

Victoria Junior School - 01900 606053

Newsletter

Spring Term 2026

Week 6



**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

We break up for half term TODAY at 3:20pm, and return on Monday 23rd February. We hope you all have a wonderful rest and we look forward to seeing you all again for the second part of Spring term!

I continue to thank all the parents/carers who are so supportive of the school and our amazing pupils and staff; this half term has been no exception.

I have been delighted with the number of parents who have worked along side their children to strengthen their understanding of Maths, Mental Health and cooking skills.

I hope you liked their plate decorating for Chinese New Year,

The children continue to demonstrate a willingness to engage in all the activities offered at school and in many cases show us their talents and commitments to developing their talents in local clubs. As we move into the second half of Spring Term, instead of having a Spring Term Report, we will be offering parents/carer meetings. These will run from March 2nd for two weeks and Teachers will send out invitations. The school offers lots of online learning opportunities through our website please encourage your child to take advantage of these especially Reading Buddies which is a newly introduced program that strengthens comprehension skills. Don't hesitate in contacting the school for support if you are finding access difficult.

Once again thank you to all the parents who support all we do and work in close partnership for the benefit of their child.

When we return after the break, we have a few events already booked in:

Poetry and Art week 24th to 27th Feb

Mental Health focused week 23rd to 27th Feb - we are asking children to wear scarves all week to support this!

World Book Day - On Thursday 5th March, children can come to school wearing their pyjamas. Let's get comfy and read some stories!

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.

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-Your 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. Ticket information to follow after half term.

Young Voices

What an incredible time our pupils had at the Young Voices concert in Manchester yesterday! They all behaved excellently and all had a great time. We can see a lot of tired faces today and we appreciate it was a late night, but we would like to thank all parents for supporting us getting children into school.





Wellbeing Guide

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. Guide at the end of the newsletter.

Team Bassenthwaite

A very busy last week of term for Team Bassenthwaite!

This week we have been rounding up all of our learning and completing our end of half term assessments. Once again, Team Bassenthwaite have outdone themselves with their assessments and once again made the adults incredibly proud.

We have enjoyed some Chinese New Year celebrations this week. On Tuesday we painted some beautiful decorative

plates and then on Thursday we enjoyed some Chinese dancing in the hall.

This week we have also celebrated safer internet day. We learned lots about AI and how to use it safely. We talked about things that we're ok to do and things that we're not ok to do.

Well done Team! We are all very proud of you this half term. Enjoy a well-deserved break!

See you all on the 23rd Feb!



Team Buttermere

As writers, we have been completing our writing assessments alongside our Star Reader and Star Maths assessments, and we enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year by taking part in a Chinese plate painting activity and an energetic Chinese dance workshop. As

mathematicians, we have continued to develop our skills in addition and subtraction, focusing on bridging 100 using whole-part-whole methods. In RE, we have finished our Pesach unit, and in Art we have been exploring sculpture and 3D work. We hope you all have a lovely half term!



Team Crummock

This week to celebrate Chinese New Year, as artists, we decorated plates and as dancers, we recreated a traditional Chinese Dragon dance. On Tuesday, it was Safer Internet Day. We delved into the world of AI, deciding what might be an acceptable use of it in our everyday lives. As writers, we have tried to use everything that we have learnt in both our Clever Writer and history lessons, to create our very own Ancient Greek myths. As artists, we have again been creating 3d structures out of 2d shapes. We used the techniques that we used last week, with the addition of being able to

join the shapes together with tape. From everyone in Team Crummock, we hope you all have a happy half term holiday.



Team Derwentwater

Our Derwentwater pupils have had another busy and engaging week, showing great enthusiasm and teamwork across the curriculum.

In Maths, pupils have been learning about square numbers. They explored what square numbers are, how they are formed and practised identifying them through problem-solving activities.

In French, pupils took part in a revision of previous topics. This helped to strengthen their confidence with key vocabulary and phrases learned so far.

During KidSafe sessions, pupils discussed family arguments. They explored positive ways to manage disagreements, express feelings respectfully and understand different viewpoints.

In Geography, pupils have been researching the physical geography of Antarctica, the Amazon rainforest and the Lake District. They learned about climate, landforms and natural features,

comparing these very different environments.

In Music, pupils practised playing the G, A and B notes on the recorder. In keyboard lessons, they have been learning to play the C, B, E and D notes, developing coordination and musical accuracy.

In Computing, pupils have been learning about databases. They explored how information can be organised, searched and sorted to answer questions.

In PE, the focus has been on teamwork activities. Pupils worked collaboratively, developing communication, cooperation and problem-solving skills.

This week, pupils took part in a Chinese New Year experience. They enjoyed learning about the traditions and celebrations through activities such as dancing and plate painting, giving them a deeper understanding of Chinese culture.



Team Coniston

What a great half term it has been for Team Coniston! Everyone has worked incredibly hard.

As mathematicians, we continued to develop our understanding of perimeter, focusing on identifying different 2D shapes with the same perimeter.

Everyone enjoyed using a range of mathematical resources to draw and explore different 2D shapes.

As clever writers, we focused on applying the writing skills we have learned this term. Team Coniston produced some wonderful pieces of creative writing.

In Geography, we identified and compared the human features of the Amazon Rainforest, the Lake District and Antarctica.

In RE, Team Coniston explored how some Hindus are taking action to help save the planet. We also discussed different ways we can look after the Earth.

In French, we continued to focus on French vocabulary for different parts of the face.

We also had an amazing opportunity to take part in Chinese New Year workshops. This week, Team Coniston enjoyed Chinese plate painting and Chinese dancing.

This week was Safer Internet Week. Team Coniston discussed how to stay

safe online and how to use social media responsibly.

Well done, Team Coniston!



Team Loweswater

We have had a fantastic finish to the half term in team Loweswater. This week we have been busy completing our half term assessments. In maths this week we have been learning ways to help us find the product of multiplications in the three and six times tables. In geography this week, we have been finishing our work on comparing the Lake District, Amazon Rainforest and Antarctica by looking at the human geography and what it might be like to live in these places. In RE this week, we have been learning about how Hindus show dharma through their actions. With Chinese New Year taking place over half term, we have taken part in a plate painting session and a chinese dancing session. We have learned about the importance of red and gold, the animals of the zodiac and how the New Year is

celebrated. We even learned how to say hello in Chinese.



Team Ullswater

What an exciting week for Team Ullswater! To celebrate Chinese New Year, we have been very lucky to learn about Chinese traditions, colours and customs. We have painted Chinese decorative plates and learnt a fantastic dance, using a Dragon to really understand the traditions.

As Writers, we have loved learning all about David Attenborough. We have used parts of his documentaries, news reports and interviews to really understand the work he has done. We are building up a better picture of his life before beginning to write a biography, using lots of facts and interesting information.

As Geographers, we showed off our knowledge of the Rainforests by having a class debate about deforestation and logging. So many fantastic points were made showing just how interested everyone was in this unit.

We used our Scientific understanding to design and explain ways to separate mixtures and solutions. We will be carrying this on after half term and conducting many more experiments. I hope you all have a brilliant half term and relaxing time before we return for Spring 2.



Team Grasmere

A busy last week in Grasmere. In Maths, we have been developing our multiplication skills by learning different methods to calculate one-digit numbers multiplied by two-digit numbers.

In Science, we have completed our end-of-unit assessment.

In English, we finished our end-of-term writing assessment. The children wrote a character and setting description inspired by *The Lost Happy Endings*, focusing on ambitious vocabulary and using expanded noun phrases.

As part of Safer Internet Day, Grasmere enjoyed learning about artificial

intelligence (AI) and discussed how to use it safely and responsibly.

In RE, we have been learning about why Glastonbury is an important historical site of pilgrimage for Christians, exploring its religious significance and the reasons people continue to visit today.

In Geography, we have been investigating time zones, learning why they exist and how they help different countries organise their days around the world.

In PSHE, to mark Children's Mental Health Week, we have been setting personal goals and discussing the steps we can take to achieve them. The children then created their own vision boards for 2026, thinking carefully about their hopes and aspirations for the future.

To celebrate Chinese New Year, we explored how it is celebrated in China and around the world. The children enjoyed taking part in Chinese plate painting and traditional dancing activities as part of our celebrations. Well done Team Grasmere! Have a lovely and well-deserved break.



Team Ennerdale

This week in Year 5, the children have been working incredibly hard across the curriculum and have shown a really positive attitude towards their learning. In English, we are thoroughly enjoying learning about the life of David Attenborough and exploring why he is such an important figure in protecting our planet, while in Maths we have moved on to learning about area and are confidently applying our multiplication skills to calculate the space inside different shapes. On Tuesday, we celebrated Safer Internet Day 2026, where the focus was Artificial Intelligence. The pupils learned that AI is already part of many areas of our daily lives, from smart speakers to online recommendations and in the afternoon we completed further AI-related activities, discussing how to use this technology safely, responsibly and thoughtfully. On Wednesday, Ennerdale celebrated Chinese New Year by painting decorative plates and performing Chinese dancing, embracing the cultural learning with enthusiasm and creativity. In Geography, we learned about deforestation and the impact it has on the Amazon Rainforest, discussing how human actions affect climate, wildlife and communities around the world. On Thursday, pupils took part

in a brilliant PE session where they coached each other in games they had designed themselves, demonstrating effective communication, teamwork, leadership, resilience, encouragement, problem-solving and the ability to give and receive constructive feedback. Well done to Leyton, who was last week's Reading Heroes competition winner, and to Jacob, who was our Class Dojo Draw winner. Well done to all pupils for their hard work this term and to parents and carers at home for your continued support. Enjoy February half term!



Team Thirlmere

It's been a busy week for Team Thirlmere! We have enjoyed some Chinese workshops about Chinese New Year. We painted plates on Monday - mainly using red and gold. We took part in a dance session on Wednesday, learning about some of the moves and ideas you would see in a Chinese parade. We have been exploring poetry in English, reading a range of poems and discussing poetic features. We talked

about how poems don't always make sense or match the title like we would expect them too.

As mathematicians, we have been revising fractions, using the four operations and finding fractions of amounts. I believe that Team Thirlmere are confident in using the methods - now we need to work on simplifying our answers.

On Monday afternoon, we took part in a mental health session in preparation for SATs, we discussed wellbeing and things we can do to help us de-stress.

While half of the class went to Manchester to take part in Young Voices, the other half spent the day learning about wellbeing: creating vision boards, a weekly self-care calendar and making up their own brain breaks. We also did some observational drawing of some tulips and roses.

It's been a busy half term and you have reached the half-way point of Year 6!

Well done everyone, enjoy a well earned rest!



Team Windermere

Windermere have made it all the way to the half way point of Year 6. We have had a very successful last week of term and have lots to celebrate. It has been extremely busy this week.

In English, we have been exploring poetry, studying a poem about a Moth - which doesn't sound too exciting - but this is the point with poetry. We have been learning that we need to look past the title and explore the vocabulary and meaning behind poems. We also looked at the importance of punctuation in poetry and how this helps us to understand how best we can read them.

In Maths, we have covered a number of revision topics, including fractions and 2 mark questions that require more than one step. Pupils have continued to add to their revision booklets, jotting down notes to help them with revision after half term.

Music and PE have continued as normal. Mr Milner was very pleased with the performances that pupils have created on Garageband.

We had two Chinese New Year workshops, one on plate painting and the other focused on Chinese dancing.

A number of pupils set off to Manchester early on Thursday for Young Voices at the COOP arena, pupils had a wonderful experience, singing with over 5000

other children. The atmosphere was simply electric. Pupils that stayed at school enjoyed art lessons focusing on observational drawings. They also took time to reflect on wellbeing, this is very important, particularly leading up to half term.

Wishing everyone a great half term.

Another busy week in Windermere



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

Half Term

Monday 16th - Friday 20th February

March

24th - 26th - Mental Health workshops

3rd - Clay work Y4

4th - Clay work Y5

5th - World Book Day (Pyjamas)

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

23rd - Easter Service at St Michaels Church

2pm (tickets on sale soon)

24th - 26th - Year 4 swimming

26th - Phunky Foods Year 6 parents

Easter Holidays

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

April

14th - Swimming gala

27th - 29th - Y4 Winmarleigh Hall trip

27th - 29th - Phunky Foods Y4

May

4th - Bank holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

5th - 6th - Y4 Winmarleigh residential

11th - 14th - Y6 SATs Week

11th - Y4 trip to Vindolanda

13th - 15th - Y5 York Residential

**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

Kym Allan Safeguarding, Health and Safety Consultants Ltd.
April 2023

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

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 such as meals, school drop-offs, or quiet times, to check in, offer praise, or listen. These interactions don't need to be lengthy to be meaningful. Consistent gestures of connection and warmth show children they are important, making them feel seen, appreciated, and truly part of the home or classroom community.

2 INVOLVE THEM IN RULE-MAKING

Inviting children to help create rules or routines gives them a sense of shared ownership and responsibility. When their voices are heard, they feel 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," support emotional expression and connection. Children who feel emotionally safe are more likely to seek help, participate openly, and trust the adults around them – all of which contribute to a sense of belonging.

4 HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN STRENGTHS

Go beyond academic success or good behaviour and take time to recognise a child's less visible qualities, such as thoughtfulness, resilience, or humour. Noticing these strengths sends a powerful message that they are valued for who they are, not just for what they do. This boosts self-esteem and helps children feel accepted in a world that often focuses on external achievements.

5 SHOW CURIOSITY ABOUT CULTURE

Ask respectful, open questions about a child's cultural background, 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 in school, valuing cultural experiences 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. Assigning short projects, games, or shared responsibilities gives them a reason to interact. Buddy systems help quieter or less confident children feel included and supported. Over time, these intentional connections can develop into meaningful friendships, strengthening the wider sense of community and inclusion.

7 AVOID LABELS AND COMPARISONS

Avoid labelling children by behaviour or comparing them to others, as this can damage self-esteem and foster exclusion. Statements like "Why can't you be more like..." may unintentionally make a child feel less worthy. Instead, focus on individual progress and strengths. Encouraging children to celebrate their own achievements, however small, helps them develop confidence and feel valued for being themselves.

8 MAKE TIME FOR ONE-TO-ONES

Spending regular one-to-one time with a child shows that they matter on an individual level. These moments can be as simple as reading a book together or chatting during a walk. Focused attention, free from distraction, builds trust and emotional connection; it lets the child know they are important and cared for, which is crucial for developing a strong sense of belonging.

9 REFLECT THEIR INTERESTS

Whether at home or in school, including children's interests in daily life reinforces their importance. Display their artwork, talk about their favourite books, or include their hobbies in family activities or lesson plans. Seeing their identity reflected in their environment tells children they belong. It shows 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 all help each other here," promote collective responsibility and connection. Avoiding divisive terms like "those children," or "that class" helps children feel part of a supportive group. Language shapes experience, and inclusive language fosters 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 compliance. Our three memberships help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full references list on our website

Let's Celebrate!



100 YEARS of Workington BUS STATION



12PM - 4PM
Saturday 14th March



Vulcan Park
Workington

On the Day:

- Unveiling of the new Bus Station Clock by Cllr David Farrar, Mayor of Workington, donated by Workington Town Council at 12:30pm
- Stagecoach commemorative livery bus on display
- 100 Years Celebration Rose Planting
- Wilmot's Funfair with Rides (chargeable)
- Delicious food from Wilmot's Catering
- Gray Facepainting and Arts
- Vintage and Heritage Buses attending from The Workington Transport Heritage Trust
- Monty's Ices
- Graffiti Workshops with Beardy Synergy
- Bus Station Birthday Cake Trail
- Commemorative Pin Badges for sale with all proceeds going to the Mayor's chosen charities

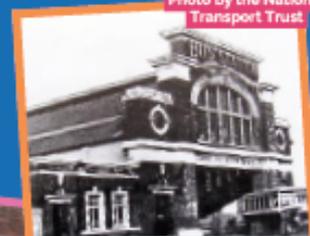


Photo by the National Transport Trust



Photos by Workington Transport Heritage Trust



WORKINGTON
TRANSPORT HERITAGE
TRUST

Stagecoach

Loads of fun for
all the family!