

SKELTON SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

MARCH & APRIL 2026



## Welcome to the Summer Term!

I hope that you have all had a wonderful Easter Holiday and that this newsletter finds you well and ready for the start of our final term of the academic year. Based on feedback from our recent questionnaires, I will schedule the newsletter to arrive just before our return to school each half-term. This seems to suit many of you, ensuring that it is at the top of your inboxes to help you to get organised for our return.

In this newsletter you will see what is coming up in the Summer Term alongside a look back to the Spring Term. A reminder that key dates, such as Sports Day and the Leavers Assembly, are set well in advance each year and can be found on our school website calendar to help you to plan ahead and avoid missing anything that you may like to attend. Please feel free to email or check at the office if you are unsure of anything.

Mrs Newton. x

## Easter Hampers

Following a very successful non-uniform day in exchange for Easter goodies, our wonderful Friends of Skelton School (FOSS) team were able to create 16 fantastic Easter hampers and packages. Alongside this, a significant amount of money was raised for our school through the popular Easter Square ticket sales—thank you to everyone who took part! We are incredibly grateful to everyone who bought tickets, sold tickets, and donated items towards the hampers. Your generosity and support make such a difference. Well done to all of our lucky winners!

A huge thank you goes to FOSS for thinking of and organising such creative ways to raise money for our school. They work tirelessly behind the scenes—often the same small group of dedicated people—and their efforts are truly appreciated. FOSS raises money to directly impact your children's education and their school experience.

As a parent or carer, you are already a valued member of FOSS simply by being part of our school community. However, we would really welcome more volunteers to help share the workload and support these fantastic events. If you don't already, and are able to lend a hand in any way, please get in touch with Mrs Newton.

Thank you again for your continued support!

## UDANCE CUMBRIA YEAR 3 AND 4



We are incredibly proud of the Year 3 and 4 children who took part in the UDance Cumbria Festival of Dance on the 18<sup>th</sup> March. Over several weeks in their PE lessons, the children worked hard to create and develop their own dance routines. They showed great creativity, teamwork, and determination as they practised and refined their performances.

This fantastic effort led to them earning the opportunity to perform at the festival, held at the Crown and Mitre Hotel in Carlisle, alongside nine other schools on the evening from across the county. The children represented our school brilliantly. They performed with confidence, enthusiasm, and big smiles, and were a real credit to our school community. It was a wonderful experience for them to showcase their work on a larger stage, with a paying audience and to watch and celebrate the performances of others.

Well done to everyone involved—we are very proud of you!

## HAPPY RETIREMENT, MRS BELL!



In the final week of last term, we said a very special goodbye to Mrs Bell as she retired after an incredible 36 years of service to our school.

We enjoyed a truly lovely week of celebrations to mark this occasion. Mrs Bell shared a lunch out with current staff, and we were delighted to surprise her with a very special afternoon tea. It was wonderful to welcome familiar faces, including 3 generations of Headteachers, three School Business Managers, and even her original dinner lady team—all together in one room to celebrate her remarkable career.

Our celebrations also included a special assembly, where Mrs Bell was presented with a number of thoughtful gifts, including vouchers, flowers, a jigsaw, two beautiful roses ('As Good as it Gets' and 'Let's Celebrate'), and a companion set bench.

The bench was carefully transported to her home by our very own Year 6 "removal team" and now has pride of place in Mrs Bell's garden. Thank you to staff (past and present), children and parents who contributed so generously to enable us to mark this occasion.



Mrs Bell was at the heart of our school for so many years. She supported generations of children and families, and her kindness, dedication, and warmth has left a lasting impact on us all.

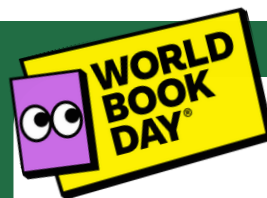
She will be greatly missed, and our school community is better for having known her and having had her as part of our family for so long.

**Happy Retirement, Mrs Bell—we wish you all the very best for this next chapter!**

## A WEEK OF GOODBYES

Alongside our celebrations for Mrs Bell, we also said a fond farewell to Miss Higginson as she moves on to her new school, after covering Mrs Sinkinson's maternity leave.

Miss Higginson has been a special part of our school family this year, and we are so grateful for all that she has given to our children and wider community. She will be greatly missed by both staff and pupils alike. We wish her every success and happiness in her new role.



**We had a lovely day in school celebrating World Book Day on the 6<sup>th</sup> March!**

The children enjoyed spending time with their House Teams, sharing books together – it was wonderful to see children of all ages reading side by side, completely lost in their books.

Throughout the day, classes took part in a range of activities including live lessons, sketching their favourite book covers, making bookmarks and even decorating a potato as their favourite book character!

It was a fantastic celebration of reading and creativity, and a joy to see the children's enthusiasm for books. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so special.

## Year 3 & 4 Visit to Tullie House

Year 3 and 4 enjoyed an exciting trip to Tullie House Museum for a hands-on experience day all about Ancient Egypt.

During the day, the children had the opportunity to handle real artefacts and even took part in preparing a body for mummification—an activity that certainly sparked lots of interest and curiosity!

They learned about what life would have been like in Ancient Egypt, tried on replica clothing, and gained a deeper understanding of this fascinating period in history.

To finish the day, the children explored the museum, taking in the wide range of exhibits on display. It was a fantastic day of learning, and the children represented the school brilliantly throughout.



## Y5&6 Orienteering in the sunshine at Acorn Bank.



Year 5/6 had a brilliant time at the EVSP Orienteering competition at Acorn Bank! The sun shone whilst they were busy completing the different tasks around the grounds. They all worked really hard to put the skills they've learnt from PE into practice resulting in some fantastic times!

# What have Early Years and Y1&2 been up to?

Early Years had a wet, but brilliant day out to Keswick. They enjoyed a cruise on Derwentwater and lunch hosted by Mrs Stanton and her sports students at Keswick School - thank you for making everyone so welcome and also for providing a dry space for lunch! Their learning has been focused on 'Around the World' and they have enjoyed answering their register in a different language each day and finding different country flags from their bunting each morning. Their learning centered around the countries that the children were interested in and has seen them learning about France, Italy and China as well as learning about Trinidad from Mrs Bodecott and also the Czech Republic with a delicious Apple Strudel cooking morning, lead by Bertie's mummy. They have also learned about Hot & Cold in their Science work and loved sorting Miss Dobinson's suitcase for a hot or cold trip! A block of Forest School has now come to an end for this class with an 'Under the Sea' themed activity afternoon planned as a one off session after half-term.

Year 1 & 2 have been immersed in their Geography learning 'This is Where we Live' and a local History study of Beatrix Potter. They have enjoyed learning all about her conservation work in the Lake District. They enjoyed a trip to Hilltop and Brockhole to enhance their learning about Beatrix Potter and to see firsthand where she had lived, to learn more about her legacy and to explore a visit to the Lake District. The classroom has been a hive of creativity throughout the 'Spirals' unit of work in art and on World Book Day when favourite characters came to life in the form of decorated potatoes!

## WHAT ARE WE LEARNING ACROSS SCHOOL?

Don't forget that you can look on the 'Curriculum' area of our school website to find out what we will be learning each half-term. We are currently studying 'Year A'. Some of you mentioned on your questionnaire returns that it would be useful to know so that you can help your children with their learning - it's all there and is kept up to date.





## SUMMER TERM UNIFORM

As we enter the Summer Term, your children may choose to wear summer uniform items if they wish. We have a selection in our pre-loved collection in the Lodge. May I ask that they still bring a coat to school to allow for the unpredictable weather.

As always PE kit and trainers should only be worn to school **on PE days**. PE days are shown on the right for each class.

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

Please send your children to school with a sun hat/cap for sunny days. This may be sent to school each day or kept on pegs or in bookbags. Once the weather picks up, please apply sun-cream before your children arrive at school and send a **named** bottle for them to reapply themselves later in the day. As always they should have their water bottle in school each day and may refill it as often as they need to from our coolers.



## Y1&2 - GYMNASTICS

We are delighted to share the fantastic success of our Year 1 and Year 2 gymnastics team.

After impressing in earlier rounds, the team qualified to represent Eden at the County Gymnastics Finals—a huge achievement in itself!



The children performed brilliantly on the day, showing excellent balance, control, and confidence in their routines. Their hard work and dedication truly paid off, and we are incredibly proud to announce that they finished 2nd in the whole county.

This is an outstanding result, especially for such a young team, and reflects both their commitment and positive attitude.

Well done to all of the children involved—you were amazing and represented our school with pride!

## PE DAYS

**Nursery & Reception** - Thursday

**Year 1 & 2** - Thursday & Friday

**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 Reception should bring their uniform to change into after their morning lesson.**

## FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School sessions will take place on the following dates.

**Thurs 16/4 - Y3&4**

**Thurs 23/4 - Y3&4**

**Thurs 30/4 - Y3&4**

**Thurs 7/5 - Y5&6**

**Thurs 14/5 - Y5&6**

**Thurs 21/5 - Y5&6**

**Thurs 4/6 - Y1&2**

**Thurs 11/6 - Y1&2**

**Mon 15/6 - Nursery and Reception**

**Thurs 18/6 - Y1&2**

**Thurs 25/6 - Y1&2**



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 and trainers as they *may* also have their PE session before Forest School.

## PE - KS2 SWIMMING

Swimming will be the focus for Thursday PE lessons *after May half-term*. This year, both Y3&4 and Y5&6 classes will travel together and have their lessons consecutively.

More information will follow in the next few weeks.



## Cumbria Football Academy @ After School Club - PLACES STILL AVAILABLE for KS2

We were fortunate to be offered a last minute cancellation in the last week of term by Cumbria Football Academy. This will run every Tuesday after school until half-term for KS2. Please book via School Hub or email the office.

Contact us via email on [admin@skelton.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto: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.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

Date	Who	Activity	Notes
<b>April</b>			
13th	ALL	Return to school	
14th	KS2	Football Club starts for 6 weeks	3.30pm-4.30 pm. Please book via School Hub
15th	Year 5&6	Trip to Bradford Grand Mosque & Cartwright Gallery	Leave school 7.45am and return 5.45pm
16th	Seleted Y5&6	Netball Final	KSGS am
16th	Year 3&4	Forest School 1 - 1.15pm	Please bring warm clothes and wellies
20th - 22nd	Year 5	Bikeability	Bikes to school on Monday morning. Collect Wednesday night
22nd	Year 4	Bikeability	Bikes to school on Wednesday morning. Collect Wednesday night
23rd	Selected Y3/4/5	Tag-rugby Festival 12.30pm-3.30pm	Frenchfields, Penrith. Collect from Frenchfields at 3.30pm.
23rd	Remaining Y3&4	Forest School 2 - 1.15pm	Please bring warm clothes and wellies
30th	Year 3&4	Forest School 3 - 1.15pm	Please bring warm clothes and wellies
30th	Y1-6	Buddhism Day	Run by Buddhist nun, Gen Kelsang Lhachog
<b>May</b>			
6th	Year 5	Visit from UCC	
7th	Year 5&6	Forest School 1 - 1.15pm	Bring warm clothes and wellies or sunhats and suncream!
11th-15th	Year 6	National Curriculum Test Week	Early nights and lots of relaxation in the evenings. Year 6 - you're all awesome!
11th-15th	KS2	House Team Sports Week	Various House competitions taking place throughout the week.
18th	ALL	PSHE & RSE DAY	Lead by Coram Life. Further details will follow.
21st	Year 5&6	Forest School 3 - 1.15pm	Bring warm clothes and wellies or sunhats and suncream!
21st-22nd	Year 3&4	St John's in the Vale Residential	2 days of fun in the most beautiful surroundings
25th-29th	ALL	<b>HALF-TERM</b>	

June			
1st	ALL	Return to school	
1st-12th	Year 4	Multiplication Checks	
4th	Year 5&6	STEM interactive lesson	Morning
4th	Year 1 & 2	Forest School 1 - 1.15pm	Bring warm clothes and wellies or sunhats and suncream!
4th	Y3-6	PE - Swimming Lesson 1	Penrith Leisure Centre 1.15pm-3pm
9th	EYFS	Early Years Olympics	Plumpton School
11th	Y3-6	PE - Swimming Lesson 2	Penrith Leisure Centre 1.15pm-3pm
11th	Year 1 & 2	Forest School 2 - 1.15pm	Bring warm clothes and wellies or sunhats and suncream!
12th	Selected KS1	Multi Sport Festival	Penrith Leisure Centre
15th	EYFS	Under the Sea - Forest School	Bring warm clothes and wellies or sunhats and suncream!
18th	Y3-6	PE - Swimming Lesson 3	Penrith Leisure Centre 1.15pm-3pm
18th	Year 1 & 2	Forest School 3 - 1.15pm	Bring warm clothes and wellies or sunhats and suncream!
19th	Qualifying KS2	Patterdale Cross Country	Patterdale CofE School. 10am start - tbc
22nd	Selected Y5&6	Penruddock Rounders	Penruddock School. 1pm start - tbc
24th	ALL	Class Group Photographs	
25th	Y3-6	PE - Swimming Lesson 4	Penrith Leisure Centre 1.15pm-3pm
25th	Year 1 & 2	Forest School 4 - 1.15pm	Bring warm clothes and wellies or sunhats and suncream!
26th	ALL	Sports Day	1pm start

July			
2nd	ALL	Transition Day	All move up to new classes/schools
2nd	Nursery Parents	Reception meeting	2pm - Skelton School
4th	ALL	SKELTON SHOW	Hutton in the Forest
6th	Y3-6	PE - Swimming Lesson 5	<b>PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A MONDAY!</b>
6th-9th	ALL	Scholastic Book Fair	Before and after school - time table tbc
9th	Y5&6	Skelton Sevens	Football at Plumpton School - 9am start. Netball at Skelton School - 9.30am start. Finals at 3.30pm/4pm.
10th	Y3&4	Askham Fell Walk	timings tbc
16th	ALL	Leavers Assembly	1.15pm - Skelton Village Hall. All welcome.
16th	Year 6	Leavers treat	from 5pm - tbc
17th	ALL	LAST DAY OF TERM	Collect at 1.30pm