



Newsletter

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 7th September 2026

Welcome Back



Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you all had a lovely Summer break and enjoyed some precious family time.

It was lovely to welcome the children back last week. There was such a buzz in school as they shared their Summer holiday news. We talked about the mixture of excitement and apprehension about being in a new year group or class but everyone seemed to settle in quickly. As usual we have lots of exciting plans for the coming year!!

As usual if you every have any questions or concerns please come and talk to us at the earliest opportunity. Your first port of call for concerns about your child is their class teacher.

THANK YOU



A huge thank you to Keir and Highways who organised a volunteering day for their employees to come and spruce up the outside of school ready for the start of term. They painted the whole of the front of school, cleaned and powerwashed, weeded and cut back and did some general fixing and mending. There are some exciting plans ahead for other things that they will be able to help us out with. This kind of help is invaluable when school budgets are so tight. It means we can spend more of our precious budget directly on the children.

Can anyone Help?



The willow tunnel at the front of school has done it's usual Summer trick of growing wildly!! It is now very overgrown and needs some TLC.

Rather than a drastic hair cut it would benefit from the new growth weaving into the tunnels. We are looking for a volunteer or small group of volunteers who would you be willing to give it a go. Please let us know if you can help.

Stay and Play

Our Stay and Play sessions will start on Tuesday 16th September 1.30pm - 3.30pm. These free sessions are for all babies and pre school children and their families. You don't have to be considering our school for Reception to come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome. Please spread the word.

SPORTS PREIMUM

You may have seen in the press that the DfE have decided that schools will no longer receive the Sports Premium directly. There will be a new system of regional hubs but there are no details of this yet. The impact of this is huge for our school as we have always been able to use Sports Premium for external coaching, fund transport to sports events and taking the whole school swimming twice a year. Going forwards we are likely to have to reduce the number of sports events we attend and beyond the Autumn term we may not be able to continue taking the whole school swimming. We will reluctantly have to start asking parents for a contribution to transport costs.



Our Approach to giving

This year we are going to have a change in our approach to charity and giving.

Giving is about truly making a positive impact on others rather than looking for what we can materially get out of it. Instead of tokenistic events like Children in Need, we want our children to have real positive impact and know they can make a difference both locally and internationally. Therefore we are planning to have three threads to our giving this year;

1. International - maintaining our strong links with Ankoma including sponsoring Georgina, fundraising and hosting the Dreamers in the Summer Term.
2. Local - Developing links with the more mature generation in our local community. Giving our time and developing relationships rather than resources.
3. Supporting a relevant charity for the Year - This year our charity of the year will be Breast Cancer Now.

We have already started talking to the children in Oak class about this and they were very positive about this approach.



IMPORTANT - Fell Race Message from FOOS WE NEED YOU

Dear Parents, Carers and Community,

We hope you have all enjoyed a fantastic, sunny summer holiday.

It's the annual Friends of Orton School Fell Race on Saturday 26th September. Not only is this a great sporting opportunity for all ages, it is also a chance to welcome visitors from further afield to our lovely village, community and school and raise lots of money for FOOS!

Simon Mounsey does an incredible job of organising the marshals and registration teams, seeking permission from landowners and flagging the course plus registering the race with the Fell Runners Association and managing online entries.

FoOS need your help with a team for the kitchen to serve tea, coffee and cake, donations of raffle prizes, lots of entries from grown-ups and children for the race itself and lots of home-baked goodies to sell in the kitchen. We aim to serve up to 300 people in the kitchen on the day.

All proceeds from the day, the race entries and profits from the kitchen go directly back to school to fund all the amazing extra-curricular activities (including heavily subsidising the annual residentials) that the school organises for the children. The Fell Race is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year, so please come and help if you can.

We are always quite tight with our team of volunteers. It takes many hands to make this special day a success, so please don't assume we have it covered and if you can help, let us know as soon as possible by contacting:

Simon Mounsey, Joanna Hayward, Vicky Percival

We need your help with the following please:

Registration / Marshalling (no experience necessary) / Help in the kitchen / Raffle prizes / Baked goods

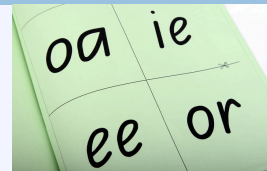
More details will follow soon. Here's to another great Orton Fell Race!

Jo Hayward
Chair of Friends of Orton School

Please Leave Toys at Home

Please could you make sure that all children in Birch and Oak classes leave all their toys at home. They don't need them in school and if they get lost or broken in school it causes unnecessary upset.

Adult Learning - Focus on Phonics



We have been really lucky to secure a totally free Focus on Phonics Adult learning course here at Orton. This course is for all parents (including prospective parents) of Nursery to Year 2 children. It will run for 5 weeks from 16th September from 9-11am here in school. The course is designed to help equip you as parents/grandparents to support your child with the building blocks of reading and writing. The first part of the course is for you as adults and then you will be joined by your own child(ren) for the last 15-20 minutes to put what you have learned into practice. The course will be run by Jen who has a primary teaching background and is also an experienced adult tutor.

This is an exciting and unique opportunity for our school. There is a minimum number of parents in order for the course to run so if you would like to book a place for yourself or a family member please let us know ASAP.

STARS ASSEMBLIES

We hold Stars Assemblies normally twice a half term to celebrate our children's achievements. Everyone is welcome to join us for these lovely moments of celebration. Our first Stars Assembly this half term will be THURSDAY 24th Sept. Please note the change of day to Thursdays

We love celebrating our children's achievements out of school too. If your child would like recognition for an achievement then please send certificates / trophies / medals into school no later than the Wednesday before Stars.

Please bear with me as I learn to produce our school newsletter in a new way!!!

Please scroll down for more information. You will find information about;

- Fell Race Information
- Open Morning Poster - please share
- After School Club program
- Information about qualifying for Pupil Premium & Free School Meals
- Term Dates
- Support

This is ever changing so always keep scrolling to the end!



Diary Dates

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

10th Sept - Yr2-6 Cross Country KSGS

16th Sept - 9-11am Adult Learning Focus on Phonics

18th Sept - Yr3-6 Murton Pike Fell Walk

24th Sept - 9.15am Stars (Thursday)

26th Sept - Fell Race - Volunteers needed

W/c 28th Sept - Swimming Week

1st Oct - 9.30am Harvest in All Saint's Church - All Welcome

5th Oct - Christmas Cards Order deadline

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

11th Nov - 10.40am Remembrance Worship

19th Nov - 9.15am Stars (Thursday)

3rd Dec - 2.50pm Stars (Thursday)

10th Dec - Oak Class Scrooge at Blackpool Opera House

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

2026 - 2027



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



ORTON FELL RACE

Saturday 26th September 2026

Fell races starting from Orton Primary School

Junior races at 1pm (1 and 2 miles)

Senior race at 2pm (approx 10km)

(All races are run in accordance with UKA rules for competition)

Entry on the day

or



Find us on Facebook @ Orton Fell Race

(Organiser: Simon Mounsey 07814604419)

**** Refreshments * Raffle * Children's Activities ****

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.



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



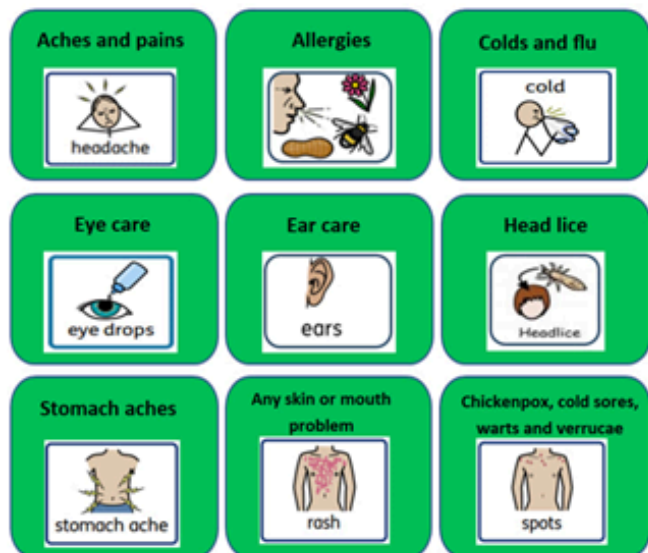
Westmorland
& Furness
Council



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