

# Penruddock Post!



Penruddock Primary School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2025 – Issue 1

## **DEAR PARENTS AND FAMILIES,**

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.

A special welcome to Mrs Carol Sharp who takes up her position as Executive Headteacher and to all our new families and EYFS children. 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. After half term we will be starting a new star chart reward to encourage regular reading, information about this will be send out just before the holidays.

We look forward to working with you again this year.

Mrs Charlotte Ward

Head of School

## **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 chance for the EYFS parents to chat with Mrs Ward on Monday 20th October for parents of our youngest children to catch up on how they have settled into school life, please pop in after school on the Monday if you would like a quick catch up. If this time is not suitable please get in touch and another date can be organised.

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

cward@penruddock.cumbria.sch.uk

EODonnell@penruddock.cumbria.sch.uk

admin@penruddock.cumbria.sch.uk

CFoley@penruddock.cumbria.sch.uk

pbowen@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. 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.

## PE TIMETABLE

PE for all children is currently held on a Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning, and we are very lucky to have coach Lucy teaching both of these sessions. Children will now be sent home in their PE kits on a Tuesday night and asked to return in them on a Thursday morning.

## 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 Monday 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 ukulele session over lunchtime. Please let us know if your child would be interested to join this group.

We also have a small group accessing violin tuition each week, again if you are interested in your child learning to play violin please let us know and we can put you in touch with the teacher. 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.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Our school will shortly be migrating from Scholarpack to Arbor. As part of our new package, Arbor includes an online payment system so we will not use ParentPay after the October half term.

We thank you for your patience while we get this set up and will communicate to parents how they can access the new system to order lunches, pay for clubs and trips/visits. Please note that parents are able to withdraw any balance on ParentPay or use for other siblings where their school use this system. Alternatively, a full refund of balances will be made.

## 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.

## 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%, this is the national expectation set by the DfE. 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.

## 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 believe it is important for the children to learn about different traditions while also making positive links with the local community.

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who sent in food to the harvest festival as this will be greatly appreciated by the local foodbank.

It was lovely to see so many parents and family members supporting the children at the service, thank you again to all of you who were able to attend and for taking part in the actions for 'Big Red Combine Harvester'. The children were definitely checking to see who was taking part!

## 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	Running 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

## 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.

FOPS are organising individually designed children's Christmas cards again this year. You should now have received these so please don't forget to order packs to send out to friends and relatives for Christmas.

## FOREST SCHOOL

Forest school will take place every other week for KS1 and KS2 and forest sessions on a Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday for EYFS children.

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

## 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 **Tuesday 4th November from 5.00-6.00pm**. All parents from Class 1 are welcome to attend but it will be most important for parents of new children into Nursery and EYFS.

### Term Dates 2025-2026

#### AUTUMN TERM 2025

##### STARTS

Weds 3 September

##### ENDS

Fri 19 December

##### HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 27 October—Friday 31 October

#### SPRING TERM 2026

##### STARTS

Weds 7 January

##### ENDS

Friday 27 March

##### HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 16 Feb—Friday 20 Feb

#### SUMMER TERM 2026

##### STARTS

Tues 13 April

##### ENDS

Fri 17 July

##### HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Mon 25 May—Friday 29 May

## DIARY DATES

Friday 26 September	Y5&6 Netball Competition A66 Archaeology Open Day visit
Wednesday 8 October	Harvest Festival at All Saints Church
Thursday 16 October	Y5&6 Football competition
Wednesday 22 October	Stay & Play 0930-11.00 at Little Mell Fell Nursery
Thursday 23 October	Girls KS2 Football competition
Friday 24 October	FOPs Cake Sale
Monday 27 October	HALF TERM
Tuesday 4 November	KS1 Basic Moves Phonics Little Wandle Parents Evening
Thursday 6 November	Hunter Hall X-Country
Wednesday 19 November	School Photographer
Thursday 20 November	Nasal Flu Immunisation
Friday 28 November	Tri-Golf Competition
Tuesday 9 December	Theatre by the Lake—Wizard of Oz
Wednesday 17 December	Stay & Play 0930-1100 at Little Mell Fell Nursery Christmas Lunch and Party
Friday 19 December	End of Autumn Term
Wednesday 7 January	Start of Spring Term

### **Kilimanjaro Sponsorship**

An update following the successful sponsorship—a grand total of £759 was raised. We are putting these funds towards developing the Forest School.

### **Break the Rules Day**

On Friday 24th October, we are inviting children to *Break the Rules Day*. In exchange for 50p children are able to choose which rule they want to break. There is no limit to of how many rules but the fine is 50p for each rule.

See the poster displayed in school for information.