

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

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Head Teacher: Mrs Helen Storey



Autumn Term Newsletter 01-1/09/2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely Summer. Thankfully, the weather was kind to us. The children have entered school happily and ready to learn with their new teachers and we have had a very smooth transition into the new year. Thank you to all the staff who have worked hard throughout the holidays and this week, both inside and outside to make sure the school was ready for our return.

A particular warm welcome to our new teachers - Mr Fleming and Mrs Satterthwaite who are fantastic additions to our team.

We now have some new areas outside to enhance playtime. Here at Pennington, we believe that playtime should offer varied opportunities for children to develop physically whilst having fun, collaborating, encountering challenges, making friends and learning resilience. A new water play area at the front of school is currently being built. A gravel pit for diggers and dumpers is situated behind Year 6 classroom and a new pallet playhouse is almost finished on the back playground. We have seen first-hand that when the children experience great quality playtimes, this improves wellbeing and supports a positive attitude to learning in the classroom.

There is quite a lot of information attached to this newsletter which will be of particular interest for our new parents and helpful reminders for everyone else.

Vacancy in School

Would you like to earn £125 each week during term time?

We are currently looking for someone to collect and deliver our school lunches from Croftlands Junior School kitchen and then help in our dining hall. If you are interested, please contact the school office on 01229 587253.

Coats and wellies

Our playtimes are very active and we try to be outside in all weathers. Please make sure your child has a warm, waterproof coat. Wellies for wet days would also be useful they can be pegged together and kept in our welly sheds next to the field. If you have any old wellies, we would also like to collect some spares so that everyone can have a pair. These will also be used on outdoor days.

School footwear

Our school uniform policy asks that children wear sensible black shoes or plain black trainers. Please make sure children's footwear is suitable for playing out. Heavy boots are not necessary.

Hair

Please make sure your child's long hair is tied back. This is safer and occasionally we have had headlice and they spread very quickly when children's hair is loose.

Jewellery

We ask that children do not wear necklaces and bracelets for school. Children should only wear stud earrings for safety reasons which they should take out themselves for PE. This may require some practice at home.

Toys, keyrings and bag charms etc.

We have lots of wonderful play resources for children to use in school therefore we discourage children from bring their own toys and accessories from home. They find it very upsetting when they lose something precious to them.

Outdoor days

We will continue offering regular outdoor days for all classes this year. Children will need to wear suitable outdoor clothing for the weather conditions. They should have a waterproof coat, enough warm clothes and wellies or old trainers.

Please see below dates for outdoor learning days.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Thursday 11 th September | Year 4 |
| Thursday 18 th September | Year 5 |
| Tuesday 23 rd September | Year 3 |
| Thursday 25 th September | Year 6 |
| Thursday 2 nd October | Yr 1 |
| Monday 19 th October | Yr 2 |
| Thursday 16 th October | Reception |
| Monday 23 th October | Yr 2 |

Swimming

Swimming lessons for Year 3 and 4 will be taught at Dalton Leisure Centre, beginning on Wednesday 17th September. Please make payments on ParentPay. Make sure your child has their costume and towel. A letter will come home with the children next week, please fill out the questionnaire with details of your child's swimming ability and return to your child's teacher.

Piano Lessons - new pupils

Ms Heather Ord now has a limited number of places available for piano lessons within school from year 3 upwards. Ms Ord has 18 years' experience teaching piano and is currently teaching both privately and in 5 local primary schools. Lessons take place on Thursdays and pupils are timetabled with a weekly 20-minute lesson during school time, with lesson times changing weekly. The cost is £10 per lesson, paid for half termly. If your child is interested, please contact Ms Ord directly by email at: ordheather@gmail.com. Lesson spaces will be given on a first come, first served basis.

Facebook

Do you follow us on Facebook? We post all our activities on this page, including Special Mentions, classroom activities, outdoor learning days, sports events, school trips, school residentials and Friends of Pennington information. It is often the quickest way to receive information about what is going on in school.



Parking

Please leave the first parking space in the layby free for one of our families who need assistance to bring children in and out of school.

We appreciate parking outside school is challenging- as it is outside most schools. Please avoid parking on the zigzags. PCSO Madden monitors road safety and asks for your cooperation the carpark at the Memorial Hall and Nursery is reserved for users of those buildings. Please avoid parking there and help us to keep good relations with our neighbours.

Thank you from Staff

Staff would like to thank all parents and children for cards and presents received at the end of last term. They were very much appreciated.

Functional Medication/Inhalers

This type of medication is usually prescribed but is, in the main, necessary to ensure that a young person can function normally. Where functional medication must be given, staff will require training in the correct administration procedures. Inhalers and functional medication will be kept in the child's classroom. Please ensure that all inhalers are in date, (an asthma plan is included) and clearly marked with the child's name.

Medicine

Following advice, we can only administer prescribed medication. If the prescription states that your child requires medication 3 times per day, this should be administered at home or outside of school hours. If your child requires a prescription 4 times per day, we can administer medication at lunchtime. We can also administer medication that needs to be taken at fixed hourly intervals. You will be required to sign and complete a form from the school office. Medication must be provided in the bottle or box that has the prescription details affixed.

We understand that there are reasons that children may require pain relief such as Calpol before they arrive at school. We will not be able to administer another dose during the school day and should a child require further pain relief, we will telephone parents to discuss how best to help them.

Breaktime Snacks

KS1 children are provided with a fruit snack every day. KS2 children may bring a fruit snack to have at breaktime.

School Milk

Every child over the age of five is entitled to milk at a subsidised price, if your child wishes to have milk, please go online and quickly register your child for school milk at www.coolmilk.com. Milk is supplied free for children under five.

School Hub

Please can we remind parents to choose their child's lunch from the School Hub website. You can order up to 2 weeks in advance. If you have any problems with your login details, please contact the school office. For those children in Reception Class, Year 1 and 2 who prefer to bring a packed lunch from home please can you inform the school office via the School Hub option **PACKED LUNCH FROM HOME**. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Water bottles

Children will only be allowed to drink water in classrooms. They may bring juice to have with their lunch but at other times of the day will be encouraged to drink water. No energy drinks or fizzy drinks to be brought into school at any time.

2025 Christmas Shoebox Appeal

This year we are sending Christmas shoeboxes to People2People Foundation, Oradea, Romania. Last year Nicu Gal, the founder, drove a van to Barrow in Furness to collect 1100 shoeboxes to distribute to underprivileged children in Romania and Ukraine. This year our target is more boxes! Collection or drop off for boxes will start Monday 3rd November and continue for two weeks. If the boxes are ready earlier it would be helpful. They can be delivered to us or we can collect them at mutual convenience.

As usual the boxes could contain any of the following so, please select from this list of ideas:

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Toothbrush & toothpaste• Hair accessories /brush• Soap & face cloth• Stationery, paper, colouring books• Pencils, crayons, pens, pencil cases• Gloves, hat & scarf• New socks/underwear | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A soft toy, small game, puzzle• Small musical instrument• Toy vehicle• Small rubber ball• Sweets (use by date from March 2026)• Plastic mugs / cups• A photo and message from yourself |
|---|--|

Do not include

| | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food (only exception is sweets)• Medicines• Military themed items (such as toy soldiers/tanks/guns) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aerosols or anything highly inflammable• Sharp items• Novels |
|---|--|

How to fill your shoebox

- Preferably medium size. Wrap the lid and the box separately in Christmas paper. Please close your box with an elastic band.
- Choose who you would like your box to go to, boy or girl. Please stick a label to the front of your shoebox lid.

Example:

BOY 6—11

Girl 6---11

A recommended donation of £3, in an envelope, should be placed on top of your box. This will help to cover transport costs.

Hilary and Alan Docker

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After School Clubs

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 second week back for 7 weeks.



After School Clubs - Autumn 1 2025

| Day | Activity | Leader | Where? | Time |
|-----------|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Monday | Multi-Sports Year 1, 2 & 3 £15 | Isaac | School Playing Field Hall when wet | 3.15-4.15pm |
| | Bracelet making Year 3 & 4 £7.00 (15 Places) | Miss John | Year 3 Classroom | 3.15-4.15pm |
| | Computing Year 5 & 6 £7.00 (18 Places) | Mr Hodgson | Year 5 Classroom | 3.15-4.15pm |
| Tuesday | STEM Lego Year 4, 5 & 6 £7.00 (15 places) | Miss Steel | Year 4 Classroom | 3.15-4.15pm |
| | Stay and Play Year 1, 2 & 3 £7.00 (30 places) | Miss Simona & Mrs Tuck | School Playground | 3.15-4.15pm |
| Wednesday | Multi-Sports Year 4, 5 and 6 £15.00 | Isaac | School Playing Field Hall when wet | 3.15-4.15pm |
| Thursday | Colouring club Year 1, 2 & 3 £7.00 (20 places) | Mrs Baldwin | Year 1 Classroom | 3.15 - 4.15pm |
| | Colouring Club Year 4, 5 and 6 £7 (20 Places) | Mrs Holiday | Year 6 Classroom | 3.15 - 4.15pm |

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 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

SCHOOL TERM DATES 2026/2027



AUTUMN TERM 2026

| <u>STARTS</u> | <u>ENDS</u> | <u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Wednesday 2 September | Friday 18 December | Monday 26 October - Friday 30 October |
| Number of school days in term - 73 | | |

SPRING TERM 2027

| <u>STARTS</u> | <u>ENDS</u> | <u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u> |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Wednesday 5 January | Friday 25 March | Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February |
| Number of school days in term - 53 | | |

SUMMER TERM 2027

| <u>STARTS</u> | <u>ENDS</u> | <u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u> |
|--|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Monday 12 April | Friday 16 July | Monday 31 May - Friday 3 June |
| Good Friday - 26 March Easter Sunday - 28 March Easter Monday - 29 March May Bank Holiday - 3 May | | |

Number of school days in term - 64

Number of days in year - 190

INSET Days: 1 September
Tuesday 4 January



The Friends of Pennington School Newsletter

What is the FoP?

Introducing the Friends of Pennington School:
The FoP is a welcoming community of parent/carer volunteers who collaborate with teachers and other "friends" to enhance the school experience and ensure a quality education for all pupils. We encourage everyone to participate, as we appreciate all contributions, great and small. This is your association, and we value your input!

How does the FoP benefit the school?

The FoP is an independent, small-scale charity organisation operated entirely by volunteers. Research shows that parents and carers have a significant influence on their children's academic achievements. By taking an active role in the FoP, you can play a crucial part in your child's success and make a genuine impact on their school life.

What does the FoP do?

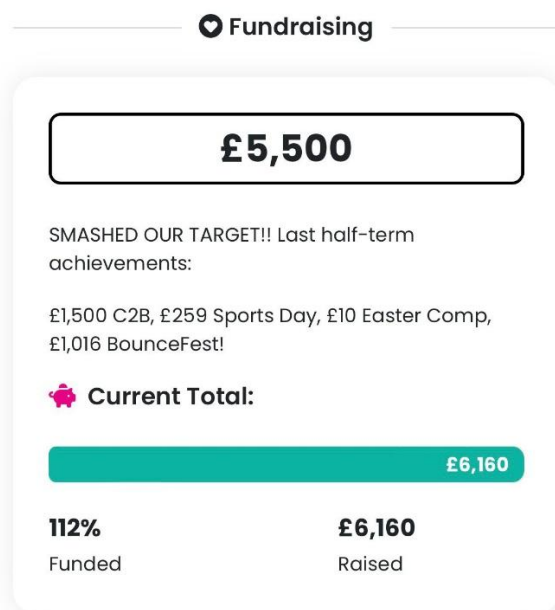
Our Organisation's Core Objectives:

- Raising funds for school initiatives through charity events, activities, and grant applications from local businesses.
- Establishing a social support network for parents and carers.
- Volunteering our time to provide parents with opportunities to engage in their children's educational experiences.
- Supporting the local community.

Please contact FoP@penn.cumbria.sch.uk if you would like to help out at future fundraising events and be on the committee.

A BIG THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued support and contributions to all the FOP Events, we have had a fantastic year of fundraising and have raised £6,160!! We have smashed our target of £5,500 and made some amazing memories with the children and our friends.



Your School Needs You!!

We need new members! Are you willing to spare a little time each half term? Do you enjoy organising fun and enriching events for your children and school community? Would you like to make new friends and help your school thrive at the same time?

If you do, we would like you to join us. It doesn't matter how much time you can spare, each and every contribution helps and is appreciated, even if it is just for one event.

Our first event will be an Autumn Disco, date to be confirmed, if you would like to help organise or volunteer on the night, please contact us.

If you would like to join the Friends of Pennington, please see Stella in the school office or contact us using the email below.

Carly, Stella and Amanda.

Friends of Pennington School

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