

PENNINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
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Dear Parents/ Carers

This is the last newsletter of the school year! What a year it has been! I am sure I wrote that last year too. Even though we have had another unusual year, I do not want to dwell on the negatives and the effects of Covid 19 on our everyday lives and the education of our children. Instead, I would like to thank staff, governors, parents and children for their patience, understanding, teamwork and flexibility. We have learnt new skills and shown we can adapt to changing circumstances when we work together. We have followed the guidance and kept as safe as possible.

I hope you will agree that staff have provided children with fantastic learning experiences and memorable moments. We managed to adapt most of our summer term school events such as Sports Day, Family Day and Penningtonbury Festival. We even held school sleepovers for Year 4, 5 and 6 who could not attend their residential visits for the second year running. We have made a big effort with our outdoor learning which has resulted in our site looking beautiful and our children enjoying showing off their efforts to the Cumbria in Bloom judges who visited school yesterday. We await the results but feel like winners to work in this idyllic environment every day. Thank you to those of you who provided a planter. These can be collected tonight or tomorrow after school and taken home for you to enjoy over the holidays.

We are celebrating with our leavers, Year 6 and Miss Preston on Friday. They have received a separate letter and I am sure you will join with me and wish them well. I know their Reception buddies will miss them. Miss Preston has been a fantastic asset to our school as Year 6 teacher and Maths subject leader and we wish her all the best for her future career and her forthcoming wedding which will take place in Ireland during the Summer holidays.

Our Year 6 children have been a credit to themselves and their families. They have just finished recording a concert, 'Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies'

which can be viewed on YouTube, a link will be sent to you via e mail. Thank you to Miss Exley for her hard work, for filming and editing the play and supporting Miss Preston with rehearsals, costumes and scenery.

Mrs Kelly and Mrs Pollard, two of our much-loved midday supervisors will also be leaving us. We want to say a big 'thank you' for all the fun and support they have brought to the role. We will miss them.

Mrs Muir will be leaving us for a while to have her new baby. We wish her a healthy, happy time away from school and look forward to hearing the news and seeing the pictures and, of course, to her return later next year.

Looking forward....

When we return in September on Monday 6th September, guidelines for schools will have changed and all Covid related restrictions should have been lifted. We have had the opportunity to think again and review the organisation of our school day. When we talk about returning to 'normal', we must consider that some of our younger children have never known school as it was before (and others might not remember). We want to be sensitive to the children and also to our families whilst re-establishing routines involving the whole school.

Therefore the new plan is:

Morning Routine

The school gates will open at 8.30am for Key Stage 2 (Juniors). When the children arrive, they will go straight into their classrooms and registers will be taken at 8.40am. Any children arriving after 8.45am will receive a late mark.

Key Stage 1 children should aim to arrive at 8.40am and their registration will take place at 8.50am. Any child arriving after 8.55am will receive a late mark.

We must tighten up with our timings and aim to start the day promptly.

Mrs Storey and Mrs Hockaday will meet the children at the gate and encourage them to come into school independently as this has worked well.

Reception children can be brought into Reception class with their parents/ breakfast club leader. They should arrive between 8.40-9am when there is an opportunity to speak to a member of staff.

Break Times

Break times will be staggered and Reception and Key Stage 1 will play together followed by a playtime for Key Stage 2. Pennington Paces will remain in classes with opportunities for classes to join together for some sessions during the week.

Lunch Time

Lunchtimes will be staggered with Reception and Key Stage 1 eating first then playing out. Key Stage 2 will play out first.

Home Time

Children will leave their classrooms at 3pm and exit via the main front gate or the back gate. Reception and Key Stage 1 parents must collect from the school playground and wait near the doors of their child's classroom. We would like to maintain the independence of the Key Stage 2 children and ask that they are met outside the gate or encouraged to walk to meet parents further up the road. This will also alleviate congestion.

We have always welcomed parents into school and certainly do not want to make you feel unwelcome however, at this stage we are still being encouraged to avoid large gatherings and respect some social distancing. If you would like to speak to a teacher, please contact them on Tapestry, Dojo or phone school to arrange to meet in person.

All our plans will be reviewed at the end of September and we will welcome your support and suggestions.

Please be aware that the work on the A590 roundabout is due to commence during the Summer holidays and will inform you of any impact this may have. Traffic and delays are likely and for those of you who can walk to school, you might find this is a quicker way to travel.

If there are any changes before September, we will inform you by e mail the week before we are due to return.

Enjoy the holidays

Take care

Helen Storey and Staff at Pennington C of E Primary School.