

Lowther Endowed School & Little VIPs Day Care
Friday, 6th November 2026

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

What a busy, exciting and memorable first half of the autumn term we have had! There has been so much happening both in and out of the classroom, with wonderful opportunities for our children to learn new skills, explore the world around them, get creative and work together as a school community. We have loved seeing the enthusiasm, curiosity and pride with which the children have approached each experience, and we are so grateful for the continued support of our families and friends.

Learning in the Classroom - there has been lots of exciting learning taking place across our classrooms!





Hedgehogs have been discovering how transport has changed through the ages, exploring the different ways people and goods have travelled over time. They have also been developing their digital skills by designing and creating 3D models on their laptops before bringing their designs to life using the printer. In English, the children have enjoyed writing their own versions of *A Squash and a Squeeze*, using their imaginations to develop their own stories. Their learning has extended into the arts, too, as they have been exploring percussion instruments with Mrs Harper and enjoying dance sessions with Mrs Pinkerton.



Badgers have been immersed in *The Iron Man* by Ted Hughes, which has provided wonderful inspiration for their writing. The children have been developing their ideas and using the story to inspire their own creative work. In Geography, they have been exploring our topic 'Keen to be Green', thinking carefully about how we can look after our planet and make more environmentally friendly choices. This has inspired them to design their own recycled robots, and they are currently busy bringing these imaginative creations to life! In Music, the children have been learning to play handbells with Mrs Harper, while their sessions with Mrs Pinkerton have introduced them to traditional British dances.

It is wonderful to see the children making connections across their learning, developing new skills and taking such pride in their work.



A Busy Autumn 1 Beyond the Classroom - our autumn term got off to a fantastic start with our whole-school trip to the Westmorland County Show on 10th September, giving the children a wonderful opportunity to explore, discover and experience the excitement of this much-loved local event. On 18th September, our Badgers class enjoyed an adventure of their own, walking up Murton Pike and embracing the challenge of being outdoors together.

We were delighted to welcome families and friends to our Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on 25th September, bringing our community together for a wonderful cause. The children have also been busy getting creative, producing beautiful Harvest artwork with Andi Taylor. This creativity continued as we prepared for our special Harvest Lunch on 5th October, welcoming families and friends to join us for a delicious meal in support of Penrith Food Bank. It was a lovely opportunity to celebrate the harvest, share food and reflect on the importance of kindness, generosity and looking after others.



There have been plenty of opportunities for the children to showcase their talents and celebrate their learning, too. We have been busy designing and creating Christmas cards for Tim Farron's Christmas card competition, while some of our pupils took part in EVSP badminton on 8th October, demonstrating their sporting skills, teamwork and determination. On 16th October, we welcomed families into school to celebrate our learning together, sharing the children's achievements and giving everyone a glimpse of the wonderful things happening in our classrooms. Our parents' evenings on 21st and 22nd October were another valuable opportunity to celebrate progress, share successes and work together to support each child's learning journey.

And We are Already Busy in Autumn 2! – we have not slowed down since returning for the new half-term! We have already been creating striking poppy artwork with Andi Taylor as we begin to reflect on Remembrance, and the children have enjoyed a fantastic forest school session with Dave Corrie, making the most of the outdoors and all the opportunities it provides for exploration, discovery and learning. We have also had a number of parents and carers join us on Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th November for a fundamentals workshop.

As we look ahead to the rest of the term, there is still plenty to look forward to. We are excited to continue building on all the wonderful learning and experiences from Autumn 1, making new memories and enjoying the many opportunities that school life brings.

Thank you, as always, for your continued encouragement, involvement and support. Our school is such a special place because of the strength of our community, and it is a joy to see our children thriving through the experiences we share together.

If you have any concerns or would like to discuss anything with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch. You are always welcome to speak with Michelle Clark, our Headteacher, a member of staff or a member of our governing body. We are always happy to listen and work together to support our school community.

Warmest wishes,

Everyone at Lowther Endowed School and Little VIPs!

Forthcoming Events

Diary Dates – Please Make a Note! - due to staff absences and the number of events already planned between now and Christmas, we have had to carefully review our commitments and prioritise the events we are able to support. As a result, we have made the difficult decision to withdraw from attending some of our previously published events. Whilst we appreciate this will be disappointing, we hope you will understand that this decision has not been taken lightly and is necessary to ensure we can manage our resources effectively and give our full attention to the events and commitments already in the calendar.

Please take a moment to look through these dates and make a note of them in your calendars. We know that there is a lot to remember during the school year, so we hope having these dates together will help you plan ahead.

Please note that additional information about events, trips and activities will be sent home in letters as the relevant dates approach.

Wildflower Planting – on the afternoon of Monday 9th November, the whole school will be walking to Hawthorn Ash Gardens, Hackthorpe, to help plant wildflower plugs alongside The Cumbria Wildlife Trust and members of the local community.



Please ensure that all children come to school on Monday wearing old clothes that you do not mind getting muddy or wet. They will also need wellies, waterproof jacket and trousers, as we will be outdoors whatever the weather. If they have garden gloves at home, please can these be sent it too!

If your child does not have wellies or waterproof clothing, please let their class teacher know so we can sort some from the school's waterproofs.

Ernest Cook Trust Day – on Tuesday, 10th November (Hedgehogs class) and Tuesday, 17th November (Badger class) will be travelling the Low Beckside Farm, Mungrisdale to work with the Ernest Cook Trust leaders. A letter was sent home with further details on Tuesday, 3rd November.

EVSP Basic Moves – We will be taking Hedgehogs class to the EVSP Basic Moves festival at Penrith Leisure Centre School on Thursday, 12th November. The children are to wear their PE kit to school.

Children in Need - our Young Governors have been busy making an exciting plan! On Friday 13th November, we will be celebrating Children in Need by having a special 'Break the Rules' Day! This is a chance for children to have some fun and enjoy a few special privileges, all while raising money for this wonderful cause. The Young Governors are looking forward to sharing more details about which rules can be broken for the day, so get ready for a little bit of fun, laughter and fundraising for Children in Need!

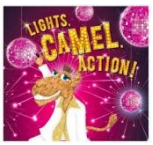
Stainmore Railway Company - as part of Hedgehog's topic work on transport, they will be visiting the Stainmore Railway in Kirkby Stephen on Monday 16th November. A letter with further details was sent out on Monday 2nd November.

St Andrews Christmas Concert – we are delighted to share that Badgers Class will be singing at the St Andrews Christmas Concert on Monday 7th December!



It is sure to be a lovely festive occasion, and we cannot wait for the children to share their singing with you!

Tickets are now on sale – please see attached below for information on purchasing tickets. Please remember that all tickets must be purchased in advance, as tickets will **not** be available to purchase on the day of the event.



Whole-School Christmas Play – *Lights Camel Action!* - excitement is already building for our whole-school Christmas play, "*Lights Camel Action!*", which will take place on Monday 14th December at 6pm in the Village Hall. Both Hedgehogs and Badgers classes will be involved, and we are looking forward to bringing everyone together for what promises to be a wonderful festive performance. Families and friends are warmly invited to join us!

Badgers class have now been given their parts and lines to learn. We would really appreciate your

support in helping the children practice their lines at home as much as possible. Regular practice will help them grow in confidence, remember their words and feel ready to shine on stage.

Hedgehogs class will be busy learning a number of dance routines and songs to help bring our Christmas story to life. We are sure they will enjoy learning the music and movements and sharing their enthusiasm during the performance!

We will shortly be sharing more information with parents and carers about costumes and how you can help us get everyone ready for the big performance.

Notices



Important Reminder: School Start Time and Attendance - following Mrs Clark's meeting with the Westmorland and Furness Attendance Officer before half term, we would like to remind all parents and carers that the school day starts at **8.55am.** Please ensure that children arrive at school on time and are ready to begin their learning promptly.

We completely understand that, for a variety of reasons, mornings do not always go to plan and occasionally families may be late. However, repeated lateness can have an impact on children's learning and may lead to a review meeting with the Headteacher, as advised by the Attendance Officer.

Arriving on time helps children settle into the school day, take part in morning routines and make the most of every learning opportunity.



Healthy Breaktime Snacks - our Young Governors met with Mrs Clark before half-term and would like classes to bring healthy snacks for both morning and afternoon breaktimes. Healthy snacks help us stay energised, concentrate on our learning and keep us ready for the busy school day.

Some examples of suitable healthy snacks include:

- Fresh fruit, such as apples, bananas, grapes or berries.
- Chopped vegetables, such as carrots, cucumber or peppers.
- Plain breadsticks or crackers.
- Rice cakes.
- Plain oatcakes.

Please remember that crisps, chocolate, sweets, biscuits and sugary treats are not considered healthy breaktime snacks and should not be brought into school for breaktimes.

We would also like to remind everyone that we are an allergy-aware school. To help keep all our children safe, no nut products are to be brought into school. This includes Nutella and any other foods containing nuts.

SchoolMoney - please remember to use SchoolMoney to book the following where required:

- School dinners
- Breakfast Club
- After School Club

Please ensure bookings are made in advance so that we can plan appropriately and make sure your child has a place.

If you require your child(ren) in after school club 'on the day' please ensure you call and leave a message on the school answer phone. We cannot guarantee that emails will be read before 3:30pm.

Friends of Lowther Endowed School & Little VIPs - our Friends of Lowther Endowed School and Little VIPS are already looking ahead to Christmas!

We are looking for parents and grandparents who would be willing to volunteer and help at our Christmas Fair on Friday 4th December.

Whether you can spare a little time to help with preparations, run a stall or support us on the day, we would be incredibly grateful. These events are a wonderful opportunity for our school community to come together, and the support of our families makes such a difference.

FoLS are also looking for small gift donations for the tombola.

If you are able to help, please speak to either Alice Vince, Gabriella Watkins or Katie Smith.



Are you looking for a school place? Do you have a child, who will be starting school in September 2027? - If so, why not come along to one of our Pop-in and Play sessions and discover more about our wonderful school?

This is a lovely opportunity for prospective families to come and meet us, have a look around our school and find out more about life at Lowther Endowed School and Little VIPs Day Care.

More details can be found on the attached poster**.** We would love to welcome you!



Staffing Updates – we would like to let families know that Mrs Steadman will be having an operation on 10th November and is expected to be off school for approximately three weeks. Miss Thwaites is also recovering following her operation and is expected to remain off until the beginning of December.

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Emily Keen, a highly regarded local teacher, who will be covering Badgers Class alongside Mrs Clark, Mr Calway, Mrs Hastings and Miss Tickner.

We are sure you will join us in giving Mrs Keen a warm welcome and wishing both Mrs Steadman and Miss Thwaites a smooth recovery.

An Update on Our New School Logo - we are delighted to share that we are now in the final stages of working with a graphic designer on our two proposed logo designs. Once these are finalised, we will be inviting everyone to have their say and vote for their favourite design!

We hope to share the two designs with you within the next week or so, so please keep an eye out for further updates. It is important to us that our school community has the opportunity to be involved in this exciting next step.

Our chosen design will become our official school logo from January 2027, marking the introduction of our new name, Lowther Endowed School and Nursery.

We are really looking forward to sharing the designs with you and working together to choose a logo that reflects our school, our values and our exciting future!



Christmas Care Packages – Supporting Local Families - Christmas can be a particularly challenging time for some families in our local community. As a school, we are keen to help support families who may be experiencing difficulties by connecting them with local Christmas support initiatives. We are able to make applications on behalf of families to the Salvation Army Penrith Christmas Appeal and the Christmas Care Packages initiative through Morland Westmorland Church (see below poster).

These wonderful initiatives aim to bring a little extra joy, kindness and support to families who may need it most during the festive season. If you feel that your family could benefit from this support, please get in touch with the school office in confidence. All enquiries will be treated sensitively and confidentially.



Diary Dates

Autumn 2 2026				
9th Nov	PM	Wild flower plug planting – Hawthorn Ash Wildlife Garden	All	PSHE
10th Nov	All day	Ernest Trust Cook Day	Hedgehogs	Outdoor Education/Enrichment
11th Nov	11:00am	Remembrance Service	All	History/PSHE
12th Nov	12:30pm – 3:30pm	EVSP Basic Moves	Hedgehogs	PE
13th Nov	All day	Children in Need – Break the Rules Day	All & Little VIPs	PSHE
16th Nov	All day	Stainmore Railway Company, Kirkby Stephen	Hedgehogs	History
17th Nov	All day	Ernest Trust Cook Day	Badgers	Outdoor Education/Enrichment
19th Nov	1:30pm – 3:00pm	Pop in and Play session *(Red Squirrels & Hedgehogs classroom)*	Community & Perspective families	
24th Nov	All day	NISCU Andi Taylor – Advent art workshop	All	RE/Art
26th Nov	12:30pm – 3:30pm	EVSP Tri Golf	Yr3, 4, 5 & 6	PE
4th Dec	4pm – 6.30pm	FoLS Christmas Fair	Community	
7th Dec	7pm	St Andrews Christmas Concert	Yr3, 4, 5 & 6	RE & Music
8th Dec	9.00am – 10.00am	Pyjama Drama Road Safety Workshop	Hedgehogs	PSHE
11th Dec	1:30pm – 3:00pm	Pop in and Play session *(Red Squirrels & Hedgehogs classroom)*	Community & Perspective families	
14th Dec	6:00pm – 7:00pm	Christmas play	All	RE & Drama
15th Dec	12:00pm – 13:00pm	Christmas dinner	All	PSHE
17th Dec	All day	Darlington Hippodrome – Panto	All	Drama
18th Dec	AM	Christmas parties	All	
18th Dec	1:30pm – 2:30pm	Christingle Service at school	Community	RE
18th Dec	2:30pm	Break up for Christmas holidays	All	NO after school club

Spring 1 2027				
4th Jan	All day	Inset (staff training)	Staff	
5th Jan	8:55am	Start of Spring 1 term	All	

BREAK THE RULES DAY AT SCHOOL

BBC Children in Need

FRIDAY 13TH NOVEMBER

For one day only... you can break some of the usual school rules!
Make a donation and take part in as many rule breaks as you like!

50p PER BROKEN RULE!

IDEAS FOR RULE BREAKS...

Wear non-uniform!
Dress up, wear something fun or comfy!

Crazy hair day!
Coloured hair, silly styles or hair accessories!

Wear trainers!
No school shoes today!

Wear a hat indoors!
Hats, caps, headbands – anything goes!

Bring a snack to class!
A healthy snack please!

Wear silly socks!
The brighter the better!

Wear pyjamas (or a onesie)!
Get cosy for the day!

Mismatch clothes!
Mix up your colours, patterns and styles!

Bring a teddy to school!
Have a cuddly friend with you for the day!

Wear sunglasses!
Inside or outside – your choice!

Wear a funny moustache!
Stick-on, draw on or real!

Nail varnish to school!
Paint your nails bright colours!

Face paint!
Get creative with your look!

Bring a water bottle of juice!
No plain water today!

Wear something backwards!
T-shirt, jumper or hat – any item!

Bring your favourite book!
Enjoy reading your own choice today!

Use a fun pencil case!
Bright, bold and different!

Wear something sparkly!
Sequins, glitter or anything that shines!

Wear a funny tie or bow!
The sillier the better!

Extra break time for smiling!
Because happy people help make a happier school!

SUGGESTED DONATION
50p
PER BROKEN RULE!

All money raised will go to BBC Children in Need and help make a real difference to children and young people across the UK.



Our school values: 'Achieving, Caring, Enjoying'

PENRITH SCHOOLS' MUSIC ASSOCIATION

CAROL *Festivals*



ST ANDREW'S
CHURCH
PENRITH

MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER - 7PM

featuring... Culgaith, Hunter Hall, Lowther, Penruddock, St Catherine's, Temple Sowerby QEGS & UCC

TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER - 7PM

featuring... Beaconside, Clifton, Kirkby Thore, Skelton, Yanwath, QEGS & UCC

BOOK ONLINE

www.trybooking.com/uk/HDED

ADULTS £6 CHILDREN £4

proceeds towards music in participating schools



Christmas Care Packages

Provided by the
North Westmorland Benefice
Good Neighbour Project

We know Christmas can be an expensive and hard time. This year, the Good Neighbour Project will again be providing Christmas Care Packages. Each package will have some everyday essentials as well as a few festive treats. Although it won't be a full weekly shop, we hope it helps and brings some joy.

Packages will be delivered on 21st December

To sign up for a care package, scan the QR code and fill in the form by 14th December.

For more information contact
sue@northwestmorland.church

Our school values: 'Achieving, Caring, Enjoying'


Our Whole School Christmas Play
Lights Camel Action!
Monday, 14th December
at 6pm
in the Village Hall
Families and Friends
are warmly invited to join us!