

Headteacher's Headlines

I hope you all had a wonderful summer holiday. It was lovely to see all the children walking through the school gates last week, ready for another exciting school year.

I am really looking forward to a fabulous half term filled with lots of learning, fun and exciting opportunities for the children. This week, Year 1 and Year 2 have begun their new History topic, "How am I making history?" The children explored the idea that they are all part of history by creating their own personal timelines. They thought carefully about important events and milestones in their lives, from the past through to the present day, and ordered these chronologically. Early Years have been getting to grips with repeating pattern in maths throughout this week whilst all the Acorns explored control and pressure to create different types of lines in the style of the artist, Bridget Riley.

Please keep an eye on the newsletter for important dates and information about upcoming events. Here's to a fantastic half term ahead!

Warmest Wishes
Sarah



Parent Safeguarding

Character.AI enables users to create and interact with AI-powered characters that can behave like friends, mentors, fictional characters or romantic partners.

While these tools can feel engaging and emotionally supportive, they also introduce important safeguarding, wellbeing and privacy considerations for children and young people.

Our latest [#WakeUpWednesday](#) guide supports parents, carers and educators in understanding the risks and opening constructive conversations around AI companionship.

The guide explores:

- Inappropriate content and unreliable advice
- Emotional dependency and blurred boundaries
- Privacy concerns linked to personal information
- Warning signs such as secretive or excessive use
- Withdrawal from real-world activities and relationships
- Practical steps around age settings, limits and reporting concerns

With clear, accessible guidance, this resource helps adults support safer, more balanced and informed use of AI character platforms.

Access the guide here: <https://vist.ly/5hs5g>

[#Safeguarding](#) [#OnlineSafety](#) [#ArtificialIntelligence](#)





NEWSLETTER

Creating
EXCELLENCE
Together

RESPECT | RESPONSIBILITY | RESILIENCE

Autumn Term 2026 Overview OAKS

Oak Trees
Autumn Term Overview
2026 - 2027

Music
In music this term we will be learning about composition notation following the theme of Ancient Egypt. We will also be learning about the 'Blues'.

English
We will be writing for a range of purposes this term and our writing will be based on the following books:

- Queen of the Falls - Chris Van Allsburg
- The Lost Happy Endings - Carol Ann Duffy

Science
In Science Year 3 and 4 will be covering the following topics:

- Energy - Light and Shadows
- Animals including humans - Movement and Nutrition

Year 5 and 6 will be covering:

- Materials - Mixtures and separation
- Materials - Properties and changes

PSHE
The topics we will be covering during this term are 'Family and Relationships' and 'Health and Well-being'. Year 5 and 6 will cover this in more depth.

Maths
In Maths Year 3 and 4 will be covering the following topics; Place Value, Addition & Subtraction, Multiplication & Division and Area.
Year 5 and 6 will also be covering; Place Value, Addition & Subtraction, Multiplication & Division and Fractions

History
Year 3 and 4's historical question this term is 'Would you prefer to live in the Stone, Bronze or Iron Age?'
Year 5 and 6's historical question is 'Were the Vikings raiders, traders or something else?'

Computing
In Computing we will be covering the following topics:

- Computing Systems and Networks
- Programming

French
In French we will be covering the following topics:

- French Monster Pet
- Space Exploration

PE
In PE we will be covering gymnastics.

Geography
Year 3 and 4's geographical question this term is 'Why do people live near volcanoes?'
Year 5 and 6's geographical question is 'What is life like in the Alps?'

RE
The questions we aim to answer in RE this term are:

- Why doesn't Christianity all look the same?
- Why do people have a stand up for what they believe in?

Art & DT
In Art our topic will be Drawing: Depth, emotion and movement
In DT our topic will be Mechanical Systems

Autumn Term 2026 Overview Acorns

ACORNS 2
Autumn Term Overview

Music
In music this term we will be studying:
Pulse and rhythm with a theme of *My Favourite Things*
We will also be studying **Tempo**
Using the theme – *Snail and Mouse*.

English
The genres we aim to cover this term are:
Fiction with a focus on characters
Non-chronological reports and fact sheets
Diary entries to recount events.

Science
In Science we will be covering the following topics:
Plants: Introduction to Plants
Identifying and naming a variety of plants and investigating if beans need water for growth.
Forces and Space: Seasonal Changes
Exploring how seasonal changes affect trees, weather patterns and daylight hours.

PSHE
The topics we will be covering during the Autumn term are -
Family and Relationships
Health and Well-being

Maths
In Maths, we will be covering:
Place value within 20 and then 100
Addition and Subtraction
We will also be covering:
Shape

History
This term we will be looking at answering the historical question: **How am I making History?**
by examining photographs and asking questions about events in living memory.

Computing
In Computing we will be covering:
computing systems and mouse skills.
We will also investigate simple Algorithms and programming

DT
In DT our topic will be:
Mechanisms focussing on Matching slider games

PE
In PE we will be covering **gymnastics** – learning key skills and using the apparatus.

Geography
This term we will be looking at answering the geographical question: **What is it like here?**
by investigating the local area and through fieldwork studies of the school grounds.

RE
The questions we aim to answer in RE this term are:
How did the world begin?
What do some people believe God looks like?

Art
In Art our topic will be:
Drawing where we will be investigating line and shape.

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Website: www.castlecarrock.cumbria.sch.uk

Autumn Term 2026 Overview ACORNS 1 (EYFS)

 Phonics Nursery: Focus on Rhyme Time Reception: Phase 2 graphemes. Literacy Use pictures to tell stories and engage in story times. Talk about and 'write' our news, practise writing names, make/draw body parts. Use finger paints, brushes and sand tray to mark make, 'write' shopping/to do lists, make books/fact files about my family.	 Book List The Colour Monster Goes To School Super Duper You I Like Bees, But I Don't Like Honey Peace At Last In Every House, on Every Street Leaf Man Funny Bones Plus, a range of other high-quality fiction and non-fiction titles linked to the topic.	 Maths Reception will focus on subitising different arrangements of objects within 5, spotting smaller numbers hiding inside bigger numbers, exploring different ways of representing numbers on fingers and looking at numerical patterns, comparing sizes, masses and capacity. They will also create simple repeating patterns. Nursery will recite numbers past 5. Say one number for each item in order: 1,2,3,4,5, Show 'finger numbers' up to 5, Understand position through words and spot patterns in the environment.
 Communication and Language Role play – builders' yard (outdoors) At home (home corner). Add in props, phones, uniforms notepads. Encourage children to take calls, make lists. Performance for Harvest Festival, listening games, learning wide selection of nursery rhymes and songs.	EYFS Autumn 1, 2026 Amazing Me! 	 PSED Settling into new class/school year. Rules, routines, expectations. Grow good listening skills. Learn how to follow simple set of instructions. What makes a good friend? Focus on different feelings and emotions.
 Understanding the World Seasonal changes – nature walk. What happens in the autumn? How does that affect me? My family history using simple timelines. Google maps – In every home, in every street, photos (stick on wooden blocks, construction area). Explore local area. Draw and label map of journey to school. Science – what did I look like as a baby? How have I changed? What are the five senses and how do I use them? Giving thanks – what is the Harvest festival. What am I thankful for?	 Physical Development Daily fine motor activities to develop early writing skills to include hammering, cutting, threading, gluing, tying, manipulating, pulling, pushing, balance, strength, hand-eye coordination, jigsaw puzzles, playdough, clay, using chunky chalks, paintbrushes, water, marker pens. Dough gym. Gross motor skills – Explore different ways of travelling using space in hall and outdoor areas- work on rolling, crawling, jumping, hopping, skipping, climbing, balancing. Use balance bar in adventure. Talk about different ways to support healthy lifestyles.	 Expressive Arts and Design Mix colours to create self-portraits and use paint, pastels, chalks. Make friendship bracelets. Pictures using handprints/footprints/fingerprints. Clap syllables in name, make patterns in steady beat. Sing songs and rhymes linked to Amazing Me (Miss Polly had a Dolly, Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes etc). Draw My Family – focus on size, family members, basic features eyes, ears, hands, legs, feet, fingers. Use imaginative play.

Thursday 17th September

Tuesday 22nd September

Friday 25th September

Wednesday 7th October

Wednesday 7th October

Thursday 15th October

Friday 23rd October

Monday 2nd November

Oaks Class - Cathedral Outreach sessions in class (weekly)

Acorns Class – Pyjama Drama Road Safety in school
MacMillan Coffee Afternoon in school (more information to follow)

Select Year 5/6 pupils- Netball Tournament William Howard (info to follow)

Whole School Parents Evening (more info to follow)

Nasal Flu Vaccination for Reception – Year 6

Last day of this half term.

First day back after half term.