



# TEMPLE SOWERBY CE SCHOOL

## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th January 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and I hope all of you had a lovely Christmas and New Year. To mark the start of 2026, we have a number of updates to share with you at the start of our Spring term.

### School Business Manager

Firstly, we would like to welcome Louise Thompson to her new role as Small School Business Manager and I'm sure many of you will be seeing her at the front door in the coming weeks. Louise will be continuing to serve lunches and won't be in the office on Wednesdays (if you have any queries on a Wednesday, other staff will be available to help).

### Applications for Reception & Junior School Places – September 2026

A reminder that the deadline for applications for Reception school places for September 2026 is **15th January 2026**. If you know of anyone who would be interested, please let them know. For more information and how to apply, please visit the Westmorland and Furness Council website at: [www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place-or-change-schools](http://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place-or-change-schools).

### School Meals

School lunches for the week commencing 19<sup>th</sup> January must be ordered on ParentPay this afternoon (9<sup>th</sup> January). When ordering, please be aware that children in Years 2 to 6 will be climbing at Eden Rock on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January and will need to bring a packed lunch, so do not order meals for those days. Any orders already placed for those days will be cancelled.

### Swimming Gala – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January

Parents of children taking part in next Monday's swimming gala have already been emailed with details of the event. Please make sure your child remembers their swimming kit.

### Clubs

Our after-school clubs start again next Monday (12<sup>th</sup> January) and there are a few changes for you to be aware of. Please contact the School Office if you would like to book a place for your child.

- Monday – Art Club with Mrs Capstick
- Tuesday – Multi-sports with Abby
- Wednesday – Board Games and Lego
- Thursday – Film Club
- Friday – Band Club

### Film Club for this half-term:

- 15<sup>th</sup> January – Sing (U)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> January – Home (U)
- 29<sup>th</sup> January – The Lorax (U)
- 5<sup>th</sup> February – The Croods (U)
- 12<sup>th</sup> February – Migration (U)



### Reverse Advent Calendar

Thank you again for all of the kind donations of produce for this year's Reverse Advent Calendar. I thought we'd share the feedback we received from Upper Eden Food Bank.



*A huge thank you to all those at Temple Sowerby School who were involved in December's calendar food collection.*

*Each year the generosity towards UEFB seems to exceed the previous year's. So thank you for helping us to provide again, through product donations and/or financial donations, toiletries, unperishable food stuffs, and Christmas goodies such as chocolate, fruit and vegetables.*

*Those families and individuals we visited with Christmas parcels reciprocated by gifting us with smiles and thank yous a-plenty. Although we would surely all agree that we would rather there was not a need for food banks, it is a privilege to be a small part of the support and kindness that is so needed.*

*Many thanks, and a Happy New Year from the Upper Eden Food Bank team*

### What I wish my parents or carers knew: A guide for parents on managing children's digital lives.

Dame Rachel de Souza, Children's Commissioner for England, has recently published a new guide for parents on how to help manage their children's digital lives. This can be accessed by [clicking this link](#).

*"Parenting today can feel overwhelming – especially when childhood looks so different from what we grew up with. There's no manual and it can be hard to keep up with the fast-changing world your child moves through every day. This guide aims to make those conversations easier and help you support your child with confidence."*



### Forest School

Finally, please be aware that Forest School will be taking place on Wednesdays each week this term. For the first 3 weeks (7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of January), this will involve children in Years 2-4, whilst Year 5/6 children are doing gymnastics. These groups will then swap over for the next two weeks on the 28<sup>th</sup> Jan and 4<sup>th</sup> Feb (with Y2-4 doing gymnastics and Y5-6 doing Forest Schools).

Kind regards,

Mr K Laithwaite, Headteacher

**Important dates for this half-term:**

Date	Time	Event
Every Friday	9.15–10.30am	Temple Sowerby Tots
Every Tuesday	PM	Guitar tuition
Thursday 22nd/29th January	10.30-12.00pm	Eden Rock Climbing—Y2-6

**Key dates for remainder of the year:**

Date	Time	Event
Week beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> February	Afternoons	Swimming week 2
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Leave in morning	Young Voices
Mon 16 <sup>th</sup> March	4.00 – 5.00pm	FOTSS Spring Disco
Week beginning Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Mornings	SATs Week – Year 6
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	After school	Temple Sowerby Kwik Cricket tournament
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> – Wed 10 <sup>th</sup> June		Year 4-6 Residential trip
Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> June	PM	Sports Day
Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	All day	Transition Day (awaiting final confirmation)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	After school	FOTSS Summer Barbecue
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	All day	Summer trip – whole school (awaiting final confirmation)
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July		Leavers service (AM) and end of term service (1.30pm)