



Newsletter

Orton Church of England Primary School
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Monday 5th October 2026

I hope you have had a great weekend. Can you believe we are now over half way through the first half term of the school year!!!

Such a lot has been happening in school particularly organising next year's residentials, Young Voices and theatre trips! Thank you for all your quick responses!! We love providing these amazing experiences alongside academic learning for our children. It all helps our children to be well rounded citizens of the future.

FOOS AGM

The FOOS AGM is fast approaching! It will be held on Thursday 15th October at 3.30pm. There will be free After School Club for parents attending the AGM.

As parents, carers, governors and community members you are all automatically members of FOOS (Friends of Orton School PTFA).

FOOS is critical to our school, every penny they raise is spent directly on the children.

Jo Hayward has been the FOOS chair for the last 5 years but this year she is stepping down as chair. FOOS haven't had a vice chair for the last year. It is vital that FOOS has a chair in order for them to continue. We NEED your support to ensure all the committee roles are filled. As chair you don't need to do all the work, it is a coordinating and delegating role. Please, please take the time to come to the FOOS AGM to show your support, you will not be pressed into anything. If you would like more information about the role of chair or vice chair please speak to one of the current committee. We need FOOS to continue but it can't without your support.

Ankoma Dreamers Week

As you know, this week is the Ankoma Dreamers week. It has been amazing seeing everyone dressed up today.

You are all so creative.

On Friday, to raise money for the Ankoma Dreamers we are inviting everyone to come to school dressed in their Pyjamas in exchange for a minimum donation of £1. If you can donate more than that would very much be appreciated. Every penny means is a step closer to a Dreamer visiting the UK next year for a literally life changing experience.

Facebook Photos

Due to the rapid advances in AI and to keep our children as safe as possible we are changing what we share on our school Facebook page. We know you love seeing the photos so we will still share photos but we will try to be more at a distance so the children are less recognisable as individuals.

It is worth thinking carefully about what you share about your children online. It is easy to inadvertently share details about them that could be used negatively. This short utube video for parents is very thought provoking about what we share online.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F4WZ_k0vUDM

WHOLE SCHOOL SWIMMING

Thank you to everyone who responded to our recent question about continuing whole school swimming albeit with a higher parental contribution. We had a really high response rate and you were overwhelmingly positive. You have let us know loud and clear that you want us to continue with whole school swimming even though the parental contribution will have to go up.

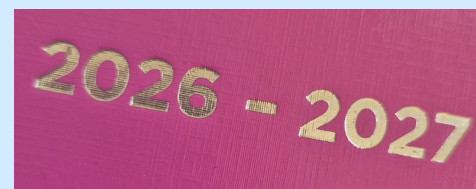
We think it is the right decision and we really didn't want to stop as we see sooo much progress not only in swimming but in the children's independence.

Thank you so much for responding, as always we will do our very best to keep costs to families down. We also keep our fingers crossed that the DfE make the right choices for us to be able to continue with this kind of important activity.



Diary Dates

All diary dates are subject to change. More details will follow near the time. **Red denotes new date.**



5th Oct - Christmas Cards Order deadline

6th Oct - 9am-11.30am Open Morning - All Welcome

7th Oct - Vision Day led by Andi from NISCU

9th Oct - Dreamers Week - Pyjama Day

12th Oct - Hawse End Year 3 & 4 Residential Deposits Due

15th Oct - FOOS AGM

16th Oct - London Year 5 & 6 Residential Deposits Due

19th Oct - Young Voices Oak Class Deposits Due

20th Oct - Charlie's Church & Stay and Play

21st Oct - Parent Meetings

22nd Oct - 2.50pm Stars (Thursday)

**23rd Oct - Wear It Pink for Breast Cancer NOW
Oak Class RE Life Exhibition Penrith
End of Half Term**

2nd Nov - 9am Half Term Starts

3rd Nov - Screen Savvy Kids Workshop for Year 3 & 4

5th Nov - KS1 Basic Moves at KSGS

9th Nov - Guitar Lessons Start every Monday

11th Nov - 10.40am Remembrance Worship

19th Nov - 9.15am Stars (Thursday)

3rd Dec - 2.50pm Stars (Thursday)

8th Dec - Rowan & KS1 Theatre Trip - A Town Called Christmas

9th Dec - Singing at the Methodist Drop In

10th Dec - Oak Class Scrooge at Blackpool Opera House

11th Dec - Hawse End 1st Instalment Due

2th Dec - Christmas Farmers Market - Singing in Church

15th Dec - Christmas Lunch - Change of date

16th Dec - 2pm & 6pm Nativity Performances

**17th Dec - 9.30am End of Term Service
Christmas Party**

18th Dec - End of Term

5th Jan - 9am Start of Spring Term

25th Jan - Young Voices 2027 - Oak Class - Co-op Live

29th Jan - London 1st Instalment Due

24th Feb - Spring Parent Meetings

26th Feb - Hawse End Final Payment Due

2nd Mar - Life Education

4th Mar - World Book Day

23rd - 25th Mar - Year 3 & 4 Hawse End Residential

25th Mar - London 2nd Instalment Due

28th May - London Final Payment Due

W/C 21st June - Summer Term Swimming wk

28th June - 2nd July - Year 5 & 6 London Residential



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)



Orton

After School Club

Activity programme for the 2nd Sept 2026 - 23rd Oct 2026

Day	Activity
Monday	Technology Club
Tuesday	Andys Art Club <i>*Free club</i>
Wednesday	Move and Play Club
Thursday	Cosy Club
Friday	Role Play club

* Andys Art club this half term will be free for Oak Class, it will be Rowan and Birch Class's turn after half term.

3:30—4:30 £3.50 3:30—5:30 £7.00

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

admin@orton.cumbria.sch.uk.



Orton

CE Primary School



OPEN MORNING

TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER

≡ Come and see us in action. ≡



Open to current
family members,
prospective family
members and
our community.



Refreshments
provided by
**Friends of
Orton School.**



**9am –
11.30am**



Rooted in Christian values of
love, forgiveness and hope



Growing strong in a
caring and safe environment



An excellent place to learn



Thriving and flourishing
to go out into the world

Adult Learning



Focus on Phonics!

A FREE practical course to help parents/carers to support their children's reading and develop a love of books.

**Family Learning
at
Orton
Primary
School**

A free, friendly and fun course!

Come along and learn key skills and knowledge to help support and build your child's reading confidence.

Your child will join you for part of most of the sessions.

**Starts
Wednesday
16th
September
for 5 weeks
9:00 – 11:00 am**

Our tutors are friendly, approachable and aim to make the sessions enjoyable for all. To book, please contact the School Office (01539 624268) or email admin@orton.cumbria.sch.uk as soon as possible.

The course can only run with sufficient numbers.

We can provide FREE childcare - please enquire when booking.



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Working for Cumberland Council and
Westmorland & Furness Council



Good news for families!

Free School Meals are changing

Universal Credit recipients can apply now

From September 2026, all children whose families receive Universal Credit will be entitled to free school meals, regardless of income.

If you receive Universal Credit and your child is not currently registered for free school meals, please apply using the QR code.

Why is it important to apply?

Families receiving Universal Credit can save up to £495 per year per child on school lunches. Registering for the universal credit expanded free school meal also helps your child's school receive the right government funding to provide your child with their meal.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 at government-funded schools already receive a free school meal through the universal infant free school meals scheme.

However, if you receive Universal Credit or other qualifying benefits, you should still apply for free school meals. This ensures your child's school receives the funding it is entitled to.

Scan the QR code to apply.



Westmorland and Furness - Children's Services
School Term Dates 2026-2027

AUTUMN TERM 2026

STARTS	ENDS	HALF – TERM HOLIDAY
Wednesday 2 September	Friday 18 December	Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October

Number of school days in term – 73

SPRING TERM 2027

**Good Friday – 26 March
Easter Monday – 29 March**

STARTS	ENDS	HALF – TERM HOLIDAY
Tuesday 5 January	Thursday 25 March	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February

Number of school days in term – 53

SUMMER TERM 2027

**Early May Bank Holiday
Monday 3 May**

STARTS	ENDS	HALF – TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 12 April	Friday 16 July	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June

Number of schools days in term – 64

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:

Tuesday, 1 September 2026

Monday, 4 January 2027

Plus three others, to be locally determined.

(dates agreed jointly by Westmorland and Furness and Cumberland)



Services within Westmorland & Furness for Families

- For general information and advice on childcare, activities, and services for families, including: financial support, support relating to financial situation, parenting, cost of living and more - **07785 456 983** or **Family Information Service (FIS)** at fis@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
- If you need to report a child at **risk of significant harm**, contact the Westmorland & Furness Multi-agency Children's Hub on **0300 373 2724** – www.westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/children-and-families/family-information-service
- If you would like to know more about **Early Help** or have concerns that are not immediate safeguarding risk, please contact the **Multi-Agency Children's Hub** – **0300 373 2723** – cumbriasafeguardingchildren.co.uk/early-help
- **Family Hub Barrow** - **01229 407384** or ReferralsBarrowFamilyHub@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
- **Family Hub Eden** - **01768 899901** or ReferralsEdenFamilyHub@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
- **Family Hub South Lakes** - **01539 713070** or referralssouthlakesfamilyhub@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
- **Ormsgill Family Hub** - **01229 408190**
- **HAF Team** - HAF@WestmorlandAndFurness.gov.uk
- **Warm Spots** - A Warm Spot offers a warm, welcoming space for people to visit this winter if they need it. They are run by a range of different organisations including churches, village halls, local councils and libraries. Tracy Cheesbrough at **01900 825760** or grants@cumbriafoundation.org
- The **Challenging Behaviour Foundation** has lots of advice, guidance and resources.
 - General enquiries: info@thecbf.org.uk or **01634 838739**
 - Information and support: support@thecbf.org.uk
 - Family Support Line: **0300 666 0126**
- **CAMHS crisis services:**
 - South Cumbria (including Millom) Freephone **0800 953 0110**
 - North and West Cumbria **0300 123 90150** or Freephone **0800 652 2865**
- **Youth Homeless** - Information for young people, or other people trying to help a young person, at risk of homelessness. Please contact the Safeguarding Hub - **0300 373 2724** (option 3)



Dear parent/carer,

Please find below a letter from Kooth about wellbeing support for students and families in Westmorland and Furness.

With schools returning following the Easter Holidays, we appreciate that for schools it becomes a busy period of time for schools, students and families. This is a letter to remind education staff and parents and carers about support available via Kooth.

Your child or young person can access [Kooth.com](https://kooth.com) for FREE, SAFE & ANONYMOUS support for their mental health. The registration process is quick and easy: simply select your location, month and year of birth, gender & ethnicity is optional, then create a username and password.

A large portion of our users on [Kooth.com](https://kooth.com) don't actually access it to speak with a professional. They are looking to develop their own independent skills to manage their mental health and stay mentally fit. A rainy day activity (let's face it, in the Lakes, it's never far away from a rainy day) could be to sit and explore the wellbeing activities, articles or forums together.

If they do need to speak to us, it's a live, typed-out conversation with one of our practitioners. The support they receive is accredited by the BACP, ensuring they are receiving safe help and guidance. If they don't want to speak to us live, they can send us a message with a question, statement or looking for advice. We'll get back to them in the next couple of days.

[Kooth.com](https://kooth.com) is for anyone in Westmorland and Furness aged 10 -25.

In addition, we have an exciting announcement...

From the **1st of April 2026**, Westmorland and Furness Public Health Team have commissioned our adult service, Qwell.

Similarly to Kooth, Qwell provides digital mental health support, resources and content via the platform: www.Qwell.io. Anyone over the age of 18, living in Westmorland and Furness can access the service - no referral is required, simply create an account and choose how you wish to access the service.

Whether it's for you, your friends, family members or colleagues, you can access FREE, SAFE & ANONYMOUS support for their mental health.

Similarly to [Kooth.com](https://kooth.com), [Qwell.io](https://www.Qwell.io) has access to self-help tools and resources, as well as live and non-live practitioner support via typed messages.

If you or your child need support this Easter, please don't hesitate to speak with us.

You can explore and learn more about services on Kooth and Qwell via: <https://connect.kooth.com/our-services>.

Kind Regards

Heather Hook, David Barthorpe and Ryan Whittaker

(The Kooth Team in Westmorland and Furness)



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





Cumberland Neurodiversity and Emotional Wellbeing Service

Introducing the new Cumberland Neurodiversity and Emotional Wellbeing Service, providing advice, support and guidance for families at the earliest opportunity.



cumberland.gov.uk/NDandEW





What is the service?

The Neurodiversity and Emotional Wellbeing Service provides a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) where children, young people and families can access advice, early support, and signposting for neurodiversity and emotional wellbeing in one place. It will support children, young people, and families to understand and manage different ways of thinking and experiencing the world. This service is delivered through a partnership between Cumberland Council and local NHS organisations.

The service has:

- A Neurodiversity and Emotional Wellbeing section on the Cumberland Family Hubs website which has information, advice, and strategies to support families if they feel they need it.
- A single point of contact for parents, carers, young people, and professionals to contact the service to receive further advice and support.
- A new strength and needs assessment that can be completed with families to understand each child or young person and plan the right support.

The Service Team is made up of 2 Social Prescribers, 5 Support Workers, a Health & Wellbeing Coach, 3 Emotional Resilience Nurses, a Clinical Psychologist, and an Assistant Psychologist who can provide clinical support and guidance when needed.

The Service will run as a 12-month pilot from November 2025. It will focus on early intervention and prevention offering support as soon as needs are noticed.

Who is the service for?

Children and young people aged 0-19 (or 25 if there are known or suspected special education needs and disabilities):

- who live in the Cumberland and Eden* area,
- where there are concerns about unmet need relating to suspected neurodivergence and/or emotional wellbeing

**For children and young people living in the Eden area, signposting to follow-up support in the Westmorland and Furness Area will be provided, to ensure access to most appropriate local services*

We also welcome enquiries for children and young people who are:

- waiting for clinical services (e.g. diagnostic assessment for ADHD or autism)
- already have a neurodiversity related diagnosis, but could benefit from support in managing social and emotional wellbeing



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 \(heiapply.com\)](https://www.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!)

Understanding your feelings (for teenagers only!)

Understanding Anger

Understanding Behaviour

Moving on up – transition

CODE: WORDSWORTH



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: • 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>	

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.



0-19 Healthy Child Service

Westmorland & Furness



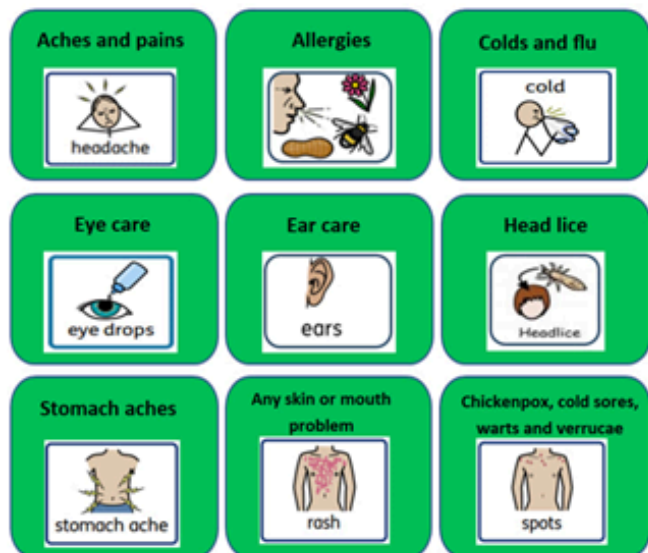
Westmorland
& Furness
Council



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