

Dishforth Airfield Community Primary School

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Newsletter 21 Monday 9th February 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you have all had a good weekend. This half term has flown by and we break-up on Friday for one week at 3.15pm.

It would seem that the soggy weather is set to continue this week along with cool temperatures so please can all children wrap up warm as we try to get them out for some fresh air during the day.

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/>



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 thinking about the people we love as part of our PSHCE lessons. The children have created a lovely Valentine's card in readiness for Valentine's Day using paint and cotton buds. The children have learnt about how artists use pointillism to build up a picture. The children also had a very exciting 'story detective' visit us this week which helped us learn the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' through drama. We are looking forward to exploring some provision activities based on this next week.

Year 1 and 2: This week we have been planning our sequel to our class book 'Story Soup', and we are very much looking forward to writing it next week! In R.E. we have been learning about how babies are welcomed into different faiths and in art we have begun our final piece of work using collage techniques.

Year 3 and 4: This week we have designed our moving cards using lever and linkage systems in DT. In PE, we have enjoyed developing our tag rugby skills. In Science, we have been exploring how fossils are created and have started to make our own fossils too!

Year 5 and 6: This week in year 5/6 we have been learning about the physical geography of Brazil. We learnt about the rivers and mountains, different ecosystems and also the surrounding countries. In RE, we have been learning about Humanists and what they believe about living a good life without following a religion. We have explored how Humanists use values such as kindness, fairness and responsibility to help them make decisions and treat others well.

EYFS and KS1 – Story Detectives

On Wednesday, Reception and KS1 had a special visitor in school who turned us all into story detectives! We had to solve the mystery of finding out where Jack had disappeared to. Jack was last seen at the market selling a cow for some beans and his mum wasn't very happy! Luckily, we found Jack in the end and along the way we became part of the story and had a lot of fun!

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.

Safer Internet Day – tomorrow

As a school we teach the children throughout the year about how to keep safe online. This is taught through both Computing lessons and also through PSHE. Tomorrow is Safer Internet Day 2026 and this year's theme is 'Smart tech, safe choices – exploring the safe and responsible use of AI.' The attached letter to parents and carers about Safer Internet Day encourages you to join in celebrating and continuing the conversation about AI technology at home and contains some very useful links to top tips for parents and carers.

Spring Term Clubs

Clubs run by teachers start today 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

Parent / carer / child / teacher consultations take place on Tuesday 24th February and Wednesday 25th February. Confirmation of timings will be sent home this week. 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, 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: **Heart**



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 significant progress throughout the academic year.



This person has worked incredibly hard in all areas of the curriculum and they are keen to succeed.

This person is a kind and fun friend to others and they are also very polite.

We are all very proud of you!
Congratulations and well done to

Noah!

Ribbons



EYFS – This week the ribbon goes to someone who showed amazing confidence during our story detective workshop. This person is showing a real flare for drama and role play. Well done Anaya!

Year 1 / 2 – This week the ribbon goes to someone who has been working very hard in class across a wide range of subjects. They are keen to challenge themselves and show great determination in succeeding with their targets. Well done, Ava!

Year 3 / 4 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has shown great determination and resilience with their handwriting. Keep up the great work, Jude!

Year 5 / 6 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has been working hard in their maths lessons to show their working out for their answer. This person is an amazing mathematician and always likes to challenge themselves in each lesson. We are so impressed with their dedication in maths lessons. Well done to Oscar!

Values in Action

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

This person has been nominated because they have stepped out of their comfort zone and put their hand up in lessons.



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

Well done, Alina!

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 2nd February 2026

Reception	Year 1 / 2	Year 3 / 4	Year 5 / 6
96.2 %	95.1 %	100 %	92.2 %

Kind regards,

Mrs Julie Lyon - Head Teacher



Diary Dates

February 2026	
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 Children can dress up as a character from a book. Promotional school dinner – World Book Day
20/3/26	Comic Relief Day – non-uniform £1 donation
23/3/26	Skip 2B Fit / Boxercise Day
25/3/26	Promotional school dinner – Easter Lunch
26/3/26	Class Photographs
27/3/26	Decorate a hard-boiled egg – bring an egg into school 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