

PENNINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL
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Spring Term Newsletter 09 - 24/03/2021



Dear Parents and Carers

This week, on Tuesday, we took part in National Reflection Day. We stood in our classes on the school field and thought about the last year. We cannot believe that the first national lockdown started a year ago. Of course, we recognised that people have lost their lives and that there are still people in hospital suffering and recovering from Covid. We also appreciated the work of the NHS, waved to our school friends in other classes and noticed the signs of Spring that give us new hope for the future. It is important for the children to be aware of the pandemic and its impact but it is even more important that they hear positive, optimistic messages and are reassured that things will change and there is a brighter future ahead.

Fitness Friday

This Friday is Fitness Friday in school. Children can come to school either in their school PE kit or their own choice of sports clothes, with suitable footwear (trainers or pumps). Please make sure your child has a coat/waterproof jacket with them, just in case it rains. Each class will take part in a Zumba style aerobics session and there will be other active opportunities in the day.

We have been using the outdoors as much as possible recently. All children enjoy being outside and lively, active sessions are often memorable therefore children learn well outside.

Swimming lessons for Year 1 and 2

All being well, and providing that government guidance allows, our postponed swimming lessons will begin on Wednesday 21st April. Thank you to those parents who have already paid for the lessons. A separate letter will be sent to year 1 and 2 parents and carers with more information.

World Autism Awareness Week

Next week we will be participating in World Autism Awareness Week. We will be using resources and activities resources to teach about being kind, learning about how we're the same, and how we're different, and understanding autism better. Over the week children in each class will be given a 'Super 7 Challenge'. This will involve doing something seven times, for example walking or running around the Pennington Paces track, creating art, music or food. They may also be joining the Society's ambassador and mother to three autistic children, Christine McGuinness, in doing a Super 7 workout.

At school, we will be focusing on raising awareness of autism but if you would like to contribute to the National Autistic Society, we have set up a payment request in ParentPay.

The coronavirus pandemic has been particularly tough for many autistic people and their families. Services have closed and many people have been left stranded. The ever-changing guidelines and restrictions can be confusing to understand and extremely difficult to implement for autistic people with high support needs.

Coughing

We have sent a number of children home from school this week due to coughing. We appreciate that it is difficult for parents to make a decision about whether a child is well enough for school, early in the morning. We would usually encourage children to try and give it a go and see how they feel later on. Currently, we must be more cautious as a continuous cough is one of the three main symptoms of Covid 19. If a child is coughing, we will phone parents to collect them and advise that they are taken for a Covid test. Tests can be booked easily online on the NHS government website. Most people have used the walk-in test centre at Barrow Town Hall. Lateral flow test results are not acceptable. Guidance also states that the whole household should isolate until test results have been obtained.

Thankfully cases of Covid are falling across the country and in Cumbria but we are still vigilant and want to avoid having to close any 'bubbles', therefore ask you to be cautious and responsible when making the decision for your child that could potentially affect many others.

Lockdown Lambs

Spring is coming with the hope of new beginnings. Our school are an important part of the community and have been asked by the community group to come up with an idea to raise spirits at a difficult time in everybody's lives.

We would like to encourage everyone to join in with a project that will encourage all members of the Pennington Parish to keep fit and be creative. We have been thinking about things we can do during lockdown and two things are walking and art so we would like to invite everyone to join with us to create some sheep (or spring lambs) and ask that they are displayed in windows or gardens so that when we are out walking we can spot them and be reminded that new life brings with it, new hope for the future.

Sheep can be modelled, painted, sculpted, knitted, built or drawn. They can be made from anything, even better if you use recycled materials. They can be realistic or unusual in nature. Whoever said sheep don't wear wellies and sunglasses?! They should bring a smile to our faces! We ask that they are visible from the footpaths when people are out walking, whether that be in your garden, on a doorstep or window sill or in your window.

We look forward to seeing what we can achieve if we work together as a community. As Mother Teresa said, 'Together we can do great things.'

We will be making sheep in our classes but would also encourage you to take part at home where you may have access to other materials or have time to be creative.

Please make sure your sheep are displayed by Easter- this gives us 4 weeks.

Best Homemade Sheep in the

Parish Competition



Make a sheep/lamb. Display it for all to see.

Enter the competition by leaving your name and address at:

penncomchat@gmail.com

5 Park Field, Swarthmoor

Birkrigg Park Box

Loppergarth Telephone Box

before April 16th

Judging to take place on April 18th



Operation Encompass

Supporting children through key adults



September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Our setting has been given the opportunity to take part in a project that will run in partnership between Cumbria County Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Cumbria Police.

The project, Operation Encompass, has been designed to provide early reporting to schools/nurseries/colleges of any domestic abuse incidents that occur outside of the setting's hours and might have an impact on a child attending the setting the following day. The information will be shared on weekdays during school term time. When incidents occur over the weekend, the Operation Encompass Designated Officer will contact the relevant setting at the earliest opportunity to provide disclosure to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or their deputy within that setting.

A Designated Safeguarding Lead, or their deputy, has been trained to liaise with the Operation Encompass Designated Officer. Staff within an education/childcare setting will be able to use information that has been shared with them by Operation Encompass, in confidence, to ensure that the setting is able to make provision for possible difficulties experienced by children or their families. Information will be shared, on a need-to-know basis only, where it is identified that a child or young person was present, witnessed, or was involved in a domestic abuse incident.

Operation Encompass was introduced in Plymouth, Devon and Cornwall, in February 2011 and has proved to be very effective in providing appropriate support in a timely manner. If you would like to read more about the project in other areas of the country, this can be viewed online.

We are keen to offer the best possible responses for all children across Cumbria and believe that Operation Encompass is beneficial and supportive for all those involved.

Yours sincerely