



Orton Church of England Primary School

Orton, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 3RG
Email: head@orton.cumbria.sch.uk or
admin@orton.cumbria.sch.uk
Tel: (015396) 24268
Monday 12th January 2026



Happy New Year

We hope you've all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. For a change we were blessed with good weather for the school holidays! I hope that allowed you to get out and about.

The children had a great start to the term last week. It was great to see them all and hear the excited chatter back with their friends. We seem to have returned with less illness than at the end of the Autumn term! Fingers crossed that continues!



It hasn't been a particularly straightforward start for staff as we discovered a water leak coming through the office ceiling last Monday!! It was caused by a ball valve and heating pipes freezing in the loft despite the system being on frost protection. Staff and plumbers worked hard to fix the problem and clear up as best we could to ensure we could open to children on Wednesday. We now have a lot of files spread out drying!! Unfortunately as the pipes continued to thaw we discovered another burst on Wednesday morning above the KS2 Cloakroom and learning room just ahead of the children arriving!!! This required some more rapid action to clear up and make areas safe! Things are now with our insurers to work to put right the damage mainly to carpets, floors, decoration and resources. Please bear with us whilst we continue to put things right. Fortunately this hasn't affected classrooms so there has been very little impact on the children.

Screen Savvy Kids Workshop

Next Monday morning Screen Savvy Kids will be running a workshop with our Year 5 & 6 children to help them stay safe online. There will be a parent webinar to help you support your children stay safe in their digital lives—details to follow.

Safety in Digital Lives—IMPORTANT HELP

The children's commissioner has recently published these important guides to help parents manage their children's digital lives safely. Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play. Please take some time to have a look at these essential guides to help parents keep up to date—Scan the QR code.



Please scroll down for page 2 of the newsletter and lots more information.

Stars

Our next Stars Assembly will be Friday 23rd January at 9.15am. Visitors are very welcome to join us in school for our Stars Celebration! We hope you can join us.

SAFEGUARDING & SAFETY — We Need Your Help!



One of our most important responsibilities is safeguarding and keeping your children safe. Whilst we always want to be welcoming and friendly to everyone we do need to restrict access to school to ensure we are fulfilling our safeguarding duties and keeping your children safe. We need to know at all times who is in the school building. Therefore when you are dropping off at Breakfast club and collecting from After School Club please could you remain outside the building and staff will meet you at the front door. At After School Club, staff will get your children ready when they see you and bring your children to the front door as quickly as possible.



We also have a duty to keep pedestrians and vehicles separate on school grounds so please use the pedestrian entrance at all times and do not cross the car park even at breakfast and after school club drop off and pick up.

Please could you pass on these important safety messages onto anyone who is dropping off and collecting your children.

To make sure we are doing everything we can to keep everyone safe we all need to work together. Thank you in anticipation of your support we really appreciate it.

Key Stage 2 Residential

Please remember the full balances for these trips are due 30th January. These can be paid in instalments of your choosing. Any problems please get in touch with Mrs Pomfret ASAP

Diary Dates



All diary dates are subject to last minute change. More details will follow near the time. Blue denotes new date

- 16/1/26 Asby School Quiz—Year 6
- 19/1/26 Yr 5 & 6 Screen Savvy Kids Workshop
- 23/1/26 9.15am Stars
- 28/1/26 Maisie Chan virtual author visit Yr5 & 6 Evening—Eco Committee's Orton's Got Talent
- 29/1/26 Yr 3 & 4 Come and Try Cricket KSGS
- 30/1/26 Keppleway and IOM Payments Due
- 10/2/26 Key Steps Gymnastics
- 13/2/26 2.50pm Stars
- End of Half Term
- 23/2/26 9am Start of New Half Term
- 27/2/26 Life Education
- 5/3/26 Parent Meetings
- 6/3/26 9.15am Stars
- 10/3/26 Rowan Class Swimming Enrichment Day
- 12/3/26 Yr 3 & 4 Quicksticks KSGS
- 18/3/26 UDance
- 20/3/26 2.50pm Stars
- 24/3/26 9.30am Easter End of Term Service All Saints
- 25-27/3/26 Yr 3 & 4 Residential to Keppleway
- 27/3/26 End of Spring Term
- 13/4/26 Start of Summer Term
- 29/4/26 Yr 5 & 6 STEM day Settlebeck
- W/c 11/5/26 SATS Wk
- 18/5/26 School Photos
- W/c 15/6/26 Swimming Week
- 22-26/6/26 Yr 5 & 6 Residential to Isle of Man



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Ankoma Outreach



As you are aware Mrs Woodmass will be travelling to Ankoma in Ghana in February to work with a group of local teachers to support the work of the Ankoma Outreach project. They will be working together to rebuild and refurbish a classroom and support teaching the local children. This is a very exciting opportunity for our school to make meaningful links with and to learn about a different part of the World which is so very different to our own.

Before Christmas our Eco Committee put out a request for football shirts/ kits for Mrs Woodmass to take to Ankoma to give to the children there. We now need you to send these shirts/kits into school ASAP (this week!) so we have enough time to get them organised with photographs and letters from our children. Please ask around. The Eco committee are hoping to collect one for every child in school so they can be sent with a photo and note from each of our children.

They also asked you to save the date for their fundraising 'Orton's got Talent' on Wednesday 28th January to raise money for resources for Ankoma. Please could you encourage your children to think about their talents and what they might be able to entertain us with at the show. We will be asking them to sign up in school during the coming days. They can perform on their own or as part of a group. We will of course be helping them in school.

There will be a hamper draw at Orton's Got Talent so we will need donations for the Hampers. We are planning to have the following Hampers;

- Chocolate
- Pamper
- Drinks

Please send in your donations ASAP.

One of our priorities this year is to encourage our children to write for a purpose so they will be writing to you very soon requesting donations for the Hampers!

Nativity Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated to the collections at the end of the Nativity performances they raised a brilliant £136.39.

The Fabulous Festive decorations that the Eco Council were selling also raised £ 45.00

This means we raised a grand total of £ 181.39 which will be going towards resources for Ankoma.

Thank you so much for your generosity, this will really make a difference to the children in Ankoma.

Weaving Resources

Our Oak Class children will be experimenting with weaving in art this week. If you have any wool, string, rope, ribbons, raffia, fabrics, etc that are surplus to your requirements our children could put them to really good use. It would be great to have a good variety of interesting resources for the children to experiment with.

Fencing

The fencing round the Class 1 and 2 outdoor areas is well past its best and will need replacing in the near future. We are hoping to replace it with plastic fencing. If you can recommend anyone to quote for this work please let us have their details.



Orton

After School Club

Activity programme for the 7th January 2026 - 13th February 2026

Day	Activity
Monday	Computer Club
Tuesday	Winter Crafts
Wednesday	RAZZAMATAZ THEATRE SCHOOLS *Free club
Thursday	Film Club
Friday	Gymnastics club

* This half term our free After School Club will be Razzamatazz on Wednesday 3.40-4.40pm. Open to Reception to Year 6 children.

To help our After School Club team with planning and ensuring we have enough resources please make sure you book in advance through our email office@orton.cumbria.sch.uk.

3:30—4:30 £3.50 3:30—5:30 £7.00

CUMBRIA CHILDREN'S SERVICES DIRECTORATE SCHOOL TERM DATES 2025/2026

AUTUMN TERM 2025

STARTS	ENDS	HALF – TERM HOLIDAY
Wednesday 3 September	Friday 19 December	Monday 27 October – Friday 31 October

Number of school days in term – 73

SPRING TERM 2026

STARTS	ENDS	HALF – TERM HOLIDAY
Wednesday 7 January	Friday 27 March	Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February

Number of school days in term – 53

SUMMER TERM 2026

STARTS	ENDS	HALF – TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 13 April	Friday 17 July	Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May

Number of schools days in term – 64

**Good Friday – 3 April
Easter Monday – 6 April**

**Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 4 May**

Number of days in year – 190

INSET Days/Sessions

The 190 day school year identified above makes no provision for the additional 5 days non-contact time for which full-time teachers are contracted.

Therefore, any INSET sessions should be arranged either outside the above school term dates or outside pupil hours.

The following dates are suggested as dates that could be used for INSET: -

Monday, 1 September 2025

Tuesday, 2 September 2025

Tuesday, 6 January 2026

Plus two others, to be locally determined.

Skylarks Youth Choir

A BRAND-NEW choir for children aged 8 and above!

All styles of music...Disney songs, songs from films, musicals etc!

Learn to sing in harmony!

Make new friends!

Perform in concerts!



Wednesdays (term time)

4.30pm till 5.30pm

Haydock Community Centre, St. Catherine's RC Church, Drovers Lane,
CA11 9EN

Please contact Liz for a registration form and more information.

hello@lakelandlarks.co.uk

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT WORKSHOPS

Are you ever worried about your child's behaviour and aren't sure how best to help?

Do you want to better understand their needs and support them through those tricky times?

These workshops help parents think about strategies and to come up with a plan that focuses on a good life for your child and your family.

NORTH CUMBRIA

Monday 26th January, 2nd and 9th of February
10am - 2pm

Penrith Family Hub, The Regent, Old London Road,
Penrith, CA11 8ET

Booking is essential. Please note you need to attend all 3 days of the course.

I wish it was available to all parents.

I loved hearing other people's stories about their own families!

I felt valued and supported.



If someone in your family is **under 18**, and is **autistic**, has a **learning disability** or is **waiting for a diagnosis** of autism or a learning disability, please come along.

To **book your place**, get in touch with **Skills for People** and ask for the **PBS team**.
Tel: 0191 281 8737 or e-mail:
information@skillsforpeople.org.uk



NHS
Health Education England



Positive
Behavioural
Support
NORTH EAST & NORTH CUMBRIA



NHS
North East and
North Cumbria

Start your brass journey with us

JOIN MELODY MAKERS CLASS OF '25!

Tuesdays 5:00-5:45 pm
at Tebay Methodist Church CA10 3XB

We provide instruments, tuition + music
Friendly, Fun + Fabulous

Musical experience is not necessary for this
group

Full band membership is £12/month

Visit <https://drumandbrass.co.uk/db-in-cumbria/>
or click on the QR code

Supported by the Frieda Scott Trust

**DRUM
+
BRASS**



FSCT
FRIEDA SCOTT CHARITABLE TRUST

Help with Childcare Costs in Before and After School Childcare

Tax Free Childcare

Tax-Free Childcare is a scheme open to working parents of children under 12 (or 17 if disabled) to help with childcare costs. For every £8 paid in, the government will pay in an extra £2, up to £2,000 (£4,000 if the child is disabled) per child per year.

How to apply?

www.gov.uk/apply-for-tax-free-childcare

Universal Credit for Childcare

Universal Credit is a payment to help with living costs. It is paid monthly. Parents can receive up to 85% of their childcare costs, the maximum amount a month is:

- £951 for one child
- £1630 for two children or more

Eligibility for Universal Credit childcare costs

Parents can only get Universal Credit childcare costs if:

- Are in paid work, or have accepted an offer of paid work (it does not matter how many hours you or your partner work)
- Pay for childcare for the relevant child or young person.

How to apply?

Apply at www.gov.uk/sign-in-universal-credit



There are lots of online parenting courses that Westmorland and Furness Council provide for free. Please feel free to access them at the link below. You will need the code WORDSWORTH to access some of them.

SOLIHULL APPROACH ONLINE MODULES.

[Online Learning \(heiapply.com\)](http://heiapply.com)

Parents/carers/grandparents/young people etc courses: CODE: WORDSWORTH

- Understanding pregnancy, birth and your baby
- Understanding your baby
- Understanding your child
- Understanding your teenager's brain
- Understanding your child's feelings
- Understanding your child's mental wellbeing
- Understanding your child with additional needs
- Understanding your relationships
- Understanding your brain (for teenagers only!)**



Orton CE Primary School Lockdown Procedure Extract for Parents

No.	Communication - BETWEEN PARENTS AND THE SCHOOL	Tick / Initial / Time
School lockdown procedures, especially arrangements for communicating with parents, will be routinely shared with parents either by newsletter or via the school website.		
13	In the event of an actual lockdown, any incident or development will be communicated to parents as soon as is practicable using the school website messaging facility. EP & VP have access to website and can do this remotely if not on site. Facebook and email can also be used.	
14	Parents should be given enough information about what will happen so that they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are reassured that the school understands their concern for their child's welfare, and that it is doing everything possible to ensure his/her safety; • Do not contact the school. Calling the school could tie up telephone lines that are needed for contacting emergency providers; • Do not come to the school. They could interfere with emergency provider's access to the school and may even put themselves and others in danger; • Wait for the school to contact them about when it is safe for them to collect their children, and where this will be from. 	
15	Movement may be permitted within the building dependent upon circumstances but this must be supervised by a member of staff.	
16	Parents will be told: <i>'..the school is in a full lockdown situation. During this period the telephones and entrances will be un-manned, external doors locked and nobody allowed in or out...'</i>	

Qualifying for free school meals and school clothing vouchers

<https://www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/schools-and-education/free-school-meals-and-clothing-vouchers#Contact>

If you already get free school meals and clothing grants you do not need to apply for each school year.

Free school meals are available to statutory school aged children attending full time education.

Full time education means full days from 9am to 3pm, private nurseries and further education colleges are not included.

Qualifying for free school meals and school clothing vouchers

When you can apply

To be eligible for free school meals, your family's annual household income must be no higher than:

- £22,700 for families outside of London with one child
 - £26,300 for families outside of London with two or more children
- This includes any wider income or support you may be getting and any earnings from employment.

You must also have less than £16,000 in savings, including any shares, investments and bank accounts - but not including your home.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - Provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit Also your annual gross income is no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if your household income is less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- children who get these benefits paid to them, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also claim free school meals.

Your child may also claim free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education
- free school meals are available to statutory school aged children attending full time education. Full time education is defined as full days from 9am to 3pm, this excludes private nurseries and further education colleges.

When not to apply

If you receive working tax credits you may not be eligible for free school meals or clothing grants.

To check please contact us. Call us: [0300 373 3300](tel:03003733300) Email: FSM.ClothingGrants@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk

Apply for free school meals and school clothing vouchers

If you already get free school meals and school clothing grants you do not need to reapply for each school year.

[Apply for free school meals and school clothing vouchers](#) https://ems.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

Where possible all parents and guardians should apply online. You will need to register on the Citizen Portal to do this. If you apply online, you will receive an immediate response telling you if you are eligible or not.

If you are unable to apply online, please contact the free school meals team using the contact details below

When another child starts school

Even if you are receiving free school meals and school clothing vouchers for your other children, you will need to apply for each child starting school for the first time, for example new starters in a reception class.



support our school join our lottery!

Sign up today at www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk/play

Lottery News

There are lots of reasons for our families to join the School Lottery:

1. It is easy
2. It is a good way to raise money for our school, with it costing our families from as little as £1 per week
3. One of our supporters wins a cash prize every week, the more supporters we have the more you win
 4. An added bonus of winning one of the national cash or gift prizes, this month, it is £1,000
5. If you refer your friends and family, you are also in with the chance to win an extra £200 Amazon voucher

We haven't heard that anyone has won any of the £25, 000 national prizes in July or August!

Well done to all our winners and thank you to those who have donated their winnings back. Also, a big thank you to our supporters. It is always great to see new people winning and also those who seem to win regularly!

This academic year, we have raised **£434.80**.

Since our launch in October 2014, we have raised an amazing **£9,000** for our 'Friends of Orton School'.

The School Lottery is an excellent fundraiser for our school - raising **just under £1000** per year to supplement the school budget! If you are interested in buying a ticket, and supporting our fundraising, please see the attached poster. If you are already a member please feel free to share with family members that might like to join.

Winners are announced weekly on our FOOS Facebook page.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Friends of Orton School (FOOS)

E-School Nurse Clinic

(By appointment only)

Twice weekly health support and advice for parents, carers and professionals who are supporting children and young people aged 5-19 years old.



Tuesday and Thursday

Telephone for an appointment

0300 304 9039

You will be able to talk to a school nurse, the contact will be private, secure and confidential. In consultation with you, the nurse will assess the child or young person's health problem and provide you with the support and advice needed.



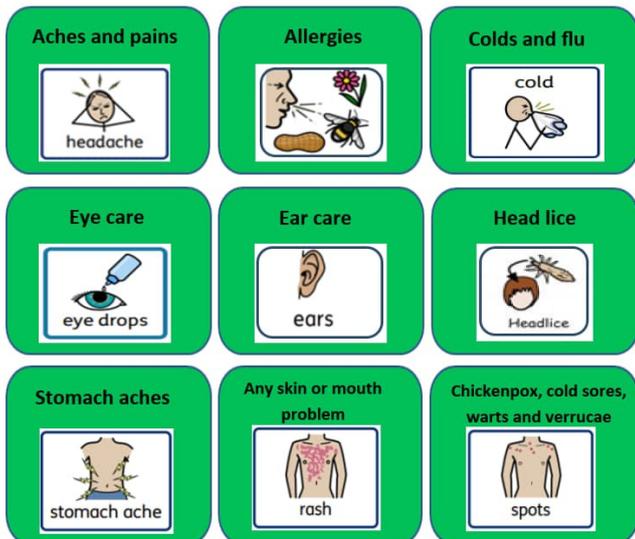
Westmorland
& Furness
Council



Free advice and treatment

Did you know your local pharmacy can help with minor illness? Just walk in and ask for advice.

Visit your pharmacy if you're suffering from:



Free advice and treatment

If you don't pay for your prescriptions you can get a wide range of medication free from your local community pharmacy.

Pharmacists are experts in the use of medicine and they can help you manage your minor illness.



DADPAD - App for new dads for advice and support

Dads-to-be in Lancashire and South Cumbria can now download the DadPad app for advice and support. The app is a useful resource before baby arrives and after baby is born, and is designed to be used as a quick, on-the-go reference tool, allowing new dads to enjoy their babies and feel more confident about fatherhood. The app covers topics such as:

- Feeding, holding, changing, and cleaning your baby
- Surviving without sleep and coping with crying
- Getting to know your baby
- Home safety and first aid
- Looking after yourself and supporting your partner.

The app is now free to download for parents in all Lancashire and South Cumbria postcodes.

[DadPad](#) | [DadPad app](#) | [Essential guide for new dads \(thedadpad.co.uk\)](#)