

Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School

School Newsletter No 13

13th March 2026



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 OPAL Leaders Mrs Carter and Mrs Kelly are constantly on the look out and planning for updates and extra opportunities for the children. Thanks to a donation from Ryedale Lions following our staff involvement with the Santa Sleigh last year, we are delighted that this week has seen the opening of our new sand pit, which the children have loved. It is much bigger than before!

Our Play Team, which is made up of our Midday Supervisors have selected with Mrs Carter, OPAL Lead Teacher and Mrs Kelly, OPAL Play Leader, our 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. They will meet regularly with our OPAL Leaders, Mrs Carter and Mrs Kelly. Congratulations to Theo H, Aubrey, Dolly, Bowan, Lucy,

Ruth, Rowan and Arthur H.

Handouts

Hard copies:

- ✚ Veg Power Packs Rec –Y2

Email:

- ✚ Common Childhood Diseases leaflet
- ✚ Uniform Leaflet

Attendance News

Congratulations go to **Rabbit class** for achieving **97.8%** attendance for the two weeks 2nd to 13th March 2026





Comic Relief

Friday 20th March is Comic Relief. This year the theme is '*Doing something funny for money*'. 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.

[Just Giving 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.

School Shoes

We have noticed an increase in trainers being worn in school. Whilst these are fine for PE, we ask that children in Reception to Year Two wear black shoes for school. As the days get brighter and warmer, please try to ensure that children wear closed toe shoes to school everyday so that they can join in all aspects of play outside. Please do not send children in 'Croc' style shoes. These are not safe for play and outdoor learning at school. A copy of our school uniform leaflet is attached.









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



-  No school activity clubs this week
-  **Monday 16th March**— Musical Storyland Performance—whole school
-  **Friday 20th March**—Comic Relief Day
-  **Tuesday 24th March**—Musical Storyland Workshop—Reception only
-  **Wednesday 25th March**—Family Bunny Bingo doors open 5.15pm—All welcome
-  **Friday 27th March**—March Birthday assembly 9.10am
-  **Friday 27th March**—Break up for the Easter break
-  **Monday 13th 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 police and 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

Wednesday 25th March

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

Dabbers at the ready to join us for this years Bunny Bingo - our first event for 2026! Bingo books are £5 with hot and cold refreshments included and prizes to be won!

Thank You from Friends of School

We really hope you can join us; without you and your continued support it simply wouldn't be possible to fund some of the amazing things within our school. From school visits, to performances, visitors and workshops to special requests for the school and classrooms, we thank you for everything you help us do for the school and our children!

If anyone would like to contribute with baking treats, cakes or 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).

All children, friends and family are 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

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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