



Great Wood News

March 2026



This month's value is Humility

We are so looking forward to some drier days when we can make use of the school fields but the children have been out in the woods spotting signs of spring and collecting frog spawn. Our bird hide is being reinstated – it disappeared one weekend close to bonfire night. We are grateful to the conservation volunteers who have helped manage our grounds. The trees they planted to provide shade by the junior playground over 30 years ago are doing their job so well the willow twigloo the children planted with Miss Punter 17 years ago didn't have enough light to survive. It has been replaced by a hazel



circle which can survive in a bit of shade. 30 trees were planted in the woods last month too. Walking by the front of school, look carefully at the grass by the staff carpark and see if you can see what the Year One children spelled out in crocuses. It should become clearer each year. You may also spot some construction near the school entrance. To manage our food waste, we are installing a composter.

Instead of paying for the uneaten parts of school dinners to be collected, we will compost it ourselves and use the compost to feed our raised beds. You may recall the expectation that packed lunch waste is taken home, including wrappings – this is so school dinner waste can decompose.



Keep an eye of out for results of the football Champions League results this month. The team who were in third place in the first leg play again on the 9th and 23rd of the month. Well done to our table tennis team who represented the school at a tournament in Widnes.

The Year 2 Key Steps competition was marvellous! The year 1 and 2 team worked hard to learn and perform different gymnastics routines in front of judges. We came fourth place out of five schools. The children had the most wonderful time and enjoyed showing off their fantastic skills.



It was delightful to have a packed hall for two Singathon performances. Year on year children grow in confidence and the response of an audience makes the preparation worthwhile. Year Four children are preparing for their end of term comedy treat for the community and even if you don't have a child in Year 4, you are welcome to get a ticket, enjoy their enthusiasm and have a laugh. Th is year's performance is set in the Wild West and is called Yee Ha with an accompanying slap to the thigh. It is a treat for the rest of the school to enjoy their dress rehearsals too.



Hiring the best staff is a key role of school leadership and governors. We currently have two teaching positions advertised: there is a part time maternity cover for Mrs Newton; and in September Mrs Flaherty and Mrs Hamilton will share the care of a Y4 class rather than have separate classes. The children sang a lovely song to Miss Punter on her retirement. Miss Punter had taught classes throughout the school, part time for over twenty years. Mrs Dillon, a very experienced teacher and former parent has been hired to teaching computing and enable continuity when providing release time to teachers.



Miss Barnes (in photo) was hired as Chestnut class's teaching assistant after an extensive recruitment process and we are delighted she has joined our team – she has been really impressed with the children's cooperation and independence in EYFS.

In March, during Safety Week we think about how to stay safe in different situations – from crossing the road, or the level crossing, to being on the beach or in water. Year 5 prepare for their cycle training and Year six benefit from some self defence techniques led by the judo instructor. At the same time we focus on keeping our bodies safe. The Life Education programme is arranged by Coram – a charity similar to Barnados – with a long history of care for children's well-being and welfare.

Life Education Lancashire & Cumbria is a delivery partner of Coram Life Education and provides unique health and drug education programmes teaching children about the wonder of their bodies, how to take care of them, and how drugs (including medicines, alcohol and tobacco) can affect them. Looking after our mental health is also explored and children discuss strategies for self-care. Children meet Healthy Harold, our giraffe mascot, and his friends, have discussions and watch short films about healthy eating, legal and illegal drugs and their effects, the body and friendships and their influence, and how choices and behaviours can affect dreams and aspirations.



Trained Educators use evidence-based, interactive, creative methods to deliver memorable, informative and age appropriate sessions which assists our school in our work around PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education) and Relationships and Health Education. All programmes support the new DfE statutory requirements for PSHE and are aligned with the National Curriculum.



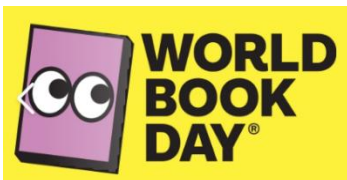
There is an opportunity for parents to hear about what the children are learning in a parents' session next Tuesday 10th at 8:50am in school. Also please be aware of their free on-line resources for parents website [Family SCARF](#) (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) These are also links on the parents section of our website. The resources for parents includes links to activities for 4 primary and pre-primary age groups:

- Me and My relationships.
- Valuing Difference
- Keeping Myself Safe
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Being my Best
- Growing and Changing

There are also sections for Supporting Children's Mental Health, Growth Mindset and supporting maths anxiety.

Year on year, the Life Education programme builds on key messages so children take care of themselves. Although the Rotary Club used to part fund this programme, we have continued without any support funding. The basic programme costs £4.50 per child. We have put a payment option on Parent Pay and would gratefully accept contributions from parents.





On World Book Day we would like children to dress as a word. We would encourage you to choose a word with your child and discuss what the word means. There is no need to buy pricey outfits. With a little imagination, dress up costumes can be created with little/no cost.

Your child should come to school dressed as their word with their word presented either on their outfit or on a piece of card. Please feel free to include the definition, especially if you think your child will have difficulty explaining what their word means!

We also have Red Nose Day coming up. It is a non uniform day on Friday 20th March. Children don't have to have any of the branded clothing they sell, but need to give a donation to Comic Relief via Parent Pay for the privilege of not wearing uniform. Each class will be choosing their child with the best joke to be given the microphone at our assembly. We use the following format in delivery if it isn't a knock knock joke - so it would be good to use the same at home, if practising:



Joke Teller: Which travels faster, heat or cold?

Audience: I don't know. Which does travel faster, heat or cold?

Joke Teller: Heat. You can catch a cold.

Donations made via: <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=20508>

PTA Spring Discos. Wednesday 11th March - Infants 4:30 – 5:15; Juniors 5:30 – 6:30. Entry £2 in cash on entry. Mobile phones are also not allowed and will be confiscated if seen. The PTA has a drinks station and Mrs Marcellini is the DJ. No further volunteers are required.

Drop Off is at the Main Entrance. Please take your child's coat and make sure they have £2 for entry. Enter for pick up through the link corridor near the bike shelter. When you pick up, bring your child's coat, you'll enter the hall, pick up your child and exit with your child onto the junior playground from the side exit. We make sure no one leaves without an adult. Even if a child usually has permission to walk home alone at the end of a school day, they must have a separate letter for after a disco to leave without an adult.



INSTRUMENT LESSONS If your child is interested in learning a musical instrument, Lancashire Music Service offer a range of instrumental and vocal tuition in school. Group or individual lessons are organised directly between parents and the LMS. The school will cover 50% of the costs for Free School Meals children, if requested. More information, including how to

arrange lessons, can be found here: [Home - Lancashire Music Hub](#). - follow the Find Lessons link. In school music lessons Great Wood children play and compose on percussion instruments, xylophone, recorder and electric keyboards in upper juniors.

Thank You to Wilkinson's Driving School for their donation towards the cost of repairing the Cycle Shed. We are thankful to have such a handy site supervisor: Mr Wood has also replaced the facias at the front of school.

Housekeeping



Reporting selfish parking

If drivers are parking on the pavement then you can report them to the Police via your PCSO on 101 or using this link ([parking inconsiderately](#)).

If it is an issue with parking on zig zags, bus stop or yellow lines then that can be reported to the [Parking Enforcement](#) team.

Diary Dates

March 26	
Thu 5 th	World Book Day
w/c 9 th	Safety Week – Life Education Visits
Tue 10 th	8:50 – 9:10 Life Education Parent Session
Wed 11 th	Spring Discos
16 th – 27 th	Y5 Bikeability group sessions.
Tues 17 th	Y6 French visits to MB Academy 3:30 Indoor Athletics Final
Fri 20 th	Comic Relief Non-Uniform
Mon 23 rd	Governors' Meeting
Wed 25 th	1:45pm Y4 Play for Parents
Thur 26 th	2pm – <u>Barnados</u> – Teenage Brain – Workshop for parents. 6:00pm Y4 Play for Parents
Fri 27 th	1pm Snuggle up with a Book – bring blankets & book
April 26	
March 20 th -10 th	School Closed
Mon 13 th	Return to school
Tues 14 th	Y4 <u>Stoneage</u> Trip
Wed 15 th 9:30-1:00	SEND Roadshow for Parents at Lune Park Family Hub
Fri 17 th	Y6 Coastal Walk
Wed 22 nd	Riding the Rapids – at Lune Park

For Year 4 parents and above but really helpful for Year 6 parents – Preparation for the roller coaster ride of parenting a teenager! And hosted at GREAT WOOD SCHOOL.

Riding the Rapids (Primary Age)

Is a free 10-session programme for parents and carers of:

- Children with additional needs in mainstream education, including those with autism or awaiting an autism assessment.
- Children with mild/moderate/significant learning difficulties.

Find Out About

Why distress-related behaviours happen.
Practical strategies to support your child at home.
Sensory and communication approaches that meet your child's needs.
How to support your child during moments of high stress.
Ways to look after your own wellbeing.
Connecting with others who understand.

Venue: Lune Park
Time: 9.30am - 12 noon
Dates: Wednesday 22nd April - 1st July 2026
(No session on 27th May due to May Half Term)

Venue: Lune Park
Time: 9.30am - 12 noon
Dates: Wednesday 16th September - 25th November 2026
(No session on 28th October due to October Half Term)

Call 01524 581280 for more information or scan the QR code to book on.

Moving Mindsets
The Teenage Brain - for Parents & Carers

A workshop for parents/carers to provide some insight into how teenage brains develop. It covers growth and pruning, the effects of changes and how experiences shape the adult brain. It highlights the importance of sleep hygiene relating to your child; resolving conflicts; supporting children and young people with regulating their emotions and encourages reasoning. The workshop ends with some resources for parents to take away.

AIMS:

- To raise awareness and develop knowledge of the changes to the teenage brain.
- To explore ways of how we can talk to our teens as they enter the adolescent years.
- To learn ways to help our 'teens' to recognise their strengths and abilities and encourage independence.

THURSDAY 26th MARCH 2-3pm GREAT WOOD SCHOOL

The Workshop

- The workshop takes place at school
- Is approx. 1 hour long
- Space for Q&A

The Workshop covers::

- Reflecting on our own experiences of adolescence
- What new research tells us
- The changes that take place in the brain and what that means
- Risk taking behaviours
- Sleep
- What we can do to help

Come and find out
how to get the best out of family life



We will be running the Nurture parenting Programme in 2026
Call 01524 581280 to book on or see QR link below



Centre	Time	Date
Westgate	9:30-11:30	12/1/2026
Lune Park	9:30- 11:30	15/1/2026
Westgate	9:30- 11:30	20/4/2026
Lune Park	9:30- 11:30	23/4/2026
Westgate	9:30-11:30	14/9/2026
Lune Park	9:30-11:30	17/9/2026



Lancaster & Morecambe Additional Needs What's On Guide Spring 26

<p>Lancashire Break Time Short Breaks Offer https://bit.ly/3sYDE6r</p> <p>BOOKING ESSENTIAL</p> <p>Morecambe Road School – MoRo’s Mon – Fri 9.30-3.30 Ages 4-18. 01524 414384 f.gill@morecaberoad.lancs.sch.uk</p> <p>Unique Kidz and Co Mon-Fri 10-4 Ages 4-18 01524 831132 services@uniquekidzandco.org.uk</p> <p>Bowerham Kids Club 01524 63999</p> <p>Lots of other providers across the county including Outdoor offers at Towerwood & Borwick Hall. Go to the Lancashire Local Offer and search Lancashire Break time or go to the Lancashire Local Offer facebook Page</p>	<p>BEE Unique Autism www.bookwhen.com/beeunique</p> <p>Range of activities and coffee mornings hosted across Lancashire and South Cumbria, no diagnosis necessary but booking essential on all family activities. No need to book for coffee mornings. Activities include: Swimming at Lune Valley Swimming Pool, X Height Climbing Wall, Jump Rush Trampoline, Soft Play @ Salt Ayre and Hugo’s Other activities from Bee Unique on offer in Carlisle, Whitehaven, Keswick, Penrith, Kendal, Preston. Details on Book When web link above.</p>	<p>Disability Friendly sessions at Jump Rush Morecambe Ages 5+ Thursdays 4.00-5.00 £6.00 per jumper (carer jumps for free) Siblings welcome www.jump-rush.com</p>	<p>Before setting off to join an activity, please check with the provider / venue in case you need to pre-book and any info about your child that would help the session leaders is shared. Unless specified, no diagnosis or proof of diagnosis is needed to access any of the groups.</p>
<p>Escape2Make www.escape2make.org Lots of FREE opportunities for 11-18 yr olds (Not SEN exclusive) sessions are fully inclusive.</p>	<p>SEND parent peer support group 1.00-3.00 at Lune Park Family hub 1st Friday of the month 01524 581280. Parent peer support with ASD pathway Navigator and other services e.g. SENDIAS, Family Hub staff and others.</p>	<p>Autism Friendly Screening at Reel Cinema Morecambe and Vue Cinema Lancaster Vue: last Sunday of the month normally around 10am Check Vue website or NLDG page for details</p> <p>Reel: check Reel website or NLDG page for details</p>	
<p>X Height Climbing Wall Salt Ayre SEN sessions Thursdays 4pm & 5pm. There are 8 spaces per session, ages 5+ siblings welcome. £8.00 per climber. Book via Salt Ayre Leisure Centre www.lancaster.gov.uk</p>	<p>EASY - SEND Youth Group Ages 12-25 Morecambe Library 6.15 – 8.30 Booking essential 01524 581280 Claire.Armer@lancashire.gov.uk</p>	<p>Colourful Footsteps parent peer support group Thursdays 1.00-2.30 at Lune Park Family Hub children under 8 welcome 01524 581280.</p>	
<p>Unique Kidz and Co Stay and Play 0-5's Wednesdays 10-12 / Thursdays 12-2</p> <p>Unique Coffee and Cake Salt Ayre Café 12/9/25 10-12 Woodhill Lane Morecambe L44NW .No need to book,</p> <p>Unique Kidz Siblings group Thursday Evenings for 8-18 yr olds.</p> <p>Unique Toyz Free lending library https://uniquetoysz.lend-engine.com/ email info@uniquekidzandco.org.uk</p>	<p>CHATS Parent Peer Support (Not SEN Specific but all welcome) Social Café meets at More Music Morecambe 1st Friday of the month 10-12 , Connections Meeting 2nd Thursday of month More Music 10-12, Also Zoom sessions last Thursday of month 7-8.30 and Connections Fairs at More Music chatnorthwest@gmail.com</p>	<p>SEND Roadshow 15th April 9.30-1.00 Lune Park Family Hub Lancaster FREE event for families to meet service providers and connect with other families</p>	<p>PTO for QR codes</p>
<p>For more information on local activities during term time, school holidays and after school, please go to:</p> <p>Lancashire Local Offer: www.Lancashire.gov.uk/SEND Local Offer facebook page: www.Facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer</p> <p>North Lancashire Directions Group Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NLDGAdditionalNeedsSupport</p>			

Mental Health Support

 Lancashire and South Cumbria Thrive Service
 Mental Health Support Service
 01772 505138 thrivesc@barnardos.org.uk



The service offers therapeutic one-to-one, group work and counselling support to children and young people aged 5 to 18 (extending to 25 years based on SEN need) within the whole of the Lancashire & South Cumbria Integrated Care Board (ICB) area.

Please note: The My Time to THRIVE Service is NOT a crisis service. We provide support to children & young people with low – moderate mental health needs. Services supporting children and young people’s emotional health and wellbeing. We have centres where children and young people can visit and have a trained worker they can trust and talk to. We help them build their confidence and get to the root of their difficulties.

If you need urgent support, please contact your GP, the local CAMHS Crisis Team (via 0800 953 0110) or in an emergency, you should consider contacting Emergency Services or visit your local A&E department or Urgent Care facility.

Here are some other services and organisations, that may also be useful to you:
www.kooth.com www.youngminds.org.uk www.every-life-matters.org.uk

 Kooth
www.Kooth.com

Lots of ways to get help

Kooth offers a comprehensive range of services specially designed to offer young people support in different ways. Everyone is different, at Kooth you can choose from different types of support to suit your needs.

<p>Live text chat & messaging</p> <p>Users can chat with trained counsellors and emotional wellbeing practitioners from 12pm to 10pm on weekdays and until 8pm on weekends. We are open 365 days a year, even on Christmas Day and other public holidays*</p>	<p>Self-Help Activities</p> <p>Kooth provides a variety of self-help activities that users can engage in at their own pace. These activities are designed to help manage stress, anxiety, and other mental health issues.</p>	<p>Informative Articles</p> <p>The platform hosts a library of articles written by both professionals and peers. These articles cover a wide range of topics relevant to young people’s mental health and wellbeing.</p>	<p>Journaling and goal-setting</p> <p>Kooth offers tools such as journaling and goal-setting to help users track their progress and manage their mental health more effectively.</p>
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* Chat hours may be reduced during public holidays



SEND support GROUP

SUPPORTED BY SCHOOL AGE AUTISM PATHWAY NAVIGATOR

MEET OTHER PARENTS/CARERS

GAIN SUPPORT AND ADVICE, NO DIAGNOSIS NECESSARY

INFO AND ADVICE FROM SEND SERVICES

DATES FOR 2026
 FRIDAY 9th JANUARY
 FRIDAY 6th FEBRUARY
 FRIDAY 6th MARCH
 1-3PM

NHS
 Lancashire County Council
 LUNE PARK FAMILY HUB