

Dishforth Airfield Community Primary School

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Newsletter 18 Monday 19th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely weekend. Please keep checking diary dates at the end of the newsletter as new dates are being added each week.

Class News:

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

EYFS: This week we have been learning about the artist 'Kandinsky' and exploring how he used circles and squares in his artwork. The children have used fine paint brushes to paint circles that have a range of colours inside. This has really helped the children to develop their fine motor skills and their hand eye coordination.

Year 1 and 2: In Year 1 and 2 this week we have been learning about what it means to belong to a faith community in R.E. with a particular focus on the Christian and Islam religions. In PSHE, we have looked at different ways of paying for items and the history of how money started. In Art we have started to work on skills for collage.

Year 3 and 4: This week we have thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Murton Park where we brought our history topic of the Romans to life! In Art we have started to explore the artwork of Henry Moore and we are looking forward to developing our skills and using both chalk and charcoal to create our own inspired piece of art. In DT, we have explored moving picture books and the lever linkage systems in them in preparation for designing and making our own moving Easter cards.

Year 5 and 6: This week in year 5/6 we have begun our geography topic on South America. We have located the countries within South America, described their location and looked at some of the physical features of the countries. Next week we will be looking at Brazil and the rainforest. We have also started our new topic in DT where we will be aiming to design, make and evaluate a structure/shelter. The children had a challenge to make a structure out of newspaper, spaghetti, tape and mini marshmallows. We will be thinking about the purpose of our structure and who will use it.



Key Stage 2 trip to Murton Park

The KS2 children went to Murton Park on Thursday to be immersed into life as a Roman (for year 3/4) and a Viking (for year 5/6). The children got to experience what life would have been like, how they lived and the different activities they would have done in their daily life.

The year 3/4 children had to defend their Roman fort from the Celts, learnt how to write, made oil lamps out of clay and were shown the different weapons that the Romans would have used.

The year 5/6 children experienced a raid on the village, made clay pots, went into the long house to play games and to grind grain to make flour and also played the role of a Viking on duty who was guarding the village from attacking Saxons.

The children had an amazingly, immersive day and took on the role of Vikings and Romans with enthusiasm.



Promotional School Dinner – Monday 9th February - Pancake Day

Crispy Chicken Wrap
Cheesy Quesadilla
Potato Wedges

Pancake with Ice-cream



Year 1 and 2 Great Fire of London Workshop

On Thursday 12th February, Year 1 and 2 children will be taking part in a Great Fire of London workshop here at school led by Alfresco learning.

In this hands-on outdoor workshop, the children will explore the story of the Great Fire through exciting activities rooted in history, science, and D&T. Including Alfresco's signature wattle & daub activity, the children will engage with key curriculum objectives in a truly memorable way.

Alfresco Learning uses an outdoor approach which encourages curiosity, problem-solving, and creativity. Further details will follow!

PE Days this term

Please see below when your child / children are having PE after Christmas.

EYFS: Please have PE kit in every day

Year 1 and 2: Monday and Thursday

Year 3 and 4: Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 5 and 6: Tuesday and Thursday

Year 6 Information session for parents / carers regarding SAT assessments

On **Monday 19th January** at 3.30pm in the school hall, Mrs Falco will be holding a parent / carer information session about the Year 6 SAT assessments. Please can all Year 6 parents and children attend this – thank you.

Start Small, Dream Big – please help!

The Careers and Enterprise Company, set up by the Government, has a mission which is 'to help every young person to find their best next step.'

Research shows that children can fix their aspirations and create future-limiting stereotypes by as young as six years of age. Research has also shown that Career-Related Learning (CRL) can widen aspirations and challenge stereotypes so that children keep an open mind about the world of work as they move through education.

Dishforth Airfield began participating in this project last year. Participation helps to:

- Increase awareness and aspirations amongst primary aged children of the range of jobs and career pathways available to them in the future.
- Removal of barriers and stereotypes which limit children's thinking about their future careers.
- Provide children with a forward looking, realistic view of the jobs and the way that we work.
- Develop understanding amongst children of the link between what they learn in school, skills and the world of work.

In order to support this project in school, I would like to invite parents / grandparents/ members of our school and local community to come in and talk to the children about their career journey to broaden their knowledge and understanding of different career pathways and opportunities. If you would like to do this or know of anyone who could come in, please can you contact me – thank you!



Children's Commissioner – A Guide for Parents on Managing Children's Digital Lives

The Children's Commissioner has written to all schools to share a new guide which has been published for parents on managing children's digital lives.

The children's commissioner has written:

Supporting children's safety is a shared responsibility between families, schools and wider society. For parents and carers, this responsibility has become increasingly complex as children's lives are now deeply intertwined with the digital world. Many parents face difficult decisions about how to balance protecting children from online harm with enabling access to spaces that are now central to learning, socialising and play.

Please find a link to this very useful guide below.

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

Makaton sign of the week

We have a number of children in school who are using Makaton to support their communication. During assemblies, we are continuing on developing some basic signs.

This week's sign is: **To Learn**



Here is a link to the Makaton site:

https://makaton.org/TMC/TMC/The_Makaton_community/Sign_of_the_Week.aspx

Emergency Procedure for School Closure – weather related / loss of utilities

It is rare, however there are occasions where it has been necessary to close schools because of inclement weather, no electricity or because of lack of heating, so I would like to bring to your attention the procedures I will follow if this event occurs now that we are in winter:

- An email will be sent to all families via Arbor
- A direct message will be sent to families via Arbor
- A post will be put on the school Facebook page
- County Hall will be informed.

Hopefully, this will not happen but I feel it is better to be prepared.

Please always assume school is open unless you hear via any of the above methods. Please do not phone the school to ask if we are open as we may need to keep the line clear in order to contact staff. Please check on the school Facebook page and check emails.

Learning would be sent home via the class email system direct from the class teacher or school administrator.

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.**

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

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 January for children in Year 3-6 will be £71.63 (19 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.

Please find attached to this newsletter some useful tips and advice regarding packed lunches.

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.easypfundraising.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 a fantastic role model to everyone in our school. They consistently demonstrate our school values in everything they do.



This person is extremely caring and compassionate towards their peers, always offers to help with jobs in the classroom and works incredibly hard in every lesson.

Keep being amazing! Keep being you!

Congratulations and well done to

Emily!

Ribbons



EYFS – This week the ribbon goes to someone who has been putting in lots of effort into their reading, writing and maths work. They have been showing they're settled and ready for learning each day which is lovely to see. Keep it up. Well done Blu!

Year 1 / 2 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has made very thoughtful contributions in the whole class as well as group discussions. This person takes pride in their work and enjoys the different learning challenges they undertake. Well done, George!

Year 3 / 4 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has been working incredibly hard on their independence and their writing. They have demonstrated super determination and resilience and we are so proud of them. Keep up the super work, Bella!

Year 5 / 6 – The ribbon this week goes to someone for their impressive levels of determination, enthusiasm and resilience in our maths lessons. This person has been able to multiply fractions by a whole number and has challenged themselves in each lesson. We are so proud of the way you tackle new topics and we can really see the progress you're making! Well done to Thea!

Values in Action

This week our Values award goes to someone who has demonstrated our school value of resilience and respect.



This person has been nominated because they helped me through my first day as a dining hall helper and they are my best friend forever.

The values award goes to Alice who was nominated by MJ.

Well done, Alice!

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 12th January 2026

Reception	Year 1 / 2	Year 3 / 4	Year 5 / 6
98%	99%	94%	93%

Kind regards,

Mrs Julie Lyon

Head Teacher



Diary Dates

January 2026	
19/1/26	Year 6 parent information session on SATs
February 2026	
9/2/26	Promotional school dinner – Pancake Day
12/2/26	Year 1 and 2 Great Fire of London Workshop
13/2/26	Break-up for February half-term at 3.15pm
23/2/26	School open
24/2/26	Parent / child/ teacher consultations from 3.30pm
25/2/26	Parent / child/ teacher consultations from 3.30pm
March 2026	
5/3/26	World Book Day
	Promotional school dinner – World Book Day
23/3/26	Skip 2B Fit / Boxercise Day
25/3/26	Promotional school dinner – Easter Lunch
26/3/26	Class Photographs
27/3/26	Break-up for Easter at 2.30pm
April 2026	
13/4/26	Training Day
14/4/26	School open for the summer term
23/4/26	Promotional school dinner – Curry Club
May 2026	
4/5/26	May Bank Holiday Monday – school closed for one day
5/5/26	School open
11/5/26	Year 6 SAT week
18/5/26	Promotional school dinner – Seaside Lunch
22/5/26	Break up for May half-term at 3.15pm
June 2026	
1/6/26	School open
	Year 4 Multiplication check 2-week window w/c 1/6/26 and w/c 8/6/26
3-5 June	Year 5 /6 residential to Bewerley Park
w/c 8/6/26	Year 1 Phonic Screen Check
19/6/26	TRAINING DAY – School closed for one day
July 2026	
13/7/26	School reports home
17/7/26	Break-up for the Summer Holidays at 2.30pm
September 2026	
7/9/26	School open for the Autumn Term – all children in