



'Be Smart... Be the best that you can be...'



St Martin and St Mary Church of England Primary School Newsletter No.6 – Friday 28th February 2025

PTA Sponsored Walk & Bounce – We had a wonderful walk up to the summit of School Knott and all the younger children loved their bouncing session in the hall downstairs. Thank you so much to all the adults who planned these events and volunteered their time to make them a success. Thank you to everyone who provided sponsorship as well. I am delighted to announce that these events raised an amazing **£1804.23** for our PTA. Please remember that all these funds are then used to support learning and fun in our school and to benefit your children. The PTA purchase additional resources for school and subsidise trips and visits in every year to try and keep costs manageable for all our families. We are so grateful to the PTA for the work they do.



Celebrate World Book Day 2025 - Theme 'The world changes when you read a book'.

This year, we're excited to celebrate World Book Day 2025, a day dedicated to the joy of reading. While dressing up as your favourite character is a fun tradition, this year, children are welcome to wear their own clothes if they prefer! No costumes necessary - just come dressed in what makes you feel comfortable.

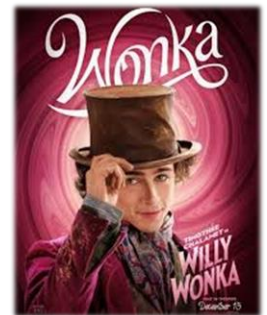
To make things even more exciting, we'll be holding a '**Design Your Own Book Cover**' **competition!** It's a fantastic opportunity to showcase your creativity and love for books. The winner will receive a **£25 Scholastic voucher**, perfect for adding some fresh titles to their bookshelf!

And that's not all—each child will also receive a **free book** from the official **World Book Day bookshop**, so every student can bring home something new to read and enjoy. We can't wait to see you all there, celebrating books and imagination on **World Book Day 2025!** Get ready for a day full of creativity, reading, and fun!

Movie Night – Hosted by the PTA

But the fun doesn't stop there! That evening 3:30-5:30, the PTA will be hosting a *Movie Night* in celebration of World Book Day for Reception to Year 6 children. We'll be watching the magical and whimsical film *Wonka*, which takes us on a journey into the world of the famous chocolate maker, Willy Wonka. It's the perfect way to unwind after a day full of book-related activities. See the link below to book.

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/77624?>



Easter Competitions – Launched on 17th March - We are once again inviting children from Pre-School to Year 2 to make an Easter Bonnet or Hat. If you would like to participate, please could this be made at home. Once complete, please bring your entry to school for Monday 31st March in the final week of this half-term. I hope that our younger children will be able to take part in an Easter Bonnet Parade.

Children from Year 3 to Year 6 are invited to decorate a real blown egg at home. Please bring your entry to school for Monday 31st March 2025.

The entries will be judged that week and a winner will be chosen from each class, every entry will receive a prize. All entries must be received by Monday 31th March 2025 by 3.15pm.



Arbor App – Thank you to everyone who has been able to set this up on your phones, tablets and devices. You can update contact information, consent preferences and medical information amongst other things so it will prove very useful in making sure we hold the correct information about your children and you.



Swimming Pool Update – We are excited to announce the launch of our dedicated swimming pool website. Thank you so much to our pool committee for getting this ‘off the ground’ and, in particular, to Nicola Pickup for doing all the technical, creative work in the background. You can access the website from our school website under the ‘About Us’ menu or by clicking this link; <https://windermereswimmingpool.co.uk/>

On the website, interested parties can learn more about the work we are doing as a voluntary group to raise money, maintain the pool and protect its future. Individuals and businesses can also learn about ways in which you can support us through volunteering, donations and advertising. In the near future, we hope to promote some open swimming sessions where individuals and families can book swimming sessions in the pool outside of school hours. You will soon be able to do this through the website.

Please remember that families are invited to support us at a **Pool Maintenance Day on Sunday 9th March** beginning at 10am. **Please can you contact school or register on the website if you plan to come along and help so that we can allocate jobs.** You can also email us about swimming specifically using the email address; swimming@windermere.cumbria.sch.uk

On Saturday 17th May, the PTA are planning a huge Fundraising event, involving all our local schools and pool users. There will be a Car Boot Sale, events on the school field and a Sponsored Swim to raise money towards our Fundraising Target of £10,000. This amount will support pool running costs and upkeep through this season. You can still donate money using our GoFundMe page or directly to the school office. Thank you so much in anticipation of your support. <https://gofund.me/951808ba>



Road Safety – some of you will have noticed that we had some special guests in school from the Westmorland and Furness Council Road Safety Team today. Our Year 1 and 2 children enjoyed a session with Sarah from Pyjama Drama, learning about road safety. Mr Towe and some older children unveiled some new road safety banners, provided by the council, to remind parents about responsible driving and parking around our school. More of these banners will appear around our local schools. Our school was chosen as the place to launch this new initiative encouraging all of us to consider safety for our loved ones above the convenience of avoiding a short walk to school.



School Staffing Changes – arrangements for teaching in Years 1 and 2 in light of Louise Swindlehurst becoming the school’s Headteacher in April 2025.

From the Easter holiday, Gemma Thwaites has agreed to teach full time in school for the remainder of the school year, she will be based in Mrs Swindlehurst’s class for this period. A new teacher, Mrs Kimberley Jessop, will class share on the usual days with Mrs Savage. Kimberley is a very experienced primary school teacher who has had a breadth of experience in primary schools all across South Lakeland. She has particular expertise in teaching Years 1 and 2. We feel lucky to have found her.

Uma Kunda – Family Video Competition – You will have seen information about an exciting competition. As you know, our school has established a learning link with a school in a remote part of Nepal. So far, we have shared videos, photos and messages about life in our schools, what we learn, how we play and the activities we do.

We now hope to send out some videos about what life is like at home for our families, so we are inviting all of you to make a short home video (3 minutes max) about what life is like for you, how you live, who you live with and what you do.

Our team in school will choose a representative sample of videos to be edited into a slightly longer film to send to our friends in Uma Kunda and every entry will be entered into a raffle for a prize – a £30 voucher to Jump Rush in Morecambe. The deadline for entries is Friday 28th March so you have loads of time to plan, film, edit and submit a creative video about your family life.



Get ready! An exciting new school meal menu from Dolce is on its way! While not available just yet, we're thrilled to announce that an updated range of delicious and nutritious dishes is coming soon. Dolce are committed to offering great value for money and a wide variety of options to tempt even the pickiest eaters. A hot, balanced meal at school plays a vital role in your child's health and wellbeing, providing the energy they need to focus and learn throughout the afternoon. Keep an eye out for the launch of the new Dolce menu and consider signing up – it's a great way to ensure your child gets a healthy and satisfying lunch!

Our kitchen team are also joining in the fun of World Book Day with a special menu.

Northern Rail Project – Simone Backhouse from the Bowness and Windermere Community Care Trust is planning an event with Northern Rail in the summer holidays. This free project is linked to the Windermere Children who came to Windermere for safety during the war. This will take place on 14th August and will involve a walk to Orrest Head and a visit to the LDHP at the library. It is hoped that some famous authors will be involved. Simone is hoping to involve around 30 children so if you would some more information, please contact Simone at www.bwcct.co.uk

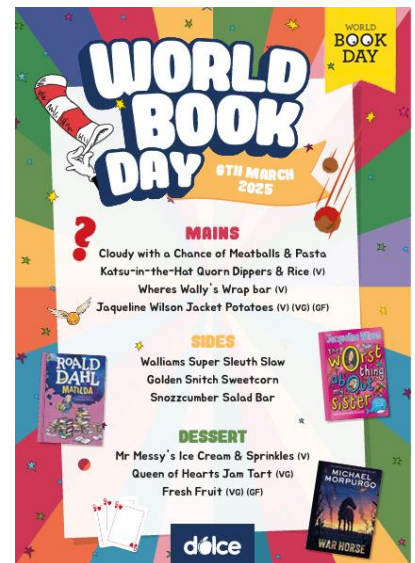
Nursery - request for help – Mrs Russell and the Nursery team are wondering if there are any local joiners or handy people who might be able to help repair the green tunnel in the Nursery Playground. It is no longer safe to play on or in, so we're wondering if someone might volunteer their time to resurrect it? Please contact school or speak to the Nursery staff if you think you might be able to help. Thank you.

Cygnets – Playgroup – Our school is still open each Wednesday to welcome younger children and their parents for a morning of play, craft, baking and much needed conversation. More details can be found on our website or by following this link; [Cygnets Playgroup](#)

Some additional reminders...

Illness – It's that time of year where there are lots of viruses going around and we have had a number of children off/sent home with sickness bugs recently. Please can we remind you that if your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, then they can only return to school 48 hours after symptoms have stopped. We realise that it is frustrating if your child seems well enough to be back in school, however, it is important that we try and avoid it spreading to other children and staff.

Parking - Please can I remind all parents and carers not to drop off and/or collect your child from the school drive or the delivery bay alongside Pre-School. Instead, please park on the road and walk up the footpath. Can I also remind you not to use the disabled bay opposite the school office unless you are a blue badge holder. We have a number of families that need to use this space and it needs to be kept clear for those that genuinely need it.



Important Diary Dates - All dates are in the school calendar on our website for easy reference

- Thursday 6th March – World Book Day (Non-Uniform Day)
- Thursday 6th March – 3.30pm – PTA Movie Night – ‘Wonka’ rated PG (Reception to Y6 children)
- Sunday 9th March – 10am - School Pool Maintenance Day - please contact school if you plan to come along and help so that we can allocate jobs
- Tuesday 18th March – Year 4 Rivers Trip
- Tuesday 18th March – 3.30pm – PTA Meeting – open to all parents and staff
- Wednesday 19th March - Year 5 Easter Stations visit (Information to follow for parents)
- Thursday 20th March – Year 3 Rivers Trip
- Monday 24th March – 2.30pm – Nursery New Parents Meeting
- Thursday 27th March (PM/Evening) – Year 4 Brewery Dance Platform in Kendal
- Monday 31st March – 3.30pm – Year 4 Parent’s meeting re: Liverpool Trip in Mrs Greenall’s classroom
- Monday 31st March – All Easter competition entries due in by 3.15pm today
- Tuesday 1st April – 1.30pm – KS2 Easter Service at St Martin’s Church – parents welcome
- Thursday 3rd April – Year 5 Trip to School Knott and Brantfell
- Thursday 3rd April (AM) – EYFS/KS1 Easter Bonnet Parade
- Friday 4th April – **Terms ends at 12noon today for Pre-School & Nursery children**
- Friday 4th April – **Term ends at 2pm today for Reception to Year 6 children**
- Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April – Easter Holidays
- Tuesday 22nd April – Summer Term begins