Victoria Junior School - 01900 606053

Newsletter

Spring Term 2024

Week 1

We break up for the Easter holidays on Thursday 28^{th} March at 3:20pm and return to school on Tuesday 16^{th} April. We hope you all have a well-earned rest and we look forward to seeing you all ready for the Summer term.

<u>U Dance</u>

We would like to say a huge well done to our pupils who took part in U-Dance on Wednesday at the Carnegie Theatre. In total there were 12 schools and 245 pupils taking part in the performance! It was incredible and the costumes looked so effective! We hope those parents who came along to the performance enjoyed it as much as we did.





Victoria's Got Talent

What a huge array of talents we have in our school! The talent show showcased singers to gymnasts, comedians to dancers (and everything in between!). We hope you all had a fantastic time.



Odd Socks Day

Thank you to all pupils and parents who supported our Odd Socks Day, we managed to raise £143 which will go straight to the Down's Syndrome Association.

Easter Holidays Free Meals

Cumberland Council want to ensure every child who receives benefits-eligible Free School Meals continues to be supported over the Easter holiday 2024. The council continues to work with Wonde 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 £53.40 for each child/young person and covers the 12-day holiday period Friday 29th March to Monday 15th April 2024.

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 supermarkets currently available are ASDA, Aldi, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Iceland, McColls, Marks and Spencer, Farmfoods, Waitrose, Morrisons and B & M.

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, or if you believe you should have received a message from Wonde and haven't by Tuesday 26th March please contact the school office on 01900 606053.

Wellness Guide

Cultural and technological changes have made the experiences of today's children

vastly different to our own childhoods; it can be challenging to engage youngsters in open, honest conversation - especially about more sensitive topics. This, combined with many children's instinct to avoid "rocking the boat", can make it difficult to stay up to date with the goings on in their lives.

However, it's hugely important that trusted adults still offer an empathetic ear and feel able to encourage young people to open up about their day-to-day activities. This guide provides ten top tips for promoting open conversations with children - helping to make sure there's someone they know they can turn to in times of need.

Guide at the end of the newsletter

Attendance



As a school we are responsible for recording pupils school attendance in our school registers. The school registers are legal documents, and its data is forwarded regularly to the Department for Education and the Local Authority.

As a school we want all of our pupils to attend regularly and on time. We want to support parents to meet their legal duty to ensure regular school attendance. Thank you to all of our parents who are working with us in improving the attendance of the school.



If your child is going to be absent from school, please ensure you inform us as soon as possible by calling the school

office on 01900 606053 and leaving a voicemail on Option 1. You can also report this via the Scholarpack App.

School Sports

On Wednesday morning, 10 children from years 3 and 4 went to Lakes College to take part in an inter school handball festival. It was a great opportunity for the children to take part in and experience a new sport.

All of the children had a great time and had smiles on their faces from start to finish.



<u>Pupil Achievements</u>

If your child has any extracurricular achievements you wish for us to feature on our newsletter, please email these to adminovictoriajunior.cumbria.sch.uk with all information and a photograph. This could be anything from swimming to horse-riding, judo to fishing, and everything in between.

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

Team Bassenthwaite

A very busy last full week for Team Bassenthwaite. It has been assessment week this week so we have worked incredibly hard to get all assessments done. We are very proud of you all for the progress that has been made so far this school year! In amongst assessments, we have also entered the 'if you were an engineer what would you do?' Competition. We all came up with a problem in the world and then thought up an invention that could solve that problem. Team Bassenthwaite came up with some very good problems like world hunger, homelessness and crime and then thought of some fantastic inventions to help fight these problems. We also wrote letters to send off with our entries that try and seek our product and convince the judges that's ours is the best!

Team Bassenthwaite have also been busy making their natural artwork to sell at the at the enterprise afternoon. We collaborated to make bug hotels, welly planters, fairy houses, sensory walk way pebbles and rustic photo frames! All from natural, recycled resources!

Well done team! Another busy but successful week!



Team Buttermere

This week has been a productive and exciting week for Team Buttermere. We found out at the start of this week we won last week's attendance award for having an outstanding attendance of 98%.

As mathematicians, we have been working on our reasoning skills to complete three different maths tests.

As writers and readers, we have been completing spelling, grammar, punctuation and reading tests! We have been using our comprehension and noticing skills to complete them to the best of our abilities. Last Friday, the engineering competition was launched so this week we have had to think of a problem, decide a solution and create our invention.

For the enterprise afternoon on Friday, we have been preparing our outdoor artwork by creating pieces using natural resources such as flower pots, stick frames and pebble flowers. We have decided to make this as it links to our jigsaw topic 'hopes and dreams' where we use our outdoor and environmental awareness skills to help us think of ways to recycle and reduce. In VIPERS, we have been continuing our class story 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes and we have been focusing on improving our vocabulary, explanation and summarising skills.

In grammar this week, we have been learning how to correct sentences by adding the correct punctuation.

Fantastic work Team Buttermere for your determination and resilience, keep up the



Team Crummock

This week has been assessment week for us in Crummock. We have been testing ourselves to see how much of our learning we have been able to recall and to see if we are on track to meet our end of year expectations.

Outside of assessments, we have been busy with our entries for the "If you were an engineer, what would you do?" competition. We had to think of a problem that is affecting either ourselves, the school, the country or even the world. Once we have thought of that, we then had to design a product to solve that problem.

In art and DT we have been busy creating

products that we will be both selling at the our Enterprise Event on Friday afternoon and placing in our school garden.

On Thursday afternoon, we had a sneak peek at the Victoria's Got Talent performance before the big show on Thursday night.

As writers, we have written a letter to someone with the intent of retrieving some of the information that we learnt when we went to the Helena Thompson Museum earlier on in the half term.

On Tuesday, we spent the morning with Mr Cowper as we built and made a Lego robot with the intention of kicking a paper football.









Team Derwentwater

We have had a busy week here at
Derwentwater with lots of end of term
assessments taking place. Our students have
been working hard to do their very best and
show their knowledge and skills.
In addition to assessments, we have been
practicing for our upcoming Easter service.
We are excited to share our performance
with you and showcase our talents.
Our students have also been focusing on
their engineering skills, coming up with new
inventions to help people and animals
around the world. It has been inspiring to
see their creativity and problem-solving
abilities in action.

Furthermore, we have been hard at work creating fantastic items for our school enterprise, including windmills and wind chimes. The students have put in a lot of effort and creativity into these projects, and we are proud of their accomplishments.

Team Coniston

Welcome to Team Coniston's newsletter. This week we have been busy completing our end of term assessments.

We were fortunate, though, to have an extra footballing session with Stuart Green on Monday morning.

In the afternoon Team Coniston designed their entries for the engineering competition. There were some fantastic ideas and designs. They also made some of their products for this Friday's enterprise event. On Tuesday, we welcome Rev. Powell to Year 4. In our RE lessons we have learning

about Forgiveness. Rev Powell talked to us about Bible stories that include forgiveness as well as what forgiveness means to Christians.

We completed some more research in to Tundras and Deserts in geography and as scientists we learned about Deforestation and the effects it has on the planet.

Team Coniston learned some more about Biomes, 'What is a biome and how are they created?'. This week we looked at the layers of a rainforest and researched the features of tundras and deserts.

As mathematicians we have kept practising our times table knowledge by completing a Soundcheck every day.

In art some pupils have started to make wire sculptures and some are making smoothies in DT.

We are still rehearsing for the Easter Service, led by year 4, which will be held at St. Michael's Church next Tuesday afternoon.

Can I please remind you that homework is to brought to school every week and when you listen to your child read at home please sign their reading record.

Thank you for your support.



Team Loweswater

Loweswater have been working very hard this week. We have been completing all of our assessments so we can enjoy the last week before the Easter holidays. Additionally, this week we have been practicing for our Easter service which is next week. There are some very tricky words in the readings but the students have persevered and have been great in their efforts to read them. We have also had a visit from Reverend Powell this week. This was linked to our RE work on forgiveness. We listened to what the bible tells Christians about forgiveness and then had a discussion. There were some great questions asked about forgiveness and the Christian faith. We have been finishing off our science learning this week. We have learned about conservation areas. Next week the children will be working on a small project which links our biomes and conservation

On Wednesday afternoon, team Loweswater completed their invention designs for the engineering competition. There are some great inventions from a hoover that sorts Lego to a machine that cuts and replants trees.

This week we have also completed our enterprise crafts and we are looking forward to selling them this afternoon.













Team Ullswater

This week Ullswater have been working very hard to show all of their skills, knowledge and progress that has been made so far this year. We have been doing lots of assessments and celebrating the successes of our improved ZPD and Soundcheck results.

For Enterprise day, all of the children were making cards, bracelets, chocolates and boxes to use our DT and food knowledge skills and try and raise as much money as we could. The whole class really pulled together to work as a team and are looking forward to showcasing their skills and business strategies.

We finished our History topic of slavery this week, designing board games that slaves may have once created to test each other's knowledge. It was impressive to see how the children used their Geographical understanding of where countries are located to be able to better understand the Trade Triangle.

As mathematicians, we are practising measuring angles with protractors, this is a very difficult aspect of maths but with perseverance and practise, everyone will be confident with this in no time at all. As writers, we are consolidating our skills from this half term of punctuation, TiPToP and tone to try and provide information with enthusiasm and humour to engage the audience.

It's been a very busy and productive week for Team Ullswater



Team Grasmere

Grasmere have had another busy week! Although we have been completing our end of term assessments, we have had another great week.

This week, we made our items for the Easter Enterprise day. Grasmere class sewed

together an Easter decoration and made sweet cones! We are hoping for a good day, raising lots of money for a good cause. As mathematicians, we have continued to learn how to add fractions. Although this can be challenging, pupils have really persevered and are starting to be able to do this independently.

As writers we have continued our work on poetry. This week we learned how to write extended metaphors, which can later be used in our writing.

On Monday, we came up with ideas for the Engineering competition. Pupils have designed and annotated their inventions and written a letter explaining how it works and who their invention will help.

On Wednesday, we enjoyed our weekly Ukulele session with our specialist teacher. On Thursday, we got to watch Victoria's got Talent! Well done to all the pupils who took part, you were amazing!
Well done Team Grasmere keep up the great work!



Team Ennerdale

Ennerdale have been busy completing lots of assessments this week. We are very pleased with their mature approach to this.

As religious learners, we have learnt about the events of Holy Week and discussed the question - did God have a plan for Jesus? This provoked some fantastic discussion. We have also completed our entries for the "If You Were an Engineer" competition. We were very impressed with some of the designs.

On Wednesday, the pupils enjoyed football with Stuart focusing on control of the control and working as a team.

On Thursday, we completed our STAR Test before enjoying a PE session with Chris focusing on compass directions.

This afternoon the pupils are running our stall as part of the Enterprise Day in the hall. Massive thanks to all pupils and parents who donated teddies, chocolates and purchased on the day.

Well done to Connor for winning the Class Dojo Draw last week and Jennifer who was our Reading Heroes Competition winner!



Team Thirlmere

It has been a busy week for Team
Thirlmere, we have been completing our
Spring assessments, we are pleased to see
the progress being made across Year 6.
Children are more aware of the areas they
are struggling with and should be using the
SATs papers and revision books to support
this.

This week, we have been taking part in the 'If I were an engineer' competition, pupils had to find a problem in the world, our local area or personal to them and think of a solution to this. Pupils had to design a product, and write a letter to explain their product and why it should be made.

Several children from Team Thirlmere took part in the U-Dance West festival at the Carnegie, we are very proud of everyone involved.

On Thursday, we made a start on our Enterprise product, Team Thirlmere made some 'Easter Nests' to sell to other pupils on Friday.

Another busy week for Team Thirlmere, keep up the hard work!



Team Windermere

Windermere have had a very busy week doing assessments and having a go with a few practice SATs papers, we are very pleased with the progress that our Year 6 children are making.

Windermere have taken on the role of engineers this week, designing products and writing letters to explain what their product is and how it works. Pupils have produced some very inventive ideas, we took inspiration on 'Productivity' from the CEO of Apple, Tim Cook.

On Wednesday a number of children took part in the U Dance festival at the Carnegie, we are all extremely proud of our Year 6 children - their dancing was amazing and their costumes were out of this world. On Thursday we created 10-line poems for National Poetry Day, we also listened to a few poems for inspiration.

Friday was all about 'Enterprise Day',
Windermere created their own flavoured
milkshakes and sold them to other pupils in
the school.

Another busy week in Windermere.



March

25th - Easter Raffle & Activities

26th - Easter Service at St Michael's Church 2:30pm

27th - Year 3 Phunky Foods session

28th - Break up for Easter Holidays 3:20pm

Easter Holidays Friday 29th March - Monday 15th April

April

16th - Return to school

20th - Carnegie Singers concert

 22^{nd} - Reverend Powell assemblies

23rd - 25th - Year 3 felt making

 24^{th} - Y5/6 Girls football tournament

 25^{th} - Year 4 Phunky Foods session

 25^{th} - Y5/6 Boys football tournament

29th & 30^{th} - Year 5 Phunky Foods session

May

Ist - 3rd - Year 4 Castlehead Residential

2nd - Year 4 Phunky Foods session

 6^{th} - Bank Holiday - School Closed

 7^{th} - 8^{th} - Year 3 Kingswood Residential

 13^{th} - 16^{th} - Year 6 SATS Week

 15^{th} - 17^{th} - Year 5 York Residential

 20^{th} - 23^{rd} - Year 6 London Residential

Half term

Friday 24^{th} - Friday 31^{st} May 2024

<u>June</u>

 $3^{\rm rd}$ - Reverend Powell assemblies

6th - Year 4 Phunky Foods

10th - 14th - Sports Week

11th - 12th - Excel Activities

13th - Football competition

14th - Sports Day

 $21^{\rm st}$ - Y5/6 Odd Socks Theatre performance at Curwen Park

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

With tricky topics and occasional clashes of opinion, it can be challenging to maintain an environment where children feel able to talk candidly and honestly. However, encouraging such conversations helps to develop trust - making it easier to unpack even sensitive subjects as children get older. Here are our top tips for promoting open conversations at home

CREATE A SAFE

Criticism, blaming or shaming can all prevent children from feeling emotionally safe – while showing affection, positive attention and an interest in what a child has to say builds their sense of security. These formative years are when children's opinions and values begin to take shape, so it's important to provide a non-judgmental environment in which to discuss them – especially if their gainions differ from your them - especially if their opinions differ from your

CONSIDER OTHER 2

Some children may find it easier to talk while they're participating in another activity such as drawing, writing, walking or sport. If it's possible, taking part in these activities together presents you with an opportunity to communicate while doing something side by side. A child may feel less pressure that way and can be more inclined to open up of their own accord.

NORMALISE CHATS ABOUT FEELINGS

Incorporate mental health and emotional wellbeing into everyday conversations, using age-appropriate language and examples to help children understand their emotions. Ask questions like "How are you feeling today?", "What was the best and worst part of your day?", "If you could start today again, what would you do differently?" and "Is there anything you want to talk about?"

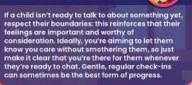
4 LISTEN ACTIVELY

When children express themselves, make it obvious that you're listening closely and giving them your full attention. Maintain eye contact and validate their feelings without immediately trying to solve the problem. It's not helpful to dismiss their issues as childish or 'teenage angst' — or to assume that they'll simply 'get over' whatever they re feeling. Children don't have your life experience; their resilience is still developing as they learn to push though difficulties and handle problems. When children express themselves, make it

5 ASK OPEN QUESTIONS

Encourage children to share their thoughts by asking open questions about their feelings and experiences. Closed questions (such as "Did you enjoy school today?") are more likely to elicit a simple "yes" or "no" response. Instead, you could ask things like "Who did you spend time with at break?" or "Who did you sit with at lunchtime?"

RESPECT THEIR BOUNDARIES



7 LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Model open, honest and healthy communication in front of children and young people. Try to demonstrate kindness when talking about others and yourself, because if children hear adults being overly harsh, critical or judgmental, or see them having unrealistic expectations of themselves, it makes them more likely to adopt and repeat this behaviour themselves as they grow.

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HAVE REGULAR 8 CHECK-INS

Check in with children periodically to discuss how they're feeling and what's going on in their lives. This could be a weekly or monthly conversation, where the child has an opportunity to share whatever's on their mind. For parents and carers, getting away from the house and other distractions might be productive here: you could consider regular trips to a coffee shop or a café, or just a weekly walk.

9 PROVIDE RESOURCES

2 it's often beneficial to let children know about other support that's available to them if they're struggling to talk to you specifically. Encourage them to talk to school counsellors, trusted adults or even a therapist, if necessary – while normalising this route and dispelling the harmful stigma around asking for help. Older children could engage with resources such as Kooth or YoungMinds.

CELEBRATE EMOTIONAL **EXPRESSION**

It's beneficial to praise children for expressing their feelings honestly – emphasising how important it is to talk about their emotions and how proud you are of them for doing so. This can be especially pivotal for boys, who often experience more of a stigma around talking frankly about their feelings and their mental health – a barrier that can be overcome, with enough love and support. enough love and support

Meet Our Expert

With 30 years' experience as a teacher, trainer, consultant and interim executive board member, Anna Bateman has a superb understanding of what works in pedagogy, school improvement and leadership. She has also advised the Department for Education on their mental health green paper.

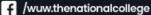




National College



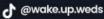








VA SIL OLD













St. Michael's St. John's

joint EASTER FAYRE in St. John's Community Hall

SATURDAY, 23rdMARCH 11 a.m. - 1 p.m

Refreshments - Raffle Lots of Stalls - Tombola









St Joseph's School Easter Activities 8th to 12th April 24

To book please call or text David Wise on 07508063430 or email david.wise@sichs.uk.

Places are limited and on a first come, first served basis. Payment by BACS ONLY (details on application). When booking please quote the following important details: Name, Date of birth, School, Medical issues, contact number. Packed lunch and drinks required! Hot meals are also available at a cost of £5.00. PLEASE NOTE: Places are only guaranteed if payment is made BEFORE your chosen activity commences.



SPECIAL DISCOUNT!

If your child attends the following schools in our cluster please deduct £3.00 per session: Beckstone, Ashfield Juniors, Ashfield Infants, St Mary's, St Michael's, St Patrick's, Distington, Westfield, St Gregory's, Derwent Vale, Seaton Juniors, Our Lady and St Patricks

This also applies to students of St Joseph's Catholic High School



CONTACT NO - 07508063430

DATE	ACTIVITY	COST	TIME
Monday 8 th April	FOOTBALL Getting the week off to a flying start with a day of skills, drills, tactics and matches galore!	£15.00 (£12 for discounted schools)	10.00am - 2.00pm Ages 4 to 6 Ages 7 to 10 Ages 11+
Tuesday 9 th April	BAT & BALL A day of cricket for the little ones today with older groups having a go at other bat & racket sports.	£15.00 (£12 for discounted schools)	10.00am - 2.00pm Ages 4 to 6 Ages 7 to 10 Ages 11+
Wednesday 10 th April	BAT & BALL Cricket for the older groups today with the youngest age group have a go at other modified bat & racket sports.	£15.00 (£12 for discounted schools)	10.00am - 2.00pm Ages 4 to 6 Ages 7 to 10 Ages 11+
Thursday 11 th April	MULTI SPORTS A fab day of different sporting activities. Skill learning, team building, game playing. New sports, traditional sports and new variations on old themes!	£15.00 (£12 for discounted schools)	10.00am - 2.00pm Ages 4 to 6 Ages 7 to 10 Ages 11+
Friday 12 th April	DODGEBALL DAY!! Finishing the week as we started with another action- packed day. Non-stop dodging, throwing, catching and blocking with many variants of the game on offer!	£15.00 (£12 for discounted schools)	10.00am2:00pm Ages 4 to 6 Ages 7 to 10 Ages 11+

WRAP-AROUND CARE PACKAGE & HOT MEALS PROVISION

We also provide extended hours for your children. Each hour is £3.00 in cost and if booking please remember to let us know what hours you would like. The main coaching will take place between the hours of 10am to 2pm as usual but we also offer a 9am to 10am slot as well as a 2pm to 3pm slot. Each of those hours will be designated "FREE PLAY" where children will be allowed to have a go at activities of their own choice under the supervision of our coaches. We can also provide HOT MEALS for your child. The meals, which cost £5.00 per child are prepared on site and comply with School health and nutritional standards. If requiring a hot meal please remember to let us know of any allergy and dietary requirements. A full menu for the week will be available on request.

Victoria School Nursery, Infant and Junior Term Dates 2023/2024

Autumn Term 2023

Starts: Tuesday 5th September 2023

Half Term: Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2023

Ends: Tuesday 19th December 2023

Spring Term 2024

Starts: Wednesday 3rd January 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th - Friday 16th February 2024

Ends: Thursday 28th March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Starts: Tuesday 16th April 2024

Half Term: Friday 24th May - Friday 31st May 2024

Ends: Friday 19th July 2024

Good Friday: 29th March Easter Sunday: 31st March Easter Monday: 1st April

May bank holiday: Monday 6th May 2024

INSET DAYS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024

INSET are determined locally Please note these may differ from Cumbria County Council term dates