HIGH HESKET C of E SCHOOL (VC)
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Monday 19th October 2026
Dear Parents & Carers,

Unbelievably, we are already in our final week of the first half of the Autumn term and we are flying towards Christmas! When we return, we will begin preparations for our Christmas plays and Carol Service as well as beginning a range of seasonal activities.

PTA 'Day off day'
A huge thank you to everyone who sponsored our 'day off day' last week. It is always a fun (and slightly chaotic!) experience but we are really grateful for all the generous sponsorship we received. This will go towards funding our popular Whole School Project Days along with purchasing other school resources and activities.

North Cumbria Mental Health Team Support parent workshop
We appreciate the responses that we received for our recent parent survey linked to possible workshops that the MHST may provide in school. We are collating the results and will be in touch to share future dates and themes for the workshops once we have confirmed the arrangements with the team.

British Legion Poppy Appeal / Remembrance Service
From Monday 2nd November 2026, we will be selling a selection of items to raise money for the British Legion poppy appeal until Tuesday 10th November 2026 (whilst stocks last). The items include: fabric wrist bands, poppy reflectors, pencils and snap bands and we recommend a donation of £1 per item. Please note there is limited stock of each item so they will be on a first come, first served basis and we also have a small amount of traditional poppies which can be purchased for a donation of your choice. The children will also be participating in a whole school service at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 11th November with Reverend Allison where we will be planting our recycled plastic poppies at the front of the church.

Y5&6 wheelchair rugby and basketball sessions – Wednesday 4th November 2026
Year 5 and Year 6 will have the opportunity during Wednesday 4th November to participate in a wheelchair basketball (Y5) or wheelchair rugby (Y6) coaching session. Children will need to be wearing their PE kits on this day please.

International Outdoor Classroom Day – Thursday 5th November 2026
Every year, we participate in International Outdoor Classroom Day which, this year, takes place on Thursday 5th November. Every class will be spending some time during the day outside completing activities around the school grounds. As the weather can be very temperamental at this time of year, it would be very much appreciated if the children could have warm, waterproofs coats and a change of footwear (wellies are ideal). They are also very welcome to wear non-uniform on this day but would suggest that all clothing is suitable for getting wet and/or muddy due to the nature of the day.

School photographs – Wednesday 11th November 2026
Our school photographer, Heidi, will be on site during the morning of Wednesday 11th November 2026 to take individual and family group photographs. If there are any siblings who are not yet of school age who would like to be included in family group photographs, please let us know and we can arrange for you to have these taken prior to the main session at 8.45 by arriving at the external school hall door.

Student takeover!
During the week commencing 16th November 2026, we will be joined by a large number of secondary school work experience students within our classes. We regularly welcome past pupils back in from our local secondary schools to complete their work experience and it is always a pleasure to support them with this part of the educational journey. In addition to this, on Wednesday 17th and Thursday 18th November, we will also be joined by approximately 15 teaching students from the University of Cumbria who will be observing in our classes and delivering some supervised activities. After half term, we will have a student teacher, Mr K Wilson, joining us for the majority of November who will then return in March to complete a long-term placement with us in our EYFS unit. From Monday 2nd November,

we will also have two Carlisle College students completing regular weekly placements within our classes, most likely in EYFS and Year 1. We are certainly looking forward to having lots of extra pairs of hands on site!

Children's Commissioner Big Survey
I wrote during the summer term to share that the Children's Commissioner, Dame Rachel da Souza, is looking to collect children and parent's viewpoints from across the country as part of a national survey, The Big Future. The survey will ask children about the changes they would like to see in their communities, their biggest concerns and their hope for the future. If you would like to participate, please visit the Big Future website at https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/the-big-future/. The survey is due to close this Friday, 23rd October.

PE days for after half term
EYFS – Wednesday and Thursday
Year 1 – Tuesday and Friday
Year 2 – Tuesday and Thursday
Year 3&4 – Monday + one intensive swimming week (week commencing 2nd November)
Year 5&6 – Thursday + one intensive swimming week (week commencing 9th November)

Menus for after half term
When we return to school on Monday 2nd November, we will be on week 2 of the school menus. A reminder that these can be found on the school website in the parent section.

Scholastic Book Fair – Tuesday 10th November - Friday 13th November 2026
From Tuesday 10th November 2026 to Friday 13th November 2026, we will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in the hall each day after school from 3pm until 3.30pm. There will be a wide selection of fiction and non-fiction books on sale and there are always some great bargains! At the end of the book fair, school does receive a proportion of the takings to purchase books for the school library so we are very grateful for any sales!

Dates for the diary:
Monday 19th October 2026 – Year 3&4 trip to Whinlatter
Monday 19th October 2026 – Year 6 mock trial workshop
Friday 23rd October 2026 – Harvest festival
Friday 23rd October 2026 – School closes for half term
Monday 2nd November 2026 – School reopens
Wednesday 4th November 2026 – Wheelchair basketball (Y5) and wheelchair rugby (Y6) sessions
Thursday 5th November 2026 – Outdoor Classroom Day (non uniform)
Tuesday 10th and Wednesday 11th November 2026 – Parent's evenings
Tuesday 10th – Friday 13th November 2026 – Scholastic book fair
Wednesday 11th November 2026 – School photographs
Wednesday 11th November 2026 – Remembrance service at St Mary's Church (pupils only)
Monday 16th November 2026 – Anti bullying week
Friday 20th November 2026 – Children in Need (non-uniform)
Tuesday 8th December 2026 – Year 3&4 Christmas performance at 2pm
Wednesday 9th December 2026 – EYFS Christmas performance at 9.15am
Wednesday 9th December 2026 - Year 1&2 Christmas performance at 2pm
Thursday 10th December 2026 – Year 1&2 Christmas performance at 9.15am
Thursday 10th December 2026 – Year 3&4 Christmas performance at 2pm
Tuesday 15th December 2026 – Year 3-6 trip to Theatre by the Lake
Wednesday 16th December 2026 – EYFS-Y2 trip to the Sands Centre
Thursday 17th December 2026 – Christmas lunch and parties
Friday 18th December 2026 – Toy Day
Friday 18th December 2026 – Year 5&6 Carol Service for whole school (families of Year 5&6 welcome to attend)
Friday 18th December 2026 – School closes for Christmas holiday (no After School Club)
Tuesday 5th January 2027 – School reopens for Spring term

Yours sincerely,
Mrs A Harvey, Headteacher