



Newsletter

Lowther Endowed School & Little VIPs Day Care
Friday, 9th January 2026

Our school values: 'Achieving, Caring, Enjoying'



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a joyful and restful Christmas. As we step into this new year, we are excited to welcome everyone back for the start of the spring term. This is a wonderful opportunity for fresh beginnings, renewed goals, and continued growth for our school community.

What's Ahead This Term

- **Academic Focus:** We will continue to build on last term's successes and strive for excellence in all areas of learning.
- **Upcoming Events:** Look out for details on parent meetings, extracurricular activities, and special events in the coming weeks.
- **Pupil Wellbeing:** Our commitment to creating a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment remains at the heart of everything we do.

Working Together

We value the partnership between home and school. Your support is essential in helping every child reach their full potential. Please ensure regular attendance and encourage positive learning habits at home.

Celebrations:

Teaching Assistant - we are pleased to announce that Mrs Steadman has been appointed as Teaching Assistant and Midday Supervisor covering Miss Tickner's maternity leave.

Great North Air Ambulance Collection – thank you to everyone who donated to the Great North Air Ambulance at our Christmas play and Christingle service. We raised £127.80.

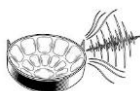


Forthcoming Events:



Gymnastics lessons – both classes will be continuing their gymnastics lessons with the Penrith GLL team on Wednesday mornings until February half term. Children are to wear PE kits on Wednesdays.

Steel Pans –Badgers will be having mini steel pan lessons every Thursday with Elizabeth Harper, a local musician.



We are excited to announce that whole school swimming lessons will begin on Monday, 12th January, and will run for 5 weeks at Penrith Leisure Centre. Children are to wear their PE kits to school on Mondays, and should bring a separate bag containing:

- Swimming costume (one-piece for girls – no bikinis or tankinis)
- Swimming hat
- Goggles
- Towel

It is extremely helpful if long hair is tied up in the morning (e.g., in a bun or plait) to make changing and swimming easier. There will **NOT** be time to wash and shampoo hair after swimming.

The children will be assessed by the swimming teachers and then put into groups and they will swim in the appropriate depths of the pool.

The school will cover the full cost of the swimming lessons as they form part of the curriculum. However, we kindly request a voluntary contribution of £2 per week to help cover the cost of transport. A total of £10 for the 5 weeks can be paid via the SchoolMoney app or by sending cash to the school office.

Dental Hygienist – a member of the Westmorland and Furness dental team are visiting Little VIPs and school on Tuesday, 13th January to discuss with the children the importance of looking after their teeth.



Balfour Beatty workshop – on Wednesday, 14th January a team of engineers from Balfour Beatty who are currently working on



the A66 development will be visiting school to work with Badgers class on designing and making bridges.

For the project, please could send in card boxes, cardboard tube inners etc.



NISCU art – on 16th and 23rd January and 6th February, Andi Taylor from NISCU, will be creating some amazing pieces of art work based on King Charles' Terra Carta.



Bag2School – on Thursday, 5th March we will be holding a Bag2School collection. So, if you or family members/friends are having a spring clean, then please consider holding onto the following items for our collection:

- Textiles like adults'/children's clothing,
- Paired shoes,
- Handbags, belts, hats, scarves, ties,
- Jewellery,
- Socks
- Soft toys
- Household linens (bedding, sheets, towels, curtains).

They do **NOT** accept soiled, ripped, wet, or unwearable items, duvets, pillows, cushions, carpets, rugs, mats, school/work uniforms, or textile offcuts.

Year 5 & 6 Summer 2026

Residential – we have booked for the Year 5 & 6s to attend a 2-night camping residential at Crag Pond, Barnard Castle between 24th and 26th June 2026. The cost of the residential will be approximately £200, which can be paid in instalments via SchoolMoney.



We are currently talking to The Wilderness Company about the activities and will shortly be holding an information meeting.

Notices:



The Importance of Completing Homework - we believe that homework not only reinforces classroom learning, it also helps children to develop skills and attitudes that they need for successful lifelong learning. It should also support the development of independent learning skills, including the habits of enquiry and investigation, and it should help to foster the role of parents and carers as co-educators of their children.

We believe that homework should be relevant, enjoyable and manageable. We believe that homework facilitates the continuing development of the partnership between school and parents. Additionally, we believe that homework should not cause conflict at home between parent and child and we would always encourage parents to approach the school for support should this be the case.

Homework Expectations - we expect **all** children to:

- **Reading** - fluent reading and good comprehension skills have a key role to play in children's learning across all areas of the curriculum. Fluency in reading is achieved through practice. Therefore, it is important that the children read outside of school **at least 4 times a week**. Reading can include a range of types of texts and media – not just their reading book. This could be, for example, books at home, comics, magazines, reading on tablets and Kindles. Your child has a reading diary for you to sign to say that they have read. This is how we check their weekly reading.

In Reception and Key Stage 1, children will also bring home sight words and phonic tasks to develop their decoding skills and sight vocabulary.

- **Spelling** - spellings for each year group will be sent home. Children are expected to learn these at home through practice using activities in their spelling logs and EdShed.

Teachers will assess spelling through daily application in their writing across all their work.

As well as reading and spellings, expect **Badgers class** to complete:

- **KS2 Maths Fluency** - fluency in maths is also achieved through practice. Weekly 'maths skills check' questions are linked to targets in the maths curriculum. Weekly practice builds speed and recall of key mathematical facts and methods.
- **KS2 Maths Times Tables** – children need to be able to recall all the Times Tables up to 12 X 12 end of Year 4. When it comes to Times Tables **SPEED AND ACCURACY** are important. The more facts a child remembers, the easier it is for them to complete harder calculations. Children are to log in their TTRockstars account **at least 3 times a week for up to 20 minutes in total**.



Year 6 SATs our Year 6s are to complete any additional SATs practise homework.

If you would like your child to receive support to complete their homework, they can be booked into breakfast and after school club.

Non-completion of homework - the expectation is that children will complete homework. However, if for any reason children are unable to complete homework parents/carers should contact the class teacher explaining why the homework has not been completed on the agreed day. There may be occasions when a child will miss play or lunchtime in order to complete the homework.



The Importance of Arriving at School on Time - we kindly remind all families of the importance of punctuality in the mornings.

Arriving at school on time (by 8.55am) sets a positive tone for the day, helping children settle calmly into their routines and engage fully with their learning from the very start. When pupils arrive late, they can miss key instructions, disrupt the flow of the classroom, and feel unsettled. A prompt start supports not only academic progress but also social and emotional wellbeing.

Please note: If pupils continue to be late, in line with the school's Attendance Policy (<https://www.lowther.cumbria.sch.uk/attendance>), parents and carers will be called to attend a meeting with the Headteacher.



Uniform Expectations - we kindly remind families that our school uniform consists of a navy sweatshirt, hoodie

or cardigan worn with a yellow polo shirt. Pupils should wear navy or black skirts or trousers, **with skirts being knee-length**. All pupils should wear suitable footwear, such as black school shoes or practical walking or trainer-style shoes, to support comfort and safety throughout the school day.

To help us return lost property promptly, please ensure that **all uniform items are clearly labelled with your child's name**, particularly jumpers, sweatshirts and cardigans.

We would also like to remind families that the school has a large selection of good-quality used uniform, and parents and carers are very welcome to swap items as needed.

A Note of Thanks to Our Chair of Governor - as we begin this new term, we would



like to acknowledge and express our heartfelt gratitude to Cecilia Emery, who has stepped down from our Board of Governors. Cecilia's unwavering commitment, dedication, and leadership as Chair of the Governors have been instrumental in guiding our school community over recent years. Through her vision and hard work, she has helped shape a positive and supportive environment for both staff and pupils, ensuring that our school continues to thrive. We thank Cecilia for her invaluable contribution and wish her every success in the future.



Foundation Governors - we currently have two vacancies for Foundation Governors on our

Governing Board. Governors play a vital role in supporting the school, helping to shape its vision and ensuring the best outcomes for all our children. If you are a parent or carer who would like to get more involved, or if you know someone suitable who could serve as a Foundation Governor, we would love to hear from you. No previous experience is needed — just enthusiasm and a commitment to our school community. For more information, please contact either myself or our Acting Chair of Governors, Alice Vince – alice.vince@lowther.cumbria.sch.uk

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.

Whether you can spare a little time or a lot, every contribution makes a big difference. From baking a cake to running a stall, designing posters, or helping behind the scenes—there's a place for everyone! Contact alice.vince@lowther.cumbria.sch.uk if you are interested in finding out more.

Applying for Reception September 2026 – the applications for reception places is now open and closes on 15th January 2026. Please follow this link to apply:

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place-or-change-schools/apply-reception-place>



Vacancies – we currently have vacancies within school for a Clerk to the Governors and midday supervisor. If you are interested in



either of these posts, further details are on our website:

<https://www.lowther.cumbria.sch.uk/current-staff-vacancies>

If you ever have any concerns or matters you wish to address, please do not hesitate to speak to me, a member of staff or a member of the governing body.

Best Wishes

Michelle Clark - Headteacher





Diary Dates

Date	Time	Who?	What?	Learning Objective
Spring 1 Term				
Monday, 12.01.26	PM	Whole School	Swimming at Penrith Leisure Centre	PE: To develop our swimming and water safety skills.
Tuesday, 13.01.26	AM	Whole School	WAF Dental Hygienist	PSHE: To learn about the importance of brushing our teeth.
Tuesday, 13.01.26	1.00pm – 1.25pm	Whole School	Church in the Barn Assembly	RE: To learn about Christian and world views.
Wednesday, 14.01.26	9.15am – 11.15am	Whole School	Gymnastics with Penrith GLL	PE: To develop our fundamental gymnastic skills.
Wednesday, 14.01.26	10.30am – 3.15pm	Badgers	Balfour-Beatty A66 workshop	DT: To design and make a bridge.
Thursday, 15.01.26	1.30pm – 2.15pm	Badgers	Mini Steel Pan	Music: To learn how to play a percussion instrument.
Thursday, 15.01.26	PM	Selected KS2 children	EVSP Swimming gala @ PLC	PE: To participate in competitive sports.
Thursday, 15.01.26	6.00pm – 8.00pm	Governors	Full Board of Governors meeting	
Friday, 16.01.26	All day	Whole School	NISCU art with Andi Taylor	Art: To work collaboratively to create large pieces of art based on King Charles' 'Terra Carta'.
Friday, 23.01.26				
Thursday, 05.02.26	All day	Badgers Class	Young Voices @ Manchester	Music: To participate in a singing concert.
Friday, 06.02.26	All day	Whole School	NISCU art with Andi Taylor	Art: To work collaboratively to create large pieces of art based on King Charles' 'Terra Carta'.
Friday, 13.02.26	PM	Selected children	EVSP Key Steps Gymnastics	PE: To participate in a gymnastics competition.
Friday, 13.02.26	3.30pm	Whole School	Break up for February half term	
Spring 2 Term				
Monday, 23.02.26	8.55am	Whole School	Start of Spring 2 term	
Thursday, 26.02.26	PM	Badgers	EVSP Lacrosse	PE: To participate in a new sport.
Thursday, 05.03.26	9.00am	Community	Bag2School	
Thursday, 12.03.26	10.30am – 12.00pm	Governors	Finance, Health & Safety and Premises Committee Meeting	
Thursday, 05.03.26	PM	Years 3 & 4	EVSP Quick sticks at PLC	PE: To participate in a competitive sport.
Tuesday, 17.03.26	All day	Whole School	Hancock Museum, Newcastle	History: To learn about historical events.
Monday, 23.03.26	AM	Whole School	Tempest Photography – class photos	
Thursday, 26.03.26	6.00pm – 8.00pm	Governors	Curriculum, Pupil & Staffing Committee Meeting	
Friday, 27.03.26	3.30pm	Whole School	Break up for Easter holidays	
Summer 1 Term				
Monday, 13.04.26	8.55am	Whole School	Start of Summer 1 term	

