

Penistone St John's CE Primary School Newsletter

Autumn 2026



Welcome from the Headteacher



A very warm welcome to the Autumn Term at Penistone St John's CE Primary School.

It has been wonderful to see the children return to school looking smart, enthusiastic and ready for the year ahead. The start of a new academic year always brings a sense of excitement and optimism, and our classrooms have already been filled with smiles, curiosity and a real eagerness to learn.

This term promises to be another busy and rewarding one. We are looking forward to a range of learning opportunities, educational visits, sports events, worship activities and enrichment experiences that will help our children grow both academically and personally. We have also launched our whole-school *Celebrating Diversity* project, which will help children develop their understanding of themselves, others and the diverse world around them.

I would like to extend a particular welcome to the new children, families and staff who have joined our school community this year. We are delighted that you are part of the Penistone St John's family and hope you quickly feel at home.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. By working together, we can ensure that every child feels happy, safe and inspired to achieve their very best.

I look forward to sharing news and celebrating many achievements with you throughout the term.

Susie Arnold
Headteacher
Penistone St John's CE Primary School



Our School Vision

To become the best versions of ourselves through the shared Christian values of Love, Honesty, Faithfulness, Kindness and Forgiveness.



SEND

Welcome from Mrs Sarah Foster, SENDCo

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome to all our families as we begin another exciting year at St John's Primary School.

As SENDCo, I work with pupils, families and staff to ensure every child feels valued, included and supported to achieve their full potential. At St John's, we believe every child should experience success, build confidence and feel a strong sense of belonging.

How We Support Children

We provide high-quality teaching adapted to meet individual needs. Where additional support is required, this may include:

- Classroom adaptations and reasonable adjustments
- Targeted interventions for learning, communication, social skills and wellbeing
- Personalised SEND support plans with regular reviews
- Specialist resources and assistive technology
- Support from external professionals, where appropriate
- Specialist provision through our Resource Base

Working Together

Parents and carers play a vital role in their child's education, and we value strong home-school partnerships. If you have any concerns about your child's learning, development or wellbeing, please speak with their class teacher or contact me directly. Early conversations help us provide the right support as quickly as possible.

Our Commitment

Inclusion is at the heart of everything we do at St John's. We are committed to ensuring every child feels safe, understood and able to take part fully in school life.

We look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Mrs Sarah Foster
SENDCo

"Working together in friendship and faith, learning for life."



Attendance

Every Day Counts!

Good attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children achieve their full potential. Every day in school provides valuable opportunities for learning, building friendships, developing confidence and taking part in the wider life of the school.

When children attend school regularly, they are more likely to make strong progress, feel connected to their classmates and develop positive routines that support their wellbeing. Missing even a small amount of school can mean missing important learning experiences that are difficult to fully replace.

We understand that children can sometimes be unwell, but wherever possible we encourage families to ensure their child attends school every day and arrives on time. Consistent attendance helps children feel secure, supports their academic success and enables them to benefit from all the exciting opportunities school has to offer.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us to make every day count for every child.

Why Attendance Matters

- Builds strong learning habits and routines.
- Helps children make the best possible academic progress.
- Supports friendships, confidence and a sense of belonging.
- Ensures children do not miss important learning experiences.
- Prepares children for future education and employment where good attendance is essential.

Together, we can ensure every child has the opportunity to thrive by being in school, on time, every day.

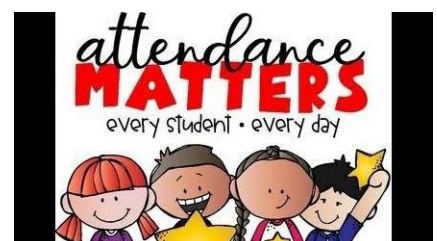
Headteacher,

Susie Arnold,

Penistone St John's CE Primary School.



Attendance
Matters





Young siblings conquer Snowdon together



An eight-year-old fundraiser from Sheffield who has spent the past three summer holidays raising money for animal charities has taken on her biggest challenge yet: climbing Wales' highest mountain with her six-year-old brother.

Matilda and her brother Thom climbed Snowdon, accompanied by their two-year-old family dog, Scout, to raise money for national charity Pets As Therapy (PAT). The charity supports people in hospitals, care homes, schools and other settings through visits from volunteers and their temperament-assessed PAT dogs and cats.

Pet Therapy Dog visits School



Our special therapy dog loves coming to school to spend time with the children!

With a wagging tail and a friendly smile, Rupert, the therapy dog helps everyone feel calm, happy and confident. Children enjoyed sharing cuddles. Spending time with a therapy dog can help children relax, build friendships and talk about their feelings in a safe and comforting way. Every visit brings lots of smiles, laughter and happy memories for everyone involved!

Diversity

Celebrating Diversity at Penistone St John's

This term, all classes across school are taking part in our *Celebrating Diversity* project. Through a range of engaging activities, discussions, stories, art, music and learning experiences, children will explore and celebrate the rich diversity that exists within our local, national and global communities.

At Penistone St John's, we believe that every child should feel valued, respected and proud of who they are. Our diversity project helps children develop an understanding of the many different cultures, beliefs, backgrounds, family structures, abilities and experiences that make our world such an enriching place. It also reflects our Christian values of kindness, love and respect, encouraging children to appreciate both our similarities and our differences.

This learning is particularly important in preparing children for life in modern Britain. By developing empathy, understanding and respect for others from a young age, we help children become thoughtful citizens who can build positive relationships with people from all walks of life. The project also supports children's personal development and promotes the values of equality, inclusion and belonging.

Throughout the project, children will learn about the protected characteristics set out in the Equality Act and explore how we can challenge stereotypes, celebrate individuality and ensure that everyone feels included. We want our pupils to understand that diversity is a strength and that every person has unique qualities and experiences that enrich our communities.

As we continue to develop this work, we will further embed diversity, equality and inclusion throughout our curriculum and wider school life. We want our children to have the confidence to celebrate who they are, the curiosity to learn about others and the courage to stand up for fairness and kindness. Through this work, we aim to create a school community where everyone feels welcomed, respected, valued and empowered to be the very best version of themselves.

Showcase Event - on Friday 25th and Monday 28th September 8.30-8.45am



Reminders

HEALTHY SCHOOL



At Penistone St John's we encourage healthy eating. For morning break children can bring in a healthy snack. Reception/Key Stage One children are provided with a piece of free fresh fruit or vegetable through a government initiative. At Key Stage Two children can bring their own snack but we encourage this to be a healthy option.



If children bring a packed lunch to school families are encouraged to provide children with healthy options.

Reminder, due to allergies we are a nut—free school. Please do not send any products containing nuts.

If you would like your child to have milk at school, you can sign up via the Cool Milk website. Each child that registers with Cool Milk will receive a portion of semi-skimmed milk every day, delivered fresh and chilled to the classroom. If your child is under five, they will receive milk for free, otherwise there is a small termly fee. Children on free school meals are also entitled to free school milk.



We encourage children to have water throughout the day. Please send a named water bottle for your child. We encourage children to keep hydrated which then ensures that they are able to concentrate more and improve their learning skills.



Reminders



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

School Day

Just a reminder about the school start and finish times.

Nursery am opens 8.30 and closes 11.30 - Nursery pm opens 12.10 closes at 3.10pm

KS1 doors open 8.40am. Children should be on task by 8.45am. Children leave at 3.15pm.

KS2 doors open 8.45am. Children should be on task by 8.50am. Children leave at 3.20pm.

Please can you make sure you arrive at school on time between these times. Gates will be locked at 8:55am in order to allow a prompt start to the school day.

If you need to speak to a member of staff, please can you ring or email the office and arrange an appointment. We are happy to speak to parents on the phone, meet face to face or on Teams but its difficult to meet to discuss things at adhoc times when children are arriving at school or whilst dismissing children. Please help us to keep children safe.



Thank you. for your support

PTA Information

The money raised goes towards funding visitors to come into school to support the curriculum and to purchase new equipment for the children throughout the year.

The PTA are holding an event, a wreath making evening has been booked for 24th November at 6pm, more information to follow.

PE at Penistone St John's



We are once again allowing children to come to school in PE kit on PE days so children don't have to waste time getting changed in school. Please make sure you know what day PE kits are needed for your child. Please make sure the PE school uniform is followed. See below.

Children to come to school in School PE kit and suitable for the weather. Black shorts (suitable length or dark tracksuit bottoms, plain white t-shirt, black hoody/jumper/zip up top, trainers/pumps.

Children not wearing correct PE kit will be asked to change into correct school uniform. Adaptions will be made for children who have a sensory need.

Earrings need to be removed at home on PE days. (Please talk to the teacher if ears are newly pieced).

School and school staff can take no responsibility if earrings are not removed and there is an injury. Please make sure that you label your child's school uniform and P.E kits including coats.



Diary Dates



Term Dates

Friday 25th September	Diversity Showcase 8:30-8:45am
Monday 28th September	Diversity Showcase 8:30-8:45am
Tues 6th October	EYFS Open Day (Show round for prospective parents)
Wednesday 7th October	Flu jabs for both sites
Thursday 8th October	Individual and Family Photos
Monday 12th October	Harvest service in Church Y5/6 @ 2:20pm
Wednesday 14th October	Harvest Festival Theme Menu
Thursday 15th October	Harvest Service in Church Y1/2 @ 2:20pm
Friday 16th October	Harvest Service in Church Y3/4 @ 2:20pm
Tuesday 20th October	Nursery & Reception Harvest Service in KS1 Hall, 9am
Friday 23rd October	Whole School Inset Day

SpringTerm

Monday 26th October –Friday 30th October	Half Term
Monday 2nd November	Whole School Open
Thursday 5th November	Lets Rocket Theme Menu
Friday 13th November	Children In Need Theme Menu
Tues 6th October	EYFS Open Day (Show round for prospective parents)
Thursday 12th November	Monster Disco tbc
Wednesday 18th November	Y6 Crucial Crew Trip
Friday 20th November	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 24th November	PTA Wreath Making 6 pm Infants Site
Thursday 26th November	Y4 Start Swimming in Groups
Monday 14th December	Church Service Y5/6 @ 2:15pm
Wednesday 16th December	Church Service Y3/4 @ 2:15 pm
Wednesday 16th December	KS1 Cinema Visit
Thursday 17th December	LKS2 Cinema Visit am
Thursday 17th December	UKS2 Cinema Visit pm