

Dishforth Airfield Community Primary School

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Newsletter 2 Monday 8th September 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

The children have had a super first week back at school. They have settled back into routines very well and there has been a lovely, purposeful atmosphere in school.

Attached to today's newsletter are the following documents:

- An online safety newsletter for September – these are for parents / carers for information
- Top 10 tips to help children enjoy reading
- Information for parents / carers of children in Reception about the national baseline

Class News:

Every week the classes will share the highlights of what they have been learning about with our families:

EYFS: What a wonderful start to school! We have had a lovely week learning about bears and where they live. Reception have learnt how to draw a bear step by step. The children have enjoyed looking at their features in a mirror and creating some lovely self-portraits. The children have all settled into school really well and have been a joy to teach.

Year 1 and 2: We have started our new class topics this week and have begun to think about the features of the local area. Year One have been sorting features and deciding if they would find them in our local area and Year Two have used a Carroll diagram to sort into human and physical features that they see on the Airfield. In history, we have talked about, and painted pictures of our homes. In science we went on a wet weather walk and started to look for signs of seasonal change. It's been a busy first week!

Year 3 and 4: We have enjoyed settling into our new class this week. In English we have been exploring nouns and adjectives in preparation for creating and writing a description of a mystical cat, linked to our new class book 'The Time Travelling Cat and the Egyptian Goddess'. In Science we enjoyed investigating force and using force meters to measure how many Newtons different masses need to be pulled across the table.

Year 5 and 6: We have had a fantastic first week back in Year 5/6. We have started our new class novel 'Viking Boy' and we're excited to see the adventures that Gunnar gets up too. We have also begun to use our knowledge of electricity to build some circuits in our science lesson.

Early Reading and Phonics Session for Reception Parents – Thursday 18th September

Mrs Hutchinson will be holding a meeting about our phonics scheme, Read Write Inc. on **Thursday 18th September at 2.30pm. All parents of children in Reception need to attend this session please.**

Reading

All children need to read at home every day. Please listen to your child read and ask them questions about the text and / or pictures. Please ensure that you record what your child has read and how they have managed with their reading in their record book. **Reading and record books need to be in school every day so that they can be checked and new books issued.**

Reception Baseline

Children who are in Reception will be participating in the national reception baseline assessment (RBA) this half term. There is a document about this attached to the newsletter for further information.

Homework

At our school, we believe that children learn best when parents, the school and children work together in partnership. Home Learning should be a positive experience which is manageable, meaningful and enjoyable for parents, teachers and children.

Reading books were prioritised last week in school and homework was sent out later in the week for children in Years 1 – 6. All the details about homework are in the homework book - please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions / queries.

Swimming – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 – this Wednesday



School swimming takes place at Thirsk swimming pool. **Year 3, 4, 5 and Year 6 children start on Wednesday.** Please ensure your child has swimwear, goggles and a towel (named). It is helpful if girls wear socks and not tights on swimming days. Due to the layout and number of cubicles at Thirsk swimming baths, some children need to share a cubicle in order to change before and after the lesson. If any parents have questions or queries about this then please don't hesitate to

Speak to Mrs Lyon.

The cost of swimming will be **£6.00 each week**, this still has to be paid even if your child misses a swimming lesson as we still have to pay for the bus, pool hire and swimming instructors. Payments must be made on your Parent Pay account. School has heavily subsidised the cost of swimming due to rising prices from the bus company and constraints imposed by Thirsk Pool.

Promotional School Dinner – Thursday 2nd October – Best of British

Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding

Shepherdess Pie

Roast Potatoes

Victoria Sponge Muffin



Parents Evening

Parents Evening will be week commencing the 20th October – further details will follow in due course.

Collecting children at home time

If you have arranged for another person to collect your child / children from school, then please ensure you have communicated this to the class teacher and / or the office staff otherwise we won't let them leave school!

Sporting Influence

As a school, we work with Sporting Influence who provide staff development for PE in school as well as organising sporting competitions throughout the year that the school can participate in.

Some of the competitions allow mass participation and some competitions are for one team of seven children or five children from each school, depending on the nature of the sport.

The competitions Dishforth Airfield will take part in are all held at Outwood Academy Ripon.

This term we will be taking part in the following competitions:

- Football (7 a side - one team Year 5 and 6) – 23rd September
- High 5 Netball (one team Year 5 and 6) - 14th October
- Football (7 a side – one team Year 3 and 4) – 4th November

Sporting Influence Club

In addition to the PE in school, staff development and competitions, Sporting Influence will also provide a club after school on a Tuesday from 3.15pm-4.00pm. The first club will be **Netball** for the first half term for a maximum of 20 children from Key Stage 2 which begins tomorrow.

Absence and Punctuality

If your child is absent from school through illness or appointments, please can you phone the school as early as possible each day they are absent. It is important that we keep our records accurate. Good attendance is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. Nationwide research has shown that the pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 have had higher rates of attendance throughout primary school, compared to those with the lowest attainment. **The government aims for all pupils to have a minimum of 95% attendance across the school year, and any child with less than 90% attendance is recorded as a persistent absentee.**

Please can you also ensure that your child arrives to school promptly for 8.40am ready for the bell to ring at 8.45am as lateness will be recorded.

Leave of Absence in Term Time

The Government implemented amendments to the regulations regarding holidays in term time a number of years ago. The amendments remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the threshold of ten school days. Therefore, Head Teachers will only be able to grant leave

of absence in **exceptional circumstances**. There is no 'Holiday' code for absences at any school. Please refer to the leave of absence forms which are located next to the school office for full details. If a form is required then it must be filled out at least six weeks in advance or the absence is unauthorised. If a child misses a minimum of 10 sessions (one session is half a day) through unauthorised absence, then this can result in a 'notice to improve' (previously known as a penalty notice) being issued by the Local Authority.

New guidance from the government came into force in the summer of 2024. Please refer to the attachment for parents which is with this newsletter.

The full guidance for schools can be found on the link below:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/66bf300da44f1c4c23e5bd1b/Working_together_to_improve_school_attendance_-_August_2024.pdf

ParentPay

Breakfast and After school club, school meals and nursery fees are put on Parent Pay at the end of every week. Please can we remind families to check their account on ParentPay and make sure bills are paid as soon as possible. New families to the school will receive login information for ParentPay once their child / children have started.

School Dinners – made by our award-winning cook – Mrs Crabtree – North Yorkshire School Cook of the Year!

Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 can have a school dinner free of charge.

Children in Nursery can order a school dinner and the cost of their meal is £2.10

Please note that the cost of a school dinner is £3.77 for children in Years 3-6.

The cost for the month of September for children in Year 3-6 will be £79.17. (21 meals)

School dinners are paid through ParentPay – new families will receive information regarding a login to ParentPay later this week.

Packed Lunches

A polite reminder that there should be no sweets or chocolate bars in packed lunches or fizzy drinks. Also, we are a **NUT FREE SCHOOL**. We do have children with allergies to nuts so please refrain from any sort of nut products in packed lunches – thank you.

Bookings for Dandelions Childcare

All bookings must be made **by 12pm on a Friday** for the following week so that we can ensure we have staffing ratios and food for the children. Accounts are put on ParentPay. Parents are charged based on the bookings they make and any additional sessions.

Please either telephone the school office, use the link <https://forms.office.com/e/A50V4pv57w> or email admin@dishforthairfield.n-yorks.sch.uk

Easy Fundraising

We have set up an Easy Fundraising page to help us raise extra money for our school. You can raise FREE donations for Dishforth Airfield Primary School EVERY time you shop online. Please support us by following this link, signing up and using easy fundraising when you shop online. Thank you for your support!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/dishforthairfieldprimary/>



AWARDS

Celebration Assembly

On Friday, we have our Celebration Assembly. This week the following children were given our weekly awards;

Celebration Cup

The cup this week goes to someone who is an excellent role model to others.

This person is demonstrating all of our school values and can be trusted to take on additional responsibilities.



We have been so impressed with your nurturing of the other children in class but still enabling them to try for themselves.

Congratulations and well done to

Alissia!

Ribbons



EYFS – This week the ribbon goes to someone who is so eager to learn and is a perfect role model for our new starters. We are very proud of you. Well done Xander.

Year 1 / 2 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has started in Year 1 with a superb attitude towards learning. They have concentrated really well and tried their best in all activities. Well done, Joey!

Year 3 / 4 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has had a wonderful first week! This person has been incredibly focused, enthusiastic and an active member of our class discussions in every subject. Keep up the fantastic work. Congratulations and well done to Edward!

Year 5 / 6 – The ribbon this week goes to someone for an excellent first week back. This person has come into school each morning with a smile on their face and has given everything 100%. We are so impressed and we can't wait to see what they achieve this year. Well done to Jaxson!

Values in Action

This week our Values award goes to someone who has demonstrated our school values of commitment, compassion, co-operation, responsibility, resilience and respect.



This person has been nominated because in class they have shown all the school values and when I didn't have someone to play with, they played with me. They are a true friend.

The values award goes to Skyla who was nominated by Georgina.

Well done, Skyla!

Attendance

Weekly Attendance

Good attendance at school is key to your child's progress.

Good attendance is essential for pupils to get the most out of their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing, and wider life chances. Nationwide research has shown that the pupils with the highest attainment at the end of key stage 2 have had higher rates of attendance throughout primary school, compared to those with the lowest attainment. The government aims for all pupils to have a minimum of 96% attendance across the school year, and any child with less than 90% attendance is recorded as a persistent absentee. Here is our school's current overview of attendance:

Week commencing 1st September 2025

Reception	Year 1 / 2	Year 3 / 4	Year 5 / 6
96%	88%	100%	90%

Kind regards,

Mrs Julie Lyon
Head Teacher

Diary Dates

September 2025	
10/9/25	School swimming starts at Thirsk for children in Years 3-6
18/9/25	Reading Information Session for Reception parents 2.30pm
23/9/25	Year 5 / 6 football – Outwood Academy
October 2025	
2/10/25	Promotional School Dinner – Best of British
6/10/25	Flu Immunisation
14/10/25	Year 5 / 6 netball – Outwood Academy
21/10/25	Individual School Photograph Morning
21/10/25	Parent / Child / Teacher consultations from 3.30pm
22/10/25	Parent / Child / Teacher consultations from 3.30pm
24/10/25	9.15am Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Harvest Festival 2.45pm Year 3, 4, 5, 6 Harvest Festival Break-up for October half term at 3.15pm
November 2025	
3/11/25	School open
4/11/25	Year 3 / 4 football – Outwood Academy
5/11/25	Promotional School Dinner – Bonfire Night
7/11/25	Year 5 and 6 Ripon Cathedral
13/11/25	Year 6 Crucial Crew
December 2025	
w/c 1st December	EYFS Nativity (date and time TBC)
11/12/25	Year 1 and 2 Nativity 2.30pm (TBC)
12/12/25	Year 1 and 2 Nativity 9.15am (TBC)
17/12/25	Christmas School Dinner
18/12/25	Christmas Party afternoon
19/12/25	Break-up for Christmas at 2.30pm
January 2026	
5/1/26	Training Day for school staff
6/1/26	School open for the spring term