

# Penruddock Post!



Penruddock Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2024 – Issue 1

## **DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILIES,**

Welcome back to 2024-25. We hope you've all had a fantastic summer and that your children are all enjoying the new term.

All staff would like to extend a huge thank you for our many gifts and cards at the end of term, I know they were gratefully received and enjoyed by us all.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead and can't wait to get settled into our new classes and new year groups.

A special welcome to all our new families. We welcome all our EYFS children and also Daniel in Year 6. Please take time to stop and say hello if you spot any of them before or after school.

We look forward to a busy Autumn Term ahead and to supporting all our children to build upon the great progress they made with their all learning last year. As always we welcome the strong partnership between home and school and look forward to working with you to support your child at home by engaging with their regular, reading, spelling and maths facts practice and talking through their learning with them.

We look forward to working with you again this year.

Mrs Hazel Johnson

## **HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION / OPEN DOOR POLICY**

We understand how important it is for parents to feel in touch with their child's learning. As you know we report on your child's progress 3 times a year and meet with you shortly after the reports are released. There will be an EYFS parents evening in October for parents of our youngest children to catch up on how they have settled into school life.

As always, we operate an open door policy and we are always happy to talk over your child's learning, receive feedback from you and answer questions or discuss worries or concerns you may have.

Although teachers may be unavailable for a longer chat first thing as they prepare for the days lessons, a later meeting can always be arranged. To arrange this teachers can be contacted directly via email or meetings can be arranged through the school office.

head@penruddock.cumbria.sch.uk

NHorner@penruddock.cumbria.sch.uk

CWard@penruddock.cumbria.sch.uk

admin@penruddock.cumbria.sch.uk

CFoley@penruddock.cumbria.sch.uk

EODonnell@penruddock.cumbria.sch.uk

## UNIFORM

Thank you to everyone for sending the children back to school looking so smart. Towards the end of last year we had noticed a lot of children wearing trainers, leggings and sometimes very short skirts. A reminder that all children should be in black shoes and wearing official uniform trousers, dresses or skirts. As always our uniform shop has a good range of second hand uniform available from our Friday pop up shop for a donation and of course uniform sourced in the correct colour from an retailer is accessible. Printed logos are not necessary. Please refer to the uniform tab on the school website.

## PE AND CLUB KIT

As with playtimes we are noting how cold it has become quite early this year. As our sporting and active clubs run outdoors whenever possible, please ensure your child has warm sports wear such as tracksuit bottoms and a warm top to wear for each session. This should be additional to their school uniform.

## STAFFING

We are pleased to welcome Miss O'Donnell back from maternity leave into Helvellyn Class but are delighted to still have Mrs Ward with us on Friday in Blencathra Class as before. My teaching days have moved to Monday and Tuesday with Miss O'Donnell teaching on the remaining 3 days each week.

## GUITAR UKELELE AND STRINGS Yrs 2-6

We are delighted that guitar lessons will be continuing again this year. Lee Myers, our guitar teacher offers lessons every Tuesday morning in school at a cost of £7.50 per week. If you would like your child to take up guitar lessons please let us know.

Also this term, following the success of our whole class ukulele tuition last term, Mr Myers will be offering private ukulele lessons at the same rate as guitar. Please let us know if your child would be interested to take up lessons.

We are also exploring the possibility of children from Year 2 upwards accessing county strings tuition although this will depend upon availability of tutors and possibly the number of children taking part. If you would be interested in your child learning to play violin or cello, please let us know. There will be a cost for this tuition.

## OUTDOOR FOOTWEAR AND COATS

It's that time of year again when the children will be able to play on the field when it may be a little wet or muddy. Please ensure your child has a **CHANGE OF SHOES** for playing on the wet field or for yard football where the ball frequently rolls onto the muddy field.

As the weather gets cooler, please can we request that children have an **OUTDOOR COAT IN SCHOOL EVERY DAY**, as even on warmer days the weather can change to wet or cold very quickly.

## Residential

Mrs Foley will be leading our residential in York this year supported by Mrs Wilson. We are delighted to share this trip with Year 5 children from Langwathby and are looking forward to making some new friendships along the way.

## SICKNESS PROTOCOL

A polite reminder of the necessary steps to take if your child is unwell and absent from school

Call the school office before 9.30am to speak to a staff member or leave a message on the answer machine.

Cancel the school lunch before 9.30am (Nursery, EYFS, KS1 and KS2 if one has been ordered.)

Where sickness or diarrhoea has occurred, return is not possible until 48 hours after the last incident. **This protects all other school members from risk of infection.**

If your child requires prescribed or non prescribed medication at any time, **the medicine should be handed in to the school office** with a **completed medication form** available from reception or on our website under the Parents and Children tab, useful forms.

Thank you for your support with this.

## SPELLINGS in KS2

Following the success of our Rising Stars spelling programme last year we have decided to make some changes to the way we learn our high frequency spellings across KS2. As part of our spelling programme, and to support children who struggle to practice them at home, we will now be practising/learning spellings each day in school in preparation for a test at the end of each week. Of course parents can still support children with their spelling practise at home and this will be welcomed but spellings will not be sent home each week as part of each child's homework. Instead we hope children will spend more time completing homework (to a high standard as we would expect in class) and using their apps to support Lexia, phonics, Times Table Rock stars and Doodle. Following our assessments we will send you a copy of each child's spelling list for information.

## ATTENDANCE

I am delighted with the schools excellent attendance so far this term and am hopeful that this can be maintained. Governors have set us an attendance target of 96% again this year and this should therefore be a minimum target for each child and equates to 7.5 days total absence for the year. Of course if your child is ill absence cannot be avoided but when illness extends beyond 3 days a doctor should be consulted to ensure your child can return to school as soon as possible. Medical appointments during school time should be avoided whenever possible.

Attendance monitoring remains very high profile across the country and our attendance officers are monitoring our attendance regularly. Term time holidays will not be authorised but will be picked up in monitoring.

Term time holiday of 1 week equates to 10 sessions missed. Children who miss one day a week over a school term of 12 weeks, have missed over 2 weeks of schooling. When absence falls below 90% it is considered as a persistent absence .

Research shows that longer absences **do** have a detrimental impact on your child's learning and **do** impact upon your child's self esteem and ability to fit in with class learning easily once they return. **Term time absence should be avoided when ever possible.**

Thank you for supporting your child to attend school every day.

## PE TIMETABLE

Children should have their **PE kit in school every day** and will have **time-tabled lessons as follows:**

Blencathra (R/Y1/Y2) - Tuesday & Thursday

Helvellyn (Y3/Y4) - Tuesday & Thursday

Skiddaw (Y5/Y6) - Tuesday & Thursday

## FOREST SCHOOL

**We re-start our Forest School again :**

Tues 24th Sept and 15th October—Blencathra

Tuesday 1st & 22nd October—Helvellyn

Tuesday 17th Sept & 8th October—Skiddaw

Please make sure they have layered outdoor clothing and wellies for each session.

## MORNING/AFTER SCHOOL ROUTINE

A reminder that early morning playtime for years 3 to 6 children begins at 8.40am when the supervising adult comes on duty. Safeguarding is our priority so please ensure your child is supervised until the adult is on the yard. All children will be encouraged into classes from 8.50am to help them get organised and be ready to start learning at 9am.

KS1 children should be escorted down to the KS1 block from 8.40am where they can go into the classroom to get settled for the day.

The official start time of the school day remains at 9am with early morning club opening for child care at 8.10am each morning at a cost of £2.50 per session. These sessions do not need to be pre booked.

After School Clubs will run as before:

Monday	3.30—4.40pm	Cookery Club
Tues	3.45pm—5.15pm	Lucy Potter—Active Club
Wed	3.40—5.15pm	Carlisle United Football Club
Thurs	3.30—4.40pm	Craft Club

These clubs should be booked and paid each half term via ParentPay.

## Lunchtime

A polite reminder to families who provide packed lunches. Please can you ensure the meal is nutritious and balanced. Sandwiches or wraps, fruit and veg sticks, yoghurt and one small cake/biscuit treat are ideal. Children should **not have sweets or chocolate** in their packed lunch. Sandwiches should be savoury fillings, not jam or chocolate spread. Please remember to consider allergens when packing a meal. **Nuts are not permitted on school site** either within fruit mixes or as a Nutella style spread.

Thank you for your understanding. As a healthy school we value your support with this.

If your child would like to trial a school dinner, please let us know. As our food is ordered weekly in advance we ask for at least one week notice to change from a school meal to packed lunches. Many thanks for your help with this.

## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Although we are not a Church school we like to gather together each year at Harvest Time to think about those without food in this country and abroad.

As usual, the children from each class will contribute to the assembly which will be held in Penruddock Church on **Wednesday 9th October at 9.30am**. All families are welcome.

We will be collecting non-perishable goods for **Penrith Food Bank** in collaboration with the church community.

Please could children bring their donations to school from Monday 7th October onwards.



## PARENT PARKING

Thank you to all our families for parking safely at school drop off and pick up. Unfortunately some families are still using the area opposite the cross hatching to park which reduces visibility for children crossing the road.

**To all our new parents and as a reminder to all families, we request that VEHICLES ARE NOT PARKED OPPOSITE THE YELLOW ZIG ZAG MARKINGS AND ESPECIALLY BETWEEN THE TWO CROSSING POINTS.**

Serous accidents occur weekly outside school gates. By keeping this area clear it enables clear visibility for all families crossing and for the children now travelling to school on bicycles.

Thank you for your support with this.

## FOPS, FUND RAISING and CHRISTMAS CARDS

A huge thanks to all parents who organised and supported FOPS events last year. At a time of such tight budgets, the funds raised make a massive difference to the opportunities we can offer our children.

I have been talking with FOPS members about fundraising for the coming year. This year FOPS will support your child's learning by providing a pot of money for us to spend in each of the following categories.

Trips, Transport, Visitors, Specialist Tuition, Sparsity Fund (inc families with several children to fund for an activity).

In addition they will be fundraising towards the supply of a large project, which has yet to be decided. Details to follow.

Some of you may be aware of the money for school initiative just launched at ASDA. Whilst I recognise our nearest ASDA is Carlisle simply signing up will award cash to the school and donations are made each time you shop, so please take a look and sign up if you can. We have already raised £60 at no cost to our friends and parents. Please search **Asda cashpot for schools**.

A huge well done to Mrs Ward, Mrs Capstick, Hannah J and Alice R for completing their inflatable obstacle course last weekend raising £300+ for the school garden. Thank you to everyone who donated, we can now re build our planters and spruce up the garden. Any volunteers to build new sleeper planters? Please let us know in the office if you think you can help. FOPS are organising individually designed children's Christmas cards again this year. These will be distributed later in the term when you will be able to order packs to send out to friends and relatives for Christmas.

## PHONICS LITTLE WANDLE PARENTS EVENING

As we welcome our new younger children into school and nursery we would like to hold an information evening for new parents about our Little Wandle phonics scheme. Phonics is the way we teach children to learn, read and write sounds as they develop their ability to read and write. The meeting is a short informal one where staff can explain how the phonics scheme works in school and to help you to understand how to support your child's phonics learning at home.

The meeting will take place on **Wednesday 25th September from 5.30-6.30pm**. All parents from Class 1 are welcome to attend but it will be most important for parents of new children into Nursery and EYFS.

## NEW WEBSITE

I'm delighted to announce the launch of our new website. We have been working hard on it over the summer and we hope you will find it much easier to navigate and to find the information you need. Please take a minute to have a look and let us know what you think. Any typo errors etc, please let us know, you get a bit website blind after a while!

## Term Dates 2024-2025

### AUTUMN TERM 2024

#### STARTS

Weds 4 September

#### ENDS

Fri 20 December

#### HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 28 October—Friday 1 November

### SPRING TERM 2025

#### STARTS

Tues 7 January

#### ENDS

Friday 4 April

#### HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 17 Feb—Friday 21 Feb

### SUMMER TERM 2025

#### STARTS

Tues 22 April

#### ENDS

Fri 18 July

Good Friday 18 Mar Easter Mon 21 April

#### HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Mon 26 May—Friday 30 May

Early May Bank Holiday—Mon 5 May

## DIARY DATES

Tuesday 17th September	Penrith & District Red Squirrel Presentation Forest School—Skiddaw
Friday 20th September	Library Bus
Tuesday 24th September	Forest School—Blencathra
Weds 25—Fri 27th Sept	York Residential—Skiddaw
Wednesday 25th September	Little Wandle Parents Evening
Tuesday 1st October	Forest School—Helvellyn
Tuesday 8th October	Forrest School—Skiddaw
Wednesday 9th October	harvest Festival, All Saints Church, Penruddock
Tuesday 15th October	Forest School—Blencathra
Wednesday 16th October	Nasal Flu Immunisation
Thursday 17th October	Y5&6 Football EYFS Parents Evening
Tuesday 22nd October	Forest School—Helvellyn
Wednesday 23rd October	Stay & Play Session 0930—1100
Thursday 24th October	Girls KS2 Football
Monday 28th October	HALF TERM
Monday 4th November	Autumn Term B Starts
Tuesday 5th November	School Photographer
Friday 8th November	Sportshall Athletics Y5&6
Wednesday 20th November	KS1 Basic Moves
Thursday 28th November	KS2 Tri-Golf
Tuesday 10th December	Theatre by the Lake—Jungle Book
Wednesday 18th December	Stay & Play Sesison 0930-1100
Friday 20th December	End of Autumn Term
Tuesday 7 January	Start of Spring Term
Wednesday 12th February	Stay & Play Session
Monday 17th February	HALF TERM
Monday 24th February	Spring Term B Starts
Wednesday 5th March	Book Fair by Skiddaw Books for World Book Day