



TJS Newsletter - 4 September 2026

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Welcome Message from Mrs Maxwell



It was wonderful to welcome all of the children back to school this week, especially our new Year 3 children, who worked incredibly hard and listened carefully to all of the new information, routines and rules!

The children all look so smart in their TJS uniforms. Thank you to our parents and carers for supporting our school uniform policy. We saw lots of shiny shoes, new trainers, and smart hoodies and jumpers! We are very much looking forward to the exciting term ahead.

From Monday, 7th September parents and carers are kindly asked to leave their children at the school gates in the mornings no earlier than 8.30am - we will have plenty of staff in the playground to supervise them. At 3:20pm, all parents are welcome to collect their children from the school yard.

Finally, we hope that our previous Year 6 children, who are now embarking on their journey in Year 7, had a fantastic first day at secondary school. We hope it was the start of a wonderful new adventure!

Mrs Maxwell

Attendance Matters



Our target is for attendance to be around 96%; the attendance for this week (3 days) was 98.34%.

As part of our ongoing safeguarding and attendance procedures, and following discussions with our Local Authority Attendance Officer, we have decided to introduce home visits for children who are absent from school due to illness.

These visits may take place after the third consecutive day of absence, even where parents or carers have been in daily contact with the school. This is an important addition to our safeguarding procedures, enabling us to have direct contact with children and ensure their wellbeing when they are not in school during term time.

We understand that this represents a change from our previous practice of telephone contact only. However, our priority is to ensure that all children who attend Thomlinson Junior School are safe and well. Home visits provide an additional opportunity for us to fulfil

our safeguarding responsibilities and maintain our commitment to the welfare of every child in our care.

Please note that if your child is absent, and you have not contacted us, we will attempt to contact everyone on your child's emergency contact list until we speak to someone. It is really important, therefore, that we are notified before 9.20am of any absences by contacting our school office on 016973 42432 where you can leave a voicemail or speak to office staff. Please do not use ClassDojo for notifying us of absences or appointments - these must be notified directly to the school office please.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

School Meals & Dinner Money



As previously advised, the cost of school meals has now increased slightly to £2.40 per day, £12 per week. We believe this is still very reasonable for a two course lunch.

Our new school lunch menus are available on our school website:-

https://www.thomlinson.cumbria.sch.uk/our_school/school_lunches/school_lunches.html

Please remember we require a full week's notice if your child wishes to change from school meals to packed lunches - any changes must be made a parent/carer by informing the school office (please don't ask your child to tell us as they may forget!) If we are not informed, you will need to pay for them, as we will still be making their meals.

Thank you to everyone who has started paying for their child's meals. We do ask that payments are kept up-to-date and paid weekly, fortnightly, monthly or half termly in advance. For those who wish to pay for a full half term in one go, there are 38 days in this half term and the total cost is £91.20.

Breakfast Club & After-School Club



For those who haven't used it before, we provide a Breakfast Club Monday to Friday and After-School Club Monday to Thursday; these are both chargeable. Full details can be found on our school website:-

https://www.thomlinson.cumbria.sch.uk/our_school/breakfast_after_school_club/breakfast_after_school_club.html

Please ask at the school office if you would like to find out more, or to register your child if they haven't been before.

Please can parents and carers make sure they are booking sessions before the deadline - Parentmail does send reminders. We have had a number of late bookings this week. We anticipate that the clubs will start to get busier over the coming weeks, therefore early booking is essential.

Music Lessons



Invoices for this half term have been sent out for the Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils having violin, piano and guitar lessons. Payments are due by 16th October please.

Year Group Parent/Carer Information Evenings



This year, we will be making some changes to the way we report children's progress to parents and carers. Further information will be shared in the coming weeks, and we strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend our Year Group Information Evenings, where we will begin to outline these changes and explain what they will mean for families.

The Year Group Information Evenings will provide you with an opportunity to meet your child's new class teacher, visit their classroom, and hear about the expectations for the year ahead. During these meetings, staff will share important information about: Curriculum topics, Homework expectations, Behaviour expectations, Residential visits and other trips, General routines and key information for the year.

All meetings will take place at 5:00 pm in the School Hall followed by a classroom visit.

- Year 3: Monday 21st September 2026
- Year 4: Monday 14th September 2026
- Year 5: Thursday 17th September 2026
- Year 6: Wednesday 16th September 2026

Free School Meals



Eligibility changes from the 2026 to 2027 school year

From the start of the 2026 to 2027 school year, the Department for Education (DfE) introduced new eligibility rules for free school meals. Under the new rules, children in households receiving one or more elements of Universal Credit are entitled to free school meals.

A new national application system has been introduced to support this change. We can now accept applications under the new eligibility rules.

Who can get free school meals

Free school meals are available to statutory school-aged children who attend full-time education.

This does not include children in private nurseries or further education colleges.

Eligibility based on benefits you receive

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive:

- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Universal Credit

Eligibility based on benefits your child receives

Some children can get free school meals if certain benefits are paid directly to them rather than to a parent or guardian.

Any child receiving Income Support or income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in their own right is entitled to free school meals.

Please refer to the Cumberland Council's website for further details, and to apply if you have not already done so:- <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-clothing-vouchers-and-activities/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers>

If your child becomes eligible, we cannot provide free school meals until we are notified by Cumberland Council, therefore the sooner you apply, the sooner we can start providing free lunches for your child.

Year 6 - Transfer to Secondary School in September 2027



Information has been sent home with Year 6 pupils regarding applying for their Secondary School place for September 2027 together with a prospectus from The Nelson Thomlinson School. The online portal is available for applications until 31st October.

Please use the following link to apply for your child's place:-

<https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place-or-change-schools/apply-secondary-school-place>

The Nelson Thomlinson School will be holding an open evening on Tuesday, 8th September, starting at 5.30pm, please see the letter which is enclosed in their prospectus.

Nut-Free School



Please note, as a school we have a strict 'NO-NUTS' policy. This is to safeguard those attending or working in our school who have a severe, possible life-threatening nut allergy. Please support us by ensuring your child does not bring nuts, or anything containing nuts, to school.

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

flu: 5 reasons to vaccinate your child



- 1. Protect your child**
The vaccine will help protect your child against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- 2. Protect you, your family and friends**
Vaccinating your child will help protect more vulnerable friends and family
- 3. No injection needed**
The nasal spray is painless and easy to have
- 4. It's better than having flu**
The nasal spray helps protect against flu, has been given to millions of children worldwide and has an excellent safety record
- 5. Avoid costs**
If your child gets flu, you may have to take time off work or arrange alternative childcare

Most children have the nasal spray vaccine which is the preferred vaccine. A vaccine injection is also available which does not contain gelatine from pigs (porcine gelatine).

For more information visit www.nhs.uk/child-flu

Nasal Flu Vaccinations will be available to all pupils in school on Thursday, 24th September 2026, as long as you have completed their consent.

It is essential that you respond for your child to confirm whether, or not, you give permission for your child to be given the vaccination. Please see the letter sent by Parentmail.

Please complete the online portal as soon as possible - YOUR SCHOOL CODE IS CM112125.

The link to complete is

<https://www.cumbriaschoolimmunisations.co.uk/Forms/Flu?schoolcode=CM112125>

Thank you.

PE & Swimming Days



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Please see below the days that your child(ren) will have PE/Swimming for this half term:

Mrs. Easdon (Yr3): PE Tuesday and Wednesday

Mrs. Little (Yr3): PE Tuesday and Wednesday

Mrs. Watson (Yr4): PE Monday and Friday

Mrs. Wilson (Yr4): PE Wednesday and Friday

Miss. Manuel (Yr5): **Monday (swimming)** and PE Tuesday

Mrs. Crane (Yr5): PE Monday and Tuesday

Mr. Powell (Yr6): PE Monday and Wednesday

Mrs. Brown (Yr6): PE Monday and **Tuesday (swimming)**

For this new academic year, we want to remind you of the expectations when it comes to PE and the PE uniform:

- Children are to come to school wearing their correct TJS PE kit on the days mentioned above. When your child has swimming, they come to school wearing their PE kit and bring their swimming kit (either shorts or a 1 piece swimming costume), towel and goggles if required.
- Astroturf style trainers are NOT allowed. This is due to the lack of grip they give on the playground, especially when it has been raining.
- All long hair must be tied up and all jewellery removed before the start of the PE lesson. If your child is unable to take their own earrings out, please ensure they are taken out before coming to school.
- It is very important that your child has their water bottle for every day and especially for PE days, as we don't want the office staff being disturbed.

Term Dates for 2026-2027

CUMBERLAND SCHOOL TERM & HOLIDAY DATES
2026-27 (190 pupil days)
(Dates agreed jointly by Cumberland and Westmorland & Furness Councils)



SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Total Days: 21	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Total Days: 31	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Total Days: 30	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Total Days: 31
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 Total Days: 31	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 Total Days: 28	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 Total Days: 31	M T W T F S S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 Total Days: 30
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
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■ Bank Holidays
■ Other Holidays
■ Suggested INSET

The 190 day school year identified above makes no provision for the additional 5 days non-contact time for which full-time teachers are contracted. Therefore, any INSET days should be arranged outside the above school term dates or outside pupil hours. The following dates are suggested as dates that could be used for INSET: Tuesday, 1 September 2026 & Monday, 4 January 2027, plus three others to be locally determined.

Dates for Your Diary

8 September	Open Evening at NTS for Year 6, 5.30pm-7.30pm
14 September	Year 4 Parents Information Meeting in school hall 5pm
16 September	Year 6 Parents Information Meeting in school hall 5pm
17 September	Year 5 Parents Information Meeting in school hall 5pm
21 September	Year 3 Parents Information Meeting in school hall 5pm
23 September	Year 6 Careers Fair at NTS during school time
24 September	Annual Nasal Flu Vaccinations for pupils
29 September	Year 4 Trip to The Roman Army Museum & Vindolanda
6 October	Year 6 REACT Science Show at Lakes College
16 October	Tempest Photographer in School – Individual & Family Photos
26 to 30 October	Half Term
14 December	School Carol Service in St Mary's Church at 1.45pm
18 December	Last day of Autumn Term – Early Finish 1.45pm
21 Dec to 4 Jan 2027	Christmas Holiday
5 January 2027	Children back to school for Spring Term
15 to 19 February 2027	Half Term
25 March 2027	Final day of Spring Term – Early Finish 1.45pm
26 March to 9 April 2027	Easter Holiday
12 April 2027	Children back to school for Summer Term
27 to 28 April 2027	Year 4 Residential to Beamish & Life Science Centre, Newcastle
3 May 2027	Bank Holiday
10 to 13 May 2027	Year 6 SATS
25 to 27 May 2027	Year 6 London Residential
31 May to 4 June 2027	Half Term
10 to 11 June 2027	Year 5 Residential to Muncaster Castle
16 July 2027	End of Summer Term – Early Finish 1.45pm
19 July to 1 Sept 2027	Summer Holiday
6 September 2027	Start of Autumn Term 2027

Contact Us



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