

Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School
School Newsletter No 13
14th March 2025



OPAL Champions

OPAL stands for Outdoor Play and Learning. We are incredibly proud to be a Platinum Award winning OPAL school and pride ourselves on the breadth of exciting opportunities we offer through play at lunchtimes for all of our children.

Our Play Team, which is made up of our Midday Supervisors have established with Mrs Carter, OPAL Lead Teacher and Mrs Kelly, OPAL Play Leader, a new team of children as our OPAL Champions. These are children who have been selected to support children across school with OPAL play, respecting the OPAL resources and tidying up. These will change half termly. Congratulations to our first group of nominated children.



Handouts

Hard copies:

- ✚ Easter Lunch Invitation—Packed lunch children only

Email:

- ✚ Common Childhood Diseases leaflet
- ✚ Attendance, Punctuality and Leave brochure
- ✚ Operation Encompass Pathways

Attendance News

Congratulations go to **Squirrel class** for achieving **97%** attendance for the two weeks 3rd to 14th March 2025





Comic Relief

Friday 21st March is Comic Relief. This year the theme is 'Anything Goes When You Wear A Red Nose'. Children (and staff) are welcome to wear something that **makes them smile**, this could be a home made costume, red from head to toe or simply dig out their brightest socks if children are more comfortable in their usual school clothes! Where families are able to, we would welcome donations for Comic Relief, where families are able. This year donations are to be made via the School's Comic Relief Just Giving page which can be accessed through the link below. We would therefore request that cash is not sent into school for this.

[Pickering Infant and Nursery School is fundraising for Comic Relief](#)

Regardless of whether families are in a position to make a charitable donation at this time, we still encourage all children to come in non-uniform if they would like to.

Attendance

Punctual and regular attendance are essential in establishing good routines for school and learning, as well as friendships. Nationally, the youngest children tend to be the ones who pick up bugs and are off ill as they start in school and we know that the large majority of absences for our children are unavoidable. However, if your child is tired, for example, due to being up in the night feeling unwell but is well and rested by lunchtime or just perks up as the day progresses then please bring

them back to school for the afternoon session. Parents should make every effort to arrange medical and dental appointments after school or during school holidays. If there is no alternative and your child has to be absent, please inform the school office and provide a copy of your child's appointment letter or card, this will then be recorded as an authorised absence.



Pickering Community School
The Importance of Arriving at School on Time
A few minutes do matter


If your child is 5 minutes late a day they lose:				
25 minutes a week	1 hour 40 minutes a month	2 hours 30 minutes a half term	5 hours a term	16 hours 15 minutes a school year This equates to over 3 days
If your child is 10 minutes late a day they lose:				
50 minutes a week	3 hour 20 minutes a month	5 hours a half term	10 hours a term	32 hours 30 minutes a school year This equates to over 6 days
If your child is 15 minutes late a day they lose:				
1 hour 15 minutes a week	5 hour a month	7 hours 30 minutes a half term	15 hours a term	48 hours 45 minutes a school year This equates to over 9 days
If your child is 20 minutes late a day they lose:				
1 hour 45 minutes a week	6 hour 45 minutes a month	10 hours a half term	20 hours a term	60 hours a school year This equates to 12 full days


The importance of your child's regular attendance for their learning experience.
National Day - 2007 - 11 and 12 days equal 11 full school days in a year. 1 day is 2007.

Medicine Administration in School

If children are prescribed medication for a short period of time, for example, antibiotics, these can be administered by our admin team as long as they are required **four times** per day. Three times a day can be managed at home by administering them in a morning, at home time and before bed, unless your child is with us for a longer day and they attend our After School Club. Parents/carers **must** complete an Administration of Medication form at the office before any medication can be administered.

Dates to remember

 **Friday 21st March**—
Comic Relief Day

 **Thursday 27th March**—
Tropical World Visit—Years 1 and



2 only

📅 **Thursday 27th March**—Family
Bunny Bingo doors open
5.15pm—All welcome

📅 **Friday 28th March**—March
Birthday assembly 9.10am

📅 **Wednesday 2nd April**—Spring
Lunch—Easter Eggstravaganza

📅 **Thursday 3rd April**—Friends of
School (FoS) Pub Quiz at the Sun
Inn 8pm, please contact The Sun
Inn to book a team table (07727
659505)

📅 **Friday 4th April**—Break up for the
Easter break

📅 **Tuesday 22nd April**—School
reopens

Trespassers

As the nights get lighter, it is great for children to be able to get outside to play after school. At this time of year though, we sadly tend to see a rise in trespassers on the school site. Whilst this may seem harmless, we have noted deliberate damage in the past to property in the Foundation Stage Playground and our Forest School Area. We ask that families support us by reminding children, including older siblings, to stay off school property out of school hours. There can often be the incorrect belief that a school is public property and anyone can have access. This is absolutely not the case. Our

school is private property and we ask for support from families in sharing this message to keep our school site safe.

Help for Households



www.northyorkshiretogether.co.uk

With the cost of living increasing, follow the link to see what cost of living support families and children could be eligible for- [Help for households](#)



Operation Encompass

Our school is part of Operation Encompass which is run jointly between all schools, academies and colleges in York and North Yorkshire. Further information can be found on the attached flow chart. Information is treated in confidence by school, as with all other safeguarding information. By knowing that a child has had this experience, schools are in a better position to be supportive and understanding of the child's needs and possible behaviours.



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

For attendance/absences - admin2@pickering-inf.n-yorks.sch.uk

Bunny Bingo



Thursday 27th March

Doors open 5:15pm for a 5:30pm start.

The Bunny Bingo last year proved very popular with families and this year we hope it will be just as enjoyable. Inspired by the traditional game of Bingo, using quirky rhymes and phrases that help identify numbers with plenty of shouting out, so lots of fun for the whole family. £1 per ticket, purchased on the night with great prizes to be won, refreshments cakes and sweets.

Thank You from Friends of School

We really hope you can join us for this exciting Bunny Bingo, it's going to be a fun filled night! Without you and your continued support it simply wouldn't be possible to fund some of the amazing things within our school.

So far for the 2024/2025 academic year, with your help, Friends of School have been able to fund things such as the workshops and performances, OPAL equipment and much more.

We thank you for everything you help us do for the school and our children!

If anyone is able to help out with baking of cakes/biscuits for the evening, these would be greatly appreciated. Baking can be brought into school during the day or on the evening (please send a list of ingredients with your items in case of allergies).

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

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 and @PickeringInfant on X (formerly Twitter)



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