



HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)

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Friday 13th February 2026

Dear Parents & Carers,

As we end this half term, it is unbelievable to think that we are already halfway through the school year! We had a fantastic time this week in our colour teams as part of Whole School Project Day and, as always, we were impressed with how well our older children looked after their younger team mates. The children also engaged in some thoughtful discussions as part of Children's Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day activities.

Exciting news!

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Mrs Coulthard is expecting her first child in July. I am sure you will join me in congratulating both Mr and Mrs Coulthard and we can't wait to meet their little one in just a few months! We will be in touch with the Year 5 parents nearer the time about staffing arrangements for Mrs Coulthard's maternity cover for the last part of the summer term.

World Book Day – Thursday 5th March 2026

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, World Book Day takes place on Thursday 5th March 2026. We will be taking part in a range of book related activities and online webinars in our classes and the children are very welcome to come to school dressed in a book related outfit if they wish. This may be linked to either fiction or non-fiction or, alternatively, they are very welcome to come to school in non-uniform.

Tom Palmer author visit – Friday 13th March 2026

As part of our World Book Day activities, we are delighted to welcome the award-winning author, Tom Palmer, to school on Friday 13th March. Tom has written a huge number of books, including the Football Academy series, Foul Play series and many historically based fiction stories such as 'After the War' and 'D-Day dog'. Tom will be delivering a whole school assembly for Reception to Year 6 and will then be leading workshops with Years 3-6. More details about the visit, including information about how to purchase books in advance of Tom's visit, will be shared shortly.

World Book Day £1 vouchers

Each child will be bringing home one of the £1 World Book Day tokens which are valid between 12th February and 15th March 2026. The tokens can be used to purchase one of the specific £1 World Book Day books at participating retailers or can be used to receive a £1 discount off a full price title. More information about the tokens can be found at www.worldbookday.com/books-and-tokens/book-token/.

Robinwood residential – staffing changes

Our Year 5 and 6 classes will take part in their residential at Robinwood Activity Centre between Monday 9th – Wednesday 11th March 2026. As several staff members from a range of classes will be attending, this means that there will be staffing changes to accommodate this. Where changes are required, we will be using familiar staff members from across the school to cover any staff who are participating in the residential. Due to Mrs Coulthard's exciting news, Mrs Harvey will now be attending the Year 5&6 residential in her place. Some of you may also be aware that Mrs Howe, our Year 6 teacher, has recently sustained a fractured foot and has been absent whilst it begins to heal. She is still hoping to be able to attend the residential but may be limited in her participation in the main activities. We do have more than adequate staffing ratios to accommodate this along with the Robinwood centre staff.

PE days for after half term

From week beginning Monday 23rd February 2026, the PE days for the classes will be as follows:

EYFS – Tuesday and Thursday

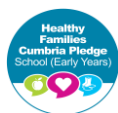
Year 1 – Thursday and Friday

Year 2 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 3 & 4 – Monday and Friday

Year 5 – Tuesday and Thursday

Year 6 – Wednesday and Thursday



Morning drop off

We would like to issue a polite reminder that parents should ensure that children are adequately supervised prior to the doors opening in the morning. Whilst there is normally a member of staff on duty at the gate (usually Mrs Harvey), please make sure that your child has safely entered the premises before leaving. If the staff member is not visible, please also ensure that your child has entered the school building safely. If children are arriving after the doors have closed at 8.50am, please ensure that they enter through the office door and that they have entered the building before departing in case the school office is unmanned.

Menus after half term

When we return to school on Monday 23rd February, we will be on Week 3 of the school menus. We are able to offer a jacket potato / baguette alternative for each main meal and can usually accommodate any specific requirements following communication from parents. We do ask for a two week notice period for any changes to enable us to ensure that we can meet all requests.

Battery recycling

We have been participating in the Cumberland Council 'Baa-ttery recycling competition' where schools have the chance to win book tokens for the school. The battery recycling box will be collected during the morning of Monday 23rd February 2026 so please send in any used batteries first thing on the Monday after the half term break for recycling. Thank you!

PTA fundraising scratch cards

The PTA are trialling a new fundraising idea this term which you should have received a letter and scratch card for. There is no expectation to take part and any unused scratch cards can be returned to school. If you would like to take part, the idea is to sell all of the squares at £2 per square and each square represents the name of a hedgehog. Once the card is full, the answer can be revealed and the winning participant receives a £20 prize from the money collected. Any remaining money should then be returned to school by Friday 27th March and the money raised will be donated to the school PTA and used for resources and experiences within school, such as for our project days.

Dates for the diary:

Friday 13th February 2026 – School closes for half term

Monday 23rd February 2026 – School reopens

Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th February 2026 – Year 6 'Voices for Equality' workshop

Wednesday 25th February 2026 – Year 5 Anti Racism workshop

Thursday 5th March 2026 – World Book Day

Friday 6th March 2026 – Year 3 & 4 Cyclewise session

Monday 9th – Wednesday 11th March 2026 – Year 5& 6 residential to Robinwood

Friday 13th March 2026 – Tom Palmer author visit

Monday 16th March 2026 – Year 6 vaping workshop with CADAS (more information to follow)

Tuesday 17th March 2026 – Year 2 Forest School session with Miss Kendall

Friday 20th March 2026 – Red Nose Day (non-uniform day)

Wednesday 25th March 2026 – Year 5 & 6 RSE sessions with the school nurse (more information to follow)

Friday 27th March 2026 – Easter service at St Mary's Church (children only)

Friday 27th March 2026 – School closes for Easter holiday

Monday 13th April 2026 – School reopens for summer term

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Harvey
Headteacher