

Dishforth Airfield Community Primary School

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Newsletter 19 Monday 26th January 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely weekend.

Baby News - Mrs Dixon had a baby girl on Friday, although she came early, they are both doing well. Congratulations.

Start Small, Dream Big – A big thank you to Major Cussins for joining us today in assembly. The children were captivated by his talk about his career in the Army, and it was truly inspiring to see their engagement. They asked some very thoughtful questions and thoroughly enjoyed hearing about his experiences.

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 exploring planet Earth by looking at hot and cold countries. The children have loved learning about other countries and where animals are from. This has linked to our penguin story 'The Penguin who lost his way'. As part of our understanding of the world the children have tested salt, sugar and baking soda to see which ingredient would melt snow the quickest.

Year 1 and 2: In Geography we have been learning about the seven continents and five oceans of the world. We have had lots of fun learning new songs, playing games and labelling maps.

In history we have started to learn about the Great Fire of London. We were all surprised to find out that Samuel Pepys had buried a wheel of parmesan and some wine to keep it safe from the fire. We have lots of questions that we still want answering about, Mrs O'Connell has made a list!

In science we are learning about materials and their properties. Last week we investigated how materials change shape and we are becoming much more confident recording our ideas using tables.

Year 3 and 4: This week we have enjoyed writing our own firework display descriptions ready to share with Year 5/6 in our Firework showcase. The children have worked really hard to challenge themselves in writing, including a range of adventurous vocabulary and writing features. In Science, we have enjoyed learning about the different types of rocks and how they are formed, using chocolate to help us!

Year 5 and 6: This week in year 5/6 we have been learning about the Ancient Greeks and where they were from. We looked at the physical geography of Greece and discussed how these features enabled them to live as they did. We are moving on to look at ancient Greek mythology and will be re-writing a famous myth.

Safe food preparation in EYFS

For your information, the link below contains a short film clip regarding safe food preparation for children who are in EYFS.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wCjZLbejZm8>



EYFS and KS1 – Story Detectives

On Wednesday 4th February, EYFS and KS1 children will become Story Detectives! As part of the national year of reading, school is investing in a number of workshops and different themes throughout 2026 to inspire the children and encourage reading.

The first workshop is aimed at EYFS and KS1 with a storytelling programme linked to National Tell a Fairy-tale Day which is celebrated in February. The children will become story detectives focusing on Jack and the Beanstalk.

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.

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

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!

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 Cuddle**



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 February for children in Year 3-6 will be £56.55 (15 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.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 has made a terrific start to 2026!

This person is really focused in all their learning tasks and we are all really impressed with their determination to succeed.



They have worked incredibly hard on their handwriting and overall presentation.

This person is kind to others and is a joy to have in the school.

Congratulations and well done to

Theo!

Ribbons



EYFS – This week the ribbon goes to someone who is loving every learning opportunity given to her. She works well with others and has created 'Antarctica' using a range of small world materials. A perfect home for a penguin! Well done Laceigh!

Year 1 / 2 – This week the ribbon goes to someone who has put 100% into all their learning tasks across the curriculum. This person has been acting on targets they have been given – especially in handwriting and they have been a joy to have in the class. Well done, Scarlett!

Year 3 / 4 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has written a superb description of a firework display in English. We have been so impressed with this person's determination to include all of our writing toolkit features and they should be very proud of their work. Well done to Georgina!

Year 5 / 6 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has written a brilliant magazine article all about wolves. This person has used their notes to write sentences using the toolkit to support them. They have made valuable edits to their work and taken their time to ensure it is enjoyable for the reader. Well done to Elliot!

Values in Action

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

This person has been nominated because he is kind and he asked me to play.

The values award goes to Bobby who was nominated by Jude.

Well done, Bobby!



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 19th January 2026

Reception	Year 1 / 2	Year 3 / 4	Year 5 / 6
95%	95%	96%	92%

Kind regards,

Mrs Julie Lyon

Head Teacher



Diary Dates

February 2026	
4/2/26	Story Detectives workshop for EYFS and KS1
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	Africa Reborn workshops – whole school 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	
10/7/26	Wolf on Trial workshops for KS1 and KS2
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