

Shine Together ☆☆☆

Issue 76 – THE MRS TAYLOR SPECIAL

Our School Motto: Work Together, Aim High, Shine Bright

Attendance this week: 95.25% 🎉



17th July '26

Mrs Taylor's Retirement – A Letter from Mrs Fish

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, we celebrated Mrs Taylor's remarkable teaching career and all that she has contributed to our school community.

On Wednesday, dressed in our England kits, we were entertained by Ricky and Steve, who encouraged us to use our imagination through singing, playing instruments and dancing. The samba music was perfect for getting everyone moving, and we shared plenty of laughter together – especially at Mrs Herbert's expense (see photo below)!

On Thursday, dressed in our summer party clothes, we held a special celebration assembly. Each class performed for Mrs Taylor through song, dance, poetry and drama, showcasing the wonderful talents we have within our school. Staff also compiled a collection of photographs and a humorous video, which was played at the end of the assembly.

Our kitchen team provided a delicious summer buffet lunch and, as a special treat, Lucini's ice cream van (Mrs Taylor's favourite) arrived at school to serve dessert. Year 6 pupils were excellent hosts, welcoming our visitors with Nosecco and cake. Mr and Mrs Wright provided live music on the piano and violin, while Olivia and Isabelle joined them for a beautiful rendition of *Scarborough Fair*.

Following the refreshments, a toast was raised to Mrs Taylor and three hearty cheers rang out across the school grounds. Mrs Fish presented Mrs Taylor with a £700 holiday voucher, a framed whole-school photograph and a *Your Bridekirk Life* photo book. The children listened beautifully to the speech, which you can read below.

The celebrations continued with each class choosing music to sing and dance to, creating a wonderful mini disco on the grass. Thank you to Ian Hope for providing the PA system, and to Dinah and Gabriella for being our fantastic comperes.

Thank you so much for your generous contributions. Mrs Taylor has promised to send us photographs from her special holiday, and we will

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 2nd Sept - BACK TO SCHOOL!



Here's our Nourish Stall from the school fayre. We know you were all busy with the games and tombolas, but hopefully you saw our Nourish stall at the summer fayre with our healthy eating recipes and ideas. We will continue with the Nourish programme in September with some family cooking as well as staff training.

be delighted to share them with you.

Mrs Taylor will be greatly missed by us all. However, we know she will always remain part of the Bridekirk family and will no doubt return to visit us—and perhaps even do a little supply teaching if we ask nicely!

Three cheers and a huge thank you to a truly special teacher, colleague and friend.

Mrs Fish

A Letter to you all from Mrs Taylor

As I retire from Bridekirk Dovenby School after 24 wonderful years, and from teaching after 42 incredible years, I find myself reflecting on a career bursting with memories that will last a lifetime.

I have loved teaching every single child that has sat in my classroom. There have been countless laughs, endless adventures and so many special moments along the way.

When I began teaching, there was just a blackboard, a pack of white chalk, and not a computer in sight - never mind the Internet! I was in a reception class and there was one construction set along with a few jigsaws with missing pieces! I was even told that teachers had to wear skirts because trousers weren't allowed. Fast forward to today, and I find myself managing an inbox overflowing with emails and discovering more exciting lesson ideas than ever before. Racing to school in the morning to use the photocopier and enough felt tipped pens to all colour in at the same time!

Despite all the changes in technology and education, the most important ingredient of teaching has never changed. It has always been about creating a safe and happy learning environment where everyone feels valued and part of a huge jigsaw. Add lessons that are fun, varied and filled with humour, and learning is at its very best.

One of the greatest privileges of teaching has been getting to know the individual talents and personalities that every child brings into the classroom. Those children create the magic, and before you know it, the days just fly by.

The last 42 years have passed in the blink of an eye. It is only when I realise that the children from my very first class at Distington Infant School turn 50 next year, that I truly appreciate how quickly the years have gone!

As this chapter comes to an end, I would simply like to say a huge thank you to every child I have ever taught. Thank you for enriching my life, making me laugh, teaching me as much as I taught you and allowing me to play a small part in your formative years.

Thank you also to all the children, parents, colleagues and friends who have sent messages and kind words. Your generous donations for the holiday voucher, gifts and flowers has been overwhelming. If I am honest, I have not really stopped to think about what this week might bring, as I have never been one for fuss - unless it involves teaching and learning.

I leave with a heart full of gratitude, wonderful memories, and immense pride in having spent 42 years doing a job that I have truly loved.

Thank you all.

Mrs Taylor



Latest News

Team Points – The results are in for Sports Day and the End of Year totals. Congratulations to the yellow team and thank you all for taking part.

Sports Day	End of Year
Yellow 191	Yellow 812
Blue 181	Blue 800
Red 163	Red 719
Green 141	Green 716

Carnival Afternoon – As a thank you to all the children, Mrs Taylor booked a children's entertainer for the children to enjoy on Wednesday afternoon. The theme was 'Mrs Taylor's Carnival' and what a party it was! Everyone was dancing, singing, playing instruments, waving ribbons and even the staff were involved. Here's Mrs Herbert entertaining the children as 'Lola' from the Barry Manilow song.



FOBDS Corner – We hope you enjoyed the strawberries and cream at the Sports Day. With your continued support, we raised £144. Thank you 😊. If you would like to get involved, our next meeting will be in the first half term and the AGM in October. Have a lovely summer.

Uniform Suppliers – If you need any uniform for September, you can order from BE Uniforms until the 2nd of August.

We also have a new supplier
www.threefellsembroidery.com

- The full Bridekirk school uniform range is now also available to order at www.threefellsembroidery.com.

- Parents can choose either collection or delivery at checkout.

- To help ensure uniforms are ready for the start of the September term, we recommend placing orders by 20th August 2026. While we'll always do our best, orders placed after this date may not be ready before the new school year begins.

- If parents have any questions, they can contact me at threefellsembroidery@outlook.com, submit an enquiry through the website, or find Three Fells Embroidery on social media.

NEW GOVERNORS WANTED!

We are looking to recruit 2 new governors for our Governing Board at BDS.

One is for a Parent Governor and the other is for a Co-opted Governor (which means you don't need to have a connection to the school already).

Being a governor is a very rewarding position and doesn't take up too much time!

If you are interested, please contact our Clerk to the Governors clerk@bridekirkdovenby.cumbria.sch.uk or contact the office on 01900 829889

Letter from our Chair of Governors – Please see the letter on the next page from Silvana Hewitt, our Chair of Governors.

Our Christian Vision:

At Bridekirk Dovenby School, we nourish the uniqueness of our community. Rooted in love, a rich and diverse curriculum enables all to flourish and grow. Confident and secure, our children reach out, ready to embrace the seasons of life in all its fullness.

Psalm 1 "They are like trees, planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all they do, they prosper."

Mrs Taylor... Your Bridekirk Life!

A Celebration of 24 Wonderful Years at

Bridekirk Dovenby CE Primary School

and 42 Remarkable Years in Teaching

Mrs Taylor,

This book is filled with memories, photographs, laughter, friendship and heartfelt messages from the many people whose lives you have touched throughout your career.

For twenty-four years, Bridekirk has been privileged to benefit from your wisdom, dedication and unwavering commitment to children, families and colleagues. You have guided, supported and inspired generations of pupils and staff, helping to shape the school into the warm, caring community it is today.

To work alongside you has been a joy. You are wise in your judgement, diplomatic in every situation and, above all, tremendous fun. Your positivity, kindness and sense of humour have brightened countless days and reminded us that school is not only a place of learning, but also a place of laughter, friendship and joy.

Whilst this book captures just a small glimpse of your "Bridekirk Life", the memories within its pages reflect the enormous affection, gratitude and respect that we all have for you.

As you begin this exciting new chapter, we hope you look back on these pages with pride, knowing the difference you have made to so many lives.

Thank you for everything.

With love, appreciation and very best wishes,

Your Bridekirk Family ❤️

"How lucky we are to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard."

— A.A. Milne



Newsletter from the Chair of Governors

Hello everyone!

Well, we're nearly at the end of term and the end of this school year. We have to say a sad farewell to 3 of our Governors. Firstly, Rev Roy Anetts, who has been on the Church and Community committee and played a very important role in linking our school and church. He will be remembered for his engaging enthusiasm, his humour and his calm wisdom. Secondly, we say goodbye to Philippe Kitchin, who has been a focused, clear-sighted member of the Finance Committee, with particular responsibility for Health and Safety and for working on the Vision and Strategy document for Governors and the Risk Register. Thirdly, we say goodbye to Fiona Taylor, a Co-opted governor who has been on the Governing Board for longer than anyone! Fiona has supported the governors with her experience and good humour and will be very much missed.

We have welcomed new governors too: Sam Varty as a parent governor on the Church and Community committee and Neil Pilling on the Finance committee. They are both very keen to contribute and show great capability in their roles.

However, we do need new governors so please consider if you would like to join us or if you know anyone who is not a parent here who would be interested.

A particular focus for us this term has been Personal Development and how the school encourages independence, resilience and confidence. Governors have been in to see subject leaders to ~~assess~~ understand how they incorporate these into lessons and then feed back to the whole Governing Board so we can have an oversight of school practices. It is clear from the governors' reports that our teachers do this really well and it greatly benefits the pupils' personal development.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all a great, fun-filled, safe summer holiday!

Silvana Hewitt (Chair of Governors)

Free Morrisons Café Breakfast All Summer...

With many families facing increased financial pressure over the summer holidays, we'd like to highlight a nationwide initiative that could provide immediate support in your local community. We're delighted to let you know that throughout the summer holidays, families can access free Kellogg's breakfasts in all Morrisons Cafes everyday (press release attached and outlined below) - **please share with all schools in your region.**

- **'Breakfast Clubs' are back to help kids and grown-ups enjoy a free Kellogg's breakfast during the summer holidays at all Morrisons Cafés nationwide**
- **Initiative aims to ease money worries during school holidays**
- **New research reveals that parents will begin to feel the financial 'pinch' around week three of the summer break**

Morrisons and Kellogg's have announced the return of their school holiday 'Breakfast Clubs', offering free meals to families across the UK to help ease the financial pressure over the summer holidays. As schools close for the summer holidays, many parents face a financial pinch, with new research from Morrisons showing that more than half (54%) of parents feel the strain during the long summer period. In fact, "week three" of the school holidays is the critical tipping point where the financial impact is most acutely felt by households.

Almost half (48%) of parents also confessed they have been forced to skip meals entirely just to make ends meet and ensure their child does not go without – with breakfast being the number one thing cut from the menu. **Families visiting their local Morrisons Café throughout the summer holidays can enjoy a free 'Kellogg's Breakfast', which includes a bowl of cereal and a portion of fruit. The best part, it's not just for kids, adults get to eat completely free too.** Both kids and adults can choose from much-loved favourites Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies, topped with their choice of dairy or non-dairy milk and a free apple or banana. The summer holiday offer will be available from 29th June to 6th September across all Morrisons Cafes nationwide*. The research also highlighted that alongside the financial strain, parents are also dealing with the repetitive demands of children at home during the holidays. Parents reported hearing the following phrases every day of the school holidays (between at least 1-5 times a day) – driving up the pressure to entertain, as well as keeping them fed:

By reopening the 'Breakfast Clubs' across the school summer holidays, when term-time clubs do not run, Morrisons and Kellogg's are providing families with a welcoming space to enjoy a balanced breakfast together, helping to ease financial strain and rumbling tummies, while a trip to the local supermarket will help keep kids entertained.

Summertime Junior Tennis at Lorton Tennis Club 2026

Hello! 🤗👋

Chris Lockyer LTA Tennis Coach here!

I'm pleased to offer some Junior Tennis dates over the Summer Holidays of 90 minutes per age group.

It's mini-matches along with some fun tennis games.

These will be on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** throughout the holiday period.

It's a weekly book-in so its very flexible with when you attend.

The link takes you to the home page where you will see the dates and times for the first week:

<https://www.lockyertennis.co.uk>

See you on court! 🎾🤗

Best regards

Chris Lockyer

'The future of life on Earth depends on our ability to see the sacred where others see only the common.'

John Denver, singer-songwriter

Patterns in nature are awe-inspiring, but we need to look for them – to find the 'sacred' amidst the 'common'. Spirals, hexagons, fractals, hearts, teardrops, tessellations, circles ... when you start looking they are everywhere!

Patterns in rainforest 'music' are alerting authorities to illegal deforestation – before it happens! 'Hear the rainforest' in real-time and learn more about this fascinating ['Rainforest Connection' project](#). Or check out ['What Antarctic ice cores tell us about climate change'](#).

Young Climate Warriors are encouraged to send through their photos, sketches or doodles of patterns in nature, to share with the rest of their Young Climate Warriors team! Email hello@youngclimatewarriors.org.



Awe-inspiring patterns in nature ...

How many different patterns can you doodle – find the back of an old envelope and give it a try?

Spiralling ferns, polygonal spiders webs, wave patterns on shells, heart-shaped clover leaves, fractals through a sliced cabbage ... teardrop shaped rose petals. Our planet is incredible!

Your challenge this summer is to see how many shapes and patterns you can see in nature – take photos, make sketches, doodle the patterns.

And maybe create your own patterns from leaves, twigs, pinecones, shells, petals ...

Summer holiday challenge!

When you've completed this challenge ... Remember to hit the red button!

YOUNG CLIMATE WARRIORS



Picture News For Parents



July 2026

Hello!

It's Katie from Picture News here. If you're reading this newsletter, your child's school uses our weekly news resources, so I thought it'd be helpful to fill you in on everything Picture News schools have been up to this term! Let's get started...



News Recap

"Special" What can football teach us about the world?

June 2026



To celebrate the biggest-ever World Cup in the US, Mexico and Canada, this resource explored what football teaches us about other people and places in the world. Children discussed why countries want to host the tournament, and what football shows us about cultures, teamwork, respect and diversity.

Is technology changing childhood?

15th June 2026



With the launch of Toy Story 5, this pack focused on the film's plot about the impact of technology on childhood. Children reflected on how toys and children's pastimes have changed, and the importance of imagination, creativity, and spending time together whilst using screens responsibly.

How much should the weather influence our decisions?

29th June 2026



This resource looked at the El Niño climate pattern, and how it affects weather all over the world. Prompted by news of El Niño returning, children learned how meteorologists track weather, and considered how we can thoughtfully prepare for different types of weather.

What makes something popular?

6th July 2026



News of the viral dumpling squishies and discussions around their suitability and popularity with children was this resource's focus. This inspired conversations about how we can ensure the squishies are safe to play with and how toys can become a trend.

Join in weekly news conversations



Remember Picture News schools receive a weekly Take Home resource, which is great for parents and carers to get involved in news discussions too!

It's an opportunity to extend news learning at home, and get the whole family involved in talking about what's happening in the news.



Social media ban: Advice for parents



This term has seen news of the social media ban for under-16s. Picture News schools covered this topic back in February, when conversations in UK Parliament emerged following Australia's social media ban for under-16s.

Now the ban has been announced for the UK, lots of schools and parents have been in touch for ways to talk about this with children.

You know your children best and each child's experience of the online world is different. Some may be frustrated, others relieved. But you may find the blog linked below useful to guide some of your conversations around the social media ban for under-16s.

READ THE BLOG

P.S. For some thought-provoking stats on children's screen time, check out our recent Instagram post [here](#)



Big World Cup Primary Party!

Talk about an end of year party! This month, we welcomed children online for a special live assembly inspired by the World Cup! Ahead of the final, we celebrated the excitement of the tournament whilst reflecting on the highs and lows of the school year.



The children shared some incredibly insightful thoughts as we discussed what football can teach us about teamwork, resilience, pride, disappointment and belonging.

**Has the World Cup been
topic of conversation
in your family?**

**CATCH
UP ON
YOUTUBE**



Sir David Attenborough's 100th Birthday - Live Celebration!

It was the 100th birthday of national treasure, Sir David Attenborough, this term! And what better way to celebrate than with our biggest-ever online birthday party, which saw over 7,000 schools join!

With special guest naturalist and explorer, Steve Backshall – you may recognise him from CBBC's *Deadly 60* – we looked back at Sir David's life, his legacy, and the importance of protecting the natural world.

Steve told us about his adventures and what Sir David means to him.



How did your child's school
celebrate Sir David's birthday?



Bye for now!

That's all from me for now – the summer break is almost here! I hope you have a wonderful time together during the school holidays.

Another edition of Picture News for Parents will be published ahead of October half term, but in the meantime you can keep up with all-things Picture News on our socials (linked below).

And as always, any questions or feedback are welcome!

Speak soon,

Katie, Editor
katie.n@picture-news.co.uk



Summer Reading Challenge 2026 – *Read to the Beat*

We're excited to share that the Summer Reading Challenge 2026 is just around the corner – and this year's theme is **Read to the Beat**!

Children are invited to visit their nearest library to take part in this fun, free activity that encourages a love of reading over the summer holidays.



How to Take Part

- It's completely **FREE**!
- All you need is a Cumberland Libraries membership – which is also free to join.

What's Involved?

To complete the challenge, children are encouraged to read **six books** of their choice during the summer holidays.

This can include:

- Fiction
- Non-fiction
- Poetry
- Joke books
- Picture books
- Graphic novels
- eBooks and eAudiobooks via **BorrowBox**, our free digital service.



Read and Collect!

- Collect themed Read to the Beat stickers along the way.
- Receive your own Summer Reading Challenge kitbag.
- Once completed, children will be awarded a medal and certificate to celebrate their achievement.

When Does It Start?

The challenge begins in all Cumberland Libraries on **Saturday 11 July 2026** and continues throughout the summer.

- **Mini Challenge** (for ages 0–3, alternative age-appropriate rewards)
- **Main Challenge** (for ages 4–11)

Find Out More:

- The Reading Agency: summerreadingchallenge.org.uk
- Cumberland Libraries: <https://www.cumberland.gov.uk/libraries-0>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CumberlandLibraries/>

We hope children will join in and enjoy a summer full of stories, creativity, and fun!

The Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat, delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music UK.



Summer 2026 Holiday, Activities and Food Programme (HAF)

Provider	Venue	Ages	Booking link (Eequ)
Keswick Family Hub Summer of arts, craft, games, sport and fun	Keswick Family Hub , Trinity Way, Keswick, England, CA12 4HZ	5-11yrs	https://eequ.org/book/keswick-family-hub-summer-fun-with-family-hub-on-the-port-31709
All 4 Fun Bouncy Castles/Slides, interaction games, team and solo games and arts & Crafts.	Keswick School Multi Academy , Vicarage Hill, CA12 5QB	4-12yrs	https://eequ.org/book/all-4-fun-keswick-active-holiday-with-all4fun-31336
Carlisle United CST Football Camp	Keswick Football Club Crosthwaite Road Keswick CA12 5PY	5-13yrs	https://eequ.org/book/cufc-cst-soccer-school-at-keswick-fc-with-carlisle-united-community-sports-trust-30509
Derwent Hill Outdoor Centre Outdoor adventure Days	Derwent Hill Portinscale Keswick CA12 5RD	8-13yrs	https://eequ.org/book/derwent-hill-outdoor-adventure-days-with-derwent-hill-outdoor-education-and-training-centre-17241
Genius Tuition - workshops, sports and team games, creative arts & crafts	Christ Church Hall South St, Cockermouth CA13 9RU	5-14yrs	https://eequ.org/book/genius-holiday-club-cockermouth-with-genius-tuition-17285
Riversmeet Community Cooperative Family Day	Danaway Homestead, Eaglesfield, Cockermouth CA13 0RY	8-16yrs	https://eequ.org/book/riversmeet-family-day-at-danaway-homestead-with-riversmeet-community-cooperative-32213
Riversmeet Community Cooperative Nature Club	Danaway Homestead, Eaglesfield, Cockermouth CA13 0RY	5-16yrs	https://eequ.org/book/riversmeet-nature-club-at-danaway-homestead-with-riversmeet-community-cooperative-32211
Carlisle United CST Football Camp	Cockermouth School Castlegate Drive Cockermouth CA13 9HF	5-13yrs	https://eequ.org/book/cufc-cst-soccer-school-at-cockermouth-with-carlisle-united-community-sports-trust-30497
Cumberland Summer HAF Activities 2026 Full Programme	Cumberland - Wide	4-16yrs	<u>Eequ · After school. In place of school. Beyond school.</u>

Should you need any further information or support please contact: HAF@cumbria.gov.uk



**BEST
START
IN LIFE**



**Free for eligible
children**

Don't miss out! Book your summer HAF activities now

**Book your place today, visit
eequ.org/CumberlandHAF**



**Funded by
UK Government**



cumberland.gov.uk



Dear Parents/Carers,

Summer is the perfect time for children to have their eyes tested, any concerns can be addressed before school starts again for the new term.

As part of our ongoing commitment to provide comprehensive eye care and vision solutions, we are delighted to announce that our Colorimetry service and Myopia management are available at Specsavers Whitehaven and Specsavers Workington.

What is Colorimetry? Colorimetry is a highly specialised service designed to help individuals who experience visual discomfort or perceptual distortions, particularly when reading. This discomfort can sometimes be linked to visual stress, a condition that affects both children and adults.

How Can Colorimetry Help? Our new Colorimetry service involves using advanced technology to identify the precise colour tint that can help alleviate symptoms of visual stress. By wearing precision tinted lenses, many individuals experience significant improvements, including:

- Enhanced Reading Comfort: Reduced eye strain and fatigue when reading.
- Improved Focus: Easier and more prolonged concentration on text-based tasks.
- Better Visual Clarity: Relief from distortion of text.
- Support for Dyslexia and Other Learning Difficulties:

Some people with learning difficulties report improvements in reading speed and comprehension with colorimetry lenses. Is This Service Right for You or Your Family? If you or a family member experience difficulties when reading—such as headaches, visual distortions, or difficulty maintaining focus—our Colorimetry service may be beneficial. Our friendly and experienced team will conduct a thorough assessment to determine the best solution for your visual needs.

Book Your Appointment We invite you to contact us at 01946 598190 / 01900 601611 to schedule a Colorimetry assessment or learn more about this innovative service. Our team is here to answer any questions and guide you through the process.

Thank you for choosing Specsavers Whitehaven / Specsavers Workington for your vision care. We look forward to continuing to serve you and bringing you the latest advancements in optical care.

Warm regards,

Sam Mellon FBDO

Dispensing Optician

Samanth.mellon@specsavers.com