

Orton Church of England Primary School

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Monday 10th March 2025



World Book Day
We had a great day celebrating World Book Day last week. Thank you so much to all our families who gave it so much thought. We know it's another job to do but we hope you think it's worth it. There are more photos on our school Facebook page. Thank you so much.



FOOS Spring Farmers Market

Thank you to everyone who contributed cakes and / or time to making FOOS Bulbs and Cakes stall a success on Saturday. The stall raised over £400 for FOOS. Our bulbs gave us an even more rocky ride this year so an extra special thank you to Jo Hayward for giving even more time & finding a way to ensure it was still a huge success.



Spring Boon Day—Save the date!



On Sunday 23rd March we will be having a school outdoor Spring Clean day. Please pop the date in the diary as we will need as many hands on deck as possible to help with a long list of jobs including power-washing, sweeping, cleaning, painting etc to get our grounds looking great for our children. More details to follow

Primary Science Quality Mark

Did you know that Orton School was awarded the Primary Science Quality

Mark in recognition of the high quality science provided to our children. This is a very prestigious award which we are very proud to have achieved.

Free School Meals and Clothing Vouchers

Did you know you may qualify for free school meals and clothing vouchers? Please check even if your child currently is in R to Yr2 so receives universal free school meals. If you qualify, it is important that you apply as this brings extra funds into school known as Pupil Premium which we can use to support all our children's learning.

Scroll down for the criteria and links for how to apply.

Stars

Our next Stars Assembly of the year is on Friday 21st March at 2.50pm. Visitors are very welcome to join us in school for our Stars Celebration! We hope you can join us.

Feet First — Active Travel Week

Next week we are taking part in Active Cumbria's Feet First 5 Day Spring Challenge. The challenge is to walk all or part of the way to and from school each day. We have made arrangements for the bus children to take part on Tues, Wed and Thurs. The bus will park further away from school and be met by school staff who will walk the children the last part of the journey. Please see attached letter and join if possible.



Cheerleading Breakfast Club

Cheerleading Breakfast Club is continuing on Mondays this half term for Reception to Year 6 children.

Free After School Club—Razz

There is no Razzmatazz this week due to a family funeral. Razzmatazz will continue next Friday. It is our free After School Club on Friday's 3.40-4.40pm. The theme this half term is Wicked the Musical. Open to Reception to Year 6 children.



Residentials

Payments for the Yr 3 & 4 Hawse End and Yr 5 & 6 London residentials can be made in instalments on ParentPay. The full balances must be paid before the trips.

Diary Dates



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

Blue denotes new dates

13/3/25	EVSP Yr3/4 Quick Sticks at KSGS
14/2/25	No Razzmatazz
W/c 17/3/25	Active Travel Week—Walk to School Week
21/3/25	FOOS ECS Textile Collection 2.50pm Stars
22/3/25	6.30pm Spring Ceilidh Market Hall
23/3/25	School Outdoor Spring Clean Day—All hands on deck!!!
24/3/25	Rowan & Birch Trip to Rasigill Hall Farm
25/3/25	Rowan Class—Swimming day
26/3/25	Yr 5 & 6 Football Festival Settlebeck
28/3/25	Oak—Swimming Life Saving Day
1/4/25	9.30am End of Term Easter Service
2-4/4/25	Yr3 & 4 Residential—Hawse End
4/4/25	End of Spring Term
22/4/25	9am Start of Summer Term 1st 3.40-4.40pm Zumba ASC
24/4/25	5.30-7.30pm FOOS—Movie Night
25/4/25	EVSP Tag Rugby at Upper Eden RC
12/5/25	SATs Wk—Year 6
16/5/25	University of Central Lancashire Science Fair
19/5/25	Tempest School Photos
22/5/25	5.30-6.30pm FOOS Children's Disco
23/5/25	Wheelchair Basketball End of Half Term
2/6/25	9am Start of Half Term
16/6/25	School Swimming
30/6/25—4/7/25	Yr 5 & 6 Residential London
18/7/25	End of Summer Term



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





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	zoe.mcsorley@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
Barrow and Ulverston area	Celia Jones	07917 041116	Celia.jones@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk
Penrith and East Cumbria	Emma Stephenson	07769 935448	Emma.stephenson@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk



Westmorland
& Furness
Council

Information,
Advice & Support
Services Network



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 \(heiapply.com\)](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!)



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: <p><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></p>	

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) 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

Search for: Orton



Gamble **Aware**

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



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 Video Clinics

(By appointment only)



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

Tuesday and Thursday

You will be able to talk to the nurse over a live video link using [Attend Anywhere](#). The link is private, secure, confidential and convenient.

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.

For more information on the **E-School Nurse video clinic**

Please read the information leaflet or visit:

www.cumbria.gov.uk/ph5to19

You can telephone for an appointment

01228 603973 Mon-Fri 8-4pm



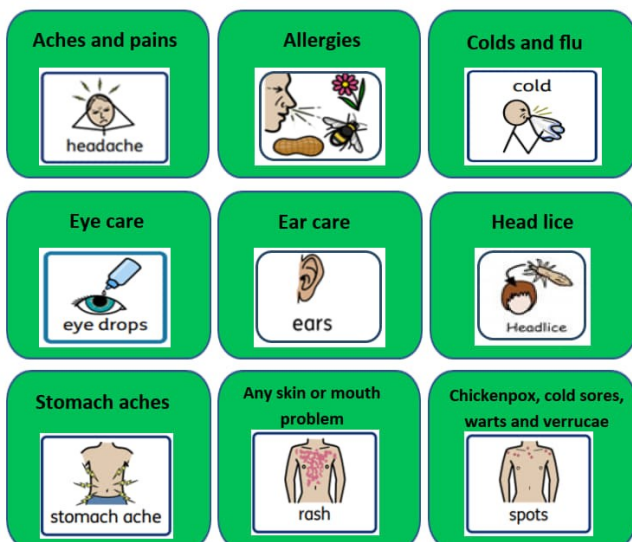
happierhealthiercommunities.



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

