

PENNINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
PENNINGTON
Nr. ULVERSTON
CUMBRIA LA12 ORR.

TEL: 01229 587253

Email: admin@penn.cumbria.sch.uk

Web: www.penn.cumbria.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Helen Storey



Spring Term Newsletter 01 - 19/03/2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Special Mentions

Another wonderful week for all here at Pennington. Well-done to our children who received awards. It is great to hear that many children have been able to attend hobbies and events outside school and they were very proud to receive recognition in front of their peers and teachers.

This weeks' Special Mention children plus some of the excellent work experience students we have had working with us from UVHS.



Attendance

The school inclusion officer paid us our termly visit last week to monitor our school attendance. The Department for Education has produced data that links school attendance with attainment and future success and there is a national drive to improve attendance. Westmorland and Furness have increased the number of staff who monitor this.

In their policy it says:

Penalty notices will be issued when the national threshold has been met. The national threshold has been met when a pupil has been recorded absent for 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 days) within 10 weeks for the following reasons:

- a. The pupil is absent for the purpose of a holiday
- b. The circumstances of the pupil's absence is not known
- c. The pupil attended but was so late that their attendance would not count in the register
- d. Absence due to other unauthorised circumstances

The first penalty notice will be £80 per parent/ guardian per child if paid within 21 days.

If another holiday / period of unauthorised absence is taken within 3 years, the fine will be £160 per parent/guardian per child.

If a third holiday/ period of unauthorised absence is taken within 3 years, parents may be summonsed to court.

Children whose attendance is less than 90% are considered to be persistent absentees.

We have a legal obligation to pass on all attendance information to the attendance officer.

A small number of our parents should expect a fine. On a positive note, our whole school attendance is usually approx. 95% which is considered to be good.

Make-up and jewellery

Some of the older girls have started wearing make up to school, particularly mascara. It is not necessary or suitable for primary aged children. Please monitor this at home. If make up is worn, children will be asked to wash their faces. Our children are all beautiful and do not need it!

Jewellery should not be worn for school other than simple studs in ears. No necklaces and bracelets please. If you are thinking of having your child's ears pierced, it would be advisable to wait until the holidays, then they have time to practice taking them out for PE.

Drinks bottles

Please make sure that children only bring water in their bottles for school. Some parents have said that their children will only drink juice. If they are only given the option of water, they will get used to it. Dentists advise that juice should only be drunk at mealtimes to reduce the number of acid attacks on teeth. Children who bring expensive drinks bottles must be responsible for them. We would encourage cheaper options for school.

Occasionally children need medication in juice. As with other medications, please complete a form in the office.

Toys in school

Please discourage your child from bringing their own toys to school. They become upset if they lose them or if they get mixed up with our OPAL equipment.

Comic Relief - Friday 21st March

On Friday we are holding a non-uniform day to raise funds for Comic Relief. Please donate via ParentPay (minimum donation £1 which will include a comic relief biscuit decorated by Reception class). **Please be aware the default amount is £10, if you wish to pay less you will have to enter the amount you wish to pay below.**

Year 3 Coffee Morning - Friday 28th March

Year 3 will be hosting a coffee morning between 9.30-10.20am for their parents and friends. We are asking Y3 parents for donations of cakes and biscuits to sell. There is an entry charge of £2.00 and the proceeds will go to school funds. Year 3 look forward to welcoming and serving everyone.

Year 4, 5 and 6 Residentials - deadline for full payment - 31st March 2025

Just a gentle reminder that the Year 4, 5 and 6 Residentials will take place during the Summer Term - Full payment is required by **Friday 31st March 2025**. Parentpay has been set up so you are able to pay the deposit and monthly payments thereafter to enable you to spread the cost over 6 instalments. If for any reason there is a difficulty paying this amount, please contact the school office.

Easter Church Service - Wednesday 2nd April

Children will be attending Pennington Church for an Easter Service on Wednesday 2nd April during the morning. They will sing Easter hymns and songs and celebrate this important event in the Christian calendar. Unfortunately, we cannot invite parents and friends to our service as there is not enough room in church but we will endeavour to record some of the songs for you to listen to on our Facebook page.

Easter Trail and Competition

The Pennington Community Group will be providing an Easter trail again this year. Maps will be left outside school in the Easter holidays which will lead you to find Easter Rabbits around the Pennington area. We usually mark the beginning of the trail by providing a focal point outside school. This year we are asking children and families to create 'spring rabbits' sculptures or artwork to stand on the grass or hang on the railings at the front of school. As school will be closed, we will not be able to protect the art work but there has never been any vandalism in the past and locals appreciate the effort that we go to, to provide an Easter display.

Sculptures and artwork can be any size but must be weatherproof. They can be collected when we return to school but in our experience, they are often weathered.

We will provide all children who participate with an Easter treat and there will be a prize awarded to one child from each class who is judged to have made an extra special effort with this task. This could be a fun, crafty activity that parents can get involved with. Please bring your spring rabbits into school by Wednesday 2nd April.

Many thanks for your support in advance, from the Pennington Community Group.

Family worker

We now have access to a family worker who is available to our school on Fridays. Her name is Michelle Jones and she previously worked for Family Action. Michelle is working across a number of schools in the FPC (Furness Primary Collaborative) as a result of additional funding we have received from a local business, Orcina. Michelle is not a teacher or a social worker but will be available to offer support, predominantly to parents. She will be a valuable addition to the pastoral care we already provide.

Mrs Wright continues to work with the children and will be around to speak to parents in the mornings as usual. If you would like to meet with Michelle in school or have a home visit, please get in touch with Mrs Wright leanne@penn.cumbria.sch.uk or contact Michelle directly mjonesfamisupp@gmail.com

Parking and Drop Off

PCSO Madden dropped us an email regarding parking outside school. Please be mindful of parking and do not park where the cones are, the police have had a complaint about parents blocking the road.

Online Safety Tips

It's important that parents and carers know that all social media platforms and messaging apps have age limits. Some social networks use technologies that may not be right for some ages. The NSPCC website has lots of resources for families. You can access this information by clicking the link below to find out more and learn why those age restrictions are in place. Many parents are unaware that WhatsApp is linked to other Meta platforms Instagram and Facebook, and because of this age restrictions apply.

<https://internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-start-social-networking>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/advice/apps-and-platforms/social-media/whatsapp/>

After School Clubs

We aim to offer a range of after school activities throughout the year. The timetable for this term is displayed below. **All clubs need to be booked, paid for and permission given through ParentPay.** There will be a nominal charge for clubs run by school staff to cover resources and sports/outside providers will be charged to cover their time. We still consider this to be good value. Thank you to staff for giving their time freely to offer these opportunities. Clubs will start the first week back for 6 weeks.



After School Clubs - Spring 2 2025

Day	Activity	Leader	Where?	Time
Monday	Year 1, 2 and 3 Multisport £15.00	Corey	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.00pm
	Year 5 and 6 Computers £6.00 (16 places) (Full)	Mr Hodgson	Year 5 Classroom	3.15-4.00pm
Tuesday	Year 3 and 4 Watercolours £6.00 (20 places)	Mrs Barton	Year 4 Classroom	3.15-4.00pm
	Year 4 Cooking £6.00 (10 places)	Mrs Tuck	School Hall	3.15-4.15pm
Wednesday	Year 4, 5 & 6 Multisports £15.00	Corey	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.00pm
Thursday	Colouring club Year 1 and 2 £6.00 (20 places)	Mrs Baldwin	Year 1 Classroom	3.15 - 4.15pm
	Dance Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 £15.00 (25 places)	Louise Walton	School Hall	3.15-4.15pm
Friday	Year 4, 5 & 6 Chess Club £6 (20 places)	Mrs Hockaday	Year 6 Classroom	3.15-4.00pm

After School Club Attendance - To enable that we know your child is safe, please can you let school know if your child is not going to be able to attend their after-school club. Thank you.

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024/2025



AUTUMN TERM 2024

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Wednesday 4 September	Friday 20 December	Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November

Number of school days in term - 73

SPRING TERM 2025

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Tuesday 7 January	Friday 4 April	Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February

Number of school days in term - 59

SUMMER TERM 2025

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Tuesday 22 April	Friday 18 July	Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May

Good Friday - 18 April
Easter Sunday - 20 April
Easter Monday - 21 April
May Bank Holiday - 5 May

Number of school days in term - 58

Number of days in year - 190

INSET Days: Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 September
Monday 6 January

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025/2026



AUTUMN TERM 2025

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Wednesday 3 September	Friday 19 December	Monday 27 October - Friday 31 October
Number of school days in term - 73		

SPRING TERM 2026

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Wednesday 7 January	Friday 27 March	Monday 16 February - Friday 20 February
Number of school days in term - 53		

SUMMER TERM 2026

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Monday 13 April	Friday 17 July	Monday 25 May - Friday 29 May
Good Friday - 3 April Easter Sunday - 5 April Easter Monday - 6 April May Bank Holiday - 4 May		

Number of school days in term -64

Number of days in year - 190

INSET Days: Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 September
 Tuesday 6 January

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Dear Parents/Carers

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

If your child is eligible for 'free school meals' and you register them for this, we'll receive extra funding called 'pupil premium'. We use this extra money to improve the educational provision and resources at the school.

What is pupil premium funding?

Pupil premium funding from the government is given to schools to help pupils reach their full potential, regardless of their background or financial situation. It's provided for pupils who:

- Are registered for free school meals
- Have been registered for free school meals at any point in the past 6 years
- Are, or have been, in care
- Have parents in the armed forces

At Pennington, we get an extra £1,385 for every eligible pupil who is registered for free school meals. This extra money could make a real difference to the quality of education we offer.

For example, we've previously used pupil premium funding for:

- Educational provision/resources
- Academic interventions
- Wellbeing and self-esteem building interventions

Is my child eligible for free school meals?

To be eligible for free school meals, your family's annual household income must be no higher than:

- £22,700 for families with one child
- £26,300 for families with two or more children

Your child might be eligible if you access:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on- paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month)

Universal infant free school meals

Currently, pupils in reception, year 1 and year 2 are entitled to a free school meal thanks to a different government funding scheme known as universal infant free school meals (UIFSM). You shouldn't confuse UIFSM with free school meals and the pupil premium.

If your child is in reception, year 1 or year 2 and is eligible for free school meals according to the criteria above, you should still register because we'll receive the extra pupil premium funding.

Does my child have to eat the free school meals?

No. Pupils who are registered for free school meals don't have to eat them. If you're eligible but you want your child to have packed lunches you should still register because the school will receive the funding which can support your child in other ways.

How do I register?

You only need to register once at the school.

To register, please click on the following link:

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers>

More information

For more information about pupil premium go to our website, which contains details of how the pupil premium has been spent in the past academic year and how it will be spent this year.

Kind regards

Mrs Storey
Headteacher

FRIENDS OF PENNINGTON

AGM

Wednesday 26th March 7pm at the Miners in Swarthmoor, all welcome!

Winter Glow Disco

Thank you to all that attended and supported the school disco, we raised an incredible £590!

Thank you to our wonderful volunteers and a warm welcome to our newest volunteers, we couldn't do any of this without your help!

If you would like to volunteer to help at future events, please email Carly, Stella or Amanda at FoP@penn.cumbria.sch.uk to get in touch or contact Mrs Baldwin in the school office.

Asda Cashpot for Schools

Thank you to the families that supported us by using the ASDA rewards app we raised £198.29 to add to our fundraising total.

Easter Colouring Competition

We will be running our annual Design an Easter Egg Competition. Templates will be available from the school office from tomorrow. Designs should be returned with a 50p attached to each. Children are invited to design and colour their egg using whatever materials they would like. Entries can be handed in to the school office to be judged after the Easter break. There will be a prize for the most original and creative design.

Coniston to Barrow (C2B), Saturday 10th May 2025

Due to the success of the Friends of Pennington C2B team last year, raising £1,100 for Friends of Pennington, we are going to input a team to walk it again on Saturday 10th May. Sponsorship details to follow!

Thanks, Stella, Carly and Amanda.

Friends of Pennington School

Email us at FoP@penn.cumbria.sch.uk to get in touch

**We Raised
a TOTAL OF**

£198

**For the Friends of
Pennington School**

**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR SUPPORT**

**CASHPOT
FOR
SCHOOLS**



in partnership with
Parentkind

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerningly common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to

3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.



Onside Sports Easter Holiday Camps

Onside Football & Multi Sports Academy (4-12 year olds)

The camp will consist of fun and enjoyable warm up games and then allow the children to experience numerous sporting activities during the day including; football, cricket, dodgeball, multi skills, basketball, handball, table tennis, tennis and more. All coaching will be delivered by coaches with enhanced DBS disclosures to work with children enabling us to provide a fun, safe environment for your child to work

St Bernard's High School



Mon 7th April – Fri 11th April



UVHS

Mon 14th April – Thurs 17th April

*** Book early to avoid disappointment ***

- Each camp will run **9am-3pm** (group drop off and collection times will be confirmed on booking)
- We have use of a multiple sports halls, 3g (UVHS) and playing fields so if the weather is poor the camp will run as normal.
- Participants will require appropriate sports kit and trainers. Also, a packed lunch and still drinks will be needed for their lunch break.
 - **INDIVIDUAL DAYS £20**
 - **ALL 9 DAYS £160**

For further info please contact Gavin Butler

T – 07887940150

E – Gav@onsidesportscoaching.co.uk

F- **Onside Sports coaching Development**

Photographs/Videos may be taken for publicity, training and advertisement purposes. By circling YES it will indicate you DO have objections to this, please contact Onside Sports Coaching with any questions



BOYS' FOOTBALL SESSIONS

Mondays

5-6pm

For ages 4+

Glaxo Sports Hall (LA12 9DR)

**These sessions are non- competitive
and suitable for all abilities!**

Email hannah@hpactivities.com

Book via hpactivities.com



HP ACTIVITIES

Community | Inclusion | Engagement



Girls Football

Thursdays

4-5pm

Ages 4-11

GSK Sports Complex (LA12 9DR)

All abilities welcome!

**For more info get in touch-
hannah@hpactivities.com**

Visit hpactivities.com to book on!



HP ACTIVITIES

Community | Inclusion | Engagement



HAPPY NEWS



UK

Girls have short hair too!

A girls' football club in York, England, has launched a campaign to support girls with short hair after one of its players was mistaken for a boy. The incident happened when Flo, 11, who has short hair, scored a goal for the York Railway Institute AFC Under 12s. The opposition coach and parents wrongly accused her of being a boy and the team of cheating. Flo and her teammate Camille, who also has short hair, were really upset. In response, the club started a campaign to challenge stereotypes, educate others, and, most importantly, encourage kindness!



KIDS



CHINA

Race to 'puppy mountain'

Tourists from around the world are flocking to "puppy mountain" after a viral photo took the internet by storm. The mountain in Yichang, China, looks just like a puppy dipping its nose into the water. Guo Qingshan, who shared the image on Chinese social media platform Weibo, said: "The puppy's posture is like it's drinking water, or it's looking at some fish. It also looks like it's quietly protecting the Yangtze River."



OUTER SPACE

Love is out of this world

They say that love is written in the stars - but this Valentine's Day - it was written on Mars! On 14th Feb, NASA shared some amazing images of heart-like shapes found on the red planet, captured by the Mars Global Surveyor, an old spacecraft that orbited Mars from 1997 to 2006.



UK

Road closed for toads

A road in the UK has been closed for six weeks to help thousands of frogs, toads and newts make their way to a breeding lake. Before the closure in 2003, 62% of amphibians crossing Charlcombe Lane, Bath, were killed by traffic. Now, volunteers patrol the area, picking up the animals and safely transporting them across. Last year, they helped 3,200 amphibians cross safely. The small animals make the journey each year to get to their breeding grounds for spring, after migrating for the winter.



UAE

'Human calculator' shatters six world records

Fourteen-year-old Aaryan Shukla from India has earned the title of "The Human Calculator" after breaking six world records for mental math in a single day. At a Guinness World Records event in Dubai, he performed lightning-fast calculations, including adding 100 four-digit numbers in just 30.9 seconds. Shukla's successful record-setting attempt was captured on video, which is available to watch for free on the Guinness World Records website!





JUNIOR BAKE OFF



JOIN THE CLASS OF 2025!

JUNIOR BAKE OFF

**... IS LOOKING FOR BRILLIANT BAKERS, AGES
9-15 FOR THE NEXT NEW AND EXCITING
SERIES!**

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
SUNDAY 23RD MARCH**

APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK



0 – 19 Child and Family Support Services – South Lakeland

Spring walks and forest fun!

Tues 15th April, Conishead Priory, Coast road, LA12 9RX

Wed. 9th April, Windermere, Footprint, LA23 1NH

Come and join outdoors for fun themed crafts and adventures in the forest.
Open to all children accompanied by an adult. Appropriate clothing recommended.
10:00-11:30am

Limited places, to book contact joan.hanson@actionforchildren.org.uk Mobile: 07725 782198

After 26th March please contact 01539 734456 to book your place

Registered Charity Numbers: 1097940/SC038092

Registered address 3 The Boulevard, Ascot Road, Watford WD18 8AG

Registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee in England & Wales 4764232



0 – 19 Child and Family Support Services – South Lakeland

Spring Cooking & Craft Session

Tuesday 8th April, Kendal Children's Centre. LA9 5PP

Weds 16th April, Flookburgh Children's Centre. LA11 7LE

Come and join us to make and decorate spring biscuits and have fun making spring themed crafts. Open to children under 11 years old accompanied by an adult.

10:30-12pm

Limited places, to book contact sharon.norton@actionforchildren.org.uk Mobile: 07545 701232 until 26.03.2025

After 26th March please contact 01539 734456 to book your place

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