

SKELTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2026



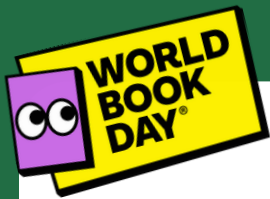
Happy half-term!

It's hard to believe we have reached the end of the first half of the Spring Term. It seems no time at all since we were wishing each other a Happy New Year!

It's been a joyous half-term full of fun and learning and I have been particularly impressed by the efforts the children are putting in to improving their writing, right across the school. Classrooms are calm and happy and it's a pleasure for me to visit each class and see how keen the children are to show me their new learning and how proud they are of their work.

In this newsletter you will see a mixture of things coming up in the second half of the Spring Term alongside snippets of what the children have been up to since January.

Mrs Newton. x



World Book Day will be celebrated in school on **Friday 6th March**.

This year, our World Book Day celebrations will centre on what truly matters – books, stories and reading for pleasure – as we share stories together and promote a genuine love of reading across our school.

To ensure the day remains inclusive and mindful of family budgets, we will not be asking children to dress up, instead filling the day with activities that celebrate the joy of reading.

SPELLBINDING READING IN YEAR 5 AND 6



There's a real buzz at the moment as our Year 5 and 6 pupils throw themselves into the Spellbinding Reading Challenge – and they are absolutely loving it!

The classroom is alive with reading for pleasure. Books are being eagerly picked up, swapped, and discussed, with children chatting enthusiastically about what they're reading and recommending favourites to their friends. It's wonderful to hear such thoughtful conversations about characters, plots, and surprising twists!

Some pupils are already well on their way to completing all 12 books in the challenge – a fantastic achievement and a true testament to their commitment and enthusiasm. They are all proving to be brilliant ambassadors for reading, setting a shining example for our younger children and inspiring them to develop a love of books too.

We are so proud of the positive reading culture in our school. Keep turning those pages over half-term, everyone!

READING AT HOME

Regularly listening to your children read at home is one of the most powerful ways to support their progress. Research highlights that consistent parental engagement with reading has a significant positive impact on children's attainment. Look at the Reading area of our school website for helpful tips and information to help.

SMART UNIFORM!

A polite reminder that PE kit and trainers should only be worn to school **on PE days**. PE days are shown on the right for each class. Children should wear smart uniform and school shoes on non-PE days.



Please refamiliarise yourselves with our uniform list on our school website or ask if you are at all unsure.

KS2 CROSS COUNTRY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

On Wednesday 28th January, Caleb, Ewan, Orla and Rory competed at the KS2 Cross Country County Championships at Sedbergh School, after qualifying in the Autumn Term.



Conditions were extremely muddy underfoot after some heavy rain in the days leading up to the event. Our 4 brilliant runners all made it round the challenging courses and all with their footwear in tact, which was not the case for many!

Congratulations to you all! A special mention to Ewan who finished 2nd in his race, earning himself a silver medal and also to Rory, who sacrificed his own position to help another runner who he noticed was quite unwell. Confident, capable and caring runners - well done all!



PE DAYS

Nursery & Reception - Thursday
Year 1 & 2 - Monday & Thursday
Year 3 & 4 - Monday & Thursday
Year 5 & 6 - Wednesday & Thursday

Children should continue to come to school in their PE kit on their respective days.

Children in Nursery & Reception should stay in their PE kits for the day but please ensure that they also bring warm, waterproof clothes in a bag suitable for their afternoon Forest School sessions. If they do not have wellies in school please ensure to send a pair to change into.

FOREST SCHOOL - EYFS

Children in **Reception and Nursery** will have a block of Forest School **afternoons** on the following dates.

Thurs 26th Feb
Thurs 5th Mar
Thurs 12th Mar
Thurs 19th Mar
Thurs 26th Mar



Children should bring appropriate outdoor clothes for the weather: A warm coat, waterproofs, hats, gloves and wellies or boots to change into before their session. Children should still come to school in their PE kit as they will have their PE session before Forest School.

ONLINE SAFETY

Parents, please take some time this week to review your children's safety settings on any devices that they may have access to. This may include any smart TVs in the household. We have noticed a small number of children who are imitating or discussing trends, which they may have viewed online, that are not appropriate for their age or understanding. We recommend children only use devices in shared family spaces where an adult can easily see and supervise what they are accessing.

KEY STEPS GYMNASTICS

On Friday 13th February, we had 2 teams of gymnasts who competed at the Penrith area competition. Up against some tough competition, our Year 5 and 6 team finished in 6th place and our Year 1 and 2 team won their event. The younger team will now represent Eden at the County Finals in March. Well done to all competitors and a huge thank you to coaches Miss Holme and Mrs Holme for all of your support to get the children performance ready.

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.

PARENTS EVENINGS

Thank you for submitting your Parents Evening appointment requests. Appointments will be sent out after half-term. Miss Lockley has done her best to accommodate everyone's preferred times, but if your slot isn't convenient, please contact us and we will arrange an alternative on a different day.

PARENTS EVENING 1 - 5th March

PARENTS EVENING 2 - 12th March

YEAR 1 AND 2 CLASS

It's amazing how quickly the year has flown by! After Easter, we are delighted to welcome Mrs Sinkinson back to Year 1 and 2 for three days a week. The children have loved seeing her teaching in school again this month as she has begun her transition back. She will be joined by Mrs Natasha Barker for the other two days, giving the class the benefit of two talented teachers. At the same time, we say a fond farewell to Miss Higginson as she moves on to an exciting new role out of the area – we will miss her and wish her all the very best!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Date	Who	Activity	Notes
February			
23rd	ALL	Return to school	
25th	Reception-Y6	Movie Night - 3.30pm-5pm	Please book via School Hub
26th	Nursery & Reception	Forest School	1.15pm-3.15pm
26th	Y3-6	Dodgeball Club – 3.30pm-4.45pm	Please book via School Hub
March			
5th	Selected Y3&4	Quicksticks Hockey Competition	Penrith Leisure Centre 12.30pm-3pm
5th	Nursery & Reception	Forest School	1.15pm-3.15pm
5th	ALL	Whole School Parents Evening 1 -	Further details and booking information to
5th	Y3-6	Dodgeball Club – 3.30pm-4.45pm	Please book via School Hub
6th	ALL	World Book Day @ Skelton School	
9th	Y1&2	Trip to Hilltop	
12th		Forest School	1.15pm-3.15pm
12th	ALL	Whole School Parents Evening 1 -	Further details and booking information to
12th	Y3-6	Dodgeball Club – 3.30pm-4.45pm	Please book via School Hub

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES - CONTINUED

18th	5 year olds	Dental Checks	Only those who have given consent
18th	Y3&4 children	U Dance – Technical Rehearsal	2pm-4pm
18th	Y3&4 children and parents	U Dance Cumbria Festival	The Crown & Mitre Hotel, Carlisle
19th	Nursery & Reception	Forest School	1.15pm-3.15pm
19th	Reception-Y6	Baking Club 3.30pm-4.45pm	Please book via School Hub
23rd	Selected Y1&2	Key Steps Gymnastics County Final	9am Penrith Leisure Centre
23rd	Y3&4	Trip to Tullie House – Ancient Egypt	
23rd	Reception-Y6	Easter Bingo – 3.30pm-4.45pm	Please book via School Hub
24th	Nursery & Reception	Trip to Keswick	
26th	Nursery & Reception	Forest School	1.15pm-3.15pm
26th	Y5&6	Orienteering Competition	12.30pm-3.30pm Venue - tbc
27th	ALL	Last Day of Term	
30th Mar-10th Apr	ALL	EASTER HOLIDAYS	
13th April	ALL	First day of the Summer Term	All return to school