



# Orton Church of England Primary School

Orton, Penrith, Cumbria, CA10 3RG  
Email: [head@orton.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:head@orton.cumbria.sch.uk) or  
[admin@orton.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@orton.cumbria.sch.uk)  
Tel: (015396) 24268  
Tuesday 9th December 2025



## Christmas Farmers Market

As usual we have been asked if our children would sing in church at the Christmas Farmers Market



this Saturday 13th December at 10am for around half an hour. We need as many children from across school to come and join in singing our nativity songs and some more traditional Christmas carols. Please put the date in your diary and bring your children to sing whilst you enjoy a brew and a mince pie in the lovely atmosphere. If we don't get enough children then we won't be able to carry on with this lovely Christmas tradition which our community loves. Please come along with your children and support us.

## Christingle



The All Saint's Christingle service is this evening Tuesday 9th December at 6pm in Church. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to come along to this lovely service.

## Christmas Post



School Christmas post box is now open. Last post Thursday 18th December!

## Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch is this Thursday 11th December. Children are welcome to wear their Christmas Jumpers.

## Ankoma Outreach



As part of their work towards achieving the Eco Schools Award, our Eco Committee have decided they would like to support the children of Ankoma, in Ghana in two ways. Firstly, by collecting football kits for Mrs Woodmass to take to Ankoma to give to the children. They 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. If you have any outgrown football kits in good condition, please send them into school. Secondly they are planning Orton's Got Talent on Wednesday 28th January to raise money for Ankoma to help rebuild a classroom.

## A Midwife Crisis

Our performances of A Midwife Crisis are on Wednesday 17th December at 2pm & 6pm. Don't forget to order your tickets from the school office.

Please scroll down for lots more information. In particular FOOS information about Secret Santa and Raffle.

## Stars

Our next Stars Assembly will be Friday 12th December at 9.15am. Visitors are very welcome to join us in school for our Stars Celebration! We hope you can join us.



## VERY IMPORTANT—Elf The Musical

A little reminder that children need to be in school for 7.50am on Wednesday. We will be leaving for Blackpool promptly at 8am.

## 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

## Tebay Service Singing

This Friday our Key Stage 2 children will be singing at Tebay Services Northbound from approximately 1pm. They will have their collection buckets in the hope of raising money whilst they sing! Everyone is welcome to watch and support us.

## Children in Need

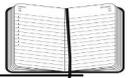
Thank you to everyone who donated to Children in Need. We raised £55.20.

## End of Term

Our end of term Christmas Service will be at 9.30pm on 19th December. Everyone is welcome to join us in All Saint's Church. The children will return to school for the Christmas party. Please send them with party clothes to change into! You will be able to collect your children from school at 2.30pm. Buses will leave that day at 2.30pm.

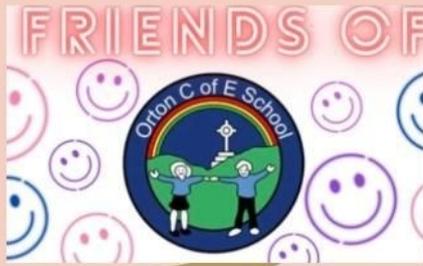
After School Club will be available but is it **ESSENTIAL** you book then we know what staffing provision we need. You can book in by emailing [admin@orton.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@orton.cumbria.sch.uk)

# Diary Dates



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

- 9/12/25 FOOS Secret Santa Shop
- 6pm Christingle Service in All Saint's Church
- 10/12/25 7.50am KS2 Elf The Musical —Blackpool
- 11/12/25 Christmas Lunch (Christmas Jumpers)
- 12/12/25 9.15am Stars—Note Change of time
- Approx 1pm KS2 Singing at Tebay Services
- Farmers Market—Children singing in church
- 13/12/25 Nativity Dress Rehearsal
- 16/12/25 KS2 Singing at Methodist Drop In
- 17/12/25 2pm & 6pm Nativity
- 17/12/25 EYFS & KS1 Dear Santa at The Dukes Theatre
- 18/12/25 9.30am End of Term Christmas Service
- 19/12/25 Christmas Party
- End of term
- 7/1/26 9am Start of Spring Term
- 28/1/26 Eco Committee's Orton's Got Talent
- 29/1/26 Yr 3 & 4 Come and Try Cricket KSGS
- 27/2/26 Life Education
- 12/3/26 Yr 3 & 4 Quicksticks KSGS
- 25-27/3/26 Yr 3 & 4 Residential to Keppleway
- W/c11/5/26 SATS Wk
- W/c15/6/26 Swimming Week
- 22-26/6/26 Yr 5 & 6 Residential to Isle of Man



*Secret*

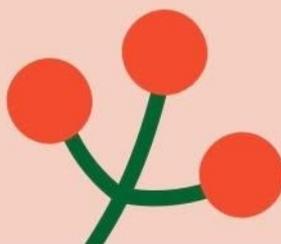
**SANTA**

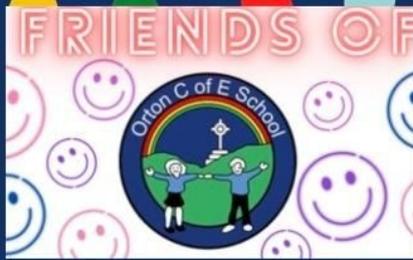
**SHOP**

**TUESDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**  
**£2.50 PER GIFT**

FOOS have arranged a festive Secret Santa Shop in school, giving children the opportunity to buy a surprise gift for a special someone. All gifts have been carefully selected and elves will be on hand to help with wrapping if needed!

There are enough gifts for 2 per child.





# Christmas RAFFLE

3 x festive  
hampers to  
be won!

Lucky winners announced  
at the evening nativity play  
on Wednesday 17th  
December

£1 per  
number

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

### **AUTUMN TERM 2025**

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

**Number of school days in term – 73**

### **SPRING TERM 2026**

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

**Number of school days in term – 53**

### **SUMMER TERM 2026**

<b>STARTS</b>	<b>ENDS</b>	<b>HALF – TERM HOLIDAY</b>
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.

# The PTA structure

The make-up of a PTA varies between schools, but essentially there are two parts: the elected Committee, which oversees and manages the association, and the PTA volunteers who provide support at events, fundraisers and more. The core positions are usually Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, however, there are other informal positions which can be beneficial to fill in order to spread the workload. Here's how a committee could be formed...



# 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](mailto: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, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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](http://www.gov.uk/sign-in-universal-credit)





Westmorland and Furness  
SEND Information, Advice  
and Support Service

## CONTACT US

[Westmorland and Furness SEND IAS Service | Sendiass](#)

**Your local SEND IAS Service Co-ordinator will listen to your concerns and can offer:**

- Appropriate support, impartial information, and advice on a range of SEND related queries including - identifying a need, exclusions from school, complaints, and disagreements when something goes wrong.
- Advice regarding SEND related health and social care matters.
- Detailed explanations of how the Special Educational Needs (SEN) process should work, for example the support that should be ordinarily available for all children and young people with SEND in early years, schools, and post sixteen settings.
- Information about local and national voluntary organisations
- Information about young peoples' and parents' support groups in your area
- Support through the Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) Process including annual reviews.
- To help you learn more about the SEND Code of Practice and your legal rights.
- Support at meetings where appropriate.

**A child or young person may have learning difficulties caused by:**

- A physical disability
- A problem with sight, hearing, or speech
- Difficulties with reading, writing or mathematics
- Emotional or behavioural problems
- Communication and social interaction.

For self-referral, please contact your local co-ordinator:

Area	Co-ordinator	Phone	Email
Kendal, Coniston, Windermere, Ambleside, and Grange area	Zoe McSorley	07774 337248	<a href="mailto:zoe.mcsorley@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk">zoe.mcsorley@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk</a>
Barrow and Ulverston area	Celia Jones	07917 041116	<a href="mailto:Celia.jones@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk">Celia.jones@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk</a>
Penrith and East Cumbria	Emma Stephenson	07769 835448	<a href="mailto:Emma.stephenson@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk">Emma.stephenson@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk</a>



Offering impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and or disabilities and their parents & carers.

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"> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Do not contact the school. Calling the school could tie up telephone lines that are needed for contacting emergency providers;</li> <li>• 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;</li> <li>• Wait for the school to contact them about when it is safe for them to collect their children, and where this will be from.</li> </ul>	
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](mailto: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) [https://ems.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/CitizenPortal\\_LIVE/en](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.

Enter our  
**Super Draw**

Win a **£1,000 Sainsbury's  
Voucher**

**OR £1,000 CASH PRIZE**



**YOUR  
SCHOOL  
LOTTERY**

- Tickets from just £1 a week
- Chance to win up to £25,000
- Play weekly, or just play the Super Draw!
- Support our fundraising!

**PLAY NOW:**

Go to

[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk)

Search for: Orton



Gamble **Aware**

See website for Terms & conditions. Enter by 28/09/24.



# support our school join our lottery!

Sign up today at [www.YourSchoolLottery.co.uk/play](http://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.



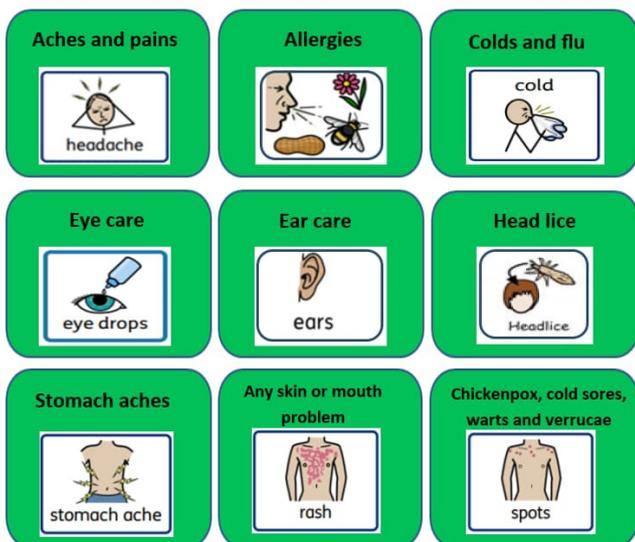
Westmorland  
& Furness  
Council



## 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 \(thedadpad.co.uk\)](#)