

Victoria Junior School - 01900 606053

Newsletter

Spring Term 2026

Week 7

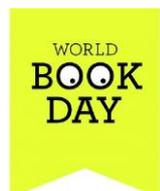


**Attendance
Matters**

Every student. Every day.

Welcome back to the second part of Spring term. We hope you all had a wonderful break and are ready for a very busy half term.

World Book Day



On Thursday 5th March, children can come to school wearing their pyjamas in support of World Book Day. 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. Further information will be coming home shortly for those who are taking part.

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'.

**RED
NOSE
DAY**

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.



Wellbeing Guide

Adult animated content is increasingly visible on platforms such as YouTube, TikTok and streaming services. While the bright visuals and cartoon style may seem harmless at first glance, many of these shows and clips are created specifically for mature audiences, featuring strong language, sexual references, graphic violence and unsettling themes.

This week's guide helps parents and educators understand the risks, from misleading visuals and algorithm-driven recommendations to desensitisation and edgy humour. It also offers practical advice on platform settings, open conversations and building children's critical thinking, so young people can navigate online animation safely and confidently.

Guide at the end of the newsletter.

Team Bassenthwaite

A very busy and enjoyable first week back for Team Bassenthwaite!

This week has been our children's mental health week with the focus of 'My happy place'. We have taken part in a 'SCARF' workshop where we learned all about SAFETY, CARE, ACHIEVEMENT, RESILIENCE, and FRIENDSHIP. The session's focus was 'acceptance' and we were introduced to Harold the giraffe. We talked about how to be mindful and tried some tricky brain activities. We have also worked with Ian this week. Ian is a storyteller and he has told us a story and then helped us to create some artwork of our own to respond to the story. These will be sent home with a QR code attached so that the story can be listened to at home. As clever writers this week, we have enjoyed the story 'Supertato'. We have

been looking at using inverted commas at the start and end of speech. Team Bassenthwaite have also been persevering to use reporting clause at the end of their speech and finding alternatives for 'said'.

As mathematicians, we have reviewed our 4 times table learning and started to explore the relationships between the 4s and the 8s.

In art/DT, we have been looking at modern architecture and have worked with a partner to create an unusual building, using the skills gained in previous lessons.

Well done team! A fantastic first week back!



Team Buttermere

It has been another busy and exciting time in our classroom! As writers, we have been focusing on our class story Supertato, retelling the story and

learning how to use inverted commas accurately for speech, making sure we punctuate it correctly. As mathematicians, we have been exploring right angles, acute angles and obtuse angles by creating our own angles and identifying them in our everyday lives. In RE, we have been learning about Holy Week, discussing what the stories tell us and the meanings behind them. We also took part in our Life Education session, where we learned about acceptance and the importance of respecting and valuing one another's differences. Well done to everyone for their continued hard work and enthusiasm!



Team Crummock

As mathematicians, we have been learning about right angles. We learnt what they are and then used our rulers to discover if objects in our classroom had right angles. On Wednesday, we were lucky enough to have a visit from Ian Douglas, who told us the local tale

of the Egremont Monster. Once he had finished to the story, we then had to create a picture of what we through it might look like. We chose the medium that we coloured in our pictures with. The results were amazing!!!! In RE this week, we have started to look at Holy Week, and what it looks like to Orthodox Christians. Today, we have a visit from both Sarah and Harold, from Life Education services. We learnt all about the different ways that we can keep ourselves safe in different situations and what we could do to relax our bodies and minds. As writers this week, we have been focussing on using inverted commas to add direct speech to our retells of Supertato! As scientists we have started a new topic of Animals, including Humans. This week, we have been looking at all of the different and new vocabulary that we will be using throughout the topic.



Team Derwentwater

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

In Literacy, pupils have been learning how to lay out a non-chronological report. They explored the key features, including headings, subheadings, factual language and clear paragraphs, and began planning their own informative pieces.

In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of multiplicative reasoning. Pupils have been solving problems involving multiplication, identifying patterns and explaining their reasoning clearly.

In French, pupils have been learning how to describe themselves. They practised using simple sentences to talk about their name, age and personal characteristics, building confidence in speaking aloud.

In Music, pupils have been practising the notes C, D, E and G on the xylophone. They are developing their ability to read simple notation and play short melodies with increasing accuracy.

Computing

In Computing, pupils have been focusing on programming. They explored how to create and debug simple sequences, developing their logical thinking and problem-solving skills.

In PE, pupils have taken part in teamwork activities. They have been learning how to communicate effectively, support one another and work collaboratively to achieve a shared goal. This week, we took part in a mental health workshop delivered by SCARF. Pupils explored strategies to support their wellbeing, understand emotions and build resilience.

In RE, pupils have been learning about pilgrimage. They discussed why pilgrimages are important in different religions and what people might learn or experience on such journeys.

We were also lucky to have a visitor in school who helped pupils create a painting inspired by a story. Pupils used their imagination and artistic skills to bring the narrative to life through colour and composition.

We are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm and effort shown by all pupils this week – keep up the fantastic work, Derwentwater!

Team Coniston

An amazing first week back for Team Coniston!

As clever writers, our focus text has been non-chronological reports based on the Lake District. This week, our key skill has been using subheadings. We have all worked incredibly hard to include

subordinate conjunctions and facts in our writing.

As mathematicians, we have continued to develop our understanding of perimeter. We focused on measuring the perimeter of shapes by counting and measuring units. We also calculated the perimeter of rectangles by adding together the lengths of each side.

In History, we began exploring our new topic, Crime and Punishment. This week, we focused on reading and understanding the key vocabulary that we will be using throughout the term.

In PE, Team Coniston enjoyed their football lesson with Stewart. Everyone worked hard to practise their passing skills.

In RE, we explored the idea of pilgrimage. We discussed how a pilgrimage is a journey to a sacred place and why it is important to believers.

In Music, Team Coniston enjoyed playing the glockenspiels.

The children also had the exciting opportunity to work with Ian, where they explored the artist, Ken Kiff. Everyone created their own artwork inspired by his style, using a range of artistic media.

This week, Team Coniston also took part in a Mental Health workshop. We talked about our brains and our feelings. We also explored the wellbeing wheel and discussed different ways to help ourselves feel better. We all enjoyed

meeting Harald the Giraffe and his friends!

Well done, Team Coniston!



Team Loweswater

This week team Loweswater have enjoyed being back in school and getting back into our learning. In literacy we have been working hard on a non-chronological report about the Lake District. We used headings, subheadings and facts to create our piece of writing. In maths this work we have been continuing our work on times tables. This week we have focused on patterns and links in the 3 and 6 times tables. On Wednesday afternoon, we enjoyed a mental health workshop. We learned about different parts of the brain and the hormones that can affect the way we feel. On Thursday we enjoyed an art workshop with Ian. We discussed artwork and how it linked to stories. We then created our own piece of artwork based on a story. In history this week we have started our new topic crime and punishment. We explored the

vocabulary we will need to use this half term.



Team Ullswater

What a busy and jam-packed week back for Team Ullswater! On Monday, we completed our STAR Reading and Writing assessments, which were very positive and showed some great progress. Some of the children were very proud of themselves and ought to be too!

We had a wonderful session with Ian, the storyteller. He told us a fantastic Cumbria folk tale and then we all used our artistic skills to create an image we thought best reflected the meaning and plot of the characters woes. Some beautiful and very creative pieces were produced which will be shared with you all soon.

As Mathematicians, we have been focusing on multiplications and finding areas of compound shapes. This has been slightly challenging through, through various methods, we are beginning to gain more confidence with this.

As Writers, we are learning even more facts about Attenborough, exploring all

of the different things he has discovered and considering the impact he has had on our world and knowledge while writing all about him.

In History, we have begun our new topic of Slavery. This is one which always encourages lots of questions on morality and ethics and the class have been very keen to share their thoughts and question 'why' which has shown a keen interest to understanding more about societal change and understanding the wider world.

The children are really showing their musical skills as they continue to improve their Ukulele skills and learn new songs each week, though we do have our favourites as a treat at the end of each session.



Team Grasmere

A fantastic first week back for Team Grasmere!

This week in Maths, we have been learning how to multiply three-digit numbers by a one-digit number using our knowledge of partitioning. We

explored a range of methods, including expanded multiplication, the short method and the grid method, before choosing the approach we found most effective when solving problems.

In Geography, we have been learning about relief maps, discovering what they show and why they are important for understanding landscapes.

During English lessons, we have been writing diary entries from the perspective of Tuffy the cat, inspired by The Diary of a Killer Cat by Anne Fine.

In Art, we have learned about street art including graffiti and murals. We found out that street art is used to convey messages so we then designed our own sketches to share messages about saving our environment.

On Tuesday, we thoroughly enjoyed our Mental Health workshop, where we learned strategies for calming a busy mind and explored different brain breaks. We even created our own brain break activities and had the opportunity to meet Harold the Giraffe!

In RE, we have been exploring the ancient pilgrimage site of Glastonbury and learning why it is an important place for Pagans.

In French, we have been learning to recognise and name different musical instruments.

Well done Team Grasmere!



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. On Monday we had a fantastic morning with our resident storyteller, Ian Douglas, who captivated the class with a brilliant tale before inspiring the children to produce artwork imagining some of the scenes from the story. In English we have been learning more about David Attenborough and even made our own ammonites out of salt dough to bring our learning to life. In Maths we have continued exploring area, calculating it for different shapes and applying our reasoning skills. On Wednesday we had an important Mental Health session focusing on the different parts of the brain and the chemicals it produces, alongside discussing calming strategies and how to regulate our emotions safely. In History we began our new topic on slavery, learning about Britain's involvement in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, which pupils approached with

real maturity. On Thursday the children enjoyed a brilliant PE session in the hall, focusing on coordination, reaction times and teamwork. Well done to Zahra, last week's Reading Heroes competition winner, and to Jacob, our Class Dojo Draw winner - fantastic achievements all round.



Team Thirlmere

Team Thirlmere have had a good start to the half term, they have returned with a great attitude and are ready for learning. We have had lots of chats about managing distractions, focusing and making the right decisions. We have been focusing a lot of SPAG this week, making revision notes in our flip books and thinking of examples to help us. We have also created a revision guide for some spellings, thinking of ways to remember spelling rules and highlighting what the rule being checked may be. Reasoning skills have been another focus this week, going through past questions and discussing what it actually wants us to do. Identifying how to gain marks in

1, 2 and 3 mark questions has been supportive - how can we make sure we can get as many marks as possible.

We enjoyed football, music and computing this week too.

On Tuesday, we took part in a mental health workshop about setting goals, learning about things we can do to help us achieve our goals and look after ourselves in the process - spending time with family and friends, being active and self-regulating.

Well done Team Thirlmere, a great start to the half-term, keep it up!



Team Windermere

Windermere have had a good half term and have come back with a good attitude, ready to continue learning and revision in preparation for SATs. We had a little bit of a bumpy start but we have been working on managing distractions and focus.

We have been doing lots of revision this week. We started with Maths reasoning, looking at the different kinds of questions pupils are going to come across. We picked up on the working out that we

would need to include for 1 mark and 2 mark questions.

SPAG has been our other focus this week, pupils have used their flip books to write down some of the definitions that they need to remember. As part of our English work we compiled a 'Quick Revision Guide' for spelling so that pupils can decide on the correct beginnings and endings of words. We still had Music, PE and Computing as usual.

On Thursday we had a Mental Health Workshop, we have been doing some work on our hopes and dreams for the future.

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

3rd - Clay work Y4

4th - Clay work Y5

4th - Year 4 Bikeability

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 - wear RED

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

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

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ADULT ANIMATED CONTENT

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Bright, bold, and widely shared, adult animated content is more popular than ever, but not always what it seems. These videos, which may appear cartoonish and harmless, often contain strong language, explicit themes, graphic violence, or dark humour. Many are accessible through platforms like YouTube, TikTok or streaming services, where filters may not catch them in time.

MISLEADING VISUAL STYLE

Many adult animations mimic the colourful, exaggerated look of children's cartoons. This can easily mislead not just children, but also adults, into thinking they're suitable for younger viewers. Without watching the content fully, parents or educators might approve a show or video that contains explicit jokes, graphic imagery, or highly inappropriate language, all disguised beneath a playful and fun visual style.

EXPOSURE TO HARMFUL THEMES

A number of adult animated shows and online videos explore mature or disturbing themes, such as addiction, trauma, abuse, self-harm, or violence, and often do so in a stylised or humorous way. Younger viewers may not have the emotional maturity to process this content, leading to confusion, distress, or the normalisation of very serious issues that should be discussed in a supportive context.

RISK OF DISTRESS AND FEAR

Some adult animations, especially horror-based content or 'creeppasta' style stories, include disturbing imagery, unsettling music, and sudden scares. These videos sometimes feature distorted versions of well-known children's characters, such as Sonic the Hedgehog or Peppa Pig, in frightening or violent scenarios. Children can be negatively affected if they come across this unexpectedly, leading to sleep disturbances, anxiety, or long-lasting fears, especially if children have existing worries or sensitive personalities.

INFLUENCE OF EDGY HUMOUR

Dark, edgy humour is common in adult animation and often includes jokes about topics like sexism, racism, mental illness, or abuse. When children hear these jokes, they may repeat them without fully understanding their meaning. This can lead to inappropriate behaviour in school or online spaces, and in some cases, it can reinforce harmful stereotypes or desensitise children to real-world injustice and discrimination.

ALGORITHMIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Video platforms are designed to keep users watching by suggesting similar content. If a child watches one mature animation, they may quickly be shown more, including even darker or more extreme videos. These recommendations are based on viewing patterns, not age-appropriateness. Without strict settings in place, this can lead to a rapid spiral into unsuitable, upsetting, or even harmful content online.

DESENSITISATION TO VIOLENCE

Stylised violence in animation is often exaggerated and constant. Repeated exposure to it can reduce a child's emotional response to harm, making aggression or cruelty appear entertaining or acceptable. Over time, children may become less empathetic or more tolerant of harmful behaviours in real life, especially if they see others online reacting with humour, memes, or praise for violent characters or scenes.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEARN WHAT CHILDREN ARE WATCHING

Take time to ask children what they're watching and who their favourite creators are. Sit down and watch a few videos to get a full understanding. This helps you spot inappropriate content early and shows children that you're interested and engaged in their online world, not just policing it.

TALK ABOUT WHAT'S APPROPRIATE

Keep communication open and non-judgemental. Talk about why certain themes or jokes are not appropriate for children, even if they appear in animated form. Help children understand that just because something is popular or shared widely, it does not mean it's suitable or safe. If they've seen something upsetting, respond calmly, offer reassurance, and explain things in an age-appropriate way.

USE PLATFORM SETTINGS WISELY

Make use of built-in safety tools like content filters, restricted mode, and age settings on platforms such as YouTube, Netflix or TikTok. Turn off auto-play where possible and regularly review what children are being recommended. Although these settings aren't foolproof, they add an important layer of protection and help reduce the risk of children encountering disturbing or adult content accidentally.

ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Help children think carefully about what they watch. Talk about the difference between fictional exaggeration and reality, while helping them question why certain content is made. Is it informative, entertaining, or meant to shock? This builds digital resilience and encourages them to make safer choices in future, rather than simply following viral trends or peer pressure to watch mature content.

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 workforces and managing compliance. We offer memberships and packages to help all phases and types of setting raise standards, save time, reduce risk, and build a culture of improvement.

See full reference list on our website

@wake_up_weds

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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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



Loads of fun for
all the family!