

Victoria Junior School - 01900 606053

Newsletter

Spring Term 2026

Week 9



U Dance

Pupils are currently rehearsing for the U Dance event on 17th March at the Carnegie Theatre. Thank you for all ticket orders, and these will be sent home in due course. We are holding practices after school every Monday and Wednesday until 4pm until the event. Children are all working really hard preparing for this and we cannot wait for you to see it!

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'. 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 Service

Easter Church Service will be held on Monday 23rd March this year, and is led by Year 4 pupils.

Tickets have now been opened up to the full school, limited to 2 per child.

All donations that we receive for tickets is to be donated straight to St Michaels Church.



Easter Activities Wednesday 25th March 2026

For just £3.00 paid through ParentPay, children can sign up to take part in the following:

Egg and Spoon Race

Egg Dump

Guess the Eggs in the Jar

Last entries Sunday 22nd March 2026

Design an Egg/Bonnet will also be taking place, this is done at home and brought into school. Please have entries in school by Tuesday 24th March.

Free of charge

Raffle - £1 per ticket

Hampers and eggs to be won!





Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Clothes Bank

As part of our climate action plan and our recycling mission here at Victoria Junior School, we have a clothes bank on school site!

The bank accepts GOOD CONDITION CLOTHES, BAGS AND BELTS.

Please feel free to make your donations during drop off and pick up times. We would love you to support our student leaders and Eco Warriors to fill this as soon as possible to arrange our first collection.

Your donations must be put into the bank IN TIED BAGS.

Let's make a difference!

Reduce, reuse, recycle



School Sports

On Tuesday afternoon, four pupils from year 3 and 4 went to take part in a Boccia festival against other school from the area. They all had a great time and played some amazing shots. Well done team. You were fantastic!!



Wellbeing Guide

Streaming services have become the go-to entertainment choice for many families, with children often favouring on-demand platforms over traditional television. This edition explores the realities behind these services, from rising subscription costs and advert-supported tiers to the impact of autoplay and endless content libraries on young viewers' screen time and wellbeing. It also highlights key safeguarding concerns, including age-inappropriate material, binge watching, algorithm-driven recommendations and phishing scams. With clear, practical advice for setting profiles, PINs and time limits - alongside tips for discussing algorithms and stereotypes - this guide supports

parents and educators in promoting safer, healthier streaming habits.

Guide at the end of the newsletter.



Team Bassenthwaite

A fabulous science week for Team Bassenthwaite this week.

On Monday we independently completed some science acrostic poems. We used the words discovery and invent to create our poems.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed a silly science show. The scientist showed us some amazing experiments and lots of us got to help and take part.

On Wednesday we took part in a forces and magnets workshop. Susan helped us to think of the roles of a scientists and then we looked at forces during a tug of war game. We talked about resistance and used our bodies to demonstrate this. We also played a game based on magnetism and tried to think of how magnets could be used.

On Thursday we completed our entries for the engineering competition. We all thought of an invention that could help someone, then we drew it out on a planning sheet. We have also written persuasive letters to send off with our entries.

On Friday we dressed as scientists and we took part in a forensic science workshop. We looked for clues to try and solve the mystery.

A brilliant, busy, fun-filled week! Well done, Team.



Team Buttermere

This week, Buttermere Class have had an exciting time celebrating British Science Week, taking part in multiple workshops and science lessons! In our

topic Animals Including Humans, we explored diets, the Eatwell Plate, nutrition, and bar graphs, and joined a BBC Science Live lesson on light and space. We also got creative, writing acrostic poems, imagining "If I was an engineer" in a letter, and producing a retell of our Science Week adventures. To top it off, we became detectives in a forensic science workshop, making this week full of learning, discovery, and fun! Well done everyone keep up the great work!



Team Crummock

As writers, to kick start Science Week 2026, we created some amazing Acrostic Poems all about science. On Monday morning, we took part in a live lesson via the BBC. In the lesson, we learnt a lot of facts about the Solar System, in particular the Moon. During our science lessons, we have been developing our maths skills too, as we have been collecting data about the amount of fat and calories that there is in different foods. We put the

information into a table and then transferred it into a graph. We have also begun to look at the human skeleton, focussing on the name of some of the important bones. We have labelled them and separated them into bones that help us to move, and bones that protect our vital organs. On Tuesday morning, we had a Silly Science workshop in the hall. We did lots of really fun experiments and learnt a lot about different forces and chemical reactions. On Wednesday morning, we had an amazing workshop which was all about forces and magnets. We played games and learnt about science in a practical way. We all had a lot of fun. Today we have one more workshop to finish off what has been an amazing science week. We are to become forensic scientists, and use scientific methods to solve a crime.



Team Derwentwater

It has been a fantastic and very busy week in Derwentwater, especially as we celebrated Science Week with lots of

exciting activities and learning opportunities.

In Literacy, pupils have been learning about subordinate clauses and how they can add extra detail to a sentence. They practised identifying and writing sentences with subordinating conjunctions to make their writing more interesting and varied.

In Maths, pupils have been practising multiplying and dividing numbers by 10 and 100. They have explored how the digits move within the place value chart and have applied this knowledge to solve a range of calculations.

In Computing, pupils have continued learning about programming. They explored how to create and adjust simple programs by following sequences and understanding how instructions control outcomes.

In Music, pupils have been practising songs for our upcoming Easter service. Their singing is becoming more confident each week as they rehearse together.

In PE, pupils have been developing their tennis skills, focusing on control, coordination and rallying with a partner.

In RE, pupils have been learning about pilgrimages to Jerusalem and why this place is important for Muslim, Jewish and Christian people. They discussed the significance of pilgrimage and why

people travel to places of religious importance.

This week we celebrated Science Week with a range of exciting activities:

- Pupils learned about habitats and explored the environment around school.

- They helped create bug hotels to encourage insects and support local biodiversity.

- Pupils practised collecting and recording data during their investigations.

- We enjoyed a fun Silly Science workshop full of exciting experiments.

- Pupils also took part in a Forensic Science workshop, where they explored how scientists solve mysteries.

- We have a brilliant Dress Like a Scientist Day, with many creative and imaginative outfits.

- Pupils also completed an engineering project, designing their own inventions and thinking about how their ideas could solve real-world problems. It has been a wonderful week filled with curiosity, creativity and fantastic teamwork. We are very proud of all the enthusiasm shown by the pupils!

Team Coniston

This week, as clever writers, the book we have been reading is 'The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs.' We have been using subordinating conjunctions in our sentences. As per usual, the children

have worked incredibly hard to also include fronted adverbials and direct speech in their writing.

As mathematicians, we started a new unit, looking at $\times 3$ and $\times 6$ times tables. It was encouraging to see and hear that many know these tables really well. In history, we continued to explore Crime and Punishment. This week, we looked at the punishments in Medieval Britain. Some were very gory!

In music, we practised the songs we will be performing at the Easter service and some have been given parts to read in Church. The Easter service is on Monday 23rd March at St. Michael's Church. Team Coniston, also continue to have a weekly keyboard lesson. As part of our RE studies Team Coniston will continue to learn about Pilgrimages in various religions.

As artists, the children have started to paint their clay models which links in with our Year 4 art unit learning about Painting and painting with care and control.

The main focus, this week, has been on Science and Engineering. Team Coniston have participated in various events.

They thoroughly enjoyed the Silly Science show.

The children have also been developing their designs for entering The Primary Engineering competition. They had lots

of great ideas and the next step is to sketch their design.

We have the Forensic science activity to look forward to as well as dressing up as a scientist day today. We have been looking at various scientists- men and women - as part of our work on Inspirations and Aspirations. They too can be scientists when they grow up. Another great week in Team Coniston.



Team Loweswater

This week was science week. In Loweswater we have enjoyed taking part in a silly science workshop, a forensic workshop and completing our engineering competition entries. We also planted sunflowers and are looking forward to watching them grow. In our science lesson this week we have learned about human impacts on habitats and how this affects the species living there. In our literacy lessons this week we have read The True Story of the Three Little Pigs. We then wrote a retell using subordinate conjunctions and clauses. In maths this week we have been learning about the 9 times table. We practiced using adjacent multiples to

help us answer questions and solve problems. In RE this week, we have continued learning about Hajj as part of our pilgrimage work. We have also been practicing our songs and lines for the Easter service which is in a couple of weeks.



Team Ullswater

Science week is one of our favourites in year 5!

This week, we have been conducting lots of experiments, experiencing various different practical activities and linking our Scientific understanding from the topics we have covered this year.

We used our previous work and planned experiments to create a water filter and see how different materials can help to filter dirty water into something safer to drink. This also led into our 'If I were an Engineer' competition entries, where lots of children were inspired to think about global issues.

As Mathematicians, we are continuing to develop our practical math application

and using phrases to describe relationships between real world scenarios. We are even making our own questions to share with others and test their methods in the classroom.

As Writers, we have begun our new unit 'The Malfeasance'. This is a wonderful poem, all about perspective and change. Everyone's perception of the monster has been different so far and we are using lots of different techniques to describe the setting, the monster and how it moves through the town.

We have been perfecting our lyrical knowledge of our Easter songs, ready for the performance, and the enthusiasm from some of the children is wonderful. Such budding musicians and performers. Next week, we will begin our NFER assessments, I can't wait to celebrate all of the progress the children have made so far this year and am sure they will be keen to show all the skills they have mastered throughout the year.



Team Grasmere

Grasmere have had a fantastic week!

We began Science Week with an exciting BBC Live science lesson where we learned all about light. This was a great introduction to our new science unit on light. In our first science lesson, we explored how direct light travels. In our second lesson, we learned about reflected light and created our own 2D diagrams to show how light travels. In Maths, we have started a new unit on division. We have been learning how to correctly use the bus stop method without regrouping.

In English, we have been writing a retell of the story The Black Rabbit. We have been working hard to include adverbs of manner as sentence openers, similes, expanded noun phrases, conjunctions, and past tense in our writing.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed watching a silly science show, and some of us even got the chance to take part in the experiments!

On Thursday, we were lucky enough to take part in a forensic science workshop, where we solved a mystery using our excellent noticing and observation skills. Well done Team Grasmere!



Team Ennerdale

This week in Year 5 it has been Science Week. On Monday the pupils had a great time testing which liquids produced the biggest reaction with bicarbonate of soda. On Tuesday we enjoyed a brilliant hands-on session learning about forces with One Day Creative. Wednesday brought a fantastic session in the hall with Silly Science, where the pupils carried out lots of different experiments. On Thursday the pupils turned into forensic investigators, piecing together clues to solve a crime, and today it is great to see all the science-related outfits across school. We have also been thinking like engineers, considering world problems that require a solution for our entries into this year's If I Were an Engineer competition, and we have been very impressed with the ideas so far. In English we have been very busy writing our own biographies on a chosen naturalist, while in Maths we have continued learning about the area of compound shapes. The children also enjoyed a brilliant PE session with Kane, focusing on accuracy by playing tennis darts. Well done to Penelope, last week's Reading Heroes competition winner, and to Ayo, our Class Dojo Draw winner - fantastic achievements all round.



Team Thirlmere

It's been another busy week for Team Thirlmere.

As mathematicians, we have been learning about statistics, going over old SATs questions related to line graphs, bar charts, pictograms, pie charts and mean. Everyone seems to be more confident in answering these types of questions now.

In English, we have been building up to writing non-chronological reports about Mountains of the Lake District, we have done lots of research around them, thought of our sub-headings and then organised the information to form a report.

It is British Science Week and we have taken part in some exciting activities.

We enjoyed a live lesson from BBC called 'moon the movie'. We found out that the moon is not a light source, it just reflects the light from the sun. We also learned that light travels in a straight line and can be reflected using a mirror. We watched a Silly Science show with lots of us joining in as volunteers for the experiments. To end

the week, we took part in a Forensic Science workshop, trying to find lots of clues to help us solve the case.

We enjoyed a football session with Stuart this week and singing with Mr Milner.

Well done Team Thirlmere, you've all worked hard this week, keep it up!



Team Windermere

Windermere have been very productive this week, working really hard on their revision and learning new content. I am delighted to see that a number of children have arranged revision timetables and are putting in extra work at home - this is great to see!

In English, we have started writing our final non-fiction text based on 'Mountains of the Lake District'. We have been learning about grouping content together in a non-chronological report and organising information into sentences.

In Maths, we have covered timetables, mean and pie charts. We have been jotting down the basics and then

applying them to different reasoning questions. Pupils are transferring knowledge sensibly and are constantly checking their work.

We continued to learn Easter songs in Music and in PE pupils have been working on their tennis skills.

We have taken part in Science week activities including a 'Silly Science' workshop on Tuesday and have a 'Forensic Science' workshop this afternoon. Next week we will be starting to think about the 'I'm an Engineer' competition.

Another busy week in Windermere.



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

March

16th - 20th - Year 4 swimming

17th - U-Dance

19th - Year 3 Wildlife Park trip

20th - Red Nose Day - wear RED

23rd - Easter Service at St Michaels Church

2pm (tickets on sale soon)

25th - Easter Activities

24th - 26th - Year 4 swimming

26th - Phunky Foods Year 6 parents

Easter Holidays

Monday 30th March - Friday 10th April

April

14th - Swimming gala

15th - PCSO assembly

27th - 29th - Y4 Winmarleigh Hall trip

27th - 29th - Phunky Foods Y4

May

4th - Bank holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

5th - 6th - Y3 Winmarleigh residential

11th - 14th - Y6 SATs Week

11th - Y4 trip to Vindolanda

13th - 15th - Y5 York Residential

18th - 21st - Year 6 London Residential

18th - Y4 Phunky Foods

19th - Y5 Phunky Foods Parent workshop

19th - PCSO to meet Year 5 pupils

21st - Break up for half term 3:20pm

Half Term

Friday 22nd - Friday 29th May

1st June - Return to school

**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 STREAMING SERVICES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Streaming services are platforms that allow users to watch cartoons, documentaries and movies online immediately (often referred to as SVoD: streaming videos on demand). Ofcom reported that children and young adults prefer streaming services to traditional TV. With two-thirds of UK households subscribing to at least one streaming service, parents must understand how to manage screen time, set age restrictions and ensure safe viewing.

COSTLY

Subscription services can be costly. As the main source of entertainment, most households have at least one streaming platform, and each platform has its own monthly subscription fee. Services are charging more for ad-free viewing, and better quality and resolution; however, there is a cheaper option with adverts. Due to price increases, Netflix and Disney+ reported a sharp increase in users subscribing to their ad-supported tier in 2025.

ILLEGAL STREAMING

Sharing passwords or using modified Fire Sticks to access streaming content without permission is illegal. Most streaming services have now put measures in place to detect account sharing. When account sharing is identified, platforms will offer an opportunity to pay for an added member or will ask the user to verify who they are.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most streaming platforms allow users to set up a profile for each family member, with the option of putting specific restrictions in place. These include adding a profile lock or PIN, controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings. Nonetheless, these restrictions aren't foolproof. Content which is rated as suitable for an age group may still include themes, language, or images which children and families find inappropriate.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Excessive screen time contributes to sedentary behaviour and can negatively impact physical and mental health. Ofcom found that 4- to 15-year-olds averaged 2.5 hours per day across all video-sharing platforms, not including gaming. The vast range of content available, combined with features such as autoplay, makes it easy for children to watch for extended periods of time.

BINGE WATCHING

Features such as autoplay make it easy for viewers – especially young people – to continue watching episodes without a break. This can foster unhealthy and addictive patterns, such as consuming a vast amount of content in one sitting. With binge watching come a lack of social interaction, lack of physical exercise, and often late nights and sleep disruptions which impact their mental and physical wellbeing.

HARMFUL STEREOTYPES

Many platforms track viewing habits, time consumed, and preferences, and generate recommendations to encourage your child to keep watching. This results in your child being in a 'loop' whereby they think the 'recommended' shows would be something they would enjoy rather than thinking critically for themselves. This can shape their beliefs, values, and understanding of the world from a young age without even realising it.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET UP INDIVIDUAL PROFILES AND ADD PINS

Almost all streaming services allow users to set up individual profiles where each family member can have age restrictions put in place for the content they can view. Adult profiles can be protected through the use of PIN. Keep this private. Use the options of putting specific restrictions in place such as controlling autoplay of previews and next episodes, and limiting content based on age ratings.

TALK ABOUT ALGORITHMS

Talk to your child about how streaming services track what they watch, and base adverts and recommended shows/movies on previous viewing. Encourage them to critically think about whether the recommendations are suitable and how they want to spend their time. Discuss stereotypes with your child and challenge them to think about what they watch and how this may influence their beliefs.

MONITOR AND TALK OFTEN

Discuss with your child what they are watching, find out which programmes are trending, and watch them yourself. Have a little look at their watch history to check the content of what they're watching. Some platforms have been known to recommend or autoplay older or graphic content after a child's movie has been played. While some TV shows or movies may have a suitable age rating, your child may still find the content scary, or it may explore themes you don't want to explore with your child yet.

SET TIME RESTRICTIONS

Many streaming services offer the opportunity to buy movies, or add additional features to your subscription such as sports channels, as well as play games. This can increase the amount of time young people spend sitting idly in front of the screen. Some platforms (e.g. Apple TV+) allow you to set screen time restrictions. If the streaming service doesn't allow you to set screen time limits, set a family rule and stick to it.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator, and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government, comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website