

Diary Dates

Wednesday 7th January

School Starts 8:40am

Monday 12th January

SATs Meeting for Y6 Parents

Monday 19th January

Y6 Booster Sessions Start

Week 2nd - 6th February

Mental Health Week

Monday 2nd February

Gary McKee Fundraising Event

Monday 9th February

Class 1 Assembly at 9am

Friday 13th February

School Closes at 3:15pm

School Summary

It has been a whirlwind of a half term, but we have packed every moment with learning, laughter and happy memories!

Our children have worked hard polishing up their Maths and English skills as well as learning about fairytale Science and explorers in C1, Carribean music and dodgeball in C2 and electronic robots and the Sikh Empire in C3. We have been inspired by visitors in Engineering, Maths and R.E. and have attended local competitions in sports and TTRS!

The children completed their Autumn Term assessments with resilience and confidence and we are very proud of their attitudes towards showing off their learning, with some fantastic progress being seen across all classes.

We have also celebrated our school value of 'Ownership' and enjoyed receiving parent updates of how this value is demonstrated at home as well as around the school.

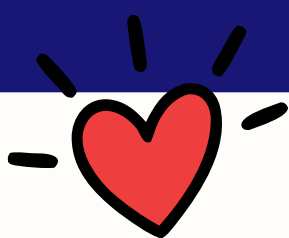
Of course, we have also been in the full festive swing with trips to see a Wizard and Santa, fun at the fayre and a fabulous Christmas Lunch with the community, so the children and staff have definitely earned their break!

We would like to thank everyone who has supported our school this half term, and wish everyone a happy holiday!

Mrs Walker

Clubs

In the Spring Term, our wrap around care offer will run from 8am - 8:30am every morning and our Free Breakfast Club will return for all pupils at 8:30am! Our wrap around care after school clubs will run from Wednesday to Friday, offering Football, Arts and Crafts and Spanish sessions. Bookings are now available for the whole half term on School Hub.



Safeguarding

Our attendance for the Autumn term has been 94.9% which is below the 97% national target. This has largely been due to sickness bugs and chicken pox but children have been washing their hands and sanitising regularly which has helped to reduce the spread of germs before the holidays.

At Lowca Community School, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and our Safeguarding Team are always here to help and give advice. This includes parents, pupils and the wider community and our Safeguarding Leaflet explains in more detail about the role. This is available on our school website along with more information about how we work with other agencies to help keep pupils safe.



If you are worried about a child over the Christmas period, please contact Cumberland Children Advice & Support Service (CCASS) on 0333 240 1727. **If you think a child is in immediate danger always call 999!**

Governor Vacancy



We have recently had a resignation on our Governing Board and would like to open the vacancy for a 'Parent Governor' to all of our families. To give you a bit more information, Helen Sharpe has written a summary of her role since joining last year. If you are interested in joining the team, please contact Sue Richardson, our Chair of Governors, at SR@lowca.cumbria.sch.uk



I have been a governor at school for just over a year now and I am really enjoying it. I attend six meetings a year that last about an hour either in school or on a team's link. There are also a couple of whole day visits that all the governors attend. In the meetings we discuss a variety of items that relate to the school curriculum, school finance, and a Head Teachers report that gives an overview of how school is doing. At the monitoring days we get to watch the staff and children in action and observe some lessons to evidence the School Improvement Plan.

Being a governor is an important role and our job is to make sure the school is being run properly and that the children's welfare and learning is at the heart of everything that the school do.

Maths Curriculum

We have been making some exciting improvements to our maths curriculum, building on work that began in the summer term of the last academic year. These developments are already having a positive impact across the school.

This year, every maths lesson now follows a refreshed structure designed to support and challenge all learners. Lessons begin with a fluency starter to strengthen arithmetic and times-table recall, followed by a journaling task that gives pupils regular opportunities to explain their thinking, reason mathematically and develop their problem-solving skills. Our new "I do, we do, you do" approach ensures clear modelling, supported practice and independent application are built into every session so that all children can succeed. While EYFS follow the same overall structure, their learning is centred around the Mastering Number programme, giving pupils a strong foundation in number sense from the start.

To support our whole-school journey, Miss Taylor and Miss Hadfield are participating in a Maths Hub Work Group, helping us continue to develop our mastery approach and enhance teaching and learning. We are also delighted to share that we now have a draft whole-school shared vision for maths, created collaboratively with input from staff, governors, pupils and parents. This shared vision will guide our work and reflects our high aspirations for maths across the school. This will be shared in due course once finalised!



As part of our focus on fluency, we have also been holding TTRS competitions across school, against Parton School and with a Teachers V pupils tournament. This has brought lots of fun and excitement to our learning!

Eco Warriors

Our Eco Warriors have made a brilliant start since being recruited at the beginning of the academic year. This term, they reviewed our school's Climate Action Plan and agreed on the key priorities they want to focus on. They have invited teachers to select Eco Monitors for each classroom, ensuring we all do our part to save energy and avoid unnecessary waste.

The team also organised a successful Walk to School Week and even delivered an assembly to share their ideas and inspire other pupils to get involved. We walked a whopping 29,487 steps - that's about 14.69 miles. Well done to everyone who took part!

There's plenty more planned for the rest of the year, including taking part in the national Walk to School Week in Summer and exploring ways we can raise money for new solar panels. We're excited to see what they achieve next!





Christmas Celebrations



This half term we have held lots of Christmas events for pupils, parents and our wider community.

We started the festivities by decorating the school, including putting Christmas trees in the hall and in the Church. Our Pupils in Year 1 to Year 6 went on an adventure to see the Wizard of Oz at the Theatre by the Lake and our Nursery and Reception pupils visited Santa at Walby Farm Park



Our School Choir were fabulous at singing their carols in the Christmas Church Service, at the Christmas Lunch and when visiting local care homes.

Our Christmas Lunch was enjoyed by all, with governors and members of the community joining our whole school celebration. Janice in the kitchen did an amazing job of serving up our fabulous festive feast!



Finally, we had our Christmas Fayre, which saw lots of people enjoying the cakes, stalls and crafts on offer. The PTA raised over £350 towards our new play equipment which is being installed in the new year!

