Newsletter

Friday, 20th March 2026

Term 2 Week 10

Hoodwinked—Years 3 and 4 Shine!

This week, our talented Year 3 and Year 4 pupils took to the stage with an unforgettable performance of 'Hoodwinked', a lively and heart-warming retelling of the classic Robin Hood tale.

From the confident acting and expressive singing to the colourful costumes and enthusiastic ensemble scenes, the children brought the story to life with energy, humour, and impressive teamwork. Their hard work during rehearsals truly shone through, and the audience was treated to a wonderful show filled with memorable moments which even included cream pie faces!

A huge well done to every pupil involved, from props to starring roles —you made us incredibly proud. Thank you also to Miss Lloyd, Miss Burgess and Mrs. Bell who put a lot of time and effort into ensuring that the show was a success—it was wonderful to see the joy on the children's faces as they performed. What a fantastic achievement!

World Down Syndrome Day—We all wore odd socks today in recognition of World Down Syndrome Day. In assembly we learnt more about this condition and then this afternoon, Reception were delighted to welcome a special visitor, Rudy, to their class.

Years 1 and 6 Join Together for Tree-Planting Morning

This week, pupils from Years 1 and 6 enjoyed a wonderful afternoon working together to plant new trees on our school grounds. The older children supported the younger ones beautifully, helping them dig holes, position the saplings, and gently press the soil into place.

The activity sparked lots of brilliant conversations about nature, caring for the environment, and how trees help wildlife and clean the air. It was lovely to see the teamwork, patience, and pride shared between both year groups.

The children are excited to watch their trees grow over the coming months and years. A big well done to everyone involved for making this such a positive and memorable experience!

Bench Donated in Memory of Ronnie Parkin

We are grateful to receive two benches in memory of Ronnie (Ronald) Parkin, a lifelong Dearham resident and former Dearham pupil. Born on Central Road in 1936, Ronnie later worked as an engineer at BIP Plastics in Maryport, once known for making buttons.

Ronnie lived at 95 Main Street with his wife Hazel, and the new yard bench looks toward his children Helen and Craig's former bedrooms. After moving back to Central Road, he enjoyed views of the fells—now reflected in the position of the reading shed bench. A well-known village character, Ronnie loved rugby, football, and dressing up for the Dearham Carnival. The benches offer a fitting tribute and will be enjoyed by the whole school community.

Chocolate Bingo Fun!

A huge thank-you to FODS for organising such a fantastic Chocolate Bingo evening last Wednesday. It was wonderful to see so many families and members of the community joining in. As well as enjoying a fun-filled event, we also raised an amazing £900!

WRAP AROUND AFTER SCHOOL

Book via ScoPay

AVAILABLE UNTIL 4.30PM OR 5.30PM

Week beginning 23rd March

Monday - Free Play
Tuesday - Themed Crafts
Wednesday - Sports Hall
Thursday - Nest Cakes
Friday - Themed Crafts

Snacks & refreshments included
ADVANCED BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Decorate an Egg Competition

All children are invited to decorate a boiled egg at home and bring this to school on Friday, 27th March. These should be brought straight to the school hall. They will be judged by FODS with prizes for the winners.

No Newsletter Next Week

Please note that there will be no newsletter on the last day of term. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on **Monday, 13th April 2026**.

NURSERY

This week in Nursery we began our new topic: Farms and New Life. The children enjoyed exploring tractors, animals, growing plants, and noticing springtime changes.

We talked about different farm animals and the names of their babies—cow and calf, sheep and lamb, pig and piglet, and chicken and chick. The children loved matching animal mothers to their babies and making the animal sounds.

We read several farm-themed stories such as *What the Ladybird Heard*, *A Duck So Small*, and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, which linked well to our learning about life cycles.

During our spring walk, we looked and listened for signs of new life, spotting blue skies, blossoms, and bright daffodils. We heard chicks chirping and neighbours cutting grass. We ended the walk by viewing a real farm with tractors, machinery, hay bales, chickens, and many signs of spring.

In phonics we learned the picture card "bear" for the initial sound **b**, as in "bus," "bag," and "butterfly."

This week's Headteacher's Awards go to:

Eloise Wood and **Oliver Burns**

Reception

This week in Reception we explored *Mr Bunny's Chocolate Factory* as we get ready for Easter. All our learning linked to Spring and Easter, and the children really embraced the theme!

In Maths, we compared numbers to find which were more or less and explored how some numbers can "hide" behind others, just like in the *Numberblocks* Peekaboo episode. The children counted daisy chains, added Easter objects, and matched dominos to numbers.

In Phonics, we used our sounds to spot items hidden in an Easter picture, identified what we could spy on decorated eggs, and looked closely at flower pictures to spell words using our phonic knowledge.

We also completed our independent writing, and I am incredibly proud of the children's progress — not just since September, but even since December. Their improvement is amazing, and they really are little superstars!

On Friday, we enjoyed wearing mismatched socks for World Down Syndrome Day and red noses for Red Nose Day.

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

Reggie Thompson and **Seb Martin**

Year 1

This week we retold *Hibernation Hotel*. The children sequenced the story and practised holding a sentence before writing, producing lovely detailed work. In Maths, we explored measuring—starting with our feet using cubes, then using rulers to measure in centimetres. We also compared the weight of objects using the words *heavier* and *lighter*.

We learned three new science words: herbivore, omnivore, and carnivore, and the children enjoyed sorting animals into the correct groups.

In Computing, the children created their own animated storybooks, showing growing confidence with technology. In DT, we learned about nutrition, the Eatwell Plate, and "Strive for 5," then wrote smoothie recipes. On Wednesday, Amanda from Phunky Foods helped us make them. The children measured ingredients, used safe cutting techniques, kept things hygienic, and loved tasting their smoothies—plus trying a green vegetable one!

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

Bobby Herve and **Ella Cant**

Year 2

Year 2 have worked incredibly hard this week and I was absolutely delighted to see all their smiling faces. In English, we continued looking at Amelia Earheart. The children have learned about the four sentence types- statements, questions, exclamations and commands and written their own in preparation for a final writing piece they will complete next week. The children ensured they were punctuated correctly and used their imagination so well to create these.

In Maths, we have been focusing on all things multiplication. The children have practiced their skills of multiplying by 5 and 10 as well as dividing by 5 and 10. They have written number facts and solved word problems related to grouping and sharing.

In spelling, we are focusing on 'dropping the y for an i and adding the suffix es'. The children are following this spelling rule confidently and understand that this is only completed when the word does not end in a digraph. Well done Year 2!

To note: spellings and timetables will resume to coming home on Mondays and tests being completed the following Monday.

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

Elvie Brannon and **Owen Wilson**

Year 3

We've had a wonderfully busy week in school, filled with memorable experiences and opportunities for the children to shine. This week, we enjoyed a brilliant morning at St Mungo's Church, where the children explored the Easter story in an engaging and hands-on way. They recreated Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem by waving palms, learned about service through the symbolic act of washing feet and created positive stones for the garden decorated with uplifting messages. Following our visit, the children wrote detailed recounts to share everything they had learned, showing their understanding.

To complete our busy week, the children also put on an absolutely brilliant performance of 'Hoodwinked'. They acted, sang and danced with such confidence and joy, and it was a pleasure to watch them bring the story to life on stage. We are incredibly proud of every single child for their hard work and enthusiasm.

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

Nancy Bethwaite and **Noel Rooney**

Year 4

This week in Maths, we focused on fractions. The children placed fractions on number lines to visualise parts of a whole and began converting improper fractions to mixed numbers using division to find the whole and remainder.

In English, we continued *The River* by Valerie Bloom, studying Verse 3 where the river is called a "hoarder." We discussed why the poet uses this word, gathered vocabulary about how a river collects objects, and the children wrote their own verses imagining what the river sweeps along.

In Science, we explored the water cycle—evaporation, condensation, precipitation, and collection. The children created labelled diagrams and wrote a paragraph describing a water droplet's journey.

On Wednesday, we attended a church Easter workshop, learning about key events in the Easter story through discussion and a practical activity.

The children also worked hard preparing for Thursday's show. Their enthusiasm and creativity were fantastic, and we hope you enjoyed the performance.

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

Ember Scott and **Alice Adams**

Year 5

Year 5 have had a busy and varied week! With the good weather, pupils took their comprehension outdoors for a cross-curricular orienteering task, combining reading with teamwork and navigation.

In English, we continued *Wonder*, focusing on comprehension, inference, and key reading skills. Pupils also researched a book of their choice, created presentations, and voted for our next class read— 'Checkmate' won after Tommy's excellent presentation.

On Wednesday, we visited Dearham Church for an Easter workshop, learning about Holy Week, Easter symbols, and the Easter story through hands-on activities.

PE was energetic this week, with training sessions and mini marathons—five laps on Tuesday and ten on Thursday, totalling two miles! We ended the week celebrating Down Syndrome Awareness Day and Comic Relief, with pupils wearing odd socks and red noses to show support.

This week's Headteacher's Awards in Year 5 go to:

Sophia McKenzie and **Summer Mossop**

YEAR 6

This week in Year 6, we have finished our algebra topic by solving equations and finding values for unknowns. The children have shown great determination and confidence as they tackled these challenges. We have now begun our new unit on ratio, starting with understanding the ratio symbol and exploring the key language we will be using throughout the topic.

In English, we have strengthened our understanding of word classes, including determiners, adjectives, nouns, verbs and adverbs. The children worked through some tricky questions and have grown in confidence as they applied their knowledge.

We also enjoyed a lovely visit to the church on Wednesday to listen to the Easter story. The children listened carefully to the events leading up to Easter Sunday and learned more about why we celebrate with chocolate eggs today. It was lovely to walk down together as a class and enjoy the sunshine along the way.

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

Finley Gillmore and **Scarlett Chilton**

Key Dates

March

25th—World Maths Day

27th—Easter Extravaganza Afternoon

27th—Break up at **3:15pm**

April

13th—Term 3 begins

27th—Reception and Y1 Dental Checks

May

4th—Bank Holiday

11th—12th—Y4 Hawes End

11th—14th—Year 6 SATs

16th—Summer Fete

19th—KS1 Sports Day 1:30pm

20th—KS2 Sports Day 1:30pm

21st—Class Photos

22nd—Break up for Half Term **3:15pm**

Cups

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

Early Years— **Leo Horner**

Key Stage 1— **Hannah Farmer**

LKS2— **Mila Hetherington**

UKS2— **Oscar Hindmoor**

The **Community Cup** was awarded to **Archie Smyth** in Year 1. He will be walking up Scafell Pike this summer to raise funds for the school play tower. Last weekend he walked up Blencathra—4.78 miles and 2,095 feet, as part of his training.

Archie's Scafell Pike Climb | SuperKind

Attendance

Attendance for week ending **20/03/2026**

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

Whole School Attendance = 96.02%

Reception	98%
Year 1	94%
Year 2	96%
Year 3	97%
Year 4	96%
Year 5	97%
Year 6	94%

Safeguarding

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

Cumberland Safeguarding Children Partnership

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

Headteacher — Mrs. Samantha Busigny

DSL — Mrs. Samantha Busigny

DDSL—Miss Grima and Mrs. Clayton

Safeguarding Governor—Jon Stewart

MARYPORT RESCUE

Charity shop

Marine road
Maryport CA15 8AY
Open 7 days a week
10am - 3pm

Volunteers needed

Children's toys.
Clothes, shoes and hats available for all ages.
Bags, scarves and other accessories too!

For more information contact tracy@maryportrescue.co.uk
Follow us on Facebook Maryport Rescue charity kabin

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FOR AN
EGGCITING DAY
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CA15 8AY
Sunday 29th March
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Charity shop
Sale
&
Easter egg hunt
£5 PER CHILD