

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

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Head Teacher: Mrs Helen Storey

Autumn Term Newsletter 04 - 05/11/2025

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Special Mentions**

Congratulations to our children on the last week of Autumn Term 1 whose special achievements were celebrated with our Special Mention Certificates in our Collective Worship.



### The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Year 6 will be selling poppies at break time and lunch time from tomorrow, **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November**. We have paper poppies and pin badges available for a donation, together with Zip Pull for 50p, Reflector Poppies for 50p, Wristbands for £1.00 and Snap Bands for £1.50.

### Children in Need - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

On Friday the 14<sup>th</sup> November, Pennington will be raising money for Children in Need. It will be a **non-uniform day** and we ask that each child donates via Parentpay. See link below

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=19297>



### Year 4 Coffee Morning - Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November

Year 4 will be hosting a coffee morning between 9.30-10.20am for their parents and friends. We are asking them for donations of cakes and biscuits to sell. There is an entry charge £2.00 and the proceeds will be split between school funds and another charity. Year 4 look forward to welcoming and serving everyone.

### FoP - Christmas Cards and Other Festive Items

Class Fundraising are once again supplying items for our Christmas fundraising project - details of how to order have been sent home with the children, along with a copy of their design and their unique design code. The second shop will open on **21<sup>st</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> December**

The organisation code is NS3L26 and link is:

<https://shop.classfundraising.co.uk/>

### 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>

### Opal Play

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.

### 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 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Y4
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Y5
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Y3
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Y6
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Y1

### 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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*Head Teacher: Mrs Helen Storey*



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

Do not include

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food (only exception is sweets)</li><li>• Medicines</li><li>• Military themed items (such as toy soldiers/tanks/guns)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Aerosols or anything highly inflammable</li><li>• Sharp items</li><li>• Novels</li></ul>
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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 this week - these will be collected Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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	<b>Football</b> Year 4, 5 and 6 £15.00	Isaac	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.15pm
	<b>Bracelet making</b> Year 5 & 6 £6.00 (15 Places)	Miss John	Year 3 Classroom	3.15-4.15pm
	<b>Maths Club</b> Year 6 (By invitation only)	Mrs Holiday	Year 6 Classroom	3.15 - 4.15pm
Tuesday	<b>Colouring club</b> Year 4, 5 & 6 £6.00 (15 Places)	Miss Steel	Year 3 Classroom	3.15-4.15pm
	<b>Film club</b> Year 1, 2 & 3 £6.00 (15 Places)	Miss John	School Hall	3.15-4.15pm
Wednesday	<b>Football</b> Year 1, 2 & 3 £15.00	Isaac	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.15pm
	<b>Stay and Play</b> Year 4, 5 & 6 £6.00 (30 places)	Miss Simona & Miss John	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.15pm
Thursday	<b>Christmas Craft Club</b> Year 4, 5 and 6 £6.00 (15 Places)	Mrs Baldwin	Year 4 Classroom	3.15 - 4.15pm
	<b>Orienteering</b> Year 4, 5 & 6 (Two weeks only)	Mrs Dearden	School Grounds	3.15 - 4.15pm
Friday	<b>Christmas Choir</b> Year 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 £6.00	Mr Fleming	Year 4 Classroom	3.15 - 4.15pm
	<b>Chess Club</b> 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

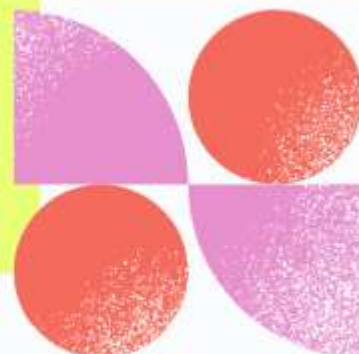
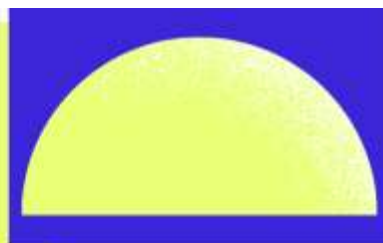
WE ARE SEEKING NEW VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST US IN THESE ESSENTIAL ROLES:

- 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](mailto:FOP@PENN.CUMBRIA.SCH.UK)

APPLICATIONS BY:

**MON 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER**



# Christmas Cards and Other Festive Items



This year we have chosen to use an online platform called Class Fundraising for our Christmas fundraising project.

The children's completed designs have been uploaded to the Class Fundraising website and are available for parents to review and purchase online.

There are a wide range of products available to buy, such as cards, cushions, mugs, gift wrap and many more.

**Next date for orders is 21<sup>st</sup> November - 1<sup>st</sup> December!**

All purchases will be delivered to the school and distributed via the children in plenty of time for Christmas. Look out for updates!

Carly, Stella and Amanda.

Friends of Pennington School

Email us at [FoP@penn.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:FoP@penn.cumbria.sch.uk) to get in touch