

Victoria Junior School - 01900 606053

Newsletter

Summer Term 2026

Week 12



School will close for the
Summer Holidays on Friday
17th July at 1pm

Free Meals Vouchers – Summer

The council Cumberland want to ensure every child who receives benefits-eligible Free School Meals continues to be supported over the Summer holiday 2026. The council continues to work with Wonde/e-vouchers who will provide families with e-vouchers that can be spent on food and drink in a range of supermarkets and shops. The voucher will be worth £106.95 for each eligible child/young person and covers the holiday period Monday 20th July to Tuesday 1st September 2026 (excluding bank holidays).

School is working with Wonde to ensure they have the right contact details for you. It is important that the email and mobile contact details we hold are up to

date. Please let us know if immediately your details have changed.

Wonde will contact you to ask which supermarket you would like to use your voucher in.

The voucher will then be sent via TEXT or EMAIL. If you do not have internet access on your mobile and are therefore unable to view the voucher you can forward the message to someone who has and they can help you redeem the voucher, or school can help by printing vouchers for you.

If you have any questions about the message that you receive from Wonde/e-voucher, or if you believe you should have received a message from Wonde/e-voucher and haven't by Wednesday 15th July contact the school office.

Year 6 Leavers

Check out the Times and Star the week of 17th July to see photographs of our year 6 leavers!



Wellbeing Guide

For many young people, the summer holidays can easily become dominated by phones, gaming, streaming and social media. This guide offers reassuring, realistic advice for parents, carers and educators who want to encourage 11- to 16-year-olds to spend more time offline without making technology feel like the enemy.

From phone-free challenges and micro-adventures to active travel, outdoor clubs and creative alternatives to scrolling, the guide focuses on small, achievable changes. It also highlights the importance of giving teens choice, responsibility and social motivation, helping them build confidence, wellbeing and healthier habits throughout the summer.

Guide at the end of the newsletter.

Team Bassenthwaite

What a busy final full week Team Bassenthwaite have had!

This week we have practised and rehearsed for our summer show. On Wednesday we performed for all of our grownups at the Carnegie theatre. We were all amazing and the grownups were so proud of us! We loved our ship workers song and taking part in the Uppies and Downies finale with the whole school.

This week, we also created some printed keyrings and coasters to sell on our enterprise afternoon. We used our William Morris themed designs to carve into polystyrene tiles and then used acrylic paint to print our designs onto our coasters and keyrings. We finished them off with varnish to make them nice and shiny.

In amongst all the fun, we also finished our end of year assessments and Miss Fennessy and Mrs Plunkett were amazed at our progress! We tried really hard and persevered even when we found things difficult.

We can't believe we are nearly at the end of the school year. This year has flown by. We have had lots of fun and made lots of memories as Team Bassenthwaite. The adults are super proud of all of the progress we have made and hope we have the best

summer holidays in preparation for big year 4!



Team Buttermere

This week has been another fantastic week in Buttermere Class! We have continued planning, drafting and writing our final story pieces, and our Year 4 pupils have been working hard to improve their times tables ready for the Multiplication Tables Check. We also enjoyed practising for and performing in the Summer Show, where we took on the roles of miners. The children were absolutely amazing, and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to support them. In RE, we explored the links between music and spirituality, while our wellbeing lessons encouraged us to think about looking

after ourselves and others. We were also delighted to complete our William Morris-inspired art projects, using our printing skills to create beautiful keyrings by carving designs into polystyrene sheets, printing with acrylic paint and finishing them with varnish. Finally, we took part in Enterprise day on Friday, where we are selling our handmade keyrings and coasters. Well done for all your hard work and enthusiasm this week, keep up the fantastic work!



Team Crummock

This is Team Crummock's last newsletter of the year, and what a year it's been. It's been an absolute pleasure to have taught these children this year and to have seen them grow as both pupils and people has been amazing. We've had a very busy year in Team Crummock. We've learnt lots, been to lots of exciting places, had some incredible visitors join us in school, laughed lots and have had a lot of fun along the way.

From all of us in Team Crummock, we hope you all have an amazing summer, and we'll see you in September.



Team Derwentwater

It has been another fantastic week in Derwentwater, with pupils working hard across the curriculum while enjoying some exciting end-of-term activities. In Literacy, pupils have been planning and writing their own stories. They have used their creativity to develop engaging characters, exciting settings and well-structured plots, producing some fantastic pieces of writing. In PE, our focus has been on Athletics. Pupils have been developing their running, jumping and throwing techniques while demonstrating determination, teamwork and resilience. This week in Computing, pupils have been programming their own games. They have been using coding skills to create interactive games, learning how to use algorithms, sequences and debugging to improve their programs. In Music, pupils have been rehearsing a song on the keyboards for their final performance. Their confidence and

musical ability continue to grow with each rehearsal.

In RE, pupils have been learning about Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his care for the world. They explored how his teachings encourage kindness, respect for others and looking after the environment.

In French, pupils have been creating their own menus. They have been using their vocabulary to name foods and drinks while practising their speaking and writing skills.

In Geography, pupils have been comparing the lifestyles of people living in the Lake District and the Mediterranean. They discussed similarities and differences, considering climate, jobs, tourism and daily life.

School Disco

Pupils had a fantastic time at the school disco! It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying themselves, dancing with friends and celebrating together.

As part of our School Enterprise project, pupils designed and made their own keyrings. They demonstrated excellent creativity, teamwork and problem-solving skills while producing some fantastic finished products.

We hope you enjoyed our production of Workington: Our Town. The pupils worked incredibly hard to learn their lines, songs and choreography, and we were so proud of the confidence,

enthusiasm and talent they displayed on stage. Thank you for your support in helping to make the performance such a success.

Team Coniston

Another great week here in Team Coniston. We began by having a football session with Stuart.

As writers this week, we have been writing an explanatory text about the digestive system. We have been learning about headings and sub headings and using our scientific knowledge.

The children have been asked to include as many skills they have been taught this year.

As mathematicians this week, we began by revisiting some year 3 work to consolidate our knowledge.

More recently, we have been looking at symmetrical patterns, something the whole of Team Coniston were very successful at.

As scientists, we completed the science unit and assessed our knowledge and understanding.

In French we learned more words and phrases saying our opinions about food.

As geographers, we continued to look at Cumbria and the Mediterranean. This week we began to compare jobs and lifestyles.

Alongside this, Team Coniston were busy rehearsing for the Summer show. We hope all those that attended enjoyed it as much as us.

Look out for the photographs and video on Class Dojo.

Keep up the hard work Team Coniston.



Loweswater

This week team Loweswater have been busy preparing for and performing in the summer show. We have been practicing and completed our performance on Wednesday. We have also completed our end of year assessments. In geography this week we have been comparing foods and languages in the Mediterranean to Cumbria. We looked at and compared different destinations and thought about where we would like to go and why. In Maths we have been learning to write and compare amounts of money. During RE this week we have been learning about the Qur'an and Hadith and how these inspire Muslims.



Team Ullswater

We have had a very busy week here in Ullswater. Our class enjoyed their year 6 transition day where they got to meet their new teacher and teaching assistant and enjoyed a get to know you writing task. Ullswater worked extremely hard during their end of term tests. Well done everyone! We have completed our end of term writing task, there was lots of interesting and creative writing. Fantastic effort from everyone. Yesterday was our summer show and Ullswater really did make the Workington Reds proud. Amazing effort with brilliant singing and dancing. We are all looking forward to the school enterprise event this afternoon. We have been very making wonderful treats for you which we know that you are all going to enjoy.



Team Grasmere

In English, we have been writing a retell inspired by the story Coming to England by Floella Benjamin. We worked hard to include the grammar and punctuation we have learnt over the past year. We have then edited our work and peer assessed.

In science, we have been learning about the benefits that exercise has on our body and what we can do to help our body work. We then created a poster to show what we can do to keep our body healthy.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed taking part in our end of year performance at the Carnegie.

On Thursday, year 5 enjoyed their end of year disco and football in the sunshine.

Today, we enjoyed making and are looking forward to selling our fidget key rings at our enterprise day.

Well done Team Grasmere, only one week to go.



Team Ennerdale

Ennerdale have enjoyed another scorching week! Once again, the sunshine and warm temperatures have returned, meaning plenty of water breaks to keep everyone hydrated. On Wednesday, Ennerdale did us proud with their performance in the school Summer Show at the Carnegie Theatre, where the pupils were in fine voice and represented the school brilliantly. In Maths, we have been learning how to identify and draw acute angles while in PE with Kane, pupils headed outside into the glorious sunshine to take part in a range of athletics challenges. We have also been very busy preparing our products for the final Enterprise event of the year today, with the children showing great creativity and teamwork. Don't forget that Enterprise starts at 2pm in the school hall. We have a fantastic range of products on sale and would love your support—bring plenty of change! Unfortunately, there was no Reading Heroes Competition winner this week due to pupils attending the Odd Socks production. However, congratulations to Ava, who was our Class Dojo Draw winner. Well done, Ennerdale another fantastic week!



Team Thirlmere

It has been a very busy penultimate week for Thirlmere!

We were busy preparing for the Summer Show, with last minute rehearsals and a dress rehearsal too. Everyone worked really hard and did their best!

We enjoyed an extended football session with Stuart and joined Windermere for a morning of football in the sun.

In preparation for Enterprise, we have been working hard to get our bookmarks ready for selling and a lot of discussion took place about our keyrings - we finally decided on bands and artists.

As scientists, we finished our Animals, including Humans topic, we finished off by learning about how substances travel around our bodies and then we also created a poster about healthy lifestyles. We really enjoyed doing a Kahoot about the circulatory system and putting our learning to the test.

More rehearsals are now underway for our Leavers Assembly next week, I'm sure it'll be tear-jerker.

We enjoyed our computing lesson with
Mr Couper

We've only got one more week

Thirlmere, let's make it a good one!



Team Windermere

Windermere have had a busy week, they have been working very hard towards the school musical all about Workington.

Everyone did such a good job and dealt with the heat very well indeed. The dancing and singing was fab, everyone should be very proud of themselves.

Although we have been busy in rehearsals, we have also enjoyed getting outside, playing football and cooling down in the shade. So we've had a good mix of outside and inside learning.

Windermere and all of Year 6 have been rehearsing for the leavers assembly - I can't tell you anything more about this because, as ever, it's top secret.

In Science, we have continued to learn about the circulatory system and the benefits of exercise and healthy eating. Pupils created a poster to promote healthy living.

We are very near the end of term, hoping for a reflective and memorable final week!

Another busy week in Windermere.

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

July

13th - Year 4 Phunky Foods

14th - Year 6 Prom

14th - Crummock class to LEVELS

15th - Year 6 Leavers Assembly

17th - Break up for Summer 1pm

**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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

TECH-FREE SUMMER FOR TEENS

For many 11- to 16-year-olds, summer can quickly become screen heavy, especially when socialising, entertainment, and downtime all happen via their devices. Encouraging a tech-free summer isn't about banning technology altogether, but about helping young people rediscover friendship, creativity, independence, and the great outdoors. The NHS recommends that young people aged 5 to 18 aim for an average of at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day across the week.

1 BUILD OUTDOOR CHOICE



Teens are more likely to engage when they feel they have a level of control. Create a simple 'summer outdoors menu' with options such as cycling to a favourite café, playing rounders, visiting a skatepark, dog walking, photography walks, geocaching, or helping around the garden. Parents and educators can then ask young people to choose two or three activities each week that interest them.

2 PREPARE THE KIT

Small barriers can stop teenagers going outside, especially if they feel uncomfortable, too hot, or unprepared. Keep a grab bag with sun cream, water, snacks, plasters, a cap, period products, and a lightweight waterproof. During hot weather, plan shade, water breaks, and calmer activities, as vigorous exercise is not advised on very hot days.

3 TRY MICRO-ADVENTURES

Outdoor activities don't need to be expensive or complicated. A micro-adventure could be as simple as watching the sunrise, walking to a local viewpoint, making breakfast outside, visiting a new green space, or planning a bus journey to a nearby nature trail. Encourage teens to plan the route, snacks, and timings themselves to help build their independence.

4 LINK TO REAL INTERESTS

A young person who dislikes sport may still enjoy being outside if the activity connects with something they already care about. Link outdoor time to music, art, animals, fashion, cooking, photography, or social interaction. Ideas include sketching in a park, making a nature playlist, filming a wildlife vlog script, or designing posters for a community garden.

5 CREATE SOCIAL PULL

For many teenagers, friends are the strongest motivator in various areas of life. Parents can invite one or two friends on walks, picnics, or garden games, while schools can promote lunchtime leagues, outdoor clubs, or summer meet-ups linked to existing interests. Make these activities feel social rather than supervised, with adults nearby for safety but not dominating the experience.

6 MAKE TRAVEL ACTIVE



Active travel is a practical way to build outdoor time into everyday routines. Encourage young people to walk, cycle, or scoot short journeys where it's safe to do so, such as to school, the library, a friend's house, or a sports club. Educators could run a summer 'active miles' challenge, with pupils logging their journeys completed on foot or by pedal.

7 USE PHONE-FREE CHALLENGES



Rather than simply saying, "Put your phone away", turn time spent offline into a shared challenge. Try a two-hour, phone-free park visit, a family evening walk, or a tutor-group challenge where pupils track their screen-free outdoor hours and share what they've been doing. You could all agree to keep devices in a box, bag, or classroom drawer, and allow for check-in time afterwards.

8 OFFER REAL RESPONSIBILITY



Teens often respond well when outdoor activities feel purposeful. Give them the responsibility for setting up a garden get-together, planning a picnic budget, leading a warm-up routine, mapping a walking route, or organising outdoor equipment. Schools could ask pupils to design an outdoor wellbeing trail, manage a sports rota, or support younger pupils during activity sessions.

9 REPLACE, DON'T REMOVE



If screens are taken away without an appealing alternative, young people may see outdoor time as a punishment. Replace gaming sessions with football drills, dance practice, basketball shots, treasure hunts, or card games outside. Replace screen scrolling with a 'boredom box' containing items like chalk, a frisbee, skipping ropes, playing cards, seed packets, or a disposable-style camera.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS



Not every teenager will suddenly love the outdoors, so recognise their gradual progress. Celebrate a 20-minute walk, an hour at the park, a phone-free picnic lunch, or choosing to cycle instead of being driven around. Parents and educators can use praise, certificates, group displays, or simple shared reflection to show that outdoor effort matters.

Meet Our Expert

The National College provides expert-led training and resources to support schools, trusts and education settings worldwide. Its guidance helps parents and educators understand the issues affecting children and young people today, covering topics such as safeguarding, wellbeing, digital safety, and healthy development.

See full reference list on our website

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#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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