

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

Autumn Term Newsletter 03 - 17/10/2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Special Mentions

Congratulations to our children whose special achievements were celebrated with our Special Mention Certificates in our Collective Worship.



Opal Play

We want to provide an update about playtimes at school. Most of you already know that we have worked hard to develop our school grounds over the last few years to provide many different types of play opportunities for children. We have created so much for children to do including: Pennington paces path to lots of stations, outdoor gym, football pitches, reflective space, bandstands, sandpit in a boat, bike and scooter area, gravel pit with wheeled toys, large loose parts and den building equipment, dig pit, mud kitchen and café, willow tunnel, Playdale trail, water play station, outdoor chess, outdoor playhouses and tents, chinks and crafts, music and performance stages, ball play, dressing up.... and the list goes on!!

We understand the value of playtimes and the impact play can have on many areas of a child's development. Playtimes are an extension to our curriculum and a chance to have fun.

We are an OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) school. I have attached a link which briefly explains the philosophy behind OPAL which I hope you will find interesting to watch.

[OPAL Advert](#)

In order for everyone to enjoy themselves, it is important that all children have suitable footwear for playtime. Children wear school shoes or black trainers and they are suitable on most days. As we try to go out in all weathers, a change of footwear should be in school. Wellies can be put in the welly sheds next to the school field and children can change into their wellies at break and leave their shoes in the shed and change back again before going into class (a bit like changing shoes at a bowling alley). This will keep muddy shoes out of school cloakrooms and classrooms and mean that no one has to spend the afternoon with wet feet. Children should also have waterproof coats with them every day. (waterproof trousers are optional).

Thank you for your support with OPAL playtimes and for your donations of dolls, buggies, scooters etc. We are now aiming to collect some resources for indoor breaks for when weather is really awful. We are aiming to have some construction, colouring, board games and imaginative play available in each classroom. If you have any donations, please give them to the school office or your child's teacher.

We would also like to thank Siemens as they have recently donated some recycled materials and will continue to do so (including large plastic reals and coated foam) that have been added to our loose parts store. They are used for building and creating as seen in the photos below.



A survey will be sent home tonight - please can you complete and return to school as we will be sharing our developments with an Opal Assessor next week - thank you.

Bromcom - My Child at School (MCAS)

Just a reminder that My Child At School (MCAS) is a parent portal and app, created by the school management system provider Bromcom, that allows parents to view and manage their child's school-related information, such as attendance, online payments for school-related costs like trips and after school clubs.

This has been rolled out to parents. You will need to download the app 'MyChildAtSchool' - please find link to **user guide** below. (We will still be using Parentpay until early next year.)

<https://d3kchveacp7yrb.cloudfront.net/2020/08/MCAS-Parent-Guide-July-24-New-UI-version-1.pdf>

Parents Evening

Parents evenings will take place the week after half term on Tuesday 4th and Thursday 6th November for Reception parents and carers and Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th November for all other classes.

Parents can sign up for a 10 minute conversation with your child's class teacher via the MCAS app from Monday. Teachers will discuss how your child has settled in to their new year group and will be able to provide some feedback regarding recent assessments.

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.

Monday 23 rd October	Y2
Thursday 6 th November	Y4
Thursday 13 th November	Y5
Tuesday 18 th November	Y3
Thursday 20 th November	Y6
Friday 28 th November	Y1

Year 4, 5 and 6 Residentials

Just a polite reminder that deposits for the Year 4, 5 and 6 Residentials needed to be paid via Parentpay by this weekend. Thank you to those who have logged on and paid already. If you are going to have difficulty paying for these trips but would like your child to attend, please phone to speak to Mrs Storey to discuss a payment plan and how we might be able to support.

Individual School Photographs

Proofs of the individual photographs have been sent home with the children this week with instructions of how to purchase on line. All orders must be placed by **4th November 2025** if you opt for 'Collection From School' if ordering at a later date there will be an increased charge for home delivery. If you have not received a copy of your child's photograph, please contact the school office.

Pennington C of E School Open Days -20th - 24th October

We will be holding an Open Week for parents of potential new Reception children (2026-2027). If you know of anyone who would be interested in an appointment, please advise them to ring the school office.

The procedure for applying for a place will be found on the Cumbria Westmorland and Furness Website.

Please apply online. **The closing date for applications is 15 January 2026.**

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place-or-change-schools/apply-reception-place>

Transfer to Secondary School: September 2026

We have received a reminder from Westmorland and Furness Council for those parents who have not yet applied for a Secondary School place. Parents can make an application online at:

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/apply-school-place-or-change-schools/apply-secondary-school-place>

If you have a query about school admissions please email school.admissions@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

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.

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.



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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 £1,515 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 outside of London with one child
- £26,300 for families outside of London with two or more children

This includes any wider income or support you may be getting and any earnings from employment.

You must also have less than £16,000 in savings, including any shares, investments and bank accounts - but not including your home.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related 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, also your annual gross income is no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

- children who get these benefits paid to them, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also claim free school meals.

Your child may also claim free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education
- free school meals are available to statutory school aged children attending full time education. Full time education is defined as full days from 9am to 3pm, this excludes private nurseries and further education colleges.

When not to apply

If you receive working tax credits you may not be eligible for free school meals or clothing grants.

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 and for more information about applying for free school meals, 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

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 their target is more boxes!

2025 CHRISTMAS SHOEBOX APPEAL for Romania and Ukraine



We're collecting amazing gift filled shoeboxes made with love. So far we have around 350 but hoping for more than the 1100 we sent last year for the under privileged children 3 to 12 plus years. Please contact us for more information. Collections will be arranged for two weeks from Monday 3rd November. Thank you so much for your support.



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
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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 Docker

07737477814

01229823965

hilarydocker@yahoo.co.uk

Please bring boxes into school after half term - these will be collected Friday 7th November

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 as soon as we return to school on Monday 3rd November for 6 weeks. 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.



After School Clubs - Autumn 2 2025

Day	Activity	Leader	Where?	Time
Monday	Football Year 4, 5 and 6 £15.00	Isaac	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.15pm
	Bracelet making Year 5 & 6 £6.00 (15 Places)	Miss John	Year 3 Classroom	3.15-4.15pm
	Maths Club Year 6 (By invitation only)	Mrs Holiday	Year 6 Classroom	3.15 - 4.15pm
Tuesday	Colouring club Year 4, 5 & 6 £6.00 (15 Places)	Miss Steel	Year 3 Classroom	3.15-4.15pm
	Film club Year 1, 2 & 3 £6.00 (15 Places)	Miss John	School Hall	3.15-4.15pm
Wednesday	Football Year 1, 2 & 3 £15.00	Isaac	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.15pm
	Stay and Play Year 4, 5 & 6 £6.00 (30 places)	Miss Simona & Miss John	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.15pm
Thursday	Christmas Craft Club Year 4, 5 and 6 £6.00 (15 Places)	Mrs Baldwin	Year 4 Classroom	3.15 - 4.15pm
	Orienteering Year 4, 5 & 6 (Two weeks only)	Mrs Dearden	School Grounds	3.15 - 4.15pm
Friday	Christmas Choir Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 £6.00	Mr Fleming	Year 4 Classroom	3.15 - 4.15pm
	Chess Club Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 (20 places) £6.00	Mrs Hockaday	Year 6 Classroom	3.15 - 4.15pm

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: Tuesday 1 September
 Tuesday 4 January

FRIENDS OF PENNINGTON

JOIN OUR FRIENDLY PTA!

THE FRIENDS OF PENNINGTON SCHOOL ENRICH SCHOOL LIFE BY ORGANIZING ENJOYABLE EVENTS AND CRUCIAL FUNDRAISING EFFORTS THAT BENEFIT OUR CHILDREN.

HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR PTA EVENTS:

SCHOOL DISCOS | MOVIE NIGHTS | BOUNCEFEST | CHRISTMAS FAIR | FUN EVENTS | NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES | SKILL DEVELOPMENT

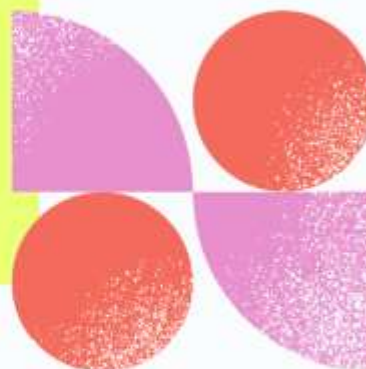
WE ARE SEEKING NEW VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST US IN THESE ESSENTIAL ROLES:

- CHAIRPERSON (FROM JAN 2026)
- TREASURER (FROM JAN 2026)
- SECRETARY (FROM JAN 2026)
- GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS
- OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEER SUPPORT AT EVENTS

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED OR WOULD LIKE TO FIND OUT MORE, PLEASE CONTACT US AT FOP@PENN.CUMBRIA.SCH.UK

APPLICATIONS BY:

MON 3RD NOVEMBER





Friends of Pennington

Autumn DISCO

GAMES - FOOD - FUN

Reception and KS1 5:00pm - 5:45pm

KS2 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Thurs 23rd October 2025

Tickets Available @ <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofpennington>

Snacks 50p

Unlimited Juice 50p bring your bottle

Hotdogs £2.50

Tickets £2

Your School Needs You!!

We are holding a coffee morning on Thursday 23rd October at the Coronation Hall in Ulverston, further details to follow.

If you would like to help out by either volunteering on the day or donating baked goods, please see Stella in the school office or contact us using the email below.

If children from the challenge action group would like to volunteer, they would be most welcome.

Carly, Stella and Amanda.

Friends of Pennington School

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



U L V E R

S T E M



Ulverston Victoria High School
Springfield Road, Ulverston

Saturday 15th November 2025 ■ 9.30am - 4pm

Challenge on @UlverSTEM for all 6-16 year olds. Bring the family!

Discover more about opportunities to be gained from studying science, technology, engineering and maths - STEM subjects



Meet local employers including Siemens Energy, Bender UK, Oxley Developments, FESP, Kimberly-Clark, Orsted, Sellafield, Cumbria Police, Gen2 and many more

Interactive and fun activities throughout the day

Join in with the activities before and during the event to win great prizes!



Keep up to date with news, activities and prizes by visiting our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and website



There are shows and presentations throughout the day, with guest speakers

sponsored by



18 OCT
FURNACE ACADEMY
 10-11/11.30-12.30/13.30-14.30

ENGINEERING EXPLORERS

ONLY £2

LEARN ABOUT THE WORLD OF ENGINEERING

- *FUN WORKSHOP
- *INTERACTIVE STALLS

FAMILY FRIENDLY!

SCAN FOR TICKETS!

science made simple

ONSIDE SPORTS

FOOTBALL & MULTI SPORTS CAMP

Camps consist of fun and engaging warm up games followed by a wide range of sports activities. Children can experience playing Football, Dodgeball, Table Tennis and many more!

ALL COACHES ARE FIRST AID TRAINED AND HAVE ENHANCED DBS CHECKS

Participants will require a packed lunch and drink bottle. Please be aware we are a nut free camp.

Participants will require appropriate sports kit and footwear

FOR AGES 4 - 11 YEARS OLD



£20 per day or £90 for week



9-3PM



UVHS

MON 27TH- WED 30TH OCTOBER



ST BERNARD'S

MON 27TH- FRIDAY 31ST OCTOBER



CONTACT GAV ON 07887 940150 TO BOOK

MADE FOR
This Game



GIRLS FOOTBALL SESSIONS



THURSDAYS
(TERM TIME)

4-5PM



GLAXO SPORTS HALL



HP ACTIVITIES

Community | Health | Engagement

Your Family Hubs Tell us what you think

Help us to shape the future of services for families, children and young people in your community

As a thank you for taking part, we are offering the chance to be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 Amazon voucher.

Please scan the QR code to access our online survey.



Contact Information

Barrow Family Hub Team

E: BarrowFamilyHubs@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
T: Barrow Family Hub 01229 407384 or Ormskirk 01229 408190
www.facebook.com/FamilyHubsBarrowinFurness

South Lakeland Family Hub Team

E: slakefamilyhubs@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
T: 01539 719070
www.facebook.com/FamilyHubsSL

Eden Family Hub Team

E: EdenFamilyHubs@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
T: 01768 898901
www.facebook.com/FamilyHubsinEden



Family Advice · Communication · Education

November Timetable	
<small>All sessions delivered live online via zoom. No charges being</small> E24 each or FREE with School Membership <small>Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk</small> <small>Bookings available for 48 hours excluding Free Talk</small>	
Raising Self Esteem	3 Nov 10am
Decreasing Depression	3 Nov 7pm
Supporting Healthy Sleep	4 Nov 10am
Understanding the Teenage Brain	4 Nov 7pm
Improving Family Communication	10 Nov 10am
Autism - Improving Communication	10 Nov 7pm
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	11 Nov 10am
Supporting A Child with ADHD	11 Nov 7pm
FREE ADHD Kids & Homework	13 Nov 6-7pm
Understanding Anger	17 Nov 10am
Supporting Healthy Screen Use	17 Nov 7pm
Facing Defiance	18 Nov 10am
Anxiety Based School Avoidance	18 Nov 7pm
Cannabis and Ketamine Awareness	24 Nov 10am
Anxiety Explained	24 Nov 7pm

Free event

Engineering Fairytales

Wednesday 29 October

Ulverston Library @The Coro - 10am-12noon

Barrow Library - 2pm-4pm

This is a practical session using The Three Little Pigs story to explore key engineering skills. The children will design, plan, build and test their own creations using a success criteria and guidance from the grown-ups.

Booking required - Please book a ticket for each child attending

[Trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/libraryevents](http://trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/libraryevents)



Funded by UK Government  Westmorland & Furness Council Available throughout Westmorland & Furness



RADIATOR FOIL
Fitted behind radiators to reduce heat loss.



DEBT & BILLING
Including advice on switching energy tariffs.



FREE



ENERGY EFFICIENT LED BULBS
Long life, brighter rooms for less cost.



CARBON MONOXIDE ALARM
We can provide a free carbon monoxide alarm.

SIMPLE ENERGY SAVING MEASURES
Easy to install measures we can fit to reduce bills.

Contact us on **0800 098 2814** or scan the code for a visit.
www.GreenDoctor.info

  **GREEN DOCTOR**

Funded by UK Government  Westmorland & Furness Council Available throughout Westmorland & Furness

Tips and simple energy saving measures to help you reduce costs.

 **Take shorter showers**
Take shorter showers, saving on the amount of water used and the time it takes to heat the water. Open windows to ventilate and reduce the chance of condensation and mould.

 **Spin your washing twice**
A second spin reduces the remaining moisture, making clothes even drier. Drying time is further reduced saving energy, time and money.

 **Only fill the kettle with what you need**
By only boiling the amount of water you need, you can save energy, time and money.

 **Cook with lids on saucepans**
One way to speed up cooking times, save money and reduce the amount of moisture going into the air is to use a lid on a saucepan.

Many struggle with high energy prices so please contact us to see how we can help.



- Reducing the stress of high energy costs
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Creating warmer homes
- Reducing carbon footprints

 Green Doctor Cumbria  0800 098 2814

 THE ANNEXE, COLLEGE HOUSE, HOWARD STREET, BARROW IN FURNESS, CUMBRIA LA14 1SH
CHARITY REGISTRATION NUMBER: GROUNDWORK NE & CUMBRIA 1817766
COMPANY REGISTRATION NUMBER: 2702812

Furness Junior Chess Association

Annual Championships

2025

To be held in
The Coronation Hall,
Ulverston

on

Thursday 30th October 2025
1:00pm - 5:30pm

Supported by:

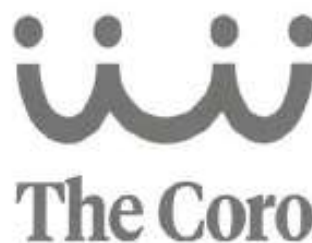


Ulverston Town Council

Organised by:



Supported by:



Rules

All junior chess players welcome (6 years old to under 18 on Sept 1st.)

The tournaments will be 7 rounds Swiss style competition.

The time control will be 15 minutes each (no increments).

Additional rules will be explained prior to the start of play.

Parents & Teachers

Under 11s must be accompanied by an adult.

All parents are welcome to stay.

For further information & registration please telephone:

Peter Hanks on 07833934031

Entry is free