

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 07 - 12/02/2026

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of the first half of the Spring term, we are starting to appreciate the lighter evenings. We hope that the holidays will be a good break and a chance for all to recharge their batteries.

Year 1 Coffee Morning - Friday 13th February

Year 1 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 go to school funds. Year 1 look forward to welcoming and serving everyone.

World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

It is World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. This year we are asking children to come to school dressed up as their favourite book character and to bring their favourite book into school.

150th Anniversary Celebrations

This year Pennington C of E Primary School will celebrate its 150th anniversary. We recognise this is an important milestone and look forward to celebrating its original opening which was in March 1876. There will be a number of activities taking place to mark the occasion over the week, beginning Monday 23rd March. We are hoping to hold a Victorian theme day - details to follow, please do not worry about costumes as we will give cost effective/homemade suggestions closer to the time.

Online Safety

Thank you for Y5 who delivered our Online Safety assembly today. This was to celebrate safer internet day this week.

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.

[age restrictions](#)

Parking

We have had a number of complaints about parking outside school. The issue was raised at the governors meeting and contact has been made with the local council and constabulary. The yellow lines have faded at the back of the school, however we have been told by the local police that parking is still prohibited here as the signage remains. We are waiting for the lines to be repainted and ask that in the meantime, parents and carers park safely and respectfully. This is in the interest of safety for your children.

Lateness

Please could we remind parents that if your child arrives for school after 8.50am they will need to be signed in at the office. We understand that this may seem unnecessary but it is a legal requirement that registers are completed and these are taken at 8.45am.

Family Worker

Michelle Jones is no longer working at Pennington and Mrs Wright has taken over the role of Family Worker here at Pennington and at another of the local schools in the FPC (Furness Primary Collaborative) Mrs Wright will be available on Fridays to offer support, predominantly to parents, in addition to the pastoral care she already provides and will continue to work with the children in school. She will be around to speak to parents in the mornings as usual. If you would like to meet with her, please get in touch via email to admin@penn.cumbria.sch.uk FAO Mrs Wright.

After School Clubs

Clubs will start the first week back and will be available to be booked via MCAS.

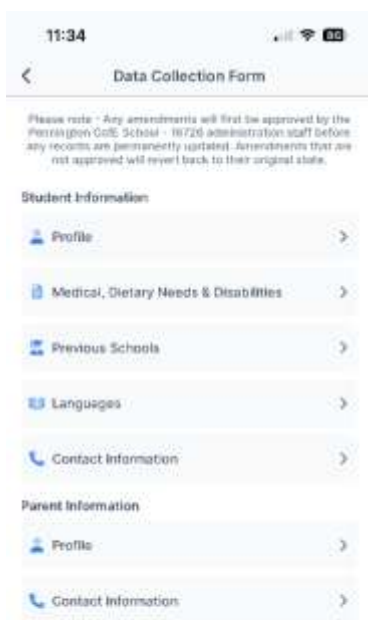
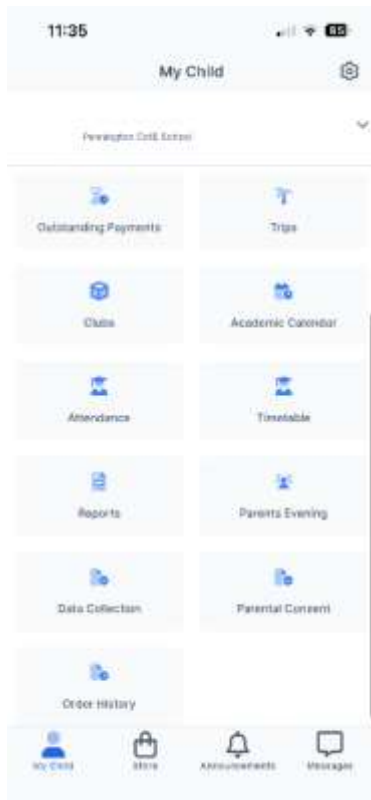
Data Collection

Please log into your My Child at School account to check and update your child's details. Please note we need an up to date address, telephone number and email for at least two contacts in case of an emergency. Parental consent categories have been updated to include school trips, please ensure you have granted permission as we will be using this rather than paper consent forms going forward.

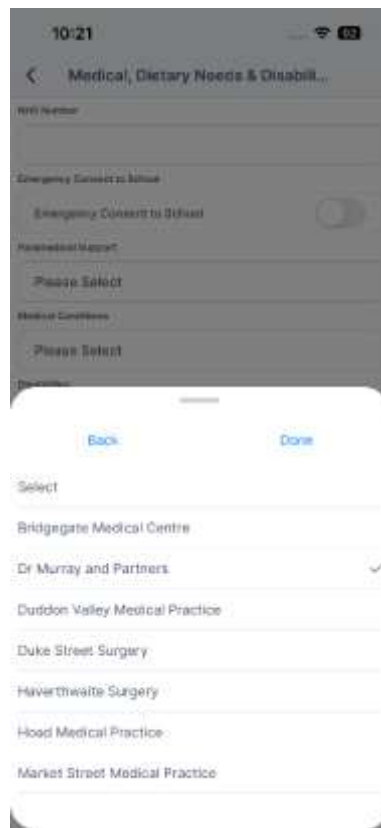
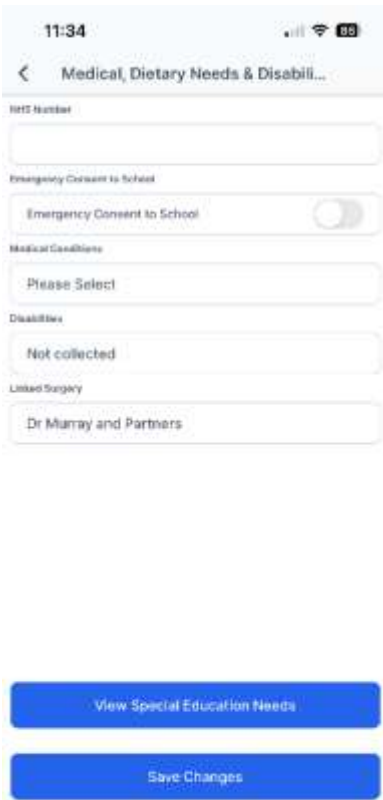
See Below for guide.

MCAS App - Data Collection

Open the MCAS app then from your dashboard tap the 'Data Collection' icon go to 'Profile', fill out all the fields using the drop downs and click 'Save Changes'. You can then navigate to the 'Parent Profile' below, check and update your details, then click '**Save Changes**'. Changes will only appear once they have been approved by the school administrator. Please ensure all the required fields are completed.



Once completed move to the Medical, Dietary Needs & Disabilities tab to update any medical conditions, food allergies or disabilities from the drop down lists then click '**Save Changes**'. You can then select a Doctors Surgery from the drop down, click 'Done' and '**Save Changes**'.



Navigate back to the dashboard then tap the 'Parental Consents' icon and select the consents you wish to grant, once given, consent can only be revoked by the school administrator. Please note, Challenge Action Group is only for pupils in Years 3 - 6.

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 MCAS (My Child at School)** 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 5 weeks.



After School Clubs - Spring 2 2026

Day	Activity	Leader	Where?	Time
Monday	Multisports Year 1, 2 and 3 £15.00	Isaac	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.15pm
Tuesday	Gardening Club Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 £5.00 (15 places)	Miss Simona	The View	3.15-4.15pm
Wednesday	Multisports Year 4, 5 & 6 £15.00	Isaac	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.15pm
Thursday	Art club Year 4, 5 and 6 £5.00 (15 places)	Mrs Baldwin	Year 4 Classroom	3.15 - 4.15pm
Friday	Chess Club Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 £5.00 (20 places)	Miss Mycock	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

STARTS

Wednesday
2 September

ENDS

Friday
18 December

HALF - TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 26 October -
Friday 30 October

Number of school days in term - 73

SPRING TERM 2027

STARTS

Wednesday
5 January

ENDS

Thursday
25 March

HALF - TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 15 February -
Friday 19 February

Number of school days in term - 53

SUMMER TERM 2027

STARTS

Monday
12 April

ENDS

Friday
16 July

HALF - TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 31 May -
Friday 4 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
 Monday 4 January

FRIENDS OF PENNINGTON

We would like to give a massive thank you to our Friends of Pennington Committee Chair, Carly Baird who is sadly moving on. Carly is responsible for bringing Bouncefest to our school along with helping to organise all our other events such as Movie Night, School Disco and the Christmas Family Fun Night. She has also joined the team and walked the Coniston to Barrow for our school.

Carly has had a huge impact on our fundraising and how the charity is run, she will be greatly missed by all. Without volunteers like Carly NONE of the wonderful events we run would take place.



We would like to welcome Rob Browne to the committee as our new Finance Officer. If you would like to volunteer to help out with events please email Stella, Rob or Amanda at FoP@penn.cumbria.sch.uk to get in touch or contact Mrs Baldwin in the school office. We rely on help from parents and carers to run these events and are always looking for new members to join our fun and friendly team.



My shopping has raised a total of £11.03 for Friends Of Pennington, Ulverston, thanks to easyfundraising!



Join today, it's free

How it works.

We turn your daily shopping into free donations!

Easyfundraising partners with over 8,000 retailers who will donate part of what you spend to a cause of your choice. It won't cost you any extra. The cost is covered by the retailer.

Retailers pay us a commission because when you start your shop from the easyfundraising website or app, they can see we sent you to them. If you make a purchase, a commission is generated, and we turn that into a donation! No extra cost, no extra effort.

Charity number: 1198666

We are a group of parents and staff who aim to support the school in their efforts to improve outdoor learning, intervention spaces, storage, and focus in STEM. This will be achieved by providing resources which both benefit the school and the local community. Please sign up to help raise money for our school using the link below.

<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/friends-of-pennington/wmqbw/dc/4jeIros8/DCBUN/facebook/11.03>

Thanks, Stella, Rob and Amanda.

Friends of Pennington School

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

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.

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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)

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

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 Holiday Camps

Onside Football Academy (4-11 year olds)

The emphasis of the course is player development, each child will spend the morning enhancing their individual skills and, in the afternoon, get the chance to show them off with opposed practices, team games and competitions.



ULVERSTON @ UVHS
Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb



Onside Football & Multi Sports Academy (4-11 year olds)

The camp will consist of fun and enjoyable warm up games and numerous sporting activities including...Football, Tennis, Tag Rugby, Dodgeball, Kwik Cricket, Baseball, Athletics, Basketball plus more.



BARROW @ ST BERNARD'S SCHOOL
Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb



- Both camps will run **9am-3pm** - **Drop off from 8.45am**
- 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.
- **£20 PER DAY OR £90 FOR ALL WEEK**

For further info please contact Gavin Butler
Tel – 07887940150

Email – Gav@onsidesportscoaching.co.uk

Facebook – Onside Sports Coaching Development

Instagram – Onside Sports Development

Cumbria Fostering

Become part
of Cumbria's
biggest
Family

Find out about
Fostering

...and how you can change
children's lives in 2026

Join us at our fostering information drop-in
at **Barrow Library** on **Friday 13 February**
from **12pm to 1pm** and speak to our
friendly team and foster carers about how
you can make a difference!

 **0300 019 0200**

cumbriafostering.org.uk



Working for **Cumberland Council** and
Westmorland & Furness Council

ULVERSTON ARLFC

WOLVERINES



UNDER 10s RUGBY

NEEDS NEW PLAYERS!

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED!



DRAGLEY BECK

SUNDAY 11TH JANUARY

10:00 - 10:45

 **ULVIEWOLVERINES@HOTMAIL.COM**



Onside Sports Development Football Skill Sessions

Onside Soccer Skill Sessions are designed to improve the individual technique and team play of every participant using a mixture of **FUTSAL** and **COERVER** coaching techniques. The sessions are aligned to Academy practices including ball mastery programs each week, continuous coaching cycle including the main stream topics and small sided games to ensure your child has maximum contact hours to fulfil their potential. All coaches are qualified with full DBS checks to ensure a safe environment for you child.



Date/Time	Venue: BARROW	Age Group
Monday 5-6pm	BARROW @ St Bernard's Sports Hall	Reception & Year 1
Monday 5-6pm	BARROW @ St Bernard's Sports Hall	Year 1 - 3
Monday 6-7pm	BARROW @ St Bernard' Sports Hall	Years 4,5 & 6

Date / Time	Venue : ULVERSTON	Age Group
Friday 5-6pm	ULVERSTON @ UVHS Sports Hall	Years 1 - 3
Friday 6-7pm	ULVERSTON @ UVHS Sports Hall	Years 4, 5 & 6

Barrow: £36 for 6 weeks of coaching, starting Monday 5th Jan

Ulverston: £36 for 6 weeks of coaching starting Friday 9th Jan

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 in.

A proven pathway into our development centre

To book or for info please contact Gavin Butler...

E: gav@onsidesportscoaching.co.uk

M: 07887940150

F: Onside Sports Development

GIRLS RUGBY CAMP

Northern Competitions Stadium
Thursday 19th February
10am-2pm



School Years 2-11
£15 each



To book -

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/advantagebarrow>



MULTISPORT CAMP

Northern Competitions Stadium
Craven Park

Wednesday 18th February
9am-2pm
£20

Year 2 -
Year 11
All welcome



- Rugby
- Archery
- Boccia
- Team Games
- And more...



To book -

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/advantagebarrow>





School of the Week!

Barrow Raiders Community Foundation

Match Day Experience

Includes

- Free Entry for all school children, staff, and accompanying families.
- Children will be mascots for the players walk out.
- Lap of honour at half time.
- Chance to meet players for photos and signatures after the game.
- Reserved Seating



We want to local schools to be part of our journey!



You have the power to make a difference.



ADVANTAGE!
BARROW RAIDERS
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

SMITHS

07807066271

louise.scarr@barrowrlfc.com

www.advantagebarrow.com



Westmorland and Furness
SEND Information, Advice
and Support Service

CONTACT US

[Westmorland and Furness SEND IAS Service | Sendiass](#)

Your local SEND IAS Service Co-ordinator will listen to your concerns and can offer:

- Appropriate support, impartial information, and advice on a range of SEND related queries including - identifying a need, exclusions from school, complaints, and disagreements when something goes wrong.
- Advice regarding SEND related health and social care matters.
- Detailed explanations of how the Special Educational Needs (SEN) process should work, for example the support that should be ordinarily available for all children and young people with SEND in early years, schools, and post sixteen settings.
- Information about local and national voluntary organisations
- Information about young peoples' and parents' support groups in your area
- Support through the Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) Process including annual reviews.
- To help you learn more about the SEND Code of Practice and your legal rights.
- Support at meetings where appropriate.

A child or young person may have learning difficulties caused by:

- A physical disability
- A problem with sight, hearing, or speech
- Difficulties with reading, writing or mathematics
- Emotional or behavioural problems
- Communication and social interaction.

For self-referral, please use our email:

sendiass.waf@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Please give a brief description of the matter you require support with, and your location and a member of our team will be in touch with you to offer advice and guidance.



Westmorland
& Furness
Council



Offering impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities and their parents & carers.

Half-Term @ Furness Libraries

Join us for some fun!

ALL WEEK, Barrow Library

World Book Day Costume Swap!

Drop off an old costume you no longer want or pick up a fun, pre-loved outfit to take home for World Book Day.

SATURDAY 14TH FEBRUARY & 21ST FEBRUARY

Story Craft **F I**

Barrow Library: 2PM – 3:30PM

Join us for a story and a fun craft! No booking required.

MONDAY 16TH FEBRUARY

Read, Rhyme & Play (0-4 yrs) **F I**

Walney Library and Roose Temp @ Barrow Park, 10AM – 10:45AM

A song, a story, and a bit of fun. Free drop-in. Siblings also welcome!

All Day Lego **F I ***

Walney Library: 10AM – 4PM

Design and build your very own Lego creations! Come at any time you like during the available hours.

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

Rag Tag Arts – Scrap Art Studio **F I**

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Barrow Library: 10AM & 11AM

Join an interactive crafty morning with the fantastic Rag Tag Arts team using recycled materials! Book via trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/libraryevents

Read, Rhyme and Play – Beatrix Potter **F I**

Barrow Library: 2PM – 2:45PM

Join the Beatrix Trust as they read some stories. Free drop-in.

TUESDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

Lego Morning **F I ***

Askam Library: 10AM – 1PM

Design and build your very own Lego creations! Come at any time you like during the available hours.

WEDNESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY

All Day Lego **F I ***

Barrow Library: 10AM – 5PM

Design and build your very own Lego creations! Come at any time you like during the available hours.

THURSDAY 19TH FEBRUARY

Winter Crafts – Wordsworth Trust **F I**

Barrow Library: 10:30AM – 12:30PM

Ulverston Library: 2PM – 4PM

Join Wordsworth as they celebrate the last weeks of Winter. Play, craft a dress up. No booking required and for children of all ages.

All Day Lego **F I ***

Roose Temp Library @ Barrow Park: 10AM – 4PM

Design and build your very own Lego creations! Come at any time you like during the available hours.

FRIDAY 20TH FEBRUARY

All Day Lego **F I ***

Ulverston Library: 10AM – 4PM

Design and build your very own Lego creations! Come at any time you like during the available hours.

Scan for the Barrow Buzz App!



- F** Free Activity/ Event
- Q** Quiet Activity/Event
- £** Paid Activity/Event
- A** Age-Restricted Activity

Accessibility Key

- I** Information-based
- *** Independent Play
- !** Loud Activity/Event
- T** Teen Activity/Event

Free kids table tennis sessions!

Did you know that Ulverston Table Tennis Club offers **free sessions** for school-aged kids, on a **Wednesday evening**?

From 6-7pm at Ulverston Park (formally GSK Sports Centre) you can come along and have a go at table tennis. Its free! All equipment is provided. Come along in comfy clothes and trainer-type footwear. Coaching is available – we'll explain the game and help you to progress. Its great fun! Follow us on FB 'Ulverston Table Tennis Club'

