

**Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School**  
**School Newsletter No 10**  
**26th January 2024**



**OPAL**



**Platinum**  
**Award**  
**2024 - 2026**

We are delighted to share that this week we have been awarded the highest level of an OPAL Platinum Award. This is a culmination of two years of hard work and development from all of those involved! A huge well done and thank you must go to our OPAL leadership team of Mrs Carter and Mrs Kelly as well as our lunchtime staff team for all of their hard work and support in making the play outside for all of our children such high quality. It builds on the amazing work that our Foundation Stage (Nurs and Rec) staff team do in supporting outdoor learning! Whilst, at times, our school grounds may look a little untidy, we hope that you can see past this, as it is a clear sign of amazing play. OPAL has supported our staff team in giving the children a wide range of opportunities to be creative, to problem solve, to develop risk assessing and negotiation skills as well as having fun!

**Handouts**

**Hard copies :**

- ✧ Golf Club letters out—years one and two only
- ✧ Sports Club letters out—years one and two only

**Email:**

- ✧ National Child Measuring Programme letter— Reception aged children only
- ✧ OPAL 2023 Review
- ✧ Attendance Policy

**Attendance**

**Congratulations** to Badgers Class for achieving **97.5%** attendance for the two weeks between 15th-26th January.



**Safeguarding**

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we all have a role to play.**

If you have concerns about your own or another child's safety then you can speak to our Designated Safeguarding Lead—Mrs Sarah Gillam or our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead—Mrs Nicky Smith.

Anyone can make a referral. If you believe a child to be at immediate risk, call 999. If you believe the situation to be urgent, please call: 0300 131 2 131

## Inhalers and Auto-Injectors (Epi pens)

If your child has either an epi pen or a blue reliever inhaler (and spacer) for asthma at home then we also need them in school. The surgery say that they are happy to prescribe two of these for the purposes of having one at home and one at school. In classes, all inhalers are stored in areas that are easily accessible. Staff are trained in what to look for in terms of signs and symptoms of asthma and anaphylaxis and there are emergency procedures in place. I would like to ask that, if you haven't already or haven't recently, parents discuss with their children their signs and symptoms so that children are more aware of when they need to access their inhaler or ask for help. Please make some time to ensure that you have spoken to your child's class teacher about your child in relation to this. Please don't hesitate to contact staff to give them updates about your child's medical condition, including when triggers (such as colds or weather) are particularly affecting them. If you don't get chance to do this in person then this is a great reason to use the class email - the more information that we share about medical conditions, the better position we are all in to care for children.

### Parking

Whilst we know that parking on the streets around school can be difficult, we ask that families of children at school complete the ongoing parking and traffic questionnaire.

In the meantime, please remember that

we have the parking permit system in place to help with this. For a charge of £5, an annual permit can be purchased for Eastgate car park for parking until 9.15am and between 3.15pm and 3.40pm during term time. Please contact the school office if you would like to purchase a permit for this year. Alternatively, this can be accessed on our website under 'Parents' and 'Travelling to school'.

The staff car park in front of school is for staff only and must not be used by parents to drop off or collect their children from school. There is strictly no stopping or parking in the bus lanes and parking tickets for offenders can be issued by parking wardens. It is essential these are kept clear at the start and end of the school day. Our local PCSO continues to regularly patrol the area.

A huge **THANK YOU** to all of our parents who make use of this scheme or who ensure that they park safely and courteously around school.

### Attendance

As we see from so many of our children, regular and punctual school attendance has a positive impact on the learning as well as social development of all of our children. As a school, we expect 100% attendance, unless there is an authorised reason for a child's absence as described in the 'Authorised Absence' section of our policy, which is attached for your reference. We recognise that when children first start in school, they can pick up more illnesses initially than usual. We support children by teaching them about and reminding them of good hygiene habits to try to minimise the spread of illnesses.



There are processes in place for supporting families and liaising with them where attendance for children drops. If you need any help, please speak to us. If a child's attendance drops below 90% they fall into a category defined by the Department for Education as a persistent absentee where their absences are likely to have a long term impact on their development. I will be sending home letters on Friday 2nd February for children who fall into this category to see what we can do together to improve things.

### Attendance Ladder

How close are you to reaching the top?



### Diary Dates

**Friday 23rd Feb 9.10am**—February Birthday Assembly—Parents of the birthday children are invited to

celebrate their child's birthday in school.

**Friday 9th Feb**—Last Sports Club for Spring 1.

Block one clubs will finish at the end of this half term. Block 2 clubs will not begin until after the Easter Break in April. Letters will be sent home to year one and two children during the next half term.

**Thursday 22nd February**—Golf Club starts for 5 weeks

**Friday 23rd February**—Sports Club starts for 5 weeks

### Ruffa Lane Crossing

How lucky we are to have our own crossing patrol right outside of our school gate! Please could I encourage you to use this designated crossing for the safety of your children and motorists alike, **ensuring that your child remains with you at the roadside until the crossing patrol indicates that she is ready for you to cross safely.**



### Communication



Please remember to keep checking Parent Mail for updates. We will also continue to use Facebook and Twitter for sharing information and celebrating learning at home and school across our community. Follow us at [facebook.com/PickeringInfant](https://www.facebook.com/PickeringInfant) and [@PickeringInfant](https://twitter.com/PickeringInfant) on Twitter



Please share or retweet your favourite posts

***Your support for your child's education is crucial to their progress. Please let us know if there is any adjustments we need to make to help you support your child, for example: letters in large font; letters in different languages; wheelchair access; explaining things over the phone.***

*Spare newsletters are available in the rack outside the office, together with term time dates, holiday forms, uniform order forms*

Tel: 01751 472620 email: [admin@pickering--inf.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@pickering--inf.n-yorks.sch.uk)

For attendance/absences - [admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk)