



Newsletter

Lowther Endowed School & Little VIPs Day Care
Monday, 29th June 2026



Our school values: 'Achieving, Caring, Enjoying'

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

As we are reaching the end of this academic year, I would like to take a moment to thank you all for your continued support and to share just how proud I am of our entire school community.

This newsletter marks the final one of the year – and what a year it has been! My first year as permanent headteacher has been both exciting and rewarding. We have introduced a number of changes across the school, and I completely recognise that change can sometimes feel challenging. However, thanks to the resilience, openness and teamwork of our staff, children and families, these changes have been embraced and have proven highly successful.

One of the highlights of the year has been the success of our Little VIPs provision. We were delighted to welcome Ofsted, and I am thrilled to say that it was a very positive experience. I cannot wait to share the final report with you all – it truly reflects the dedication and care that our youngest learners receive every day.

To our wonderful children – thank you. Your smiling faces, enthusiasm for learning and kindness towards one another are what make our school such a special place. You rise to challenges, support each other, and bring joy into our classrooms every day. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of you.

We have also seen great success with our new class structure this year. It has enabled us to better support learning, foster strong relationships and ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive. It has been wonderful to see the positive impact this has had across the school.

This year, we also say goodbye to some valued members of staff. We said farewell earlier in the year to Mrs Thomas & Mrs Gill from school and Hayley G & Abi from nursery, and at the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Douthwaite. I would like to thank them all sincerely for their hard work, commitment and the positive difference they have made to the children and our school community. They will be greatly missed, and we wish them every success and happiness in the future.

Following a successful interview process earlier today, we are delighted to announce that Mrs Jo Steadman has been appointed as the part-time teacher alongside Ms Laura Thwaites for Badgers Class from September 2026. Mrs Steadman brings a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and a commitment to providing high-quality learning experiences for our children.

As we look ahead to the 2026–2027 academic year, there is so much to be excited about. We will officially become Lowther Endowed School and Nursery, complete with a new logo that reflects our identity and vision for the future. Alongside this, we have a fantastic range of opportunities planned, including:

- Participation in the Westmorland Show, including our older pre-school children
- Swimming provision for the entire school, including our older pre-school children
- A residential visit to Edinburgh
- A possible trip to the Houses of Parliament, London
- Forest School days with Dave Corrie, giving our children even more opportunities to learn outdoors
- Ernest Cook Trust farm visits
- and lots more!

These experiences will enrich our curriculum and create lasting memories for our pupils.

Finally, thank you once again to all of our families for your support over the past year. Working together, we continue to build a school community we can all be proud of.

I wish you all a happy, restful and safe summer break.

Best Wishes, Michelle Clark – Headteacher



Celebrations:



Little VIPs Ofsted inspection – we are pleased to share that we have successfully completed our Ofsted inspection on Wednesday, 17th June, and it was a very positive experience for the nursery.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, encouragement and kind words. It means a great deal to our staff and plays a vital role in the success of our school and nursery community.

Our children were, as always, a credit to the nursery. Their confidence, behaviour and enthusiasm for learning were evident throughout the inspection and were commented on very positively.

At this stage, we are not able to share the report card gradings or detailed feedback. However, we are incredibly excited about how the inspection went and are very much looking forward to the report being published shortly.

Water safety – on Wednesday, 17th June we were joined by a crew from Penrith Fire Station to talk to the children about water safety. The pre-school and reception children had a wonderful time exploring the appliance whilst Years 1 & 2 received their water safety talk. Unfortunately, the crew had to take an emergency call during the visit. However, this was much to the delight of the children as the fire engine left the school playground with blue lights flashing and sirens blaring! We hope to re-arrange another date for the crew to return to speak to Badgers class.



Heaves Farm – on Tuesday, 23rd June alongside around 800 other children, Badgers class spent the day exploring all things farming — learning where our food comes from, watching incredibly clever sheep dogs at work, being sorted as lambs, seeing sheep shearing up close and even meeting a calf that was only a few hours old!

Ernest Cook Trust Day – on Tuesday, 23rd June Hedgehogs class had a great day at the Ernest Cook Trust farm learning about habitats. They investigated dry-stoning walling, woodland and meadows habitats. They also got to meet the new goats and caught up with Sparkle, the lamb we met when we were last on the farm.



Year 5 & 6 Residential - What an unforgettable adventure for our Year 5 & 6 children at Crag Pond! It was an absolute privilege to spend this special time with such an amazing group of children. Watching them challenge themselves, support one another and embrace every opportunity has been a joy, and we couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them.

Throughout the residential, the children took part in exciting activities including canoeing, paddle boarding and tree climbing. They stepped outside their comfort zones with courage and determination, showing resilience, teamwork and a willingness to try something new.

Forthcoming Events:

Discovery Day at UCC – on Thursday, 2nd July Year 6 will have the opportunity to visit UCC for the day. You should have received details from UCC regarding catching the bus, booking lunches etc.



Move-up Day – also on Thursday, 2nd July the rest of the school will move-up to their new year groups. The current Year 2s will spend the day with Ms Thwaites in Badgers and our September Reception children will spend the day with Miss Booth in Hedgehogs.

Forest Schools – on Thursday, 2nd and Friday, 3rd July the whole school will be taking part in forest school sessions with Dave Corrie. Please ensure that your child(ren) wears old clothes to school that you do not mind getting dirty. They should also bring in a pair of wellies and water proofs (in a separate bag). The sessions are as follows:



- AM Thursday 2nd July – current Year 4 & 5
- PM Thursday 2nd July – current Years 2 & 3
- AM Friday 3rd July – current Year 6
- PM Friday 3rd July – Hedgehogs class (*the current Year 2s will spend the afternoon in Badgers class for extra KS2 transition time*)



September Intake Parent Meeting - Miss Booth and Mrs Clark are looking forward to welcoming our September 2026 Reception parents and carers to our meeting on Monday, 6th July at 3.45pm. We cannot wait to meet you and share what is ahead!



Sports & Enterprise Day Invitation

– we are excited to invite all families and friends to our Sports Day on Wednesday, 8th July, starting at 1:15pm.



The children are currently busy creating items to sell at Sports Afternoon. The money raised by each class will be used to purchase wet-play resources or board games for their classroom, with the children choosing how the funds are spent. So please remember to bring some cash along to support them!



Friends of Lowther School & Little VIPs will kindly be providing refreshments, and we would be very grateful for any cake donations to support the event.

Shap Swimming Gala - on Friday, 10th July, Mrs Clark will accompany a selection of pupils (who will receive a letter home) to represent our school at the Shap Swimming Gala. We will be travelling by car,



departing school at 9.00am and returning in time for lunch.



Lowther Castle Outdoor Learning Day – Badgers class have been invited to join other schools at Lowther Castle on Friday, 10th July for a day of diving into vital topics from nature friendly farming and food production to ecology and crucial conservation efforts.

The children will be walking to Lowther Castle, leaving at 9am and returning to school before the end of the day. Ms Thwaites and Mrs Steadman will accompany the children. If there are parents/carers/grandparents that are able to help on the day walking the children to and from Lowther Castle, please let Mrs Price know in the office.

A packed lunch is required either from home or order via SchoolMoney.

The children are to wear school PE kit for the day with suitable footwear (trainers or walking shoes). They should bring in a **rucksack** their packed lunch, refillable water bottle, waterproofs (if it is forecast to rain) and sunhat and sunscreen.



Wheelchair Basketball – on Monday, 13th July the whole school and pre-schooler children will have the opportunity to take part in a wheelchair basketball session with formal GB Para-Olympian Nat Patterson.

Please could the children wear PE kit on this day.

Year 6 Leavers' Assembly – we warmly invite all families and friends to join us for our Year 6 Leavers'



Assembly on Wednesday, 15th July at 2:00pm in the school hall.

Notices:



FoLS - want to make a difference in our children's school and nursery life? Friends of Lowther School (FOLS) is a group of parents working together to support our school and nursery and create wonderful opportunities for every child.

End of Term – please note that school finishes at 2.00pm on Friday, 17th July and that there is **NO** after school club.



School uniform swap shop



Uniform Swap Shop – we are pleased to offer a School Uniform Swap Shop. If you have school uniform items at home that your child has outgrown but are still in good condition, please send them into school washed and ironed. These items will be made available to other families who may need the next size up or a replacement.

Before buying new, why not take a look at what is available? You might find just what you need!

Head Lice - we have had reports of head lice in school. Therefore, we would like to remind parents and carers to regularly check their child's hair for head lice (nits). These small insects are common in school settings and spread easily through close contact. While they are not a sign of poor hygiene, they can cause itching and discomfort if left untreated. If you do find head lice, we encourage prompt treatment to help prevent them from spreading further. Regular combing with a fine-toothed nit comb and following recommended treatments can be very effective. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us keep our school community healthy and comfortable.

Holiday Activities & Food Programme (HAF) - attached

are poster from Westmorland and Furness regarding the summer term HAF programme.







Diary Dates

Date	Time	Who?	What?	Learning Objective
Summer 2 Term				
Every Tuesday	1.00pm – 1.25pm	Whole School	Church in the Barn Assembly	RE: To learn about Christian and world views
Tuesday, 02.06.26 – every Tuesday until end of Summer	3.30pm – 4.30pm	Whole School	ASC Cricket with Adam	
Every Thursday, 04.06.26 until Summer term	1.30pm – 2.15pm	Badgers	Mini Steel Pan	Music: To learn how to play a percussion instrument
Thursday, 02.07.26	All day	Whole School	Move up Day	
Thursday, 02.07.26	All day	Whole School	Forest School with Dave Corrie	PSHE/PE: To participate in OAA; to work together as a team; to learn about learning beyond the classroom
Friday, 03.07.26				
Monday, 06.07.26	3.45pm – 4.45pm	New Starters	Parents information meeting for starting school in September 2026	
Wednesday, 08.07.26	1.15pm – 3.30pm	Whole School	Sports and Enterprise Day	
Friday, 10.07.26	AM	Selected Pupils	Shap Swimming Gala	
Friday, 10.07.26	All day	Badgers Class	Countryside Learning at Lowther Castle	PSHE/Science: To continue to learn why agriculture, the countryside, and nature are so vital to all our lives
Friday, 10.07.26	--	Parents & Carers	End of Year Reports	
Monday, 13.07.26	All Day	Whole School	Wheelchair basketball	
Wednesday, 15.07.26	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Whole School	Leavers Assembly	
Friday, 17.07.26	2.00pm	Whole School	Break up for Summer holidays	NO after School Club
Autumn 1 Term				
Tuesday, 01.09.26	All day	Staff	Inset	
Wednesday, 02.09.26	8.55am	Whole School	Start of Autumn term 2026	





Lowther Celebration of Nature

Hosted by **Cumbria Connect & Lowther Castle & Gardens**

Saturday 4th July 2026 10am - 5pm

Lowther Castle - Setterah Park Farm - Low Gardens Bridge

Join us for a free event celebrating nature across the Lowther Estate & The Castle & Gardens. Events include.....

Bioblitz across the Estate & Gardens - See what you can find!

Drop-in Activities:

- ✿ Nature Interest Table
- ✿ The Beaver Trust
- ✿ Watch The Pond Dipping
- ✿ Glow Worm Project
- ✿ Bug Hunting In Our Haystacks
- ✿ Moth Trap Reveal
- ✿ Nature Crafts & Games
- ✿ Red Squirrel & Bird Watching

Bookable Activities:

- ✿ Electric Cycle Safari
- ✿ Beavers & Becks Walk
- ✿ Into The Woods Walk
- ✿ Wetland Wildlife Hide
- ✿ Bat Walk At Dusk Walk (9.30pm)



Find out more and book tickets at www.lowthercastle.org

Entrance to the gardens will be required for events within the castle garden.



YOU'RE INVITED!
FAMILIES, JOIN US FOR
SPORTS DAY!



LOWTHER ENDOWED SCHOOL
& LITTLE VIPS DAY CARE



WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY
FROM 1.15PM



**FUN, GAMES,
TEAM SPIRIT
& LOTS OF
SMILES!**



**CLASS ENTERPRISE
STALLS**

Come along and support
our classes as they sell
their amazing items!



REFRESHMENTS

Provided by
Friends of Lowther
Endowed School
and VIPs



**LET'S COME TOGETHER TO CHEER,
SUPPORT AND ENJOY A FANTASTIC AFTERNOON!**

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

We Want Your Feedback!

Did you have issues accessing HAF? Tell us about it so we can help!!

We have created a HAF Access Barriers Questionnaire for parents and carers who may have experienced difficulties accessing Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programmes. The aim is to gather feedback to help improve the service, and the responses are **completely anonymous**.

Scan the QR code to complete the short survey.

Thank you for helping us grow and improve HAF for everyone!





Westmorland
& Furness
Council

westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

Does your child receive means-tested Free School Meals?

Did you know they can enjoy free, fun-packed activities and nutritious meals during the Easter, Summer, and Winter holidays through the HAF Programme? For more information, please visit our website by scanning the QR Code below.

What is the HAF Programme?

Funded by the Department for Education (DfE), the HAF Programme supports eligible children and families during school holidays. Holidays can be tough — HAF steps in with free, enriching activities, A healthy, tasty meal every day and opportunities to learn, play, and connect with others.

Attendance:

- Up to 4 days at Easter
- 16 days in Summer
- Up to 4 days in Winter

Note: The programme does not run during half-term holidays.

To check eligibility and get a booking code, please email:
HAF@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Include:

- Child(ren)'s full names
- Dates of birth
- Parent/guardian name and contact details

