

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

TEL: 01229 587253
FAX: 01229 588346
Email: admin@penn.cumbria.sch.uk
Web: www.penn.cumbria.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Helen Storey

Spring Term Newsletter 03 - 21/05/2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The recent change in government guidance has not changed anything in school. We are still working in our class bubbles and timetable changes to breaks, lunches and Pennington Paces remain in place.

Staff have the choice to wear masks and are advised to wear them where a 2m distance cannot be achieved.

The children continue to adapt and approach everything with flexibility and enthusiasm. Teachers are teaching and re-teaching concepts that were covered in lockdown and we are working together to progress with learning whilst maintaining wellbeing.

We look forward to 21st June when the next step might be taken. As you know, we usually receive the government guidance at the same time as everyone else which means making plans for beyond this date is difficult. We have 'pencilled in' many of our usual summer term events including family days, move- up/transition days, forest schools' activities, Penningtonbury Festival, Sports Day and leavers plays and services but I am very reluctant to issue dates until I know whether or not they will go ahead and whether parents will be able to attend. We want to avoid disappointment if necessary. Watch this space and as soon as decisions can be made and concrete plans are in place, we will inform you.

We have chosen not to plan school trips for this term. We wait until the Autumn term. As we remain in our bubbles, the cost of coaches would be very expensive and we are aware that there have been changes in many families' financial situations. We have also been unable to take part in many school-based activities and will enjoy them this term. We are hoping to improve our school grounds. As some of you will know, we entered Cumbria in Bloom in 2019 and won/came runners up in some of the schools' categories. It gave us the chance to show off some of the curriculum work about plants and animals and also gave us a huge sense of pride in our beautiful surroundings. We have some plans underway at the moment. The Friends of Pennington have bought us a container which is sited around the back of the old school



building. We are going to create a library inside and also make an outdoor reading space in front of it. Some classes have already drawn plans of what they would like it to look like and how it could be used. Children have also submitted plans to Playdale as our adventure trail is drawing near to the end of its natural life. The designs are thoughtful and creative. Reception's suggestion of a slide into a hot tub is appealing but possibly won't be selected as we can't change into swimming costumes every break time! This is an exciting, long term project and children's input into designs is very valuable.

When we entered Cumbria in Bloom last time, we asked our families to bring some interesting planters to brighten up our school grounds. Some of them were left at school and we will refill them with plants. We had a wheelbarrow, sink, bedside table, welly and lots of other interesting items. If you would like to bring a planter containing plants to school, your child will be able to position it and tend to it. It will brighten up our school and you will be able to take it home before the summer holidays to brighten up your own garden. Everyone is a winner!

Holidays in term time

We are aware that some families are beginning to look forward to the prospect of holidays and whilst we understand that holidays have been postponed or missed, families have generally spent more time together over lockdown. Children have missed a lot of learning and we are working hard to try to close any gaps and target individuals and groups for support. They have also missed time with their friends in school and we have a busy timetable. We ask that you try to avoid term time trips and holidays -they will be unauthorised.

Staff changes

We will be interviewing for new teachers next week, one temporary to cover Mrs Muir's maternity leave and a permanent teacher to replace Miss Preston who is going to be teaching in a school in Lancaster from September. We will involve the children in the process and teachers will teach as part of the interview process. We will be able to inform you of the outcome and let you know which teachers will be teaching which year groups in the next few weeks. We look forward to welcoming new staff on to our school team.