



**April 24th 2026**

### **Welcome Back**

I hope that all of you had a lovely Easter and had the opportunity to spend time together. The weather was reasonable and I hope that you spent some nice time outside. It has been wonderful to welcome some new Nursery children to school and they have settled in very well.

I have spent time in each class this week and the children have resumed their school work very well, showing excellent learning behaviours. It has also been great to allow the children on the school field at breaks and lunchtimes which they really enjoy.

### **Take Notice Photographs**

I was delighted to receive a lot of entries to the Take Notice competition which I set for the Easter Holiday. The entries were brilliant, capturing a range of environments and animals. We did not have any Early Years entries which is understandable but the winner from Key Stage 1 was Olivia K (Y1) with a great shot of a rainbow and the winner from Key Stage 2 was Alice W (Y4) with beautiful photograph of the river in, on which she focused on the reflecting trees. Thank you to everyone who took part – Miss Rudge will make a display shortly in the school hall.

### **Year 4 Life Centre**

Year 4 really enjoyed their visit to the Life Centre on Monday. They spent some time exploring the exhibits including a new Dinosaur exhibit and the popular Space exhibit. There was also time in the Planetarium. They took part in a 'Lighting up the Future' Workshop linked to their learning in Geography and Science this year on Energy. They were able to make their own electrical circuits using light sensory switches powered by wind and solar energy.

### **Wilderness Days**

This week we have had 3 Wilderness Days and the feedback from children and staff has been great. The children have had a lot of fun outdoors, up trees and on Crag Pond, trying new challenges. It is a beautiful setting and we have been fortunate with the weather so far. Thank you very much to FOMS for funding these visits and to Rob, Abi and their Wilderness Team for their work with our school.

### **Road Safety**

Today we had a very useful assembly with Amy, of the pedestrian trainers from the Local Authority. Our children listened brilliantly and answered all of her questions about how to cross roads, finding safe places to cross, our younger children holding adults hands etc. Well done everyone!

### **Year 6 Bikeability**

We have arranged some cycle proficiency training with trainers from the Local Authority. This is for our Year 6 children and will take place June 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. Further information will be shared with Year 6 parents/carers in the coming weeks. If you would like your child to be trained, they will need a roadworthy bike and a helmet.

### **New Starters Parents/Carers Meeting**

Places for Reception Class 2026 were allocated by the Local Authority over the Easter break. Miss Lauder would like to invite parents/carers of our Reception 2026 to school on Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3.30pm for a welcome meeting which contains lots of useful information. I hope that you can attend.

### **Piano and Woodwind Concert**

A number of children are tutored by Rosie and Mrs Unwin on piano and woodwind. A concert has been arranged for the parents/carers of these children on June 15<sup>th</sup>, from 1.15pm in our school hall.

### **Brass Concert**

As we have more musicians than ever, a separate brass concert has been arranged. This will be on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm.

### **FOMS Easter Raffle**

Congratulations to Isla from Year 3 who won the Easter Raffle. Thank you for buying tickets and to FOMS for organising the raffle.

### **Meet Club**

Miss Crampton will be running a free Meet Club from 3.15pm-4.15pm starting Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April, for children who want to enter the Meet Parade on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please could a family member attend with your child/children.

### **Lowther Castle**

Lowther Castle are launching a new pre-school offer for families to enjoy a good value day out which allows children to explore nature and let off steam on our huge 'Lost Castle' Adventure Playground which is still the largest in the UK!

The offer includes:

- Open to all parents and pre-school children on Tuesdays and Wednesdays
- Term time only
- Adult ticket price includes soup & a tea or americano for £13 (*Usual admission price is £15*)
- Child ticket price (3 & 4 year olds) - £7 - Includes sandwich and a juice (*Usual admission price is £10*)
- Under 3's (already get in free) - Sandwich & a drink for £5
- Please pre-book via the ticket section on our website [www.lowthercastle.org](http://www.lowthercastle.org) Pre-booked tickets only

### **Attendance-**

This week's attendance figures are below. Well done Year

<b>Class</b>	<b>Attendance this week (%)</b>
Reception	98.7%
Year 1	97.7%
Year 2	92.0%
Year 3	97.1%
Year 4	95.0%
Year 5	94.5%
Year 6	96.7%
Whole School	95.9%

### **Dates for the Diary**

April 27 <sup>th</sup>	Wilderness Outdoor Adventure Day – Year 2
April 28 <sup>th</sup>	Wilderness Outdoor Adventure Day – Year 3
May 1 <sup>st</sup>	Wilderness Outdoor Adventure Day – Year 5
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	May Day Bank Holiday
May 8 <sup>th</sup>	Pedestrian Training for Year 3
May 11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 to St Mary's church

May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pedestrian Training for Year 3
May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 to Babuls
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Wilderness Outdoor Adventure Day – Year 6
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tri Golf (all Y3) at Barnard Castle Golf Club
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Wilderness Outdoor Adventure Day (am) – Buttercups
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Wilderness Outdoor Adventure Day (pm) – Daisies
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Cricket (Y4) at Raby Castle
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Multiskills (all Y2)
May 25 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup>	Whitsuntide Holidays (Parade May 25 <sup>th</sup> )
June 1 <sup>st</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup>	Bikeability for Year 6
June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Reception Starters 2026 Parents/Carers Meeting @3.30pm
W.b. June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics Screening (Y1)
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	Class Photographs
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Piano and Woodwind concert 1.15pm (for children are tutored)
June 30 <sup>th</sup>	Nursery Sports Day
July 1 <sup>st</sup>	School Sports Day
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	Monty Does Rehearsal Day at The Witham
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	End of Year Reports sent out
July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Monty Does Evening Performance at The Witham
July 8 <sup>th</sup>	Monty Does Evening Performance at The Witham
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 Leavers' Assembly 9am
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	End of term
July 20-21 <sup>st</sup>	Teacher Training Days
Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> - 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Teacher Training Days
Sept 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Children return to school

Mr. C Minikin  
Head Teacher

Please see the QR code for the School Lottery. The more players we have, the more we raise for the school and the bigger the prize fund.

