



Great Wood News July 2026

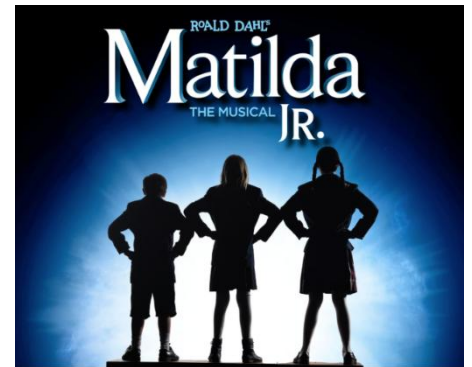


This month's value is Co-operation



A HUGE thanks to the PTA for organising The Great Wood Summer Festival 2026 – the sun shone and everyone who attended were full of compliments. Congratulations to the Year 3 Ukulele Club who played their first concert this year at our festival. They took to the stage like true professionals and serenaded the crowd with a medley of hits.

We are now in the countdown towards the end of term. Everyone in school have been hearing snippets of Year 6 practising, and can't wait until next week when there are performances of Matilda for the Infants and Juniors. It's going to be impressive and tickets for the wider community are available at the office for the shows next Wednesday afternoon at 2pm or Thursday at 6pm.



As well as saying good luck to Year 6, we will also be wishing Mrs Halsey, our French teacher, a happy retirement with a song in French. It is not quite the same for Mrs Flaherty as next year she will be teaching one day a week alongside Mrs Hamilton, but its appropriate to mention that this follows thirty-five years teaching full-time at Great Wood, including a teacher exchange year in Australia!



Transition meetings have been taking place and on Tuesday 14th morning, parents are invited into school to meet with next year's teachers. Teachers will cover routines, expectations, challenges of the age group and provide an opportunity to introduce yourselves and ask questions. Y2-5 parents wait on the junior playground and R-Y1 outside the link corridor until the children are registered and sent off to assembly; when the classrooms are empty, you will be invited in.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Mrs Parkin will remain in Year 6 teaching the current 5C class and Miss Camp will be moving to Year 2 to teach the current 1LO.



Mr Morland joins Great Wood in September as an experienced teacher, having taught in local schools for over 20 years. He is no stranger to Great Wood, as both his son and daughter were pupils here, and he also served as a parent governor for eight years.

Mr Morland is passionate about teaching English and History and enjoys bringing lessons to life through drama and role play. He will be leading the Computing curriculum at Great Wood and has a particular interest in coding and designing computer games.

Outside of school, Mr Morland enjoys exploring the beautiful Morecambe Bay on walks with his family. He is also a keen supporter of Morecambe FC and can often be found cheering on the Shrimps on a Saturday afternoon.

Mr Morland will be teaching Y2 and computing to Years 1 through 6.



Miss Addy, who is currently teaching computing, has been appointed as the teacher alongside Mrs Hoggarth in Year 3, covering Mrs Newton's maternity leave.



In addition to class teachers teaching PE, the children will have regular sessions with Mr Catterall (pictured left) from September. He has a sports science degree, many years coaching and works for Team Theme. Team Theme will be included in our after school club offers too.

Mr Hope will be joining us to teach French on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. He does this at another primary school in the county now and we were lucky to find him.



Children will meet up with their new teachers in their new classrooms on Monday 13th July.

At the end of Monday the children will be given their Annual Report to take home - it should arrive sealed. With the annual report we are also including a short series of questions for parents to fill in and return - to share information about your child with their new teachers.

All reading books that belong to school are to be returned on that final Monday and we will collect in the reading records to send up to the next teacher.

It would be a good idea to send in an empty carrier bag in the final week for children to bring their work home in. We will be reusing folders in school next year.

Children won't be bringing reading books home for the summer, however, we encourage children to make use of the Lancashire Libraries – Up to 10 books can be borrowed from and returned to any Lancashire library including the Morecambe and Lancaster Market Square libraries.

Action Required: Please collect lost property by end of day, Wednesday July 15th

We have accumulated a large amount of lost property this term.

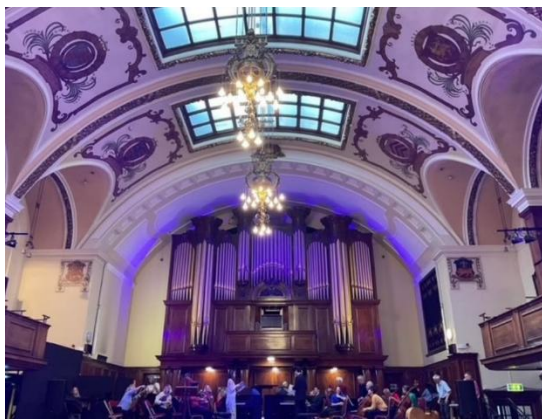
Please visit the school to check for any missing items Wednesday July 15th 4pm.

Any un-named items left uncollected after this date will be donated to the local food bank and community hub. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us clear this space and support our local community.



Thank you to Torrisholme Church of Ascension and Father Damien for hosting the Year One children who have been learning about baptism in the Christian Faith.

Thank you to Morecambe Bay Academy for inviting our Year Two children to their pottery studio to make bird whistles.



Thank you to the Haffner Orchestra

for inviting Year Three to their concert of Carnival of the Animals at Ashton Hall. It was a fabulous experience all round. It was wonderful for the children to experience a "real life" performance and see how the different instruments came together to create an amazing sound. The narrator delivered just the right balance of information and things to listen out for.

Thank you to the 108 parents who completed the Parent Questionnaire. [Great Wood Parent Questionnaire 2026 – Results](#) Governors and staff appreciate the feedback and will take the suggestions and comments on board.

There is a governor vacancy at the moment. It can't be a parent or a member of staff, however, if parents are aware of suitable adults in the community who may be interested in becoming a governor, please share contact details with Mr Ross or ask them to contact him. [Governor-Code-of-Conduct.pdf](#)



In October 2024, school conducted a parent survey about smart phone use following the publication of The Anxious Generation. [GW-Smart-Phone-Survey-October-2024-1.pdf](#) Governors determined in 2024 that to only allow 'dumb' phones be stored during the day for older children who are getting to and from school alone would not have enough societal support and put school leaders in a difficult situation. The research has now been aired more widely and concerns about children's use is more accepted– including children not concentrating when using them when crossing roads. The school's position will be discussed by governors once again next term.

Budgeting for School Trips Everyone values the opportunities for trips and experiences offered at Great Wood. We are always looking for paid for experiences and best value and the school funds some trips and experiences. The school budget has become much more restricted this year and we are losing two funding streams. We are ever grateful to our PTA for the subsidies they provide. Please be aware that you are able to put money into your parent pay account and it will sit there until you allocate it to a payment. To cover the costs of trips over the year it's suggested that a monthly payment of £2 in reception and £4-5 in years 1,2,3,4 would spread the cost.

Schools receive additional funding for children eligible for Free School (not Universal School Meals that are free for Reception Y1 and Y2.) Half the cost of trips are then covered for children eligible for Free School Meals. Parents should be aware that the rules around Free Schools Meals are changing and many more parents may be eligible. Attached to the newsletter is a brochure explaining the change. However, the headline is that - from September 2026, all pupils in households receiving Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of the current £7,400 earnings threshold.

- If children are currently in receipt of Free School Meals, Lancashire will undertake a recheck before the start of the academic year and will be contact with families if there is a change in eligibility.
- Eligibility is broadening significantly, meaning more families will qualify.
- Applications will be required for all of the newly entitled children who qualify under the Expanded FSM criteria.

How do I apply?

You will need to apply if your child is not currently receiving free school meals.

Applying usually only takes a few minutes by visiting [Free school meals - Lancashire County Council](#)



Great Wood School Open Mornings



Tuesday 22nd September 9:00 – 11:30

Monday 5th October 9:00 – 11:30

Thursday 22nd October 9:00 – 11:30

Thursday 12th November 9:00 – 11:30

Tuesday 24th November 9:00 – 11:30

Thursday 7th January 9:00 – 11:30

We'd love to welcome you - please ring to book your visit!

01524 416971

📍 Applications for Reception 2027 close Friday 15th January 2027 📍

We are thankful for Karen from Coram Education charity, who also run the Life Education programme are with us during Relationship and Sex Education week. Children in Year 4 and 5 learn about puberty and in year six children are learn how a human baby is made and born.

Often emails from the community are complaints about parking – the following was a lovely email to receive:

Dear Head, Teachers and Pupils,

Hi All,

My name is Anne and yesterday I went to collect my son from the station at Bare Lane. Whilst walking along the platform admiring the plants I came to your peas. So I picked some and they were the sweetest, best peas I've ever tasted.

So I'd like to say a big "thank you" for my little snack. Keep up the good work.

Love from

Anne Parkington

The next One Stop Shop will be a SEND Special – This will run on 8th July 2026 at Firbank Family Hub 9:30-11:30am

Please signpost any families that would benefit from a chat with Lucy Ellis, SENDIAS, Longlands CDC or a Community Senior.

As always there will be brews and biscuits!

Thanks very much

Sammie Webster
Senior Family Support Worker – Community
Lancaster Family Hub
01772 538766

Morecambe Irish Dance offers fun, friendly Irish dancing classes for children of all abilities, from beginners to experienced dancers.

Classes focus on building confidence, fitness and traditional Irish dance skills in a welcoming environment.

Free trial available.

When: 5 - 6pm every Tuesday

Where: Hest Bank Memorial Hall

Contact: **Miss Shay** 07852515123 or visit [Our Facebook] to book your free trial. - Morecambe Irish Dance

Reminders: Children have to take ear-rings out to do PE. If you are considering getting your child's ears pierced in the coming year, please do it at the beginning of the summer holiday. School shoes may be trainers but they must be ALL black – no white soles, logos etc. See [GW-Uniform-Information.docx](#) Finally, it is lovely to see children on the playground and timber trail after school, however please make sure children are supervised, don't go into the bushes or beyond the path – to separate children from after school clubs. Also children have been told they can't ride their bikes on the playground. Thanks.

Diary Dates

July 26	
Tue 2 nd	Potato Cup Winners revealed
Fri 3 rd	1pm Sharing books with Teddy Bears – bring from home.
Tue 7 th	EYFS trip to Sunderland Point
Wed 8 th	2pm Y6 Play for Parents
Thur 9 th	Y1 trip to World of Beatrix Potter 6pm Play for Parents
Fri 10 th	Y6 Leavers Party
Mon 13 th	Annual Reports sent home
Tue 14 th	9:00 Meet the (next year's)Teacher for Parents
Thur 16 th	Leavers' Assembly 2:00pm Last Day of School Year End at Normal time

Coffee & Connect One Stop Shop

SEND SESSION WITH:
LUCY ELLIS ASD PATHWAY NAVIGATOR
SENDIAS
ADHD NORTHWEST
LONGLANDS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

FIRBANK FAMILY CENTRE
FIRBANK ROAD, LANCASTER,
LA1 3HL.
ALL WELCOME!

FREE HOT DRINKS AND A BISCUIT

A CHANCE FOR PEOPLE TO DROP IN AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS IN A WARM AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

GET PRACTICAL ADVICE ON:

- SEND
- HOUSING
- FINANCE
- EMPLOYMENT
- PARENTING
- EMOTIONAL HEALTH & WELLBEING
- RELATIONSHIPS

EVERY SECOND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
9:30-11:30AM

TOYS AVAILABLE TO KEEP YOUR LITTLE ONES ENTERTAINED TOO. EVERYONE WELCOME

LANCASTER FAMILY HUBS NETWORK
BEST START IN LIFE

Summer Activities at Great Wood
Superball-Paul will be running activity days in the Summer Holidays on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of the first week.
He will also running activity days on Tues 11th and Wed 12th August and Tues 18th and Wed 19th August.
Please book direct with Paul.



The blue tits have fledged.

And if you didn't see Acorn's video of their butterfly emerging from its chrysalis, check it out on FB.



Children return to school on Wednesday, September 2nd.

Lancaster & Morecambe Additional Needs What's on Guide Summer 26

Lancashire Break Time Short Breaks Offer
<https://bit.ly/3sYDE6r> **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**
Morecambe Road School – MoRo's Mon – Fri 9.30-3.30
 Ages 4-18. 01524 414384
f.gill@moremcaberoad.lancs.sch.uk
Unique Kidz and Co Mon-Fri 10-4 Ages 4-18 01524 831132 services@uniquekidzandco.org.uk
Bowerham Kids Club 01524 63999
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

Escape2Make www.escape2make.org Lots of FREE opportunities for 11-18 yr olds (Not SEN exclusive) sessions are fully inclusive.

SEND Den @ Euston Road
office@THESENDDEN.com multiple sessions on offer in their multiple sensory rooms 07804 438843

SEN Soft Play @ Salt Ayre Sports Centre
 Sundays 4pm book via Salt Ayre website 0-12 yrs, under 148cm £6

Unique Kidz and Co Stay and Play 0-5's Wednesdays 10-12 / Thursdays 12-2
Unique Saturday open day 16th May 12-3
Unique Coffee and Cake 15th May Cheyette Fitness 10.30
Unique Kidz Siblings group Thursday Evenings for 8-18 yr olds. Woodhill Lane Morecambe LA4 4NW
Unique Toyz Free lending library <https://uniquetoyz.lend-engine.com/> email info@uniquekidzandco.org.uk

BEE Unique Autism
www.bookwhen.com/beeunique
 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.

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 etc.

LPCF Lets Talk - Themed online sessions & monthly drop in 2nd Tues 7pm
www.lancashireparentcarerforum.org.uk

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, training on Anxiety and other topics at More Music chatnorthwest@gmail.com

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

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

Colourful Footsteps parent peer support group Thursdays 1.00-2.30 at Lune Park Family Hub children under 8 welcome 01524 581280.

EASY - SEND Youth Group Ages 12-25 Morecambe Library 6.15 – 8.30 Booking essential 01524 581280

SEN Kicks (Football) Mondays 5pm-6pm ages 8-18 Heysham Mossgate Community centre
admin@morecambefccf.com

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.

PTO for QR codes

For more information on local activities during term time, school holidays and after school, please go to:
 Lancashire Local Offer: www.Lancashire.gov.uk/SEND
 Local Offer facebook page: www.Facebook.com/LancashireLocalOffer
 North Lancashire Directions Group Facebook page: www.Facebook.com/NLDGAdditionalNeedsSupport



CHATS Group



NLDG Page



Local Offer

NLDG Facebook Page – Local signposting



Unique Kidz



E2M



Break Time



Bee Unique



Lancaster Family hub



HAF

The holiday activities and food (HAF) programme offers free activities for eligible families during school holidays.



WHAT DO PARENTS SAY ABOUT THE INCREDIBLE YEARS?

'If you're saying as a family you need support but feel like no-one is actually giving you something practical to try / change, then doing the IY definitely will. It's emotional and challenging but it will 100% give you the tools to make positive steps. Stick with it, even if you're not sure at points or can't see the impact immediately, definitely stick with it and just do it step by step. Embrace the support. You'll feel less lonely in this world of parenting.'

'I would say do the course as it has made a massive difference to how we parent and has had a really positive effect on our family life.....all the work at the start of the course with the play and coaching, has been the most helpful and impactful to enable the later things to work (such as visual timetables and calm down techniques).'



GET IN TOUCH



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT....

DEBRA LAWLESS
PARENTING PRACTITIONER

INTEGRATED CAMHS & CHILD
PSYCHOLOGY SERVICE

LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE
LANCASHIRE AND SOUTH CUMBRIA NHS
FOUNDATION TRUST

TEL: 01524 550 650

EMAIL: debra.lawless@lscft.nhs.uk

OR, Speak to your child's nursery/school
Key Worker, SENCO, Learning Mentor or
Pastoral team who can complete
a referral for you

The Incredible Years



The Incredible Years

NHS
Lancashire &
South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust

FREE NHS PROGRAMME FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN AGE 2-8

- ☀ Do you sometimes find parenting difficult?
- ☀ Do you want to strengthen your relationship with your child?
- ☀ Would you like to promote your child's social skills?
- ☀ Would you like to support your child's emotional regulation?
- ☀ Would you like to develop positive parenting skills?

IF THE ANSWER IS YES TO ANY OF THESE QUESTIONS, YOU ARE NOT ALONE! KEEP READING...



The Incredible Years is a free NHS course for parents and carers promoting positive behaviour for children age 2-8 years.

Venue: Harvey House, Ashton Road, South Lancaster

You will learn strategies to support your child's emotional regulation. The programme will focus on:

- Child led play to promote connection, enjoyment and communication.
- Effective praise and rewards to promote behaviours you'd like to see more of.
- Clear limit setting, consistent rules, routines, and consequences.
- Handling behaviour that challenges, calm down techniques and problem solving through play and stories.

The programme will build upon and enhance your child's: language development, social and emotional skills, school readiness and confidence.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

15 x weeks, Term Time Only

Meet and Greet
Tuesday 13th October 2026

Session One
Tuesday 20th October 2026

Final Celebration Session:
Tuesday 2nd March



This is a 15 session programme and you are required to attend every session. This will maximise your learning and ensure you benefit from the programme's format and guidance.

If, for any reason, you miss two sessions then your child will be discharged from the Incredible Years service.

WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT AT AN INCREDIBLE YEARS GROUP?

- Everything we talk about at group is confidential.
- You will meet other parents and encourage one another.
- You will receive handouts and materials to help you to achieve your goals.
- We will watch videos and have guided discussions.
- We will practise the strategies together in a safe, non judgemental environment.
- We understand that you are the expert on your child. You will set your own mini goals each week.
- You will receive a weekly coaching phone call to help you with any barriers – and celebrate successes!

