

PENNINGTON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL  
PENNINGTON  
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*Head Teacher: Mrs Helen Storey*



Spring Term Newsletter 04 - 01/03/2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to announce that Miss Barnes has successfully been interviewed and accepted a job elsewhere. Miss Barnes, who has worked at Pennington for 7 years in Year 2 and 3 is moving to Kendal College to take up the role as teaching and learning leader after Easter. We recognise the great work she has done here, both as class teacher and English/Reading subject leader and wish her the very best of luck with her new role. Again, Miss Barnes lives in Kendal and the commute to work has been one of the deciding factors for her to move on. We do not like to say goodbye to good teachers and strong members of staff but we do wish them well with career progression and they leave with our well wishes. We have appointed a teacher temporarily for a term so that Year 3 will have consistency for the remainder of this school year. She is called Mrs Purcell and is moving to the area from Liverpool. She has spent a day with us and is excited to join our team.

### **Special Mentions**

Well-done to our children who received this weeks' Special Mention awards.



### World Book Day/Family Day – Thursday 7th March 2024

World Book Day is a celebration of authors, illustrators, books and (most importantly) it's a celebration of reading. In fact, it's the biggest celebration of its kind, designated by UNESCO as a worldwide celebration of books and reading, and marked in over 100 countries all over the world. We will be holding our World Book Day on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March where children can come dressed as their favourite book character or can come dressed in pyjamas with their favourite bedtime story. We will be having a family day where the children will be moving round school, working with different staff and children and taking part in activities linked to a book.

### Year 3 Coffee Morning – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Following the success of our 'Penn Pals' coffee mornings, hosted by Reception Class last year, each class will have the opportunity to run a coffee morning this year. Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Year 3 invite their families and friends to their coffee morning which will be held in the hall from 9.20 to 10.20am. Year 3 children are asked to bake and donate cakes and they will be responsible for serving on the morning. There will be a £2.00 entry charge. Many thanks in advance for your donations of cakes. We look forward to seeing you next Friday if you can make it.

### Back Gate from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024

We will be having work done fixing pipework in the back playground from 11<sup>th</sup> March. This should take 2 weeks. There will be no access through the back gate during this time and the playground will be out of use. Please can you use the main entrance to drop off and collect children. Year 4 and 5 must enter and leave school via the front door. As the back door is a fire door, it will be in use in case of emergencies. Thank you.

### Comic Relief – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Comic Relief supports incredible projects and organisations that are making a difference for people across the UK and around the world. We will be holding a whole school cake sale at break time for the children. Please donate some cake/biscuits for children to buy (include a list of ingredients in the container or label the packaging. Please remember we are a nut free school). Children should bring cash to purchase cakes/biscuits. The children can wear non-uniform day in exchange for a £1.00 – please click on the link below to give a donation – thank you

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=14292>

### Wet Weather Play

You may have noticed our new welly sheds which are positioned next to the hedge at the side of the Pennington Paces track. In Opal Play, we encourage different types of play in all weathers and in order for the children to be able to enjoy it, they need the correct clothing and footwear. **Please can you provide your child with waterproof coat and trousers to be kept in their cloak-room and a pair of wellies (named and pegged together) that will permanently be kept in the welly sheds.** If you have items that your child has grown out of, perhaps you could think about donating them for families who are in need of help.

We would also like to collect any **buggies and prams**, full size or doll size for children to use at playtimes.

### **Strep A Related Infections**

We have had a few more cases of scarlet fever in school. Country wide, there have been a higher number of Strep A related infections - please see the link for more information

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/05/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know/>

### **Facebook**

Do you follow us on Facebook? We post all our activities on this page, including Special Mentions, Classroom activities, Outdoor Learning Days, Sports events, School trips, School Residentials and Friends of Pennington information. It is often the quickest way to receive information about what is going on in school.



### **Pennington CofE Primary School**

751 likes • 897 followers

'GOD HAS GIVEN EACH OF US DIFFERENT GIFTS, TOGETHER WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS' Pennington Church of England Primary School is a community primary school for children aged between 3-11 years old.

### **Year 4, 5 and 6 Residentials**

Just a gentle reminder that the Year 4, 5 and 6 Residentials will take place during the Summer Term - Full payment is required by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024. Parentpay has been set up so you are able to pay the deposit and monthly payments thereafter to enable you to spread the cost over 6 instalments. If for any reason there is a difficulty paying this amount, please contact the school office.

### **Online Safety News**

Before half term, children and staff took part in a variety of activities in support of Children's Mental Health Week. Please use the link to read six great tips from NSPCC to support your child's online wellbeing: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-wellbeing/positively-online/>

### **Jewellery**

A number of children have been wearing jewellery for school. Teachers will ask them to remove necklaces and bracelets. Only stud earrings are permitted in school.

22 February 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

**LEAVE OF ABSENCE IN TERM TIME**

Absence from school due to family holidays taken in term time can be disruptive to children's education. It can also be disruptive to other pupils in the class. In addition, I am concerned that there could be some misunderstanding of the law in relation to absence from school because of holidays taken during term time.

Any absence from school should be avoided unless for medical reasons, as it can have a serious effect on your child's educational progress, and can create difficulties for them on their return to school, particularly if they are joining a new school or class. It is important to note that only the Headteacher can authorise absence from school. Parents/carers cannot authorise the absence themselves.

Changes to legislation have removed the discretionary 10 day period of absence which covered family holidays. Schools can only grant requests for a leave of absence in term time in exceptional circumstances. If you believe that your circumstances are exceptional you can make a request to the school. In considering your request, the school will take into account the child's age, the time of year of the absence and the nature of the visit. The Headteacher will also consider the child's stage of education and progress and the child's overall attendance record. It is highly unlikely that leave will be authorised if examinations or other important tests will be missed. Headteachers will not authorise absence unless they believe your circumstances are exceptional. In all cases it is best to have a discussion with the Headteacher in order to look at the issues as they affect your child.

All unauthorised absences, including holidays that have not been sanctioned by the Headteacher, are accumulated and parents who fail to ensure regular attendance of their children at school can be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. The amount is £80 if paid within 21 days and £120 if paid between 21 and 28 days. It is therefore essential that parents take this into account if they are thinking of a family holiday in term-time.

Many people are working very hard to help your child to succeed. I trust you will support us in this matter, in partnership with your child's school by ensuring good attendance.

Yours sincerely



**ISOBEL BOOLER**  
Assistant Director – Education & Inclusion  
Westmorland and Furness Council

## After School Clubs

We aim to offer a range of after school activities throughout the year. The timetable for this term is displayed below. **There will be a nominal charge for clubs run by school staff to cover resources. We will continue to charge for clubs run by sports coaches.** **All clubs need to be booked, paid for and permission given through Parentpay.** We still consider this to be good value. Thank you to staff for giving their time freely to offer these opportunities.



## After School Clubs - Spring 2 2024

Day	Activity	Leader	Where?	Time
Monday	<b>Colouring Club</b> - Year 1 & 2 (20 places available) <b>£6.00</b>	Mrs Shaw Kilburn	Year 1 Classroom	3.15-4.00pm
	<b>Watercolours</b> - Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 (20 places available) <b>£6+.00</b>	Mrs Barton	Year 4 Classroom	3.15-4.00pm
Tuesday	<b>Multisports</b> - Year 1, 2 and 3 <b>£15.00</b>	Jack	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.00pm
Wednesday	<b>Multisports</b> - Year 4, 5 & 6 <b>£15.00</b>	Corey	School Playing Field Hall when wet	3.15-4.00pm
Thursday	<b>STEM LEGO</b> - Year 3, 4, 5 & 6 <b>(FULL)</b> <b>£5.00</b>	Mrs Gilbert (Governor)	Year 6 Classroom	3.15-4.00pm

**After School Club Attendance** - To enable that we know your child is safe, please can you let school know if your child is not going to be able to attend their after-school club. Thank you

# SCHOOL TERM DATES 2023/2024



## AUTUMN TERM 2023

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Wednesday 6 September	Tuesday 19 December	Monday 23 October - Friday 27 October

Number of school days in term - 70

## SPRING TERM 2024

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Wednesday 3 January	Thursday 28 March	Monday 12 February - Friday 16 February

Number of school days in term - 57

## SUMMER TERM 2024

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Tuesday 16 April	Friday 19 July	Monday 27 May - Friday 31 May

Good Friday - 29 March  
Easter Sunday - 30 March  
Easter Monday - 1 April  
May Bank Holiday - 6 May

Number of school days in term - 63

Number of days in year - 190

INSET Days: Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 September  
Monday 15 April

# SCHOOL TERM DATES 2024/2025



## AUTUMN TERM 2024

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Wednesday 4 September	Friday 20 December	Monday 28 October - Friday 1 November

Number of school days in term - 73

## SPRING TERM 2025

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Tuesday 7 January	Friday 4 April	Monday 17 February - Friday 21 February

Number of school days in term - 59

## SUMMER TERM 2025

<u>STARTS</u>	<u>ENDS</u>	<u>HALF - TERM HOLIDAY</u>
Tuesday 22 April	Friday 18 July	Monday 26 May - Friday 30 May

Good Friday - 18 April  
Easter Sunday - 20 April  
Easter Monday - 21 April  
May Bank Holiday - 5 May

Number of school days in term - 58

Number of days in year - 190

INSET Days: Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 September  
Monday 6 January




Outdoor activities  
Cooking  
Craft  
Life skills  
Community Involvement  
Camping  
International opportunities  
Games

# Guides

7.00 – 8.30 pm  
Thursday, Lightburn House, Ulverston  
2ndulverstongirlguides@gmail.com

**Girls laugh, learn and expand their horizons**  
for ages 10 to 14

At Guides, all girls are welcome to enjoy our fun-filled space, where she'll make good friends, learn to be herself, explore what she loves and do stuff she's never done before!



girlguiding  
Registered charity number: 521683

For units meeting on other days visit [girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://girlguiding.org.uk/joinus)



**Pennington Brownies have space to welcome new members.**

Girls aged 7-10

Thursday, 6-7.30pm

Contact (Tina): [tinaboyle56@gmail.com](mailto:tinaboyle56@gmail.com)

Or register online: [Register a child | Girlguiding](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/register-a-child)



# Are You Interested in a Career as a **Teaching Assistant**?

Did you know that apprenticeships aren't just for 16-to-18-year-olds?  
Work around your child's school hours and achieve a **nationally recognised certificate!**

If you would like further information, please contact Gen2 at **01900 701300** or **info@gen2.ac.uk**  
Gen2 have vacancies for Teaching assistant across many schools in Cumbria.

Funded By



Training



# Believe You Can

Helping **People, Organisations and Economies** Develop Their Skills for Growth

## Taster Sessions & Open Evenings

Want to find out more about apprenticeships? Reserve your place on our FREE Apprenticeship Taster Sessions and open a gateway to an incredible future.



## Step In2 Apprenticeships

The fully funded Step In2 Apprenticeship programmes are the perfect first step for you to gain the knowledge and skills employers are looking for and get you ready for an apprenticeship.



## Apprenticeships & Degree Apprenticeships

Gen2 offer a wide range of Apprenticeships from L2 to L6 Degree Apprenticeships covering key business sectors including Business Services, Teaching Assistant, Nuclear, Engineering & Civil Engineering



## Apply Today for Gen2 Apprenticeships

Scan the QR code below and apply now to our 2024 Apprenticeship Vacancies.

More information and the whole offering is available on our site.



## Funded Training - Skills Bootcamps

Skills Bootcamps are funded, flexible courses of up to 16 weeks for adults aged 19 or over. They give people the opportunity to build up valuable sector-specific skills.



## Upskill Your Workforce

Are you an employer looking to upskill your workforce? From high quality short courses to funded training throughout Cumbria, we have the ability to meet our customers needs.



BEng Honours Degree

HND  
HNC

Higher Education

L6  
L5

Degree Apprenticeships

L4  
L3  
L2

Apprenticeships

Step In2 Apprenticeships

Taster Sessions

## Employer FAQ

### Can I use apprenticeships to upskill my workforce?

You can use apprenticeship training to fill key skill gaps in your business and boost employee motivation by investing in their development.

### How do I recruit an apprentice?

Gen2 offers a comprehensive recruitment service which can include the sourcing of applicants, aptitude testing, support with interviews and selection. Our business development team will work closely with you to understand your business needs and

suggest the most appropriate apprenticeship for your business.

### How much does an apprentice earn?

As of April 2024, apprentices must earn at least the national apprenticeship wage, which will be £6.40 per hour.

### Can I claim Skills Bootcamp Funding?

If you are an employer or self employed looking to upskill your workforce, we have funding opportunities available.

### Gen2 Home Page



FREE!

# HAPPY NEWS



PORTUGAL

## Clownin' Around

Every year at the beginning of Lent, a small town in Portugal hosts the world's largest get together of clowns. More than 4,000 people dress up as clowns and gather to parade the streets of Sesimbra.

Local residents will even wear the costumes to work! The clown parades have been going for 25 years, after a group of friends joked that they wanted to bring more colour to the town.



SPAIN

## Litter picking to Paris

10 year old Ali is hoping to head to the climate summit ChangeNOW in Paris, France, but doesn't want to go by plane. Instead, she wants to have a positive impact on the planet, so has chosen to litter pick her way there from Spain! Ali has launched her Pick2Paris campaign in the hope of getting as many people involved in the litter picks along the way. The journey will take more than two days by electric car, with more than 10 planned litter picking stops there and back.



TURKEY

## Out and a-bat!

Ali Efe Arslan, a student from Turkey, is such a big fan of Batman that he dresses as the superhero three days a week. Ali has worn his Batman suit on the train, walking the streets and even whilst doing his shopping at the supermarket!



USA

## Apes like to play pranks

Great apes like to playfully tease, prank and play with each other just like humans do, scientists have found. This includes things like hair-pulling, poking, tickling and waving objects repeatedly in front of one another's faces. An international team of researchers made the discovery after they analysed videos of four species: Chimpanzees, bonobos, gorillas and orangutans. The animals would often not give up until they got a reaction from their playmate!



UK

## Robot guide dogs talk to humans

Engineers at the University of Glasgow have built robot guide dogs that can talk to humans to help them better explore their surroundings. The RoboGuide uses artificial intelligence, GPS navigation and sensors to map its environment and work out the best routes. Volunteers have been testing the RoboGuide at a local museum, where it showed them round and even talked about the exhibits on display!



FREE!

# HAPPY NEWS



## 'Generation Friends' brings people together

A wonderful new scheme called Generation Friends is bringing older and younger generations together in Blackpool, England. Generation Friends is a community group which pairs up elderly people with children from local schools. They can visit libraries in Blackpool during certain times to read, chat and play together. The sessions help older people to feel less lonely and it helps children feel good too!



## Treetop school for students in the Amazon

The Amazon is the largest rainforest in the world and is home to hundreds of species. Now it's home to a very special classroom, high above the ground, which teaches young people how to protect it. Class teacher, JJ Durand, is helping local people, who often leave school at 11 or 12, learn new skills in rainforest conservation. It took 30 people over four months to build it and is the only place in the area with internet!



## Hedgehogs are back

The number of hedgehogs in the UK has been falling over the last 10 years, but this might all be changing. A survey in Gardeners' World Magazine has reported that sightings of hedgehogs in UK gardens are up from last year. Let's hope we continue to see more of them!



## Guess poo! Sparkly poo at Blackpool Zoo

Zoo Keepers at Blackpool Zoo have been feeding edible glitter to female elephants. They hope to use the animal's glittery poo to find out which ones are pregnant. Elephants poo A LOT, so Zoo Keepers are having a hard time figuring out which poo belongs to which elephant! The different coloured glitter will show in the poo which is then tested for pregnancy. It is part of conservation efforts to increase the number of elephants around the world.



## Saving the world one lip balm at a time

Two sisters age 8 and 12 have created their own plastic free lip balm in amazing flavours. Charlotte and Florence who are crazy about lip balm, were shocked to learn that most lip balms contain plastic, which is bad for the environment. They decided to create Nature's Shield using a secret recipe! It is not only plastic free, but comes in a recyclable tin too. Flavours include Mint Sensation, Coco Heaven and Orange Delight.

