

Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School
School Newsletter No 10
23rd January 2026



Religious Visitors

All state-funded schools in England are required to hold daily acts of 'Collective Worship'. For us, as a school with no formal religious character, this worship must be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character'. As we are not a school with a religious character though we are not led or influenced by any religious group. Our collective worship is a part of our daily assemblies.

All schools in England are required to teach RE and we base our RE curriculum on the North Yorkshire Agreed Syllabus, teaching from Christianity and Islam as the two religions that best represent our school community. As part of this, we welcome visits from members of both of these religious communities. We are lucky to be able to welcome a group of volunteers from local churches who deliver assemblies as part of the 'Open the Book' scheme. We also have regular visits from Reverend Atha from St Peter and St Paul's Church, Reverend Ransom from Pickering Methodist Church and Reverend Crosse from Elim Church.

As part of our learning from Islam, we look forward to welcoming back Imran Kotwal who will deliver workshops for the children learning from Islam, staff training and will host a parent question and answer session on 4th February. More details to follow!

Handouts

Hard copies :

- ✧ Block 2 Activity Club letters- years one and two only
- ✧ Pancake Day Lunch Invite –packed lunch children only
- ✧ Online Safety Mascot Competition sheet

Email:

- ✧ Useful Information about Nits/Head Lice
- ✧ Forest School Information letter—Nursery only

Attendance

Congratulations to Squirrel Class for achieving **98.4%** attendance for the two weeks between 12th-23rd January.



Sharing family traditions or celebrations

As has been shared on the front cover, as part of our RE teaching and learning we welcome visitors into school to share information with the children. The aim of this is to give children an understanding of different faiths as well as different cultures, to develop the understanding that we are all different and that this is ok and that the world is a wonderfully diverse place. With this in mind, we would welcome and encourage parents and families to either come in to speak to the children or share photographs and information of important family traditions and celebrations, both religious and non-religious. All of this supports our children in their learning. Please contact class teachers or Mrs Gillam, as RE Leader, if you are able to help with this.

Inhalers and Auto-Injectors (including Epi pens)

If your child has been prescribed either an auto injector 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.

Diary Dates

Friday 30th Jan 9.10am—January Birthday Assembly—Parents of the birthday children are invited to celebrate their child's birthday in school.

Friday 30th Jan 2.30-3.30pm—Nursery parents welcome to join us and spend some time with your child in this short session, playing and exploring.

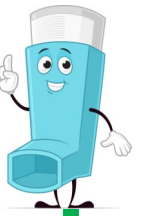
Wednesday 4th Feb—Imran Kotwal visit and workshops—whole school

Friday 6th Feb 10am—Reception visit to the Church—Parents welcome to join us

Week beginning 2nd Feb - Last week for block one school activity clubs.

Tuesday 10th Feb—Pancake Day Lunch

Friday 13th Feb—Last Sports Club for Spring 1.



Block 2 activity clubs for children in years one and two will start week commencing 23rd Feb. **There will not be any block 2 activity clubs during the week of 9th March or 16th March.**

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

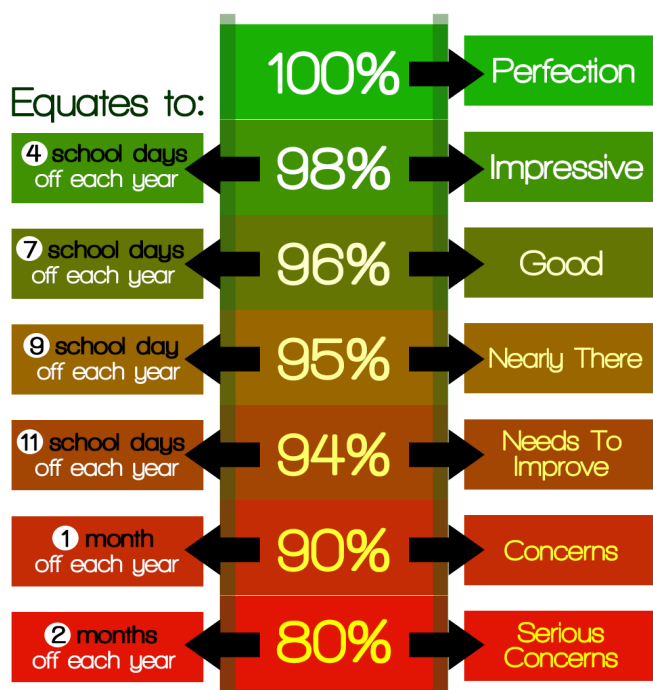
pick up more illnesses initially than usual. We support children by teaching them about and reminding them of good hygiene habits to try to minimise the spread of illnesses. There are processes in place for supporting families and liaising with them where attendance for children drops. If you need any 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 in the coming weeks for children who fall into this category to see what we can do together to improve things.

School Matters!



Attendance Ladder

How close are you to reaching the top?



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 This equates to 1 full day	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 This equates to 1 full day	10 hours a term This equates to 2 full days	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 This equates to over 1 full day	15 hours a term This equates to 3 full days	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 40 minutes a week	6 hour 40 minutes a month This equates to over 1 full day	10 hours a half term This equates to over 2 full days	20 hours a term This equates to 4 full days	65 hours a school year This equates to 13 full days

It is important for your child to arrive punctually for school so they do not miss out on valuable learning experiences

School Day - Rec, Y1 and Y2 doors open at 8.55am and close at 9.05am. End of day is 3.25pm



Nits/Head Lice

As in every school across the country there is always the likelihood that children could have head lice in school. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat when necessary. Once you have treated the hair, you will need to keep checking to make sure that all the eggs have gone. If you are unsure as to what to do contact either the doctors' surgery or a local pharmacy. Further guidance can be found at;

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits>

School Jumpers and Cardigans

As all of our jumpers and cardigans look similar, please could therefore we urge all families to ensure that school clothing is named. If you use pen to write names in labels, please remember to 'top up' as these often fade in the wash.



Online Safety Mascot Competition

In anticipation of Safer Internet Day on Tuesday 10th February, we are asking the children to design a mascot for online safety that will be used in our school online safety publications, such as our safer internet guide, which will be coming home to you in the next few weeks. The children should have a sheet in their book bag. If you can't find this please ask class teachers or at the office. Closing date for entries is Friday 6th February. There will be a prize for the winning entry!

This is the same day as our family computing workshop where children can explore, with their families, some of the computing resources that we use in school and find out more about online safety. A fun afternoon starting straight after school until around 4pm. Siblings welcome!

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

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