Victoria Junior School - 01900 606053

Newsletter

Spring Term 2024

Week, 10



<u>U Dance</u>

Next Wednesday, some of our pupils will be taking part in the U-Dance performance at the Carnegie Theatre. This



will be alongside II other schools and we are so excited! The children have all worked very hard and we hope they enjoy the experience.

World Down Syndrome Day

Thursday 21st March is a global awareness day for Down Syndrome and on this day, we are going to be having an 'Odd Socks Day' in which pupils come to school wearing odd socks in exchange for a £1 donation. All money raised will go to Down Syndrome Association charity. This donation can be made via ParentPay. Thank you for your support.



Easter Activities

For just £3, your child can take part in:

- · Egg & Spoon Race
- · Egg Dump
- · Guess the Eggs in the Jar We also have the following competitions:
- · Design an Easter Bonnet
- Design an Egg

Children are to make these at home, please ensure your entry is in school by Wednesday 20th March for judging.
All children will take part in an Egg Hunt too! This is free of charge.

Easter Raffle - £1 per ticket.
We will be holding our
Enterprise Day on
Friday 22nd March,
where we will be
selling items made
by the pupils - there
will also be a cake stall

(4 cakes for £2) starting at 2pm. Children are to bring their money in a labelled envelope/purse. Parents are also welcome

Activities to be paid through ParentPay by Wednesday 20th March 2024

Victoria's Got Talent

Next Thursday (21st March) over 50 of our pupils are performing in Victoria's Got Talent. This will be a chance to show parents our amazing abilities throughout school. The talent show will take place at 6pm, tickets will first be given to parents with children taking part, which will be limited to two per child. Tickets are £3 each and must be bought through ParentPay. First come first served so do not delay!



Engineer Design Competition

Next week pupils will be challenged to design a product that will be entered into the "If I were an engineer" competition. We enter this every year and our pupils have been very successful in having their designs recognised.

So, get thinking of how you could make our world a better place, or how you could help someone overcome a problem.

Good luck everyone.

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

For children and young people, low-quality sleep can become a serious issue. It has been theorised that poor sleep can have a significant impact on children's brain development, affecting them for the rest of their lives. A healthy – and consistent – sleeping pattern, therefore, is incredibly important for children and young people's wellbeing.

With the stresses and distractions that can present themselves to youngsters, it can be tricky to ensure they're in the best mindset to wind down in the evenings for the rejuvenating rest that they need. The right approach, however, can give them a better chance of cultivating a healthy sleeping pattern. This guide has some practical tips on helping them to achieve exactly that

Guide at the end of the newsletter

<u>Attendance</u>



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.

Pupil Achievements

Robert from Year 5 had a very busy weekend, he competed in Crufts 2024!

There was over 24,000 dogs and 170,000 people in attendance over the four-day competition.

Not only did he perform in front of over 400 people, he only went and won 4th place in the Young Kennel Club! What a fantastic achievement, such an amazing experience!





Well done to Charlie in Year 4 for receiving a Headteachers Award for 'Outstanding Handwriting'.



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

This week Team Bassenthwaite have been very busy with all areas of their learning. As scientists we have been continuing our focus on magnets and looking at everyday objects that are magnetic and the properties of magnets.

As mathematicians we have rounded off our subtraction focus and are now focusing on using bar models to support our addition and subtraction.

As writers we have started to plan our own sets of instructions. We have been using visual plans to motivate our thinking; labelling them with all the key words we need to use before beginning to for

sentences. We will use our plans next week
to build and write our own instructions.
As historians we have been focusing on
technology and telephones and how they
have changed over time.

This week we also had our second rainbow pencil winner! Katie now has her rainbow writers licence too! We also won the attendance award for last week!

Well done Team! Keep up the super work; nearly another term in. Time flies when we're having fun!



Team Buttermere

As writers, we have been publishing our poems about waterfalls and fireworks. We have been using shape, size, alliterations, onomatopoeia and repetition to add more effect in our poetry writing. From this learning in English, we have moved onto non-fiction texts, we have been identifying structure and facts.

In our grammar lesson this week, we have been focusing on 'sentence practicing' where we have been looking at how to form our sentences correctly to make sure our writing is consistent. In VIPERS, we have continued reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes where we meet a range of characters and identify new phases of the story. We have concentrated on answering questions consisting of vocabulary, explanation, inference and retrieval.

As mathematicians, we have been learning how to tell the time, measuring time in seconds and minutes. We have continued to work really hard on our mathematical understanding by using clocks to help us identify and match a digital clock. In RE, we have been focusing on the Easter story and we have been learning the importance of sharing and giving. In French, we have been concentrating on how to pronounce meal times, foods and drinks. We have used our collaboration skills to practice phrases with our peers. As artists, we have been learning how to draw and create models and structures. As scientists, we have been exploring the properties of magnets and everyday objects that are magnetic. We performed an experiment which consisted of a range of objects to test whether they were magnetic or not and why.

As historians, we have been identifying Victorian utensils that were used in kitchens and other parts of homes in that era. We used our retrieval skills to think back to our trip to the Helena Thompson Museum where we got to hold and identify a range of Victorian household items such as a mangle.

Well done to all parents and children who have brought in wellies, rocks and sticks for

our school garden, we will be completing our designs next week! Fantastic effort this week team Buttermere, keep up the great work!



Team Crummock

As writers this week, we have completed our poetry chapter by writing a poem about either a waterfall or a firework. We used interesting and varied vocabulary to describe our chosen topic and used different ways to write specific words to add effect. We have also begun to focus our learning on explanation texts, by discovering what they are and why we use them.

As mathematicians this week, we have continued our chapter on time. We have learnt about the difference between AM and PM and then converted these times to the 24-hour clock.

In PE this week, we have been completing various challenges with the intention of developing our teamwork, being inclusive of others, having the confidence to share our ideas and reflecting on a tactic and making changes where necessary.

As artists this week, the intent of our lessons was to join 2D shapes together to make a 3D structure. We did this using just card and some of the models produced were

brilliant. As scientists this week, we are deepening our understanding of forces and magnets by exploring the properties of magnets and everyday objects that are magnetic.



Team Derwentwater

In literacy, our students have been actively participating in acting out playscripts and learning how to effectively use stage directions to enhance their performances. As mathematicians, the focus has been on simplifying fractions, helping our students strengthen their understanding of this fundamental concept.

In DT, our students have been busy planning, making, and evaluating their own fruit smoothies, combining creativity and practical skills in their projects.

As scientists, the students have been exploring the important issue of water pollution and discussing ways in which we can work together to prevent it.

In geography, our focus has been on deserts, examining the main features of these unique landscapes and the conditions that sustain them.



Team Coniston

Welcome to this week's Team Coniston news.

On Monday afternoon Team Coniston continued with their online safety lessons, this week using their knowledge of what they have learned to make a celebrity profile.

On Tuesday, 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 continued with the new chapter in our Maths No Problem work books, called Further Multiplication and division. This week we have been multiplying 2-digit numbers by 1-digit numbers but this time we have renamed columns (carrying tens).

Knowing our times tables has really helped with these. In the Mastering Number lessons, we have continued to improve our times table knowledge.

In our English lessons Team Coniston have again been learning some new spellings - this week looking at contraction words, that

is words shortened with an apostrophe. We also wrote an explanation piece of writing. In our new science unit called Living things and their habitats - Conservation, we talked about deforestation and what we can do help the planet.

In our RE lessons we have started to learn about Christianity and forgiveness and also this week we have started to rehearse for the Easter Service which year 4 are leading. 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

This week Loweswater have been writing speeches, solving fraction problems, researching deserts, learning about water conservation and practicing for the Easter service! We had our first whole year group rehearsal for the Easter service this week. All of the readers put great effort into read aloud in front of their classmates and learning how to say some very tricky words. We are looking forward to the service on the 26th.

As mathematicians this week we have been persevering with our fractions work. This time we have been learning how to simplify mixed numbers and improper fractions - not an easy thing to do! We are impressed by how well the students have persevered with this tricky topic and have used their teamwork to help them solve the problems. In literacy this week we have been writing a scene for a play script. We have learned about how to include stage directions and even wrote a short speech for one of our characters.

As scientists this week we have been learning about water pollution and conservation. We looked back in our books to the water workshop we did and reminded ourselves of what we learned. We also reminded ourselves of the water cycle. This was then linked to our new learning where we explored different ways water is polluted and how people sometimes waste water. We then thought about the solution to these problems.

In geography this week we have been learning about the features of a desert. We explored the climate, the environment and how different plants and animals are adapted to live there.

In French this week have been practicing the language we have learnt so far on language nut and have been learning how to say when we complete different activities.









Team Ullswater

Team Ullswater have been working very well this week, focusing on lots of new skills in History, Maths and as Writers.

As mathematicians, we have begun to develop our understanding of Geometry and angles using protractors to measure different sized angles. Our maths vocabulary is developing even more, being able to identify the different types of angles and what their name alone can tell us.

As writers, we are using our research skills and inferring information from our Anthologies to be able to write all about Jeremy Strong. He was such an interesting man and influential writer that children in Ullswater are beginning to use his style in their own!

Our spellings have been improving greatly this half term, the vocabulary used in our class is always very impressive and the competitive side to our morning spelling practise is really giving everyone motivation to get even more correct each day.

As historians, we are learning about the Slave Trade and how this developed, how it

must have felt for people involved and what the effects of this was on the world. For such a difficult topic, I am very impressed with how mature and considerate everyone is, asking lots of questions and wondering why things happened.

We have been focusing this week on Online Learning lessons, identifying how to be safe and how we could represent ourselves online. There has been lots of discussion and many talking points about online safety that we will continue with over the next few weeks.

As always, there has been lots of creativity in class this week with all sorts of exciting plans for our Easter Enterprise day. I love seeing the imagination of our children come to life through colour, design and creation. We look forward to showing you all that we have made too.



Team Grasmere

Another great week for Team Grasmere! As mathematicians, we have been learning how to compare fractions. We have learnt that if the denominators are different then we have to find a common denominator and then find the equivalent fraction, in order to be able to compare the fractions.

As a writer, we have been exploring the poem 'The Rabbit in the mixer survives'. We have created a storyboard of the poem; the intent of the lesson was to understand the plot and key ideas of the poem and explore these further using drama. As a scientist, we have been exploring how light travels. The intent of the lesson was to understand that light appears to travel in straight lines and to learn how to draw scientific diagrams that help to support what we have found out.

In PSHE, we have been discussing our dreams for the world. The intent of the lesson was to identify problems in the world that concern us and to recognise the emotions we experience when we consider people in the world who are suffering or living in difficult situations.

In DT, we have been continuing with our playground structures. This week we have been reflecting and thinking about how we can strengthen our structure using a range of different materials.

Well done Team Grasmere, keep up the great work!









Team Ennerdale

Ennerdale have had another brilliant week!
As writers, we have now completed our mini episode of Ramona's journey down the mountain. We had lots of fun reading them!
As mathematicians, we have now finished learning about decimals and are moving onto learning about percentages.

On Thursday, the pupils enjoyed an indoor PE session with Chris focusing on teamwork and communication.

In French, we learnt how to recognise and pronounce 'gn' and 'n'.

York Residential information will come home today. Please ensure you complete the Form C and return to school asap.

Well done to all the pupils who are reading more at home and asking parents to sign their reading records - we really appreciate this. Well done to Sophie who was the Reading Heroes Competition winner AND our Class Dojo Draw winner!



Team Thirlmere

It's been a busy week for Team Thirlmere! This week in English, we have been spending some more time writing our Biographies. On Monday, we wrote rough drafts of our biographies. On Tuesday, we re-drafted after a bit more research. Today, we have gone through our biographies with a green pen to make corrections and add some new additions and we are now writing it up neat. Some children have been given new handwriting pens for their excellent handwriting, this is something that other children can work towards in order to improve their handwriting.

As mathematicians, we have started a new chapter on Algebra, we have focused on finding patterns this week and started to look at writing algebraic expressions.

Each afternoon this week. Thirlmere have had their intensive swimming sessions. We have seen some good improvements with their swimming and some children have even changed groups this week.

On Thursday, the class enjoyed some water safety sessions, they thoroughly enjoyed it. This week we have also made a start on the Spring assessments; Team Thirlmere have been working very hard this week. Keep up the good work Team Thirlmere!



Team Windermere

Windermere have been writing biographies this week. Everyone was given the opportunity to write about a well-known individual, research their life and start drafting a piece of writing. Pupils wrote three different versions (drafts) so that they could learn more about the editing process of writing. There are some excellent pieces of work including biographies of Winston Churchill, Taylor Swift, Queen Elizabeth II, Beyoncé, Michael Jackson and Melanie Martinez.

In Maths, we have been learning about patterns and algebra, beginning to use algebraic expressions and writing rules for worded problems.

We have continued our work on 'Light' in science, remembering that light travels in a straight line, we have been learning about how a periscope works using light and reflection.

Music, PE and Ukulele lessons have continued as normal - pupils are beginning to play songs as an ensemble reading notation accurately.

Another busy week in Windermere.



March

 15^{th} - Year 3 Phunky Foods session

15th - Bowling competition

19th - Phunky Foods session

20th - U-Dance

20th - Sign Language live lesson

21st - World Down Syndrome Day - Odd

Socks Day £1 donation

21st – Victoria's Got Talent 6pm

22nd - Easter Activities & Enterprise Day

25th - Easter Raffle

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

<u>April</u>

16th - Return to school

20th - Carnegie Singers concert

22nd - Reverend Powell assemblies

 23^{rd} - 25^{th} - Year 3 felt making

25th - Year 4 Phunky Foods session

29th & 30th - Year 5 Phunky Foods session

<u>May</u>

Ist - 3rd - Year 4 Castlehead Residential

2nd - Year 4 Phunky Foods session

6th - Bank Holiday - School Closed

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

13th - 16th - Year 6 SATS Week

15th - 17th - Year 5 York Residential

20th - 23rd - Year 6 London Residential

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

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators DEVELOPING HEALTHY SLEEP PATTERNS

Quality sleep is paramount for wellbeing as it impacts our cognitive function, emotional balance and overall health. A World Health Organisation study highlighted that 44% of young people reported difficulty sleeping – potentially affecting their mood, concentration and immune system.

Our guide offers expert tips for helping children to sleep more healthily.

MINDFUL TECH



Encourage a balanced approach to screen time. While phones, laptops, tablets and so on can serve as a helpful means of stress relief, it's advisable to minimise their use right before bed. These devices can keep the mind racing long after they're switched off, impacting how easily and how well a person can sleep.

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2 EFFECTIVE SLEEP PRACTICES



Offer practical advice on reinforcing certain habits that have a positive influence on sleeping patterns. Children could start keeping a diary which they add to each evening, for example or they could use up excess energy by exercising during the day.

HYDRATION HABITS



Underline the importance of drinking plenty of water throughout the day, while limiting drinks close to bedtime to prevent disruptions during the night. It's a lot harder to switch off if you keep needing to get out of bed for the toilet. Avoiding caffeinated drinks later in the day also allows the body and brain to slow down naturally, without any chemicals firing them back up.

CONSISTENT BEDTIME SCHEDULE

Assist children in developing consistent bedtime routines that tell the body it's time to wind down, promoting a more relaxed state. Establish specific activities for young ones right before going to bed – such as brushing their teeth – to set up an association between that action and falling asleep.

OPTIMAL SLEEP ENVIRONMENT



Ensure that the bedroom is comfortable, dark and free from distractions, fostering an ideal space for quality rest. The room's temperature should also be suitable for sleeping – that is, not too hot and not too cold – while rooms should be kept as tidy and free of clutter as possible.

Meet Our Expert







The National College

6 RELAXING EVENING

Recommend activities that have a calming effect on the mind – such as reading or gentle stretching – in the lead up to bedtime, to prepare the mind for a peaceful night's sleep. Doing something quiet, relaxing and low in

PRIORITISING ADEQUATE SLEEP



Emphasise the crucial role of sleep in maintaining physical and emotional wellbeing. It's especially important to sustain a healthy sleep pattern during challenging and intensive periods in our lives: during the exam season for children and young people, for instance.

NUTRITIONAL BALANCE



9 PARENTAL SUPPORT



Parents and carers, of course, are uniquely situated to support their children in establishing and maintaining healthy sleeping habits. Parents can review their own sleep habits (incorporating anything from this list that they don't do already) to model a balanced bedtime routine and reinforce the importance of self-care.

MILITARY SLEEP METHOD

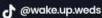


Look up "the military sleep method"; it's a technique for falling asleep quickly, which incorporates deep broathing exercises. You could encourage children to try it or even use it yourself. While it can take a good deal of practice to perfect, eventually it will start to feel natural – and the results are often extremely impressivel

















You are invited to the launch of

Whitehaven Family Hub

Thursday 11 April, 11am - 3pm

(Formally the old Barclays Bank) 1 Strand Street, Whitehaven, CA28 7DL

Come along to find out more about the Whitehaven Family Hub and the exciting new service that will be available for local families and children.

Enjoy family activities, service information, freebies and much more.











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