



# Victoria School

Achieve, Believe, Learn together.

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## Newsletter Spring Term 2026

20/03/2026

What a wonderful week at Victoria Infant and Nursery.

The pupils have been practising for the Easter service and making their Easter hats. Reception, year one and two will perform their Easter service at St Michael's Church at 1:30pm all welcome to attend. Pupils can be collected after the service at 2pm. Otherwise they will be walked back to school. Little reminder please do not park on Dean Street due to blocking residents.

Thank you to everyone for attending the book fayre, it was a great success!

We have had a very positive week of parents/carers meetings, thank you for your continued support with your child's education. Miss Arthur and Miss Park will be in touch with their classes to arrange another day.

We cannot believe it will be the last week before the Easter break next week. The Spring term has really flown by and we have really enjoyed all the wonderful learning opportunities.

**School will finish for the Easter Holidays on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at 12:30pm.**

## UDANCE 2026

We were very proud of the pupils who performed at U dance on Tuesday, they were absolutely amazing and danced on the stage with confidence and skill. I would like to express a big thank you to Mr Starr for organising this and to Mrs Collins and Miss Taylor for their support with this. Well done.

[#Achieve](#) [#Believe](#) [#LearnTogether](#)



## Nursery Easter Performance

Wednesday 25th March



A short performance of songs and rhymes from the Nursery pupils.

There will be two performances.  
10:00am and 2:00pm.  
30 Hours pupils be performing in both.

**We hope you can join us!**

## ♥ CHUF Day -Non-Uniform Wear Red ♥

On Friday 27th March we will be having a non-uniform-wear red day. This is to raise money and awareness for the Children's Heart Unit Fund (CHUF).

The CHUF Charity is particularly relevant to the family of Seb McAdam who attends our Nursery.

Seb's parent has shared- 'Seb was born with a heart condition called TAPVD which was unknown until he was born. This meant that at 4 days old he had to have lifesaving open heart surgery at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle, where we spent 4 weeks. Seb is doing amazing and we have all at the Freeman Hospital (PICU and Ward 23) and CHUF to thank! We go every year to Freeman Hospital to have a little check up and see how his heart is doing ♥

### More information about CHUF

Chuf's vision is to support pioneering services that will positively impact heart families, inspire hope and enable Heart Heroes to reach their full potential.

Chuf supports children and families who receive treatment at the Children's Heart Unit based at the Freeman Hospital and the many other hospitals providing care for cardiac patients throughout the North of England.

Every 15 minutes a child is born with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD). Chuf relies on the support of individuals, companies, trusts and organisations to continue to help people to achieve their dreams. Your sponsorship will help us to help more babies and children by providing lifesaving equipment, facilities, aftercare, and research! We couldn't do what we do without you!

## Parking

PLEASE DO NOT PARK ON ISLAY PLACE.

On Wednesday when we have had a number of afterschool clubs Islay place has been getting very congested to the point where we are concerned about the safety of our pupils and parents/carers. There is not enough space to turn and when cars are parked on both sides it makes it difficult to see when crossing.

## Easter Holiday Activity and Food programme

The Easter Holiday Activity and Food (HAF) programme launched on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March. HAF provides funded holiday activities for children and young people in receipt of means tested free school meals and other groups identified by Cumberland Council, these include:

- Cared for or care experienced.
- Young carers.
- Child or young person on a Resettlement Scheme or seeking asylum.
- Home educated.
- Child or young person who is classed as SEND or on a EHCP but not on free school meals, up to the age of 18.

We have a wide range of activities taking place including family trips to Walby Farm Park and Greenland Farm facilitated by our Family Hubs, these launch on Monday morning at 8am.

The Cumberland offer is available to view and book here: [Cumberland HAF · Eegu](#)  
To find out more about the HAF programme and eligibility visit: [Holiday activities and food \(HAF\) programme | Cumberland Family Hubs](#)

## 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.



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](mailto: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>



Are you entitled?

## 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

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 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive day of absence with a welfare call. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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

Violent clips, online conflicts and shock-value challenges can spread rapidly across social media platforms. Many young people are exposed to this content through algorithms or messaging groups, even when they were not actively searching for it.

Our latest [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide explores how viral trends can encourage risky behaviour, normalise violence and create anxiety or fear within communities. The guide also highlights:

- The emotional and legal risks of sharing violent content
- How social media algorithms amplify harmful material
- Practical advice for parents and educators

Download the guide and support safer online conversations with young people:

<https://vist.ly/4vah7>

[#OnlineSafety](#) [#Safeguarding](#)

[#DigitalWellbeing](#) [#WakeUpWednesday](#)

**What Parents & Educators Need to Know about ONLINE TRENDS ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE**

7 out of 10 teens report seeing violent content on social media, with over half of that content featuring fights involving young people. Most don't seek it but are shown it through social media feeds or messaging groups. 4% of young people involved in violence have seen violent social media content. Violent trends, challenges, or "wars" that are spread online are encouraging violence online, while real-world incidents may also be recruited and promoted online.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

- ALGORITHMIC EXPOSURE**: Algorithms that promote content designed to keep users engaged can lead to increased exposure to violent content. This is especially true for content that is highly engaging or controversial. This can lead to increased exposure to violent content, even if the user is not actively searching for it.
- WEAPONS AND CRIMINAL RISK**: Some content is designed to encourage users to share information about weapons, criminal activity, or other illegal activities. This can lead to increased exposure to violent content, even if the user is not actively searching for it.
- SHARING VIOLENT CONTENT**: Encouraging or sharing violent content can lead to increased exposure to violent content, even if the user is not actively searching for it.

**Advice for Parents & Educators**

- STAY INFORMED**: Stay alert for updates from police, schools, or local authorities, and follow the advice provided. We can report quickly online or via hot lines.
- DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA**: Encourage young people to talk about the content they see online and the effects it has on them. The information provided in this guide can help you and your child understand the risks of social media and how to stay safe.
- TALK CRIME AND SAFETY**: In most of the UK, the age of criminal responsibility is 10 (12 in Scotland). This means that children can be held responsible for their actions, including those on social media. Encourage young people to think about the consequences of their actions and to seek help if they are in trouble.
- ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ACTION**: Focus on strengthening young people's positive experiences both online and offline. Encourage them to use social media to connect with friends and family, and to share their talents and interests. Encourage them to be kind and helpful to others online.

Meet Our Expert: Dr. Sarah French, Director of Online Safety at The National College.

[@wake\\_up\\_weds](#) [f/the-national-college](#) [@wakeupwednesday](#) [@wakeupweds](#)

## 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](#)

We offer an open-door policy at Victoria School. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further support or guidance.



The infographic features the Victoria School logo (a rainbow over the text 'Victoria School') in the top left and a cartoon illustration of two smiling hearts in the top right. The main text reads: 'Life has its ups and downs, and sometimes, a little support can make all the difference.' Below this, six blue brushstroke-style boxes provide QR codes and contact information for various support services:

- YOUNG MINDS:** You are not alone we are here to help. [www.youngminds.org.uk](http://www.youngminds.org.uk)
- NSPCC:** Call if you need help on 0800 800 5000. [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk)
- Every life matters...:** Action against suicide in Cumbria. [www.every-life-matters.org.uk](http://www.every-life-matters.org.uk)
- kooth:** Get free, safe, anonymous support. [www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)
- Child Bereavement UK:** Get advice on coping with bereavement. [www.childbereavementuk.org.uk](http://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](http://www.cumbriafamilysupport.org.uk)

A cartoon illustration of a smiling heart is shown in the bottom left corner of the infographic.

## 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
<b>Main One</b>	Margherita Pizza Or Pepperoni Pizza	Pork Grills	Roast Gammon Joint	Chicken Goujons	Pork Sausages
<b>Main Two</b>	Meatballs in Gravy	Fish Nibbles	Cottage Pie	Fish fingers	Breaded White Fish
<b>Main Three</b>	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
<b>Sides &amp; Vegetables</b>	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
<b>Salad Bar</b>	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
<b>Dessert</b>	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
<b>Daily Options</b>	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.



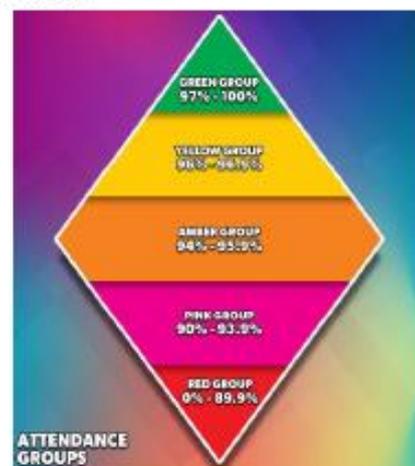
## Whole School Attendance Week Ending 20/03/2026

### School Attendance Matters (SAM)

Class	Last Week	This Week	Trend
Rainbow Nursery	83.3%	65.9%	▼
Piglet AM	90.5%	98.8%	▲
Piglet PM	96.4%	88.9%	▼
Eeyore	94.9%	92.3%	▼
Tigger	82.7%	88.0%	▲
Roos	80.4%	85.7%	▲
Blencathra	97.5%	99.0%	▲
Great Gable	95.7%	96.9%	▲
Helvellyn	99.3%	100.0%	▲
Catbells	98.3%	93.4%	▼
Red Pike	99.2%	94.4%	▼
Scafell Pike	95.7%	96.7%	▲
Skiddaw	97.1%	98.1%	▲
Rainbow Room	85.7%	87.9%	▲
Whole School	95.00%	94.30%	▼

**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.



## **Victoria School Nursery, Infant and Junior Term Dates 2025/2026**

### Autumn Term 2025

Starts: Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025

Half Term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

Ends: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

### Spring Term 2026

Starts: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Half Term: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Ends: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026

### Summer Term 2026

Starts: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Half Term: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Ends: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

Good Friday: 3<sup>rd</sup> April

Easter Sunday: 5<sup>th</sup> April

Easter Monday: 6<sup>th</sup> April

May bank holiday: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026

Half Term: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2026

Ends: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2026

Spring Term 2027

Starts: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2027

Half Term: Monday 15<sup>th</sup> - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2027

Ends: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2027

Summer Term 2027

Starts: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2027

Half Term: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2027

Ends: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2027

Good Friday: 26<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Sunday: 28<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Monday: 29<sup>th</sup> March

May bank holiday: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Easter Week.	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	NHS Dental programme for five-year-olds in school.	
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Primary puppets assembly.	
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Red Pike and Two-year-old Nursery are going to Morrisons for Easter singing at 10am.	
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter Church Service at St Michaels Church at 1:30pm. Parents/carers are welcome. Please do not park on Dean Street.	Reception, year one and year two.
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter performance for Three-year-old Nursery at: 10am and 2pm in the school hall.	
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter raffle	
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	SAM Attendance assembly. Kindness awards/PE awards assembly.	
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	CHUF Day: Non-Uniform Wear Red.	Donations would be greatly appreciated, we will have collection buckets around school.
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	School closes for Easter Holidays at 12:30pm. There will be no afternoon nursery.	

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April

School returns after the Easter holidays.



## Family Community Team

Our DWP Family Community Team provides support for local families. We can help to make a brighter future for your family.

### We can:

- Check your household income and benefits to ensure you are paid the right money at the right time to support your family budget.
- Refer you to local service providers and charities for 1-2-1 support depending on your individual needs.
- Provide regular progress updates to Lead Professionals where appropriate.
- We can support you through the process to show you how your finances can improve when starting work, when increasing your hours or when changing jobs.
- Signpost you to budgeting and debt support.
- Support you back into the workplace by accessing funding through your local Jobcentre, removing barriers to work such as upfront childcare costs, clothes for interviews, equipment needed for work and initial travel to work costs.
- Support you if you want to start your own business or become self-employed.
- Support you back into the workplace if you have recently lost your job or been made redundant.
- Support you or a family member with apprenticeships, traineeships, training, volunteering, work experience placements or want to improve your qualifications.
- Support you if you have a disability and want to get into work using the Government's Access to Work Scheme where appropriate.
- Advice on how to do on-line job searching using jobsites and social media platforms.
- Signpost you to organisations who can support you to update your CV and can carry out a skills audit to find out the jobs that best suit your skills.
- Provide you with ongoing in work support.

### How you can contact your local Family Community Team:

Louise Armstrong, Vicky Norwood and Adele Aitken.

Email [Family.CommunityTeam@cumbria.gov.uk](mailto:Family.CommunityTeam@cumbria.gov.uk)

**We are here to help you and your family**

[cumberland.gov.uk](http://cumberland.gov.uk)



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

