Newsletter

Friday, 7th November 2025

Term 1 Week 9

Pumpkins, Slime, and Spooky Fun!

On Saturday 25th October, our school field was transformed into a festive autumn wonderland for the much-anticipated Pumpkin Picking Event, brilliantly organised by the wonderful FODS team.

Families were greeted by a sea of pumpkins scattered across the field, each waiting to be picked and proudly taken home. Children followed a spooky trail, led by none other than a skeletal dinosaur, adding a thrilling twist to the adventure! Inside, excitement bubbled over at the slime-making workshop, where little hands got messy crafting gooey creations. Meanwhile, budding artists showcased their talents in the colouring competition, filling the room with vibrant autumn-themed masterpieces.

Thanks to the incredible support from our school community, the event raised an amazing £1,564! These funds will go directly towards enriching school resources and activities for our students. A huge thank you to everyone who came along, helped out, and made the day such a success. And of course, hats off to the FODS team for their creativity, energy, and dedication!

BBC Children in Need

Friday, 14th November

Please note that Children in Need Day will be on **Friday, 14th November**. (This is different to the date published in the letter sent home.)

Children are asked to bring in coins (of any value) to fill up Pudsey Bear.

All children are invited to wear their pyjamas to come to school.

ANTI-BULLYING ALLIANCE

With the support of Andy and the Odd Socks

This **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK** we are holding

ODD SOCKS DAY on

TUESDAY, 11TH NOVEMBER 2025

Odd Socks Day

Come to school wearing your odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique!

Cups

This week our **Courtesy Cup** winners are:

Early Years—**Minnie Breheney**

Key Stage 1— **Elvie Brannon**

Lower Key Stage 2— **Layla Harrison**

Upper Key Stage 2— **Henry Smith**

Our **Community Cup** is awarded to **all of the FODS children** who not only helped out with the Pumpkin Picking activities but also spent time setting up and clearing away after the event.

Please do not park on pavements or across our neighbours' driveways. We have received numerous complaints, particularly from St. Mungo's Close.

Police will issue fines to anybody parked illegally.

Thank you for your understanding.

WRAP AROUND AFTER SCHOOL

Book via ScoPay

AVAILABLE UNTIL 4.30PM OR 5.30PM

Week beginning 10th November

Monday - Remembrance Crafts

Tuesday - Odd Sock crafts

Wednesday - Prize Bingo

Thursday - Free Play

Friday - Children in need

Snacks & refreshments included

After School Activities

10/11/25 – 14/12/25

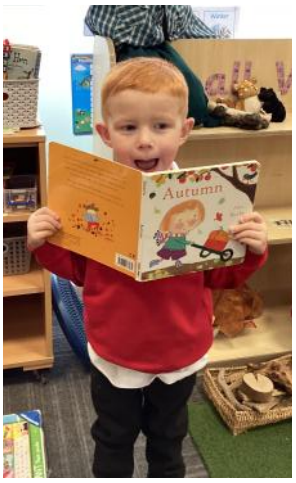
5 weeks

3:15pm – 4:15pm

TERM 1b	Mondays	Tuesdays	Thursdays	Fridays
Years 1 and 2	**Whole School Choir Y1-6** Miss Grima, Miss Lloyd and Miss Taylor 	**Football Y1-4** Carl (Sports Coach) Mrs. Clayton 	**Christmas Crafts** Miss Scott 	
Years 3 and 4		**Sustainable Crafts Y3-4** Mrs. Hope and Mrs. Hitchen 		**Cricket Y3-6** Chris (Sports Coach)
Years 5 and 6		**Mindfulness and Wellbeing** Miss Clarke 		

Please sign up for After School Activities via ScoPay - £3 per session

NURSERY



It has been amazing welcoming our Nursery children back into school after their brilliant half-term break. During our Circle Time sessions the children shared that they had enjoyed spending time with their families, going on autumn walks, and watching a variety of firework shows.

Wednesday was Bonfire Night. The children enjoyed watching a fireworks display video. They commented on the sounds, colours and shapes they could see. We discussed how to stay safe; selecting the correct clothing and not touching fire.

We have enjoyed a vast array of art activities this week including making a giant, sparkly night sky, printing firework pictures using paint, and using pipettes and straws to make some blow art fireworks.

In phonics our new initial sound was "p" for penguin, peg and pig. In maths we deepened our knowledge of the number two. We also talked about the term "one more."

Our highlight was definitely a treat snack of breadstick sparklers! Yummy!

This week's Headteacher's Awards go to:

Leo Horner and **Tahnee Holmes**

Reception

This week in Reception, we've been exploring the vibrant festival of Diwali. The children enjoyed reading The Best Diwali Ever by Sonali Shah and watching videos that brought Diwali celebrations to life. They also got creative by making their own Diva lamps, learning about the significance of light in the festival. In Maths, we focused on ways to make the numbers 3 and 4, with help from our friendly Numberblocks. The children engaged in a variety of hands-on activities to deepen their understanding. Our weekly challenges included:

· Creating Rangoli patterns using Numicon and pom poms

· Using fine motor skills to thread beads along firework shapes

· Counting fireworks and placing pegs on the correct number

· Matching numbered Diva lamps to the correct number of spots

· Matching dominoes to their corresponding numbers To end the week on a sweet note, the children made chocolate sparklers as a special treat on Friday! Well done, Reception! It's been a week full of learning, creativity, and celebration.

This week's Headteacher's Awards in Reception go to

Leo Dickinson and **Keeley-Rae Weever**

Year 1

What a fantastic first week back we've had in Year 1! In Phonics we've jumped straight into learning four new sounds and have started exploring alternate graphemes. It's been brilliant spotting the children using these new sounds in their writing already.

In English, we've been exploring diary entries. The children are now planning their own diary entries, stepping into the paws of Cyril and Bruce the squirrels. Subtraction has been our focus in Maths this week. We've done lots of practical activities to help understand the concept, and the children have done a great job mastering how to find the missing part using a part-whole model.

As Geographers we've been using Google Maps, we zoomed all the way from space down to our school! The children loved exploring our place in the world and spotting familiar landmarks as we zoomed in closer.

In PE, the children practised their running skills, weaving in and out of cones like pros! We also began our dance sessions for this half term – lots of rhythm and movement ahead

In PSHE, we've been working on understanding our emotions. The children have been thoughtful and expressive, learning how to talk about how they feel and support one another.

This week's Headteacher's Awards in Year 1 go to:

Esme Williams and **Ella Cant**

Year 2

This week we began an exciting new story in English called 'Story Soup'. The children thought it was a very funny story and created storyboards to show the sequence of the events. We also learned the meaning of onomatopoeias and identified sound words the author used throughout the story.

In Maths, the children practised adding and subtracting ones to a variety of numbers as well as adding by making 10. We also looked at the composition of the number 7 in our Mastering Number lessons.

We began our first History topic of the year where we are exploring the question 'What were schools like in the past?'. The children used primary sources of our own school and other schools throughout the decades and discussed the differences between the pictures. They also placed the pictures on a timeline. In Science, the children began their new topic on 'Microhabitats'. The children worked scientifically to classify a variety of minibeasts through questioning. We also began rehearsals for our wonderful winter show 'Gnome Alone'. Well done Year 2!

This week's Headteacher's Awards in Year 2 go to:

Imogen Wood and **Emilie Manchester**

Year 3

In History, we've started learning all about the *Stone Age*. The children were fascinated to discover just how long ago prehistoric people lived. We explored a timeline of key historical events and worked together to put them in chronological order. The class was amazed to see the vast span of time between the Stone Age and the present day! We also found out why this period is called the "Stone Age" and discussed some interesting facts about how people lived, hunted, and created tools.

Linking to our History work, our new Art topic focuses on *Art and Mixed Media*. The children have been inspired by prehistoric cave art and began by creating their own cave-style animal line drawings. They practised spotting basic shapes within animals to help them get their proportions right and talked about why prehistoric people might have chosen to paint animals.

In Music, we've started a new topic on *creating a composition for animation*. To introduce this, the children listened to a piece of music and discussed where it might be set and what sort of story could go along with it.

This week's Headteacher's Awards in Year 3 go to:

Poppy McManus and **Oakley Robertson**

Year 4

This week in Maths, the children have been learning all about area. They've been using square grids to count and compare the area of different shapes. Through hands-on activities, they've identified which shapes have the largest and smallest areas and have practised using the greater than (>) and less than (<) symbols to compare them.

This week in English, the children have been learning about the different organs involved in the digestive system and how they work together to help us digest food. Using their new knowledge, they wrote descriptive sentences explaining the function of each organ. This engaging work is all building towards writing a full explanation text about the digestive system.

Four afternoons this week, the children have been attending swimming sessions at Workington Leisure Centre. It's been a wonderful opportunity for them to learn essential water safety skills, improve their swimming techniques, and build confidence in the water. From perfecting front crawl to mastering backstroke, the children have shown great determination and progress and most of all, they've thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

This week's Headteacher's Awards in Year 4 go to:

Wesley Todd and **Jax Young**

Year 5

Welcome back! We hope everyone had a lovely and restful half -term break.

This week we started reading a new class book Letters from the Lighthouse. We will be using this book to inspire our writing throughout this half term. Everyone was so engaged sorting our whole clad reading sessions and had wonderful ideas about the book and there were lots of fascinating predictions too!

In Maths, we have started our multiplication and division unit, and have so far covered multiples, common multiples and factors.

Our History lesson explored when and why the Vikings came to Britain, and in Music we learned about the history of the blues! It has been a fantastic start to the half term, and we are once again proud of the enthusiasm and effort shown by Year 5!

This week's Headteacher's Awards in Year 65go to:

Nancy Shields and **Charlie Ross**

YEAR 6

This week, we've been tackling the tricky concept of long division. Although it's a challenge, we're thrilled to see the children growing in confidence and beginning to grasp the method. Their persistence and resilience have been impressive! We're now nearing the end of our unit on addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, but we'll keep practising these core arithmetic skills to ensure the learning sticks.

In SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) , we've gone back to basics with a focus on nouns. The children have explored the different types—common, concrete, collective, and proper nouns—and enjoyed interactive activities like Corners and a Blooket quiz to embed their understanding.

In History, our journey through Tudor England has taken us to the reign of Elizabeth I, where we examined council records of the Royal Progress. To bring history to life, we transformed our classroom into a space fit for a queen! The children created Tudor roses, bunting, and lanterns as part of the preparations. This will set the stage for next week's writing task, where we'll imagine ourselves as part of the Royal Progress and write diary entries from that time.

This week's Headteacher's Awards in Year 6 go to:

Poppy Moore and **Alfie Williams**

Key Dates

November

10th—14th—Y5 Swimming

11th—Odd Socks Day

14th—Children in Need Day—wear pyjamas!

17th—21st—Y6 Swimming

24th—27th—Y3 Swimming

26th—Y1/2 Dodgeball competition

27th—Non uniform—Bring a Bottle Day

28th—INSET Day

December

3rd—Puppet Assemblies

3rd—Maryport Church Carol Service

5th—Y2 and Y4 STEAM event at Netherhall

6th— Dearham Winter Fair and Santa's Grotto

11th—Early Years' Nativity

11th—KS1 Christmas Show

17th—KS2 Christmas Carol Concert

18th—Christmas Parties

19th—Break up at **1:30pm**

Nasal Flu Vaccines: Reception—Y6

The NHS school immunization team will be in school on Tuesday, 11th November to administer the nasal flu vaccines.

Please ensure that you have given consent for your child if you would like them to have it.

Attendance

Attendance for week ending **07/11/25**

(Please note that Nursery is not included as this is non-statutory education)

Whole School Attendance = 93.03%

Reception	**92%**
Year 1	**93%**
Year 2	**93%**
Year 3	**95%**
Year 4	**97%**
Year 5	**94%**
Year 6	**85%**

Safeguarding

Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership

If you suspect that a child or young person is being, or is at risk of being significantly harmed as a result of abuse or neglect, you must report this immediately by calling the Cumberland Safeguarding Hub on:

0333 240 1727

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility. Our designated Safeguarding team are:

Headteacher — Mrs. Samantha Busigny

DSL — Mrs. Samantha Busigny

DDSL—Miss Grima and Mrs. Clayton

Changing Lives Learning Trust

INCLUSION · RESPECT · RESILIENCE · ASPIRATION