

# Pickering Community Infant & Nursery School

## School Newsletter No 16

### 1st May 2026



#### OPAL

Just over two years ago we were awarded the highest standard of Platinum Award for our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) work. We are delighted to share that we have now been re-awarded the **Platinum Award for play for 2026-2028!**



All of our play experiences are carefully planned from all fifteen types of play categories to support children's wider physical, emotional, social, spiritual and intellectual development. They are introduced to the children through play assemblies where children lead discussions about how resources might be used and they work with our play team to create the risk assessments to go with these. So, as well as providing enjoyable, memorable experiences, play also gives children opportunities to learn important life skills.




A great amount of time and effort goes into making our PLAY such high quality. There are some risk elements to it which staff are all trained to support children with. To this end, please can you ensure that children DO NOT access the play equipment before or after school without staff supervision.

#### Handouts:

These will be sent home in book bags—don't forget to check for them!

#### Email:

These will be sent out via ParentMail—so watch out for them on the App.

-  Term Dates 2026-2027
-  Useful Information about nits/head lice
-  Growing up in North Yorkshire Survey - Year 2 only



#### Attendance

Congratulations to **Squirrel Class** with **98.85%** attendance for the start of the Summer term.



### Dates for your Diary.

- 🌈 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May—May Bank Holiday- School Closed
- 🌈 Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Library Visit—Butterfly Class—volunteers required
- 🌈 Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May—Class Photographs
- 🌈 Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May—Sponsored Bounce
- 🌈 Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May - Reception Classes visit to Fire Station
- 🌈 Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May - 1.10pm Sports Day
- 🌈 Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May - 1.10pm Reserve Sports Day
- 🌈 Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Non uniform day, 9.10am May Birthday Assembly, Break up for half term.



### **Class Photos**

Classes will be having their class photographs taken on Weds 6th May.



### **Sponsored Bounce**

On Thursday 7th May, Friends of School (FoS) will have a bouncy castle in the hall (or outside, weather permitting) for the children to use as classes. Each child will be asked to bounce as part of a small group from their class in order to raise money for Friends of School (FoS). Sponsor forms were sent home in book bags on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April. We appreciate that family budgets are being increasingly squeezed and we appreciate any and all sponsorship that you are able to raise. Even if you are unable to help with sponsorship on this occasion, all children will still have the opportunity to bounce with their class. Please send the sponsor form into school on the day so that a member of the FoS can sign them.



### **Sports Day**

Sports Day will hopefully take place on Thursday 14th May starting at 1.10pm. Please can we ask that you are seated by this time because there are many races to get through. The seating area will be on the opposite site of the trim trail. For Health and Safety reasons please keep toddlers with you at all times. Full details of the races are on the programme which will be sent via email with the next school newsletter on 9th May. Should the weather be wet or rainy a ParentMail message will be sent out to parents by 11.30am cancelling sports day. Our reserve day is Thursday 21st May should we be unable to go ahead on 14th May.

**PLEASE DO NOT TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS OR VIDEOS WITH YOUR MOBILE PHONE OR A CAMERA —Thank you**



Whilst we know that this is disappointing, we do not have permission for some of our children to be included in photographs or any form of social media outside of school.

## Water Bottles

Please make sure that your child brings a clearly named water bottle containing water (not juice or flavoured water) into school. Fruit squash and flavoured waters are acidic and can cause tooth erosion, particularly when drunk between meals. Water bottles in classes are for keeping children hydrated and must therefore contain only plain water.



## Facebook

Facebook continues to be a well used social media tool. Some members of staff have their own Facebook accounts but I would ask that, unless you are already a friend of a member of staff or governor outside of school, that you don't make friend requests to them. Whilst staff aim to build positive relationships with parents and carers, it is important that staff have a clear boundary between their professional and personal lives. Please don't be offended if staff members and governors refuse friend requests as this is what they have agreed to do in our school acceptable use of technology and safeguarding agreements.

Please keep up to date with what's going on in school through our social media accounts.



## Parking

A huge THANK YOU to all of our who either use our parking permit scheme or park considerately and safely out side of school. Last week, PCSO Ridley was on patrol outside of school at the end of the day and was impressed by how courteously everyone had parked outside of school. This helps keep our children and families as safe as we can and promotes more harmonious relationships with our neighbours - thank you! 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'.

Just the usual reminder that 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.



## Library Visits

The children who have had chance to go to the library so far this term have really enjoyed sharing stories and choosing books to take home. Please could we remind parents to remember to return library books to the library as late returns do incur a late return fee. We are aware there are several books which have not yet been returned, please may we ask for you to have a look around and return them as soon as possible. If you find it difficult to get to the library please return books to school and Mrs Smith has kindly offered to return them on your behalf. Any books returned to school by the end of this academic year will not incur a return fee.



## Our School Day

School opens at 8.55am and finishes at 3.25pm. Please ensure that you arrive for drop off and collection promptly. If you are going to be late please contact the school office. If at the end of the day your child hasn't been collected at 3.25pm they will be taken to After School Club which may incur a charge.

## Updating Contact Details

To ensure that our contact details are correct for all parents, should family circumstances change and contact details, including address change, please don't forget to let the office know so that your child's record can be updated.

## 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](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)