Pembroke Dock Community School

3rd September 2026

Welcome 2026-2027

Dear parents/guardians,

Welcome

Welcome back everyone! We hope you have had an enjoyable summer and the first week back in school has been a positive experience.



I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and the Deputy Headteacher of the school if you don't know us. I am Mrs. Crockford-Morris and I proudly became Headteacher of Pembroke Dock Community School last year after teaching in the school for 25 years. Mr. Jenkins (Deputy Headteacher) has taught at the school for 15 years and has been Deputy Headteacher for 11 years. We are both immensely proud of the children, staff, school and community and work hard to ensure all children gain the most they possibly can from being in Pembroke Dock Community School. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new families. All children who have joined the school will receive a pupil-friendly prospectus that sets out, in child-friendly language, useful information about the school and community. Please look for this in your child's school bag.

Pennaeth/Headteacher: **Mrs Katie Crockford-Morris**
head.pdcs@pembrokeshire.co.uk 01646 684872 Bush Street, Pembroke Dock SA72 6LQ
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Meet the Teacher

We would like to extend a warm welcome to families to our annual 'Meet the Teacher' event. This will happen the week beginning 14th September 2026. The event will be in the school's main hall at 2:30 p.m. Please enter the hall via the rear door (as you do for concerts). On that day, you will be able to meet the teaching team around your child/children and have an opportunity to visit their class. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Monday 14th September – Years 5 and 6
Tuesday 15th September – Years 3 and 4
Wednesday 16th September – EYs, Reception and LRC
Thursday 17th September – Years 1 and 2

Communication

As a school that is dedicated to being as eco-friendly as possible, we aim to be paperless with our communication to families. You will mainly receive messages via the My Ed app and posts on our Facebook page. We also have weekly newsletters (Friday) that share upcoming dates and events, whilst our weekly blog (Monday) shares with you our learning over the week and celebrates successes. If you require communication, for access purposes, in a different format or require any further information, please speak to your child's class teacher or alternatively give the school a call/email admin.pdcs@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

The School Day

Year group	Start and finish times Monday to Thursday	Finish time Friday (asymmetric week)
Flying Start	Morning session: 9:00am –11:30am Afternoon session: 12:30pm – 3:00pm	9:00am – 11:30am 12:30pm – 3:00pm
Doors open at 8:45am		

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Early Years and Reception	9:00am – 3:15pm	12:15pm
Years 1 and 2	9:00am – 3:20pm	12:15pm
Years 3 – 6	9:00am – 3:25pm	12:15pm
LRC	8:45am – 3:10pm	12:15pm

Please refer to the school's website for more information regarding the asymmetric week. The school car park closes daily at 8:35 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. to ensure your safety when dropping off and picking up your children.

Uniform

It has been lovely to see so many children return to school wearing the Pembroke Dock Community School uniform of a red sweatshirt/hoodie and a white polo shirt/t-shirt. The wearing of the school uniform is encouraged at Pembroke Dock Community School. We believe this builds a sense of belonging and identity. Branded uniform items are available to buy from www.myclothing.com with non-branded items available from local supermarkets. We ask that children wear suitable footwear each day that is safe and comfortable for playtimes and PE sessions. If children choose not to wear uniform, then clothing needs to be appropriate and suitable for school. Stud earrings are the only earrings to be worn by the children in school. Year 3 to Year 6 will have swimming lessons across the course of the year. All children are expected to take part in the swimming sessions. We believe the skills gained within these sessions are vital life skills that all children should have access to.



Wear it with pride. Wear it with belonging.

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Free School Meals

Every child is eligible for Universal Primary Free School Meals after the term of their fourth birthday. This ensures that every child has a free school meal. We would advise even though your child has a free meal each day that you check your eligibility to access the **School Essentials Grant** worth up to £200. Through the grant you can purchase uniform (including footwear and coats), sports kit and musical equipment as well as classroom essentials. For further information please visit https://www.gov.wales/school-essentials-grant-help-school-costs

Attendance

We believe that every child should be in school each day learning alongside their friends and peers. You can have a significant effect on this, so we ask that you make every effort to encourage your child to come to school each day. Children and classes are rewarded for attending school which is celebrated in our Friday celebration assembly. We recognise that every family's situation is different, and we are here to help so please pop in to chat to Jill or Frances (Family Support Officers) if you need to.

PDCS Team

We are pleased to say that our teaching team remains the same this academic year, which allows for consistency for all our children. We welcome two new support staff to the PDCS team this year - Amy Goodman and Ava Midgley. Both ladies have settled in well as part of the team and look forward to working with our children.

Autum Term Topic

We are using Monster Phonics which is a Department for Education Validated Phonics Approach.

Our topic this autumn term is titled 'Lost in Story – read, imagine create'. As the title suggests, we have a Language, Literacy and Communication focus this term paying close attention to the development of reading. Each year group has designed developmentally appropriate learning experiences around this topic and we look forward to sharing

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more of this with you in our 'Meet the Teacher' session. The year groups will draw upon exciting and engaging texts, visitors, outside agencies and off-site visits to enhance learning. The school has invested in a new scheme that will further develop our teaching of phonics. Moster Phonics is a systematic synthetic phonics programme that makes learning to read engaging, accessible and effective for all children. You can make a huge difference to your child's reading by spending just a few minutes each day reading together. Regular reading, practising phonics sounds and talking about books all help to build confidence and fluency. To find out more about how Monster Phonics teaches reading and discover practical tips for supporting your child, visit the Monster Phonics Parent Information page: https://monsterphonics.com/phonics-support-for-parents/

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read all the information provided in the letter. A full list of dates for your diary is listed below. More dates will be added as the year goes on, and your child's class teacher will contact you directly regarding these.
I hope you have found the information useful. Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher visit our website (address below) or pop into main reception if you require further information.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Crockford-Morris and the whole PDCS Team

Dates for the Diary

September	
9th	Year 3 watching a music performance in YHT
9th	Year 6 begin swimming lessons
14th and 15th	'Meet the Teacher' more information to follow
14th	Year 2 off site visit x 2 classes
17th	Year 2 off site visit x 1 class
28th	3:30 – 5:30 Staff twilight training session (no After School Club on this day)
30th	School photograph day – individuals, siblings and staff

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October	
7th October	Lower School Harvest celebrations – parents invited
21st October	Global Dignity Day
23rd October	Break up for October Half Term
November	
2nd	Return from October Half Term
4th	Year 5 start swimming lessons
19th	Full Governors meeting
24th	3:30 – 5:30 Staff twilight training session (no After School Club on this day)
December	
8th	Year 6 Carol Service
9th	EYs and Reception Christmas concerts
10th	Year 1 and 2 Christmas concerts
11th	Reports go out to parents
14th	Morning parent drop-in session
15th	Year 5 Christmas concert
16th	Year 3 and 4 Christmas concerts
18th	Break up for Christmas holidays
January	
4th	Return from Christmas holidays
4th	Year 6 start swimming lessons
25th	3:30 – 5:30 Staff twilight training session (no After School Club on this day)
February	
wb 1st	Parents evening
17th	Year 5 start swimming lessons
24th -25th	Year 5 residential
25th	Shakespeare Festival for Schools
March	
1st	Eisteddfod competition entries in

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4th	St Davids Day celebrations
9th	3:30 – 5:30 Staff twilight training session (no After School Club on this day)
11th	Full Governors meeting
18th	Children break up for Easter holidays
19th	Inset Day
April	
5th	Return from Easter holidays
6th	Year 4 start swimming lessons
19th – 21st	Year 6 residential
27th	3:30 – 5:30 Staff twilight training session (no After School Club on this day)
May	
3rd	Bank Holiday
12th	Lower school sports day
25th	Year 3 start swimming lessons
26th	Upper school sports day
28th	Break up for summer half term holiday
June	
7th	Return to school from summer half term holiday
7th	3:30 – 5:30 Staff twilight training session (no After School Club on this day)
8th	Lower school sports reserve day
9th	Upper school sports reserve day
14th	School Summer Fate
24th	Zac and Destiny memory day
28th	Inset day
30th	School Summer Fate reserve day
July	
1st	Full Governors meeting
2nd	End of year reports to parents
9th	Year 6 Prom

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13th	Year 6 leavers assembly
19th and 20th	Inset days

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