

Dishforth Airfield Community Primary School

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Newsletter 20 Monday 2nd February 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely weekend. There is a lot of information in this week's newsletter so please read carefully and take note of forthcoming dates and events.

Welcome to Ellie-Mae who has joined year 6 today.

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 the story 'The Three Little Pigs' as part of our storytelling. The children are learning to tell the story, act it out and construct the pigs houses out of straw, sticks and bricks. In Maths the children have learnt how to make pairs by circling around objects and pictures. They have also been learning how to count in 2's up to 10. Great work Reception!

Year 1 and 2: This week in English we have begun our new story which is called 'Story Soup'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed seeing which ingredients have been added to the pot to change what is happening in the story. In PSHE we have been thinking about money for chores around the house and whether children should be paid for helping out at home – there were many interesting thoughts about this!

Year 3 and 4: This week we have enjoyed exploring charcoal and chalk as part of our art lesson. We will be using this to create our final pieces inspired by the artwork of Henry Moore. In Science, we have enjoyed carrying out different tests on a variety of rocks to find out if they are sedimentary, igneous or metamorphic!

Year 5 and 6: In year 5/6 this week, in our science lesson, we have been learning about Carl Linnaeus and how living things can be grouped and classified based on their characteristics. We have explored different animal groups and we have even created our own creatures to classify. In computing, we have been learning how to create and follow simple algorithms and how questions can be used to make choices in a program. We have explored branching and selection by using if... then... else statements, including designing and testing programs in Scratch where different outcomes happen based on user inputs.

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.



Children's Mental Health Week – week commencing 9th February

Children's Mental Health Week is an annual mental health awareness week launched by children's mental health charity, **Place2Be**. The week exists to empower, equip and give a voice to all children and young people in the UK.

Children's Mental Health Week 2026 will take place from 9-15 February 2026. The week launched back in 2015 and we celebrate it every February.

The official theme for Children's Mental Health Week 2026 is 'This is My Place'

We know that our sense of belonging as individuals, in our friendships, in school, and in communities plays a vital role in our mental health and wellbeing.

To know our place and really feel part of our environment is a basic human need. It can have powerful and long-lasting impacts in lots of areas of our lives, including our physical and mental health, education, employment and relationships. When we feel that we belong, it empowers us to contribute to the world and make a real difference.

This year, Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week will aim to support the groups and systems surrounding our children. If you would like any further information regarding children's mental health week, please click on the link below where there is a dedicated section for families.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/>

There is also a very useful section on the website with parenting advice from child mental health experts which covers a wide range of topics:

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

Promotional School Dinner – Monday 9th February - Pancake Day

Crispy Chicken Wrap
Cheesy Quesadilla
Potato Wedges

Pancake with Ice-cream



Spring Term Menu

Please find attached to this newsletter the new school dinner menu which will take effect from Monday 23rd February and this will run until we break up for the summer holidays.

Online Safety Newsletter

Please find attached to this newsletter the February edition of the online safety newsletter for your information.

Spring Term Clubs

A letter went out last Thursday regarding the clubs on offer this spring term. Please can forms be returned by tomorrow at the latest and confirmation slips will be sent out on Thursday. Clubs start next week and will finish week ending the 20th March. Please note there will be no clubs the first week back after half term due to parents evening.

Parent / Carer / Child / Teacher Consultations

A letter is being sent home today regarding parent / child / teacher consultations which will take place on Tuesday 24th February and Wednesday 25th February. Please tick your preferred day and return the form by Friday. Confirmation of timings will be sent home before we break up for half term.

Please note that appointments are 10 minutes. If there is anything further you would like to discuss with the teachers, please arrange a follow up appointment so that the evenings can run to time. Meetings will take place in the school hall.

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 this half term.

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

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: ***Sport***



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 Arbour
- A direct message will be sent to families via Arbour
- 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 is a super role model. This person loves learning and always puts 100% effort into their work.



This person is a kind and caring friend and is always willing to help others, whilst wearing a smile!

This person consistently demonstrates our school values and we are incredibly lucky to have them in our school.

Well done and keep up the super work.

Congratulations and well done to

Edward!



Ribbons

EYFS – This week the ribbon goes to someone who is striving to achieve their best. Working extra hard with their phonics and writing and putting lots of effort into their homework. Well done Watson!

Year 1 / 2 – This week the ribbon goes to someone who is growing in confidence in maths. This person is remembering and recalling number facts and using this in both their early morning work and during lessons. Keep it up! Well done Mitieli.

Year 3 / 4 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has been putting in maximum effort to their learning in all subjects. This person has been working with enthusiasm and determination to achieve their best and their hard work has not gone unnoticed! Well done and keep up the super work, Freya!

Year 5 / 6 – The ribbon this week goes to someone for their increasing levels of determination that we're seeing in maths! This person is trying hard to read the question carefully, taking their time to answer and then checking their calculations. Keep up the hard work and well done to Bobby!

Values in Action

This week our Values award goes to someone who has demonstrated our school value of compassion.



This person has been nominated because whenever I would like to join in a Game or anything, I am always accepted.

The values award goes to Emily-Rose who was nominated by Anthony.

Well done, Emily-Rose!

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 26th January 2026

Reception	Year 1 / 2	Year 3 / 4	Year 5 / 6
97%	98%	99%	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	Children's mental health week Promotional school dinner – Pancake Day School Clubs start
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 No clubs this week due to parents evening
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