



Newsletter



Successful Learners, Resilient Individuals, Responsible Citizens

x: @PCABlackpool, @PCAPrimary, @PCASecondary, @PCAOracle

Facebook: Park Community Academy

Website: www.park.blackpool.sch.uk

As we come to the end of another busy and successful summer term, I wanted to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the many wonderful achievements and special moments we have shared as a school community. It has been a year full of celebration, creativity, determination and pride, and our pupils have once again shown us just how much success they achieve at Park Community Academy.

We have had so much to celebrate this term. Our wonderful school brass band has been out and about performing at a number of concerts, representing PCA brilliantly and bringing real joy to everyone who has had the pleasure of hearing them play. Their confidence, teamwork and talent have been fantastic to see, and we are incredibly proud of every pupil and staff member involved. Our secondary summer show, Echoes Through Time, was another fabulous highlight of the term. The performances were enjoyed by all our families and showcased the creativity, confidence and enthusiasm of our young people. It was a real celebration of the arts and of everything that makes our school community so special.

We have also enjoyed a series of sporting successes, with pupils taking part with great determination and pride. Whether competing, supporting one another or trying something new, our pupils have shown resilience and positivity throughout.

Across school, many pupils have also taken part in a wide range of end-of-year reward trips to celebrate excellent progress, attendance and behaviour. These opportunities are always a lovely way to recognise the hard work and positive choices our pupils make every day, and it has been wonderful to see so many children and young people enjoying these well-deserved experiences.

We have also been delighted to see pupils taking part in a range of residential experiences, including DofE expeditions, Great Tower and Bendrigg. These opportunities help our pupils to build confidence, independence, teamwork and resilience, and we are incredibly proud of the way they have embraced these new challenges.

We are also delighted with the progress being made on the Stables building project, which is going really well and remains on track to open by October half term. This will provide an amazing teaching and learning space for our Key Stage 4 pupils, giving them access to a fantastic environment in which to continue growing, learning and preparing for their next steps. We cannot wait to move in and begin using this wonderful new space.

Staff Farewells

At this time of year, we also say goodbye to some valued members of staff who have each contributed so much to PCA in different ways.

We say a very fond farewell to Miss Sankey, who has done an excellent job as a support assistant. She is moving on to work in another special school closer to home, and we wish her every success in her new role.

We also send our very best wishes to Mr. Sagar, who is returning to his teacher training. We know he will continue to make a positive difference to children and young people as he takes this next step in his career.



Miss Henry-Riding is also leaving us this term. She has grown at PCA from a support assistant into a highly successful teacher, and we are incredibly proud of everything she has achieved. She is moving on to work at Pear Tree School — our loss is most certainly their gain.

After many very successful years at the school, Mrs. Finch is taking some time out to be a full-time mum to her two beautiful children.

We thank her sincerely for all she has given to PCA and wish her and her family every happiness for the future.



Mrs. Hamer is also leaving us after 25 years as a support assistant and HLTA. She has given a significant amount to the school over many years, not least of all, when producing hundreds of amazing costumes for our shows. More recently she has worked at the Oracle, where her many skills, particularly around baking and cooking, have made a significant difference to the preparation for adulthood curriculum. Mrs. Hamer will be very much missed by staff and pupils alike. She is now pursuing a new career — so do watch out for her at your local swimming pool!



Finally, we say a heartfelt farewell to our Marvelous Mr. Mooney, who has worked as part of our family support team for 33 years. He has given so much to PCA and has supported so many children, young people and families during that time. He has also had a significant impact on his work colleagues, offering support, wisdom, encouragement and, of course, very many laughs and funny memories along the way. His kindness, commitment and deep knowledge of our school community will be very much missed. We wish him a very happy and well-deserved retirement.

As always, thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. Your partnership, encouragement and trust mean so much to us, and they make a real difference to the children and young people we are privileged to teach and support every day.

On behalf of everyone at PCA, I wish you and your families a very happy, restful and safe summer. We look forward to welcoming pupils back in the new school year and to all the exciting opportunities ahead.

With very best wishes,

Gill Hughes

Headteacher

Dates for your diary



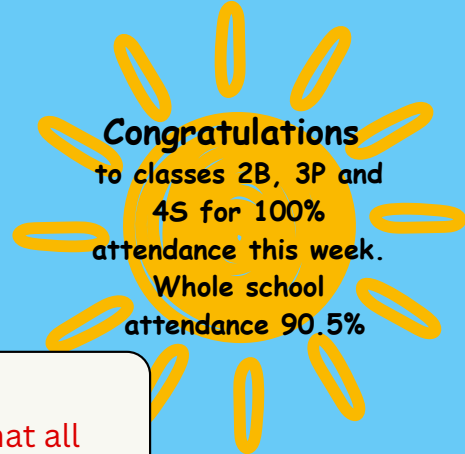
03.09.26 - School Opens For Autumn Term

16.09.26 - Meet the class teacher

23.10.26 - School Closes for half term

02.11.26 School opens

18.12.26 School closes for Christmas



Congratulations

to classes 2B, 3P and 4S for 100% attendance this week.

Whole school attendance 90.5%



Please make sure that all school dinners and morning club balances are brought up to credit ready for September.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to

Jack 2E, Zachary 3R, Eddie 2G, James 3L, Logan 3T, Leland 4S, Anna 5M, Gustav 3P, Faith 2E, Isabella 3H and Aamaya 4S for 100%

ATTENANCE ALL SCHOOL YEAR. All pupils received a gift voucher to celebrate commitment to attending school every day.

They were put into a random prize draw to win a tablet.

Congratulations to Anna who won the tablet for her 100% attendance.

Alongside this we celebrated the achievements of our learners who had achieved 100% attendance for this half-term.

The winners of the £25 gift vouchers were: Kya 2G (Primary) and Milo 3T (Secondary).

Well done to 3P who were the highest attending class this academic year. They will be rewarded with a class meal at their chosen cafe or restaurant next year!

Free School Meals.

The UK Government has announced significant changes to the eligibility of Free School Meals from September 2026. All children in England whose households receive Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals, regardless of their overall household income.

All pupils that are currently receiving Free School Meals at this moment in time will be stopped from 31st August, and only those who re-apply will be eligible from September. This will be the case every year moving forward.

FSM will be 2 tiered: Targeted FSM - Those eligible under the old criteria (Universal Credit, earn less than £7,400) **Expanded FSM:** Anyone in receipt of Universal Credit (except those above) Please see <https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims> to apply for Free School Meals for September 2026, if you do not apply your child will not receive their free school meal. If you have already applied since the 9th June 2026 then please do not apply again.

Pre-Ordered School Uniform Collection

Please collect your pre-ordered school uniforms between 24th August and 28th August.



Collection Times: 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Thank you.





Park Community Academy School Uniform.



School Uniform

Our Uniform for Primary and Secondary Pupils consists of a

- Navy Jumper or Cardigan with PCA logo,
- Navy or white polo with PCA logo or without,
- Black or dark grey trousers, skirt or shorts (Optional for Summer)

It is very useful to have a bag and PCA logo book bags are available to buy from school if your child would like one.

In Year 7 pupils also have the option to wear a black blazer with PCA logo, white shirt and a green and blue tie.

In Year 11 pupils wear a maroon jumper or cardigan.

Sixth Form pupils can wear their own clothes.

Jumpers, cardigans, polos, ties, book bags, and blazer badges can be purchased from the school office. All payments are to be made on Parent pay.

PCA also operate a Uniform Swap Shop where good quality second hand items can be purchased for £1 an item .

Children are expected to wear full school uniform every day. Full PE kits should be in school on PE days. Please check with your child's class teacher when their PE day is.



Shoes

Healthy feet are very important, therefore all children should wear safe, sensible and weather appropriate black shoes. No trainers are to be worn unless it is for a PE lesson. Shoes must be ALL black.



PE Kits

The PE kit consists of

- A pair of black shorts,
- A red polo shirt with PCA logo,
- A pair of sport socks,
- Black pumps or trainers.

Jewellery

Our PCA policy on jewellery is that pupils may wear one single stud in each ear. Necklaces, rings etc should not be worn. Pupils may wear a wristwatch however NOT apple/smart watches which are linked to a mobile device.

Labeling clothes

Please ensure all items of uniform are marked with your child's name, using a waterproof pen or sewn-on labels. This is so they can be easily identified.

Swimming

If your child is having swimming lesson or at swimming club they will need a one-piece swimming costume and towel in a named bag.

Useful General Contacts



Citizens Advice
Bureau Mon-Sat
drop in sessions
308401

Blackpool
Transport
476795
Lancashire
Transport
01772 685504

Discretionary support
scheme
You can apply for a
Short Term Advance or
a Budgeting loan
online or by calling
0800 169 0140

Carers Centre
(Managing Challenging
Behaviours course)
393748

Blackpool Children's
Social care
477299
Blackpool Adult's
Social care
477592

Aiming Higher (variety
of support for families
of children with SEN
including
trips/activities/
counselling)
206448

SEN team
476592
/
476577

Lancashire
Social Care
0300 1236720

SENDIASS 477083

FYI Directory
(search for activities or
services)
<https://www.fyidirectory.co.uk/>

Universal
Credit
Helpline
08003285644

Family Hubs: Central
(Gorton Street) 951190
North (Dingle Avenue)
476480
South (Palatine Leisure
Centre) 798016

Useful Health Contacts

CASHER
(out of hours emergency
mental health support)
07810696565

Paediatrics
01253 951623
or
01253 953357

**Neurodevelopmental
Pathway Team**
01253 952852
or
01253 952503

Primary Mental
Health Worker
CAMHS
0800 1217762

**Paediatrics Epilepsy
Team**
01253 955545

**Learning
Disabilities Team**
01253 951995

National Sleep Helpline
03303 530541

Continence Team
01253 953042

School Nurses
01253 951740

Emergency Dentist
01253 955200
or
0300 1234010

Paediatrics Diabetes Team
07717667421

LEARN TO FLOAT

If you get in trouble in the water, don't panic – follow these steps:

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea. RNLI National Helpline: 0800 999 944. RNLI is a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC537794), and Northern Ireland (100442). RNLI is a registered company in England (03060748) and a limited liability company in Northern Ireland (03060748).

1



Keep calm. Don't swim hard. Hold onto anything that floats.

2



Lean back to keep your mouth and nose out of the water.

3



Push your belly up and stretch out your arms and legs into a star shape.

4



Gently move your hands and feet to help you float.

5



Do this until you feel more relaxed.

6



When you're calm, raise your arm and shout for help. Swim to safety if you can.

Lifeboats

Ride Smart



E-scooter (MOT INS TAX 16+ CBT)

A scooter with an electric motor to make it go. You can only ride them if they are part of a special government trial (and there aren't any trials in Lancashire).



E-motorbike (MOT INS TAX 16+ CBT)

Like a scooter, but faster! You need to be at least 16, wear a helmet, and have the right licence, tax, insurance, and registration.



Electronically Assisted Pedal Cycle (EPAC) (14+)

A bicycle with a little electric boost to help you pedal. The motor must stop helping you at 15.5 mph, be under 250 watts, and you must be at least 14 years old to ride it.

Where can you use them?

- ✓ **Private land** with the landowner's permission.
- ✗ Roads/pavements/cycle lanes/car parks/public spaces/bridle paths.

What happens if you break the rules?

- E-scooters and e-bikes can count as motor vehicles under the law.
- They require a driving licence and insurance to ride them in public. If you don't have these, the police can **take your vehicle away**.
- You could get **penalty points** and a **fine** which would be stored on a 'Ghost Licence' and will carry over to your future driving licence – this can stop you from driving later!



Fire Safety Considerations...

- Never charge them in a hallway, stairwell or escape route.
- Only use the **original charger** – if you need a new one, get it from the manufacturer.
- Keep the battery somewhere cool, dry, and out of the sun.
- If you see any damage, stop using it right away.
- **Don't overcharge** – unplug it once it's full.
- Make sure the charging port is clean and dry before plugging in.

ActiveBlackpool.co.uk

Free Under 16's Swim



*Under 8's MUST be accompanied by an Adult

*Unaccompanied Juniors MUST have a Leisure Card

Palatine: 1:00- 2.30 pm

Monday to Friday

Moor Park: 1:00- 2.30 pm

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

1:30- 2.30 pm

Monday

Come and make a splash