



Newsletter

Spring Term 2025

Upcoming Events

Tuesday 22nd April
School Starts 8:45am

Thursday 24th April
PTA Meeting - All welcome!

28th April to 2nd May
Safeguarding Week

Friday 2nd May
Parent Read-Along Event

Thursday 8th May
VE Day Celebration Event

12th to 15th May
Year 6 SATs - Good Luck!

Monday 19th May
PTA Summer Disco 4:30pm

Monday 19th May
Class 2 Assembly 9am

Wednesday 21st May
C3 Viking Trip

22nd to 23rd May
Whole School Muncaster Trip
and Residential

Friday 23rd May
School Closes for Half Term

School Summary

It has been a very busy term with much to celebrate!

Children have been learning lots in CI including finding out about flight with the Wright Brothers and Amelia Earhart, learning how to make pictograms in computing and making their own purses using running stitch in DT.

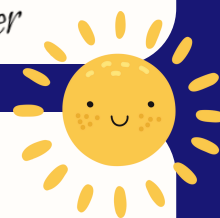
In Class 2, they have been learning about animal adaptations in Science and had an amazing visit to the West Cumbria Wildlife Park where they attended workshops to extend their knowledge. They also created and performed a fantastic play to their parents based on the Rainforest ... they wrote play scripts, designed costumes and props and even created their own rainforest sounds using body percussion in their music lessons!

Class 3 have been busy exploring the life of the ancient Mayan Civilisation and comparing and contrasting Hindu, Sikh and Buddhist religions as well as making hand held electronic games ... which the Year 1 pupils loved testing!

I would like to say a huge thank you to the parents who attended our Parents' Evenings, this is a very important step in supporting your child - teachers work hard to ensure every child is making progress so it is great to be able to share and celebrate this with you. I would also like to thank all of the parents, families and members of the community who came to support pupils in their performances, and for donating generously to our Easter Egg Raffle.

I hope you have a wonderful Easter break - ready to return for a fun-filled and action packed Summer Term!

Mrs Walker



Clubs

We have adapted our clubs for the Summer Term (to hopefully match the weather!) including Gardening Club, Rounders and Nature Club ... please check out the information on School Hub.

Sessions are only £5 per child and are available every weekday between 3:15pm and 4:30pm.





Safeguarding

Our whole school attendance for this term has been 96.4% which is only very slightly below the National expectation of 97%. Well done to all of the children who have arrived on time and ready to learn!

Statistics show the impact that missing school has upon childhood learning, self-confidence and mental health and the Government have published their recent research on this, which includes the impact this has on overall outcomes and lifetime opportunities. Click on the link below to view the report.

Impact of School Absence on Lifetime Earnings

At Lowca Community School we take part in the 'Cumberland Pledge to Improve Attendance' and details of this can be found on our website. From this, please note that Holidays in term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, by completing a Holiday Request Form in advance of booking. This can be found on our website or copies are available from the school office.

95%	=	47 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 8 days in total or 1 week and 3 days
90%	=	95 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 16 days in total or 3 weeks and 1 day
85%	=	142 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 24 days in total or 4 weeks and 4 days
80%	=	190 LESSONS MISSED EACH YEAR 32 days in total or 6 weeks and 2 days



SEND Updates

Thank you to the parents who contributed to our SEND Survey - we are very pleased that over 90% of parents feel we are providing good or excellent support for pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities and are quick to identify and support the needs of all of our pupils.

Lowca Community School is committed to creating a supportive learning environment for our children to thrive in being the best that they can be. This leaflet will help you understand how we identify and support pupils with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities, often abbreviated to SEND and what this means for parents and carers.

Who to talk to?

Your child's class teacher is the first person to contact if you have any concerns about your child's learning or development. If you are still concerned or feel that your concerns have not been acted upon appropriately then please speak with any member of the SEND Inclusion Team by contacting the office to arrange an appointment.

Our team meets regularly to discuss SEND throughout the school and provide training and support to all members of staff.

SEND Co-ordinator - Jennifer Waller
Early Years SEND Co-ordinator - Paula High



Do you have SEND specialists in school?

All staff receive regular training and development in supporting SEND needs. In addition, to support our SEND practice and enhance our provision, we employ a SEND Adviser, Wendy Thomas, who comes in to school on a weekly basis. Wendy provides guidance and support to staff, observes pupils within lessons and delivers specialist interventions including Lego Therapy and ESSEA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) Sessions to pupils with identified SEMH needs.

Where can I go for support or advice?

Our school website provides specific details of the Policies and Practices we implement along with links to guidance and provision.

www.lowca.cumbria.sch.uk/education-provision

There is a dedicated Cumberland Website which provides information about the SEND Local Offer.

<http://cumberland.gov.uk/cumbria-schools/lowca/>

For more guidance around specific SEND needs and support please visit the following websites:

<http://www.send.org.uk/advice-and-guidance>

<http://www.holmes.org.uk/advice>

<http://www.holmes.org.uk/>

Living with a child with SEND or understanding their specific behaviours can be difficult - there are lots of groups available to support you as well as your child. Please contact the SEND Team for more information.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Information Leaflet



For visitors, parents and carers

Lowca Community School
High Lowca,
Lowca, Cumbria
CA28 6QS
01946 372646
admin@lowca.cumbria.sch.uk

Working together to help all pupils reach their full potential!

The SEND Code of Practice

The SEND Code of Practice is a national document which all schools must refer to when making decisions relating to pupils with SEND. This helps to ensure that children have access to a similar system of support, whichever school they attend.

What are Special Educational Needs?

A child may have a Special Educational Need (SEN) if they require additional or different provision to support them in their learning in order to ensure that they make progress. There are four broad areas of SEN need. These are:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs

How are SEND identified?

Within school we have a robust system in place to ensure that needs are identified quickly so support can be given at the earliest opportunity. Class teachers review daily needs and learning assessments to identify gaps or delays in progress. Referral forms are made to the Inclusion team and the team will work together to identify the need. This may be to put temporary measures of support in place to speak with wider support teams such as Quality Special Advisory Teachers or Educational Psychologists.

Parents will be informed at every step of the way.

What is the SEND Register?

Many pupils will need support with their learning at some point during their development. This may be short term or long term and is filed during their time in school. The SEND Register helps track this support and ensures teachers are targeting resources to the right pupils at the right time.

How do we support pupils with SEND?

Children progress in different stages and at different rates. High quality teaching supports all children and this is normally sufficient to enable most pupils to access the curriculum and make good progress. This is often called Wave 1 support and includes strategies such as scaffolding learning, adapting teaching, providing concrete resources or adapting the environment to make it more easily accessible for some pupils.

Waves of intervention model



Some pupils may require further support or interventions (Wave 2 support) and will be added to the SEND Register. A Pupil Passport will be created to track the support and progress needed by working towards specific targets. Parents will work with staff to ensure an effective partnership between home and school to support the child.

Some pupils may require additional specialist support or be referred for the diagnosis of a specific need via the Early Help process. This is known as Wave 3 support and pupils may receive an Education, Health, Care Plan (EHCP). The school may be awarded funding for support learning development. The EHCP is reviewed annually alongside other educational professionals to ensure the right level of support is given and children are making progress towards their own personalised learning goals.

How do you know support is effective?

Pupils with a Pupil or EHCP have targets to work towards and the progress against these targets are tracked each term. Interventions completed throughout the school are recorded and assessed to make sure they are effective and that the impact can be measured.

We provide regular feedback opportunities for parents through drop-in sessions, review meetings and online surveys to identify where improvements could be made.

Do pupils miss learning to receive support?

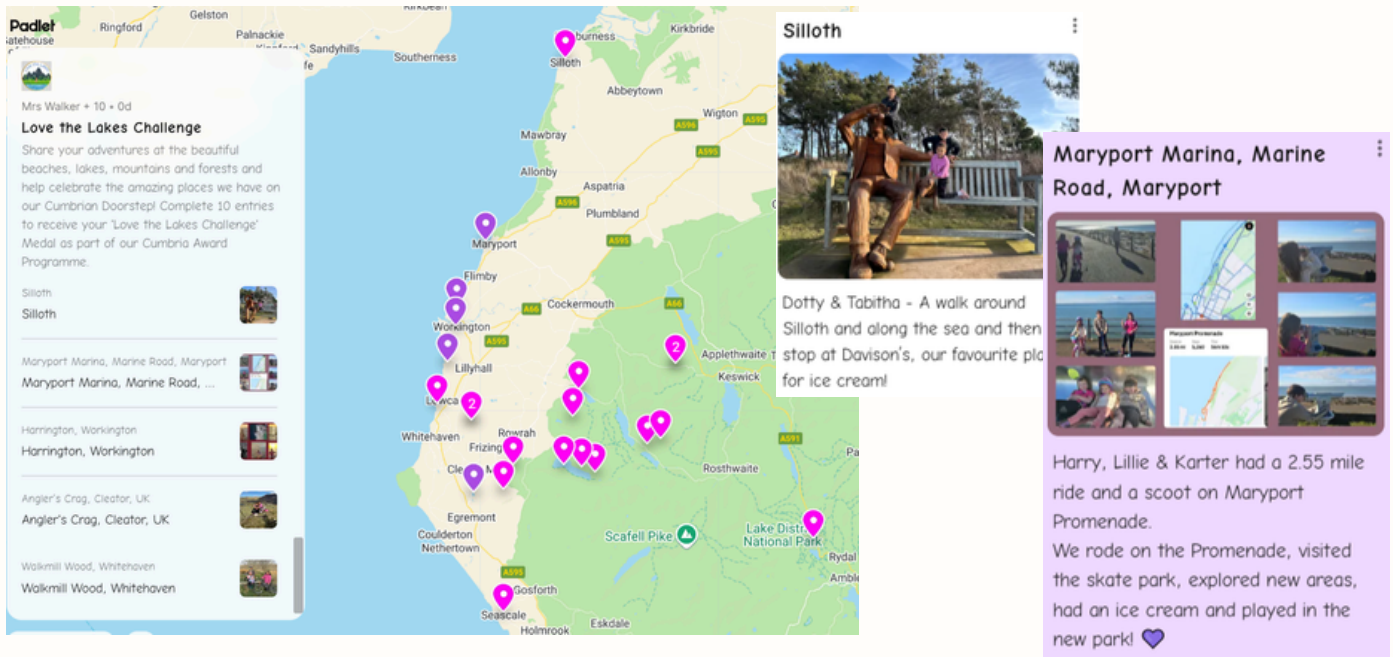
Our school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils. Many interventions can be completed within the classroom and align with our inclusive philosophy. Children are only withdrawn from lessons for interventions which make them to access the curriculum or work on specific SEMH needs or EHCP targets. These are time-fitted on a rotating basis as the same lesson or subject is not always missed.

If you have any concerns about your child, please refer to our SEND Parent Information Leaflet or help and guidance on our website to find out how our SEND Team can help.



Love the Lakes Challenge

This term we launched our whole school challenge which aims to get pupils and their families out and about exploring the amazing landscape and scenery we have on our doorstep. This forms part of our Cumbrian Award and supports our school values, particularly in relation to wellbeing!



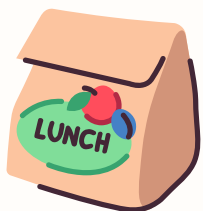
To get involved simply visit the School Padlet and update us with photos, videos and updates of your adventures to help inspire others to visit new places and try new skills.

Thank you to the families who have contributed so far ... and remember that every child who completes 10 activities of 1 mile or more will receive a wonderful Love the Lakes Challenge Medal.

Lunch Updates

Due to the rising costs of ingredients and staff, Orian have increased meal costs this academic year to £3.40 per meal. We still believe this is good value and children are provided with three daily options of hot food which is healthy, nutritious and balanced inline with Government recommendations.

When ordering meals for your child, please ask them which option they would prefer, or support them to order their meals independently using the School Hub app - we have had several pupils upset or wasting food as they don't like the meals chosen on their behalf. Menus are available on the app and bookings can be made 3 weeks in advance to prevent any lunch orders being missed!



As part of our Healthy Schools initiative, please remember that packed lunches should be healthy and nutritious providing slow release energy for the afternoon! We have had an increase in children bringing in chocolate such as snickers and Freddo Bars which should be swapped for healthier options. Our Phunky Foods Ambassadors will be sharing more information about this next term.

Character Curriculum

The children have loved taking part in our Character Curriculum activities this term with their chosen activities coming to an end with great excitement!

Our Forest School pupils have enjoyed learning how to light and cook on camp fires as well as doing litter picks in the village, thinking about conservation and recycling in the local community.

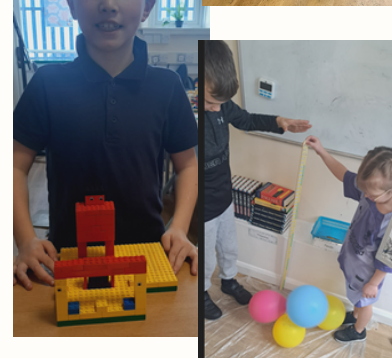
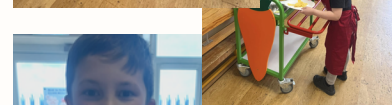
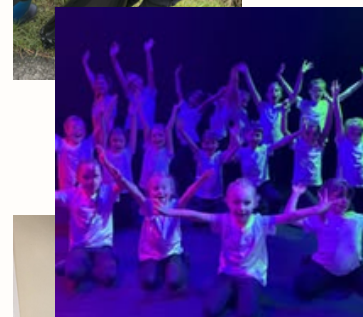
Our U-Dance Team performed a fantastic dance in front of hundreds of audience participants for their 'Shine like the star that you are!' routine. They shone on the stage and in evaluations said they had learned about facing their fears, having fun and helping each other as well as enjoying the experience of being on a real stage at the Carnegie Theatre.

Our Phunky Foods group, made various recipes over the course of the term and decided to open a cafe to showcase their skills! They made invitations, created a name and logo for their company and made £20 for charity. It was lovely to see them busily working away making orders and serving them to their special guests.

Our STEM Engineers learned lots of skills in problem solving, designing and testing products in their projects with Miss Taylor. They created a super strong house for the little pigs, testing materials and thinking about scaffolding and supports as well as designed an egg carrier to help Jack carry the golden eggs down his beanstalk!

Our Early Years adventurers had fun ticking things off their '50 Things to do before you are 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ' list including building dens, toasting marshmallows, climbing trees, hunting for flowers, growing vegetables and much, much more!

On the final week, the children presented all the things they had been doing in their groups to each other in an assembly. It was lovely to hear them speak so confidently about what they had learned, how they felt and what skills they would carry into the future!



School Uniform Update

At Lowca School, wearing our school uniform helps us to:

- Stay Safe** ... we can be easily seen and identified; hoop earrings can get caught at playtime
- Feel part of our School Family** ... creates a sense of belonging and unites us like a football team
- Reduce clothing costs** ... no choosing which outfit to wear; affordable for everyone
- Enjoy activities** ... without worrying about getting expensive clothes dirty or covered in paint
- Reduce arguments** ... no disputes over what to wear or time wasted choosing clothing
- Set the tone for learning** ... we are professional and feel ready to learn
- Make it fair** ... we all have the same expectations, we all follow the same rules
- Avoid comparison** ... no need for expensive brands; no bullying for wearing the wrong brands

As a reminder our Uniform consists of

White Polo Shirt
(plain or with school logo)

**Navy Blue Jumper, Cardigan,
Hoodie or Fleece**
(plain or with school logo)

Black or Grey Trousers, Skirt
Pinafore or Shorts

Navy & White Gingham / Summer
Dress Optional

**Hair tied back and out of
eyes**

No make-up or false nails

Single pair of stud earrings
(must be removed or covered for P.E.)

Plain black shoes or trainers



Our school shoes are smart and black. To allow for sports at break time or for pupils who don't like formal shoes or prefer softer shoes, we relaxed this rule to allow pupils to wear black trainers instead if they wish. We have changed the wording of our policy to state 'plain' black trainers. By doing this, it removes the grey area of 'a little bit of colour is ok if they are mostly black' which leads to 'all colours are ok as long as there is some black'. If you are unsure, please contact the school before purchasing shoes to avoid having to buy more shoes.



We understand that occasionally things go wrong ... uniform is left at Grandma's house, soles come off shoes etc. If you let your child's class teacher know, this is fine and there are no consequences. However, if a child repeatedly and deliberately tries to break the rules, there will be consequences and they may be provided with a spare uniform or shoes to wear for the day.

Thank you for your support in helping your children to follow our rules!

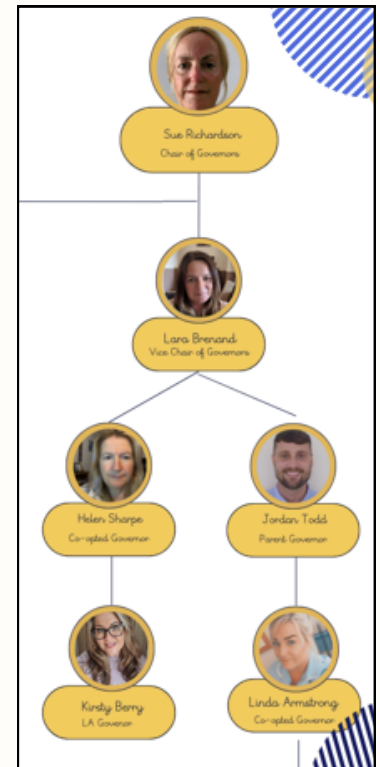
Governor Monitoring

This half term, members of the Governing Board came into the school to monitor our school improvement priorities. As part of the visit they spoke with staff about workload and wellbeing, spoke with pupils about behaviour and safeguarding and got a feel for general school life by visiting lessons, looking through pupils' books and observing break times and lunch time routines.

They spoke with class teachers about their curriculum and pupils progress; with subject leaders who shared our key developments across core subjects; as well as with teaching assistants regarding recent training, our new phonics scheme and various pupil support initiatives. The Governors visited our Early Years setting and spoke with our littlest learners about what they liked about being our school.

The governors were very pleased to report that the school is a happy place to be, with a dedicated and passionate staff team and friendly, family ethos, and that good progress was being made towards our School Improvement Plan. They were delighted with the maturity, honesty and openness of our pupils who spoke about their school experience with confidence.

Mrs Walker would like to thank the Governors for giving up their time to support our school and to the staff for the huge difference they make to our pupils lives on a daily basis! If you would like to get involved and become a member of the Governing body, please contact Sue Richardson, our Chair of Governors at SR@lowca.cumbria.sch.uk or contact the School Office.



Celebration Assembly

We had so much to celebrate in our final assembly of the term that we had to have two in order to fit everything in! First of all were our Stars of the Week, our Medal of Independence Winner, our 100% Attendance certificates and our Headteacher Award ... and then we held our Easter Egg Raffle and Egg Decorating Competition Awards! There were some fantastic entries this year, the judging governors had some very difficult decisions to make!

Finally, we said a fond farewell to Mrs Hamilton who, due to personal and family commitments, has decided to pursue a career outside of the Primary classroom. We wish her lots of luck in her new role and hope she will pop in to see us soon.



Community News



If you know of any events in our community or an activity that our families may be interested in please get in touch with the office and let us know.

Join us at Cumberland Family Hub open days

Wednesday 9 April 11am - 3pm
Family Hub - Morton, Carlisle, Wigton Road CA2 6JP

Thursday 10 April 11am - 3pm
Family Hub - Longtown, 11 Mary Street, CA6 5UF

Friday 11 April 11am - 3pm
Family Hub - Maryport, Ennerdale Road, CA15 8HN

Monday 14 April 11am - 3pm
Moorclose Community Centre, Needham Drive, CA14 3SE

Tuesday 15 April 11am - 3pm
Family Hub on the Harbour, Swingpump Lane, Whitehaven, CA28 7LZ

Wednesday 16 April 11am - 3pm
Family Hub - Millom, Millom Infant School, Millom, LA18 4LP

Thursday 17 April 11am - 3pm
Family Hub - Wigton, Wampool Place, Wigton, CA7 9SA

Family Fun at The Kirkgate!

Block Printing
Saturday 12th
10:00am + 12:00pm

Magic Cabaret
Tuesday 8th
2:30pm

Paddington in Peru
14th at 7:00pm
16th at 2:00pm
17th at 2:00pm

And something for the grown ups...

Great Big Kirkgate Quiz!
Saturday 5th
7:30pm

Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy
7th at 8:00pm
9th at 2:00pm

Book online: kirkgateartsandheritage.org.uk
Box office: 01900 826448

Kirkgate Arts

PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) EASTER HOLIDAYS 2025

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free

- BURGER KING**
From Monday 7th - Sunday 20th April 2025. Kids Eat Free with every adult meal, via the app.
- BILLS**
Kids eat free Mondays - Fridays, from Monday 7th - Friday 25th April 2025.
- FARMHOUSE INNS**
2 kids eat FREE with one paying adult, Monday 7th - Friday 25th of April. Sign Up Required
- TGI FRIDAYS**
Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)
- ZIZZI**
Sunday 6th - Sunday 27th April 2025 kids eat free with every adult main. (excludes Saturdays)
- CAFE EIGHTY NINE @ THE RANGE**
Kids eat free Sat 5th April - Mon 21st April 2025
- YO! SUSHI**
Kids eat FREE all day (monday - friday) during all school holidays, when dining with an adult
- SIZZLING PUBS**
Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids eat for £1.
- ASDA**
Kids eat for £1 every, with no adult spend.
- TRAVELEDGE & PREMIER INN**
2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast
- GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS**
Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day
- WHITBREAD INNS**
2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast
- BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE**
2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast
- IKEA**
Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am
- PREZZO**
Kids receive a free, 3 course kids meal, everyday at Prezzo between 31st March - 27th April 2025
- COCONUT TREE**
One child (under 10) eats free every day, 12pm - 6pm from Monday 7th - Sunday 27th April 2025
- PIZZA HUT**
Kids eat free buffet from Monday 7th - Sunday 27th April, until 3pm daily with a £10 spend
- PRETO**
Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms
- SAINSBURYS CAFES**
Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.
- BELLA ITALIA**
Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Sun to Weds. All Day Thursdays
- MORRISONS**
Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend
- LAS IGUANAS**
Kids under 12 eat FREE with 'My Las Iguanas' App
- TABLE TABLE**
2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult!
- PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM**
Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm
- HUNGRY HORSE**
Kids eat for £1 on Mondays
- THE REAL GREEK**
Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend
- SA BRAINS PUBS**
Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays
- FUTURE INNS**
Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

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HOLIDAY CAMPS

EASTER HALF TERM
MON 7TH - THUR 10TH

Ages: 5-11 years
Venue: St James' CoE Juniors - Whitehaven

Led by our experienced staff, there's never a shortage of exciting activities and sports to enjoy. We welcome both boys and girls of all skill levels, as our programs are designed to ensure every child has a positive, fun experience while developing their skills through sport and activities.

RITC