



AUTUMN TERM 2026 NEWSLETTER 4th September 2026



**EVENTS FOR
NEXT WEEK**
**PLEASE NOTE
NO PE AFTER
SCHOOL NEXT
WEEK**

MONDAY

TUESDAY
PE Year 1

WEDNESDAY
PE Pre School
Class 1 and Class 4

THURSDAY
2.50pm—
Celebration
Assembly

FRIDAY
PE Class 1, 2, 3, 4

IMPORTANT DATES

Tue 22nd Sept
Swimming lessons
with Lorna start
for year 2, 3 and 4

Mon 5th Oct
1:30 PM
Nasal Flu
Vaccinations C1-C4



Dear Parents,

It was lovely to welcome back all the children this week. Some children can be a little nervous coming back after a long holiday, especially if they are moving into a new class., but as I walked around school on Wednesday morning, everyone was happy and settled in already. I think that the additional transition sessions for our current Reception children have really helped as they seem to have had a very good week in Class 1 with Mrs Healey and Mrs Ashlin. We have a few new pre-school children too and they have also seemed to settle very well, which is pleasing.

This first newsletter will outline some key information that you need to know.

SCHOOL ROUTINES AND CLASS INFORMATION: Class teachers letters sent out today outline information about homework and the routines of their class, including PE days. Our termly curriculum plans for each class will be sent out on Monday via email. As always, we hope that this gives you enough information to help you to engage with your child about their learning. Class teachers will also be updating the class pages regularly throughout the year, which you can find on the school website under the link 'children'.

NEWSLETTERS: Newsletters are sent out to you every Friday via e-mail as we are trying to be as paperless as possible. We always print a copy for you which we put in the noticeboard at the main school gates that you can also use to keep updated. Copies of newsletters and other events can also be viewed on our website. Please take time to visit at:

<https://st-patrickscofe.cumbria.sch.uk>

CAR PARK: Please remember, for the safety of all the children in the school, no parent or carer should drive up to the school car park to drop off or collect their child unless by prior agreement. Parking is available down by the tennis courts for dropping off and collection. Driving into the staff car park, particularly at the beginning and end of the day is dangerous, especially for those pupils who are collecting bikes from the bike sheds as well as for parents collecting Preschool children. Thank you for your support in this matter.

SCHOOL MEALS: Simon has spent some time over the holidays updating the menus for school meals. Please order your child's school meals in advance via the SchoolGrid app. School meals are free under the Universal Free School Meals scheme for pupils in Reception through to Year 2.

CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY: Please remember to join us for Celebration Assemblies, which will continue to take place on Thursday afternoons at 2:50pm. We will let you know if your child has received Star of the Week so that you have some notice to attend if you are able. If you would like us to celebrate certificates or awards that your child has achieved out of school, then please send them into the office by the Wednesday before the Assembly.

SCHOOL SWIMMING LESSONS: Swimming lessons with Lorna for Yr 2, 3 & 4 will be on Tuesday afternoons commencing on Tuesday 22nd September for ten weeks until Tuesday 1st December excluding the October half term. Please make sure your child has goggles. Lorna has asked that girls do not come in bikinis, but rather a full costume and that boys do not wear baggy board shorts, as both tend to come down easily in the pool whilst swimming.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING GRANT : Free school meals are available to statutory school aged children attending full time education. If you feel you may be eligible please visit the following website: <https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers>

PACKED LUNCHES: To avoid confusion please ensure your child's lunch box is clearly labelled on the outside with his/her name. Children on packed lunches can use their water bottles at lunch time, can have water served at lunch time or could have a carton of fruit juice. While we would hope that no chocolate biscuits and crisps are brought in packed lunch boxes, we can't enforce this but we really do not want unhealthy snacks eaten at lunch or break. If your child is having a packed lunch, please could you send them with their snack separately as we find that some children are eating a lot from their lunch boxes early?

BREAK TIME SNACKS: We do our best to encourage children to eat healthily. Please do not send your child with chocolate snacks or crisps and **please be aware that we do not want children to bring any snacks (including for packed lunches), that contain nuts due to the risk from allergies.** We always have a large fruit bowl for children to take from, and this is always empty by the end of the week.



WATER BOTTLES: We encourage every child to come to school with a water bottle, which they can drink from throughout the day in school. These should be brought home regularly to be washed but can be filled easily in school from the wet area classroom taps. Please do not fill these with squash. It is extremely difficult for us to try to promote a water only policy for a healthy lifestyle, when all the children in the class see someone drinking squash.

ABSENCE: Most parents are now aware of the new arrangements from the Local Authority regarding absence. However, as a reminder and for the parents of our new children I will outline some information that is important here. If your child is away from school for any reason, please contact us by telephone before 9 am or as soon as possible explaining the reason for his/her absence. **This includes our children in pre-school.** If there is any doubt about your child being fit for school, we ask that you exercise careful judgement, bearing in mind the welfare of the other pupils and the limited facilities we have in school for attending to a sick child. **A child who has been vomiting/has diarrhoea needs to be kept at home for 48 hours.**

All absences now have to be reported to the Local Authority and are monitored by the attendance officer who visits each school on a termly basis. We have to show clear evidence that we are following the rules on authorised absences and taking steps to inform parents when the absence for a child is too high, particularly when these are unauthorised. There is very little that we can authorise as schools under the new guidance.

Please read the school's Attendance Policy to be clear about the rules around absence. This can be found on the school website under Important Information and then Policies.

Link: <https://www.st-patrickscofe.cumbria.sch.uk/>

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS AND MEDICATION (INCLUDES INFORMATION REGARDING INHALERS)

It is helpful if prior notice is given about medical appointments requiring time out of school. Medical including dental appointments should be made during the school holidays or out of school hours wherever possible. Should your child require prescribed medicine (this includes inhalers) please call at the school office to complete a Care Plan. Children using inhalers must be able to operate these themselves; staff will supervise but not administer the dosage. It is also the parents' responsibility to ensure that inhalers are checked regularly throughout the school year to ensure medication is within its expiry date. Please drop in to school to check the expiry date on your child's medication. Please note, we are unable to administer Calpol/paracetamol or any other medication that has not been prescribed by a medical professional.

SCHOOL UNIFORM: Please could you ensure that your child's school uniform is clearly labelled. We would also like to remind parents that all pupils need a coat in school every day.

COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS: If your child is to be collected by someone other than yourself, please ensure the class teacher or office staff are notified as soon as possible.

JEWELLERY : Wearing jewellery should be avoided. However, some children do come to school wearing earrings. For safety reasons only studs are allowed and these must be removed and kept in a safe place (a box) during P.E. sessions. If earrings cannot be removed then your child will be asked to **cover the earring with a plaster which must be provided from home.** Please note, adults in school are not allowed to help a child remove jewellery and the school cannot be held responsible for the loss of jewellery items.

BREAKFAST AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUB: Breakfast and afterschool club sessions should be booked via the Arbor App. As we now have several children from pre-school attending our wrap around care, it is essential that places are booked and paid for so that we have the correct staffing ratios. We are unable to take children easily at the last minute, but I will always stay to help staff if you have an emergency.

NASAL FLU VACCINATIONS: Letters have gone home this week, this is taking place on Monday 5th October at 1:30 PM. Please complete the consent form if you wish for your child to receive the flu vaccination. Please note this is only for Class 1,2,3 & 4. Pre School children will need to go through their doctors surgery directly.

We are all looking forward to the year ahead and working in partnership with you all to continue to provide a great education for all the children.

Kind regards,
S Edmondson
Head Teacher