



MARCH/APRIL 2025

Newsletter

The end of the Spring Term marked the end of an incredibly busy and exciting half-term and one that I will personally remember as one of the most special in my whole teaching career. After a tough couple of days, where our children, staff and governors showed off our school in the most splendid way during the interview process, I am absolutely thrilled to have been successfully appointed as the new Headteacher of Skelton School, to begin officially from the 1st September 2025. Thank you to you all for your wonderful outpouring of congratulations, emails, letters, cards, flowers, gifts, kind words, hugs and happy tears! Our school is a wonderfully caring and happy place and I am so proud to be leading it into the future surrounded by a brilliant team of staff, children, parents, governors and our local community. You've all played a part in making our school the truly special place it is. Thank you all!

We've now said goodbye to Mrs Lydon and Mrs Sinkinson for a little while as they prepare to have their babies, due in April and May. We wish them both and their families the very best of luck in this exciting new chapter for them all. We'll be sure to update you when we can with any news of new arrivals.

Miss Higginson has now had 2 days in school getting to know the Year 1 and 2 children and has been working with myself and Mrs Sinkinson to ensure a smooth transition after Easter. She is very much looking forward to meeting those of you that she hasn't met already and will be pleased for you to pop to her door at drop off or collection time to say, 'Hello' and to introduce yourselves in the Summer Term.

Miss Bell and Mrs Bodecott have taken up some of Mrs Lydon's hours between them and we are delighted to welcome back Miss Skelton who applied for the part-time Teaching Assistant post which was advertised to cover the remaining hours. There will be some new faces to welcome into (or back to!) the team and I know that you and the children will all help to make them feel welcome.

I hope that you are all having a lovely Easter Holiday and I look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday 22nd April.

Mrs Newton. x

Centre for Life Visit

Children from Year 1 & 2 and Year 3 & 4 travelled together to celebrate British Science Week at The Centre for Life in Newcastle. It was a day full of fun, being inspired to explore and enjoy Science through an array of exciting, interactive activities and workshops.



Reception Forest School



Children in Reception have really benefited from a block of forest school sessions and have loved being able to plan their sessions each week. It's been wonderful to watch them becoming more adventurous each week and the Forest School team commented how happy they all seem in school 😊

BSL Assembly

Laura Driver, who is profoundly deaf, led a brilliant assembly for us during British Sign Language Week where we learned about her life and her amazing achievements. A true advocate for never letting anything hold you back - truly inspiring. She taught the children some BSL and they have been busy signing their names and greeting us all in the playground.



EYFS - Around the World

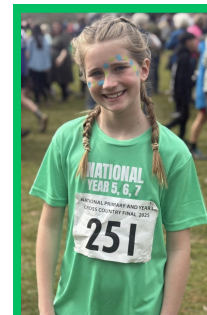
EYFS have had a fun half-term learning about different countries around the world. They have become experts in answering the register in a different language each morning, chosen from their world map wall. It's been fantastic to see all of your photographs from your family trips and to plot them onto the map. They have enjoyed mornings with 2 parent visitors who taught them all about Trinidad and the Czech Republic and were transfixed by a video call from Kenya. Their topic was finished off nicely by a trip out in our own local area where they enjoyed a boat trip on the lake and were treated to some wonderful hospitality from our friends at Keswick School who made them all feel incredibly welcome.

Gymnastics - First Place!

The Year 1 and 2 team of gymnasts continued their hard work leading up to the Primary School County Gymnastics Final on Monday 31st March where they represented the Eden area. They performed beautifully and were rewarded with a first place for small schools! Well done to you all and thank you to their coach Miss Holme for giving them the confidence and teaching them the skills to shine. They all looked amazing in their brand new Skelton School leotards and shorts and their smiles couldn't have been any wider. 6 Skelton Superstars!

Running for Cumbria!

Well done to Sadie who represented Cumbria at the Cross Country National Championships. After a really tricky start and a nasty fall, she fought back to finish in 63rd out of 180 runners and in the top 6 for Cumbria. Brilliant!



World Book Day

We all had a wonderful day celebrating reading together in school. The highlight of the day was our whole school book share where everyone from the oldest to the youngest pupil came together to snuggle up with their books.



The children also enjoyed live webinars from children's authors Laura Baker and Lucy Edwards. Lucy was particularly mesmerising and inspiring to listen to as a blind writer who certainly has not been held back by her disability. She introduced us to her Guide Dog and told us all about how she helps her to navigate her life and how she became a successful author.

Y3/4 Hockey & Y5/6 Netball Finals



The finals were both held at Kirkby Stephen Grammar School on the penultimate day of term. It was a great achievement for our small school to qualify for each of the finals. Some tough competition on the day but our pupils shone for all of the right reasons. Great teamwork, respect, resilience and determination to be their best on the day. We couldn't ask for any more! You all did yourselves and our school proud - well done!



Carlisle Archive Centre Visit

Year 5 & 6 had a brilliant morning at the Archive Centre in Carlisle. They were able to investigate the life of Alfred Wainwright by looking at a range of different archive sources including his birth certificate, school reports and some of his early writing. They thoroughly enjoyed a tour of the centre too, particularly seeing the moving shelves and looking at some of the items in the quarantine room. They finished off the morning by recreating some sketches in the style of Alfred Wainwright.



PE

PE days for the first half of the Spring Term will be as follows:

Nursery & Reception - Thursday

Year 1 & 2 - Monday & Thursday

Year 3 & 4 - Wednesday and Thursday

Year 5 & 6 - Wednesday (**Y5 only**) & Thursday

Children should continue to come to school in their PE kit on their respective days. **Children in Reception should bring their uniform to change into on their PE days.**

*Please ensure that **earrings** are either removed and left at home or taped **before arriving at school** on PE days. From Year 3, children may bring their own tape to school if they prefer **but must be able to apply this themselves** before the lesson.*

Forest School

Forest School will begin again on a rotation for children in Years 1-6 starting on **Thursday 24th April**. They should bring appropriate outdoor clothes, waterproofs and wellies to change into before their session. Children should still come to school in their PE kit as they may also have their PE session before Forest School.

Thurs 24th April - Year 1 and 2

Thurs 1st May - Year 5 and 6

Thurs 8th May - Year 3 and 4

Thurs 15th Mar - No Forest School

Thurs 22nd May - Year 1 and 2

Collection at home time.

Please remember to let us know if someone different is collecting your children or if they are going home with another family. This should be done preferably by email so that we have it in writing and are able to check quickly, if we are unsure.

Hot Weather

As we enter the summer term please ensure that your children arrive at school each day with their water bottle and a sun hat. Where appropriate, they should arrive at school wearing sun cream but should bring **a named bottle** of sun cream in their bookbag to reapply later in the day.

Swimming Lessons

Children in Y3&4 will have their school swimming lessons this half-term. These lessons are part of the National Curriculum for PE. Children should come to school in their PE kit but should bring their swimming clothes (no bikinis please) and a towel in a separate bag. Children may bring goggles if they wish.

Attendance

We are aiming for 95%+

So far our attendance this academic year is: **97.3%**

Thank you to all of our families for supporting such positive attendance and punctuality.

Contact us via email on admin@skelton.cumbria.sch.uk, telephone 017684 84367 or speak to one of us at the school gates each morning if you need anything at all.

Summer Term dates for your diary



Date	Children	Event
22 nd April	All	Return to School - Start of Summer Term
23 rd April	Y 3 & 4	Swimming 1
23 rd April	Y5	Cyclewise - bikes needed in school by 9am
24 th April	Selected Y3,4, 5, 6	Tag_Rugby Festival - Frenchfields 12.30pm
24 th April	Year 1&2	Forest School 1.15pm
24 th April	Y5	Cyclewise - comfortable, warm clothes and gloves needed.
25 th April	Y4 & Y5	Cyclewise. Y4 bikes needed in school by 9am
28 th April	Y5	Visit from Mr Gilby - UCC
30 th April	Y3&4	Swimming 2
1 st May	Selected Y2	Tag-Rugby
1 st May	Y5&6	Forest School 1.15pm
5 th May	ALL	BANK HOLIDAY
7 th May	Reception	Vision and hearing checks
7 th May	Y3&4	Swimming 3
8 th May	Selected Y3&4	Tennis competition
8 th May	Y3&4	Forest School 1.15pm
9 th May	Y5	Visit from Mr Marchant - QEGS
12 th - 16 th May	Y6	National Curriculum Test Week - please wear school uniform and bring PE kit to change into after lunch.
12 th - 16 th May	Y3-6	House Sports afternoons - Y3, 4, 5 may wear PE kit to school each day
14 th May	Y3&4	Swimming 4
19 th May	All	PSHE day - Coram Life Education
21 st May	All	Sophie Anderson - Author visit
21 st May	Y3&4	Swimming 5
22 nd -23 rd May	Y3&4	Residential Visit - St John's in the Vale
22 nd May	Y1&2	Forest School
26 th - 30 th May	All	HALF-TERM - return to school Monday 2 nd June.