



**Believe.  
Persevere.  
Succeed.**

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Headteacher: Mr C Armstrong

1 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we edge closer to the start of the new academic year, I wanted to remind/inform you about a few changes ahead of day one.

### Key Dates:

Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Reception and Years 1 to 6 return to school. Nursery home visits
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Nursery home visits
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Nursery start in school

I have also attached a copy of the term dates for this academic year on the next page.

### School Timings:

As of September 2023, The Department for Education (DfE) require all schools to offer a minimum 32.5-hour school week to their pupils. In order to fulfil these hours, **school will start at 8:45am and finish at 3:15pm each day**. The only exception to this is in Early Years where the school day will end at 3:10pm to allow for a smoother exit.

The staggered pick up and drop off times associated with our Covid arrangements are no longer required and we would like all children to arrive in school for an 8:45am start when a bell will ring and the doors will open. Children can access school via the usual entrance for their new year group.

At the end of the day, the gate to the yard will open at 3:05pm for parents to access their pick-up points. A bell will ring again at 3:15pm and we will endeavour to get all children out of school safely for this time.

### Uniform

Thank you for responding positively to the changes to P.E. kit and the footwear reminder at the end of last year. I hope that it has not caused too much stress during the break. Please refer to the Class Dojo if you need to remind yourself of your child's house team colour and remember to keep school footwear all black and practical.

### Class Dojo

The Class Dojo has proved to be a popular and invaluable communication tool since we started to use it in 2020. We will continue to use it this year and hope to have everything up and running smoothly by the end of week one. Please make sure that you have the most up to date version of the app for the most effective experience and use the messaging thoughtfully and considerately when contacting members of staff. If you have any issues with the app, please let us know and we will do our best to offer tech support!



## Staffing & Responsibilities

The staffing arrangements for this year were shared with you as part of your child's report at the end of last term. Please refer to the school website for more information.

As present, the school does not have a Deputy Headteacher. Instead Mrs Dalgleish, Miss Miller and Mrs Walker will form a leadership team to support me with the associated duties this term. This will mean that their classes are partially covered by other members of staff who you will get to know in the coming weeks.

If you have a question, concern or query about your child, I would always ask you to refer to your child's class teacher first. If your concern is connected to something that they are unable to deal with then please contact myself to discuss it further. In my absence, I would ask you to make an appointment or request a call back when I return to school. Alternatively, you could speak to a member of the leadership team.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for School is Mr Armstrong. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is our SENDCo Mrs Dalgleish.

## Attendance & Reporting Absence

Our whole school attendance was 93.6% for the last academic year. This is a figure that we would like to improve upon this year.

Please remember to report any absence to the school office before 9:30am. You can leave us a voicemail but please do not use Class Dojo messaging to report absences.

If you have to take time off during term time, please remember to complete a Holiday Request Form and return it to the school office before the period of absence (i.e. your holiday).

Thank you in advance for your support in making the best possible start to this academic year. We look forward to working with you to help your children achieve great things.

Kind regards,



Mr C Armstrong  
Headteacher

### CUMBRIA SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023/2024

AUTUMN TERM 2023		
STARTS	ENDS	HALF – TERM HOLIDAY
Wednesday 6 September	Tuesday 19 December	Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October
Number of school days in term – 70		

  

SPRING TERM 2024		
STARTS	ENDS	HALF – TERM HOLIDAY
Wednesday 3 January	Thursday 28 March	Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February
Number of school days in term – 57		

  

SUMMER TERM 2024		
STARTS	ENDS	HALF – TERM HOLIDAY
Tuesday 16 April	Friday 19 July	Good Friday – 29 March Easter Monday – 1 April Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May
Number of schools days in term – 63		Early May Bank Holiday Monday 6 May
Number of days in year – 190		