Teaching Assistants will be moving year groups. We will be holding information sessions to find out about your child's new class and their year group and you will be informed about the class that you will be in. We will be holding a variety of different transition activities so please keep a close eye on the dairy dates.

September staffing:

Rainbow Nursery

Mrs Cowan
Miss Jones
Mrs Collins
Mrs Owens

Three-year-old Nursery

Mrs Milligan
Miss Bowness
Miss Murphy
Mrs Young

Reception

Blencathra Miss Watson
Great Gable Miss Arthur
Reception Teaching Assistants Miss
Speakes, Mrs Robertson and Mrs Meil.

Year one

Catbells Mr Starr
Helvellyn Mrs Martin
Year one Teaching Assistants Miss Taylor
and Mrs Donaughie

Rainbow room

Mrs Humble
Mrs Ross
Teaching Assistants Mrs O'Leary and Miss
Hood

Year two

Skiddaw Miss Hodgson and Mr Campbell
Scafell Pike Mr Robertson and Miss
Mossop
Year two Teaching Assistants Mrs Rodgers,
Mrs McKeating and Miss Thompson

Attendance information

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...



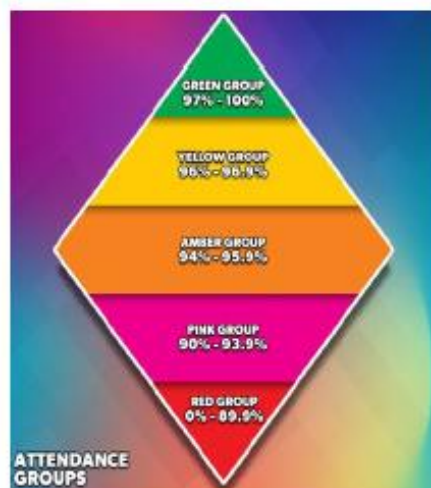
Whole School Attendance Week Ending 03/07/2026 School Attendance Matters (SAM)

Class	Last Week	This Week	Trend
Rainbow Nursery	77.8%	82.5%	▲
Piglet AM	98.8%	88.5%	▼
Piglet PM	97.9%	96.4%	▼
Eeyore	91.7%	97.4%	▲
Tigger	81.9%	79.7%	▼
Roos	89.6%	88.5%	▼
Blencathra	96.7%	93.7%	▼
Great Gable	96.0%	93.5%	▼
Helvellyn	98.3%	97.2%	▼
Catbells	86.1%	92.4%	▲
Red Pike	93.7%	92.1%	▼
Scafell Pike	94.7%	98.7%	▲
Skiddaw	99.7%	98.7%	▼
Rainbow Room	92.6%	90.7%	▼
Whole School	93.30%	93.40%	▲

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 WEEK	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



Uniform expectations and ordering

Summer uniform

The summer uniform policy applies for this term where smart black shorts can be worn, there will be no summer dresses allowed as the pupils can wear their skirts and polo shirt. If in the event that the weather is very hot, we change the pupils into their PE kits and will inform nursery parents/carers that the pupils can wear shorts and t-shirts.

Please place Uniform orders by the 26th June 2026 or before

To enable us to deliver your main school uniform orders
before the last day of the summer term



Orders after this date will be delivered when the school reopens in September, there is the option of paying for home delivery.

Identity aims to deliver all home delivery orders to UK mainland addresses within 14 days between 15th August to 15th September please order before if possible.

Health and safety

A reminder that no bikes, scooters or electric scooters are to be brought onto school premises. We have had a number of parents/carers bring these and they are a hazard. Thank you

Parking

Please do not park at the top of Islay place. Especially on the double yellow lines. We

have seen a number of cars parked over the residents drive at the top of Islay place which blocks access to their property. Please try and not use Islay Place for parking for our pupil's safety.

Vaping

Please do not vape on the school playground or anywhere on school property. Thank you.

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.

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 we ask for a coat to be worn. The pupils are outside for playtimes and outdoor learning is a key part to our younger pupils.

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.

Safeguarding



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.

SEND

SEND drop in



SEND drop in sessions

The last Friday in the month

Mrs Humble and Mrs Collins will be hosting SENDCO 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.



NHS
North Cumbria
Integrated Care
NHS Foundation Trust

Children's Speech and Language Therapy Advice Service

I am **wondering about** a child's...

Communication /
Talking
Understanding
Pronunciation
Stammer
Voice
Swallowing



Ask a Speech and Language Therapist

 **Advice Line open**
Monday 1- 4pm
Thursday 8:30 – 11:30

 **01228 608177**

 **CumbriaCommunicates@ncic.nhs.uk**



Cumbria Children's Speech
and Language Therapy
@CumbriaCommunicates

Anyone can contact us to ask questions and get advice about a child's communication. We can take referrals over the advice line if needed.

happierhealthiercommunities.

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.



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

School-Postcards



As part of our Great Teaching Toolkit journey, we have introduced our own personalised school postcards!

These postcards are a very special reward given to a child in each class weekly to celebrate achievements! 🎉

Keep an eye on the post to see if there will be a special delivery arriving at your front door 📮

We would love to see your child's response to these postcards, so please share your photos so we can see! ❤️

Miss Watson & Mr Starr 🌈



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.

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.

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.

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



Summer Fayre



St. Michael's Church open day





Community Sports Trust

SUMMER

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

LOCATIONS:

Carlisle (Football & Gym and Dance)

Wigton (Football only)

Whitehaven (Football only)

Penrith (Football only)

Cockermouth (Football only)

Keswick (Football only)

Maryport (Football only)

21 July - 28 August

Limited free HAF Places here:



For further information

Email: Sam.Tickner@carlisleunitedcst.co.uk or Phone: 01228 554169

"Inspiring People To Participate, Develop and Achieve Their Goals Through The Power of Sport."



Community Sports Trust

SUMMER

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

LOCATIONS:

Carlisle (Football & Gym and Dance)

Wigton (Football only)

Whitehaven (Football only)

Penrith (Football only)

Cockermouth (Football only)

Keswick (Football only)

Maryport (Football only)

21 July - 28 August

Book now via Abler:



For further information

Email: Sam.Tickner@carlisleunitedcst.co.uk or Phone: 01228 554169

"Inspiring People To Participate, Develop and Achieve Their Goals Through The Power of Sport."

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

Victoria School Nursery, Infant and Junior Term Dates 2027/2028

Autumn Term 2027

Starts: Monday 6th September 2027

Half Term: Monday 25th - Friday 29th October 2027

Ends: Friday 17th December 2027

Spring Term 2028

Starts: Tuesday 4th January 2028

Half Term: Monday 14th - Friday 18th February 2028

Ends: Friday 31st March 2028

Summer Term 2028

Starts: Monday 18th April 2028

Half Term: Friday 26th May - Friday 2nd June 2028

Ends: Thursday 20th July 2028

Good Friday: 14th April

Easter Sunday: 16th April

Easter Monday: 17th April

May bank holiday: Monday 1st May 2028

INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2027-2028

INSET are determined locally

Please note these may differ from Cumberland Council term dates

Victoria School Nursery, Infant and Junior Term Dates 2028/2029

Autumn Term 2028

Starts: Wednesday 6th September 2028

Half Term: Monday 30th - Friday 3rd Nov 2028

Ends: Wednesday 20th December 2028

Spring Term 2029

Starts: Wednesday 3rd January 2029

Half Term: Monday 19th - Friday 23rd February 2029

Ends: Thursday 29th March 2029

Summer Term 2029

Starts: Tuesday 17th April 2029

Half Term: Friday 27th May - Friday 1st June 2029

Ends: Friday 20th July 2029

Good Friday: 30th March

Easter Sunday: 1st April

Easter Monday: 2nd April

May bank holiday: Monday 7th May 2029

INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2028-2029

INSET are determined locally

Please note these may differ from Cumberland Council term dates

Dairy Dates

Summer term 2026 Victoria School, Infants and Nursery

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

Monday 6 th July	Nursery to Reception parents meeting in the school hall: 10:30am and 2:30pm.	
Tuesday 7 th July	Reception to Year One parents meeting in the school hall: 10:30am and 2:30pm.	
Wednesday 8 th July	Year One to Year Two parents meeting in the school hall: 10:30am and 2:30pm.	
Thursday 9 th July	Change class day 9:30am – 10:30am.	
Friday 10 th July	Year Two leavers disco.	
Monday 13 th July		
Tuesday 14 th July	PE/kindness assembly.	
Wednesday 15 th July	School reports going home.	
Thursday 16 th July	SAM attendance assembly.	
Friday 17 th July	School breaks up at 12:30pm for the summer holidays. There will be no afternoon nursery.	

Dear Parent or Carer,

We are writing to inform you that the Government are making national changes to how free school meals are provided from September 2026, and this may affect your child's entitlement.

What is Changing?

From September 2026, all children whose families receive Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals. However, the system will now have two categories depending on household income.

Types of Free School Meals

Targeted Free School Meals: For families receiving Universal Credit with yearly household earnings of £7,400 or less.

Children in this group will continue to receive additional support such as:

- Access to Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) program
- Extended school transport support (where applicable)

Expanded Free School Meals: For families receiving Universal Credit with earnings above £7,400.

Children in this group will still receive a free school meal each day. If your child currently accesses the extended right to school transport this will continue for the academic year 2026/27.

Changes to Existing Entitlement

Since April 2018, transitional protection has meant that children kept their free school meals even if family circumstances changed. This protection will finish at the end of the 2025–2026 school year.

From September 2026, all pupils will be reassessed and must meet the new eligibility criteria to continue receiving free school meals.

What This Means for Your Child

If your child currently receives a free school meal they will be reassessed before September. Your child will then fall into one of the following groups:

- Continue to receive free school meals and additional support (Targeted FSM)
- Continue to receive free school meals only (Expanded FSM)
- No longer be eligible for free school meals

If your child is no longer eligible, you will need to pay for school meals from September 2026.

Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) provides funding for all government-funded schools to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2.

If you believe that your child will become eligible from September 2026 you will be able to apply online or via the school office prior to September. The Government has provided the Council with new checking system that is not fully operation at the moment so we cannot take applications for the new criteria just yet. When we can accept new applications, we will update our website and let your school know.

What Happens Next?

The Council will begin reassessing all pupils who receive free school meals as soon as we can. At first, we will identify those who meet the Targeted FSM criteria. Once the new system is fully in place, we will write to you again to confirm your child's updated eligibility status.

If you are making a new application for the expanded free school meal criteria we will let you and your child's school know the outcome. Please provide a valid email address on your application.

If you feel you meet the targeted free school meals criteria now you can continue to apply via <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-clothing-vouchers-and-activities/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers>

Further Information and Support

If you have general free school meals enquiries please contact fsm.clothinggrants@cumberland.gov.uk

If you would like further information on available cost of living support please visit; [Cost of living support | Cumberland Council](#)