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Newsletter 39 Monday 13th July 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

We have had a super year in school and we are all looking forward to spending time at home with our families for a few weeks over the summer break and hopefully we will be able to enjoy some more lovely weather as well!

We have much to be proud of at Dishforth Airfield Primary School. The staff are dedicated and passionate in supporting every child to reach their potential and I can't thank them enough for all their hard work and commitment. I would also like to thank the PTA ladies who have worked hard on behalf of the school community to raise funds for the school – thank you!

I do hope you all have a lovely summer and I wish you well in all your plans for the future if you are a family moving on.

School closes at 2.30pm on Friday 17th July for the summer holidays.

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 all about how to keep ourselves safe in the hot weather. The children have designed clothes to keep them cool adding sun glasses and sun hats. The children have been very creative this week making sure they have purpose in mind when junk modelling.

Year 1 and 2: This week we have been focusing on time connectives, imperative verbs and adverbs in English as part of our instruction writing as we are preparing to write instructions for making our fruit kebabs next week. In R.E. we have chosen six facts we found interesting about special places of worship and we each made a cube to display them on.

Year 3 and 4: This week we have been exploring different types of poetry in English. We have explored Haiku's, nonsense poems and free verse poems. We have enjoyed looking at the different features of each type of poem, performing them and writing some of our own. In History, we have been using our knowledge of chronological order to create timelines of key laws and acts that were introduced to improve the lives of Victorian children. In Art, we have been planning our final piece in preparation to complete this next week.

Year 5 and 6: This week in year 5/6 we have been finishing off our maths units for the year. The year 5 children have amazed us with their volume knowledge and have applied this in their problem-solving questions. The year 6s have been designing a board game using all of the maths objectives from the year. We are looking forward to playing them next week!



Sports Day – Reception – Year 6 - today

Thank you all very much for supporting our sports day this morning. Thankfully the weather was a little cooler than it has been of late and we all had a super morning.



Class Structure for the academic year 2026-27

Please see below the staffing structure for the next academic year. The whole school transition session takes place on Wednesday in the morning.

Head Teacher: Mrs Lyon

Deputy Head Teacher and SENCO: Mrs Kestell

School Administrator: Mrs McBride

EYFS:	Mrs Hutchinson and Mrs Goodier (every other Wednesday)
Year 1 and 2:	Mrs Lyon (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) and Mrs O'Connell (Wednesday)
Year 3 and 4:	Mrs Armstrong (Monday – Thursday), Mrs Clarke (Friday)
Year 5 and 6:	Mrs Falco (Monday – Thursday), Miss Arnold (Friday)

Wolf on Trial workshop

On Friday, children in KS1 and KS2 had a fabulous experience hearing the evidence against Alexander T. Wolf who was accused of carrying out harm to two of the three little pigs. A range of evidence for the prosecution and defence was heard and unfortunately the wolf was found guilty!

Leavers' Assembly this Thursday

On Thursday we will be holding our Year 6 Leavers' assembly at 2.30pm in the school hall. Parents of Year 6 children are welcome to join us for this assembly.

Year 6 Leavers' School Dinner – Friday 17th July

On the last day of the school year, our Year 6 leavers have chosen the school dinner menu. Please find below what they have chosen for the last dinner of the school year.

Pizza

Chicken Korma

Jacket with Beans

Arctic Roll

Swimming **Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 children who can't swim 25 metres** – September



School swimming will continue to take place at Thirsk swimming pool. **Year 3, 4, 5 and Year 6 children who can't swim 25 metres, start on Wednesday 9th September.** School has had to make this decision due to the maximum number of children Thirsk swimming pool will take for lessons. 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 **£6.50 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.

Children who can swim 25 meters and above will stay at school and have P.E.

Ear-rings in PE

Please can I remind parents of the policy regarding the wearing of ear-rings in PE. Guidance was updated by the Association for PE a number of years ago.

All personal effects should be removed including earrings.

Newly pierced earrings can be removed after a 6-week healing duration. During this period students should be given alternative tasks within physical education such as officiating.

Students unable to remove earrings were previously permitted to make them safe by taping. The guidance on the aforementioned has now changed based on national advice issued by the Association for Physical Education (afPE) 2019. It is now felt that the taping of earrings 'creates a perception of safety and is not recommended', as there have been several incidences within the local authority where children's ears have been injured from earrings being pulled out from under the tape.

Teachers/TAs are not permitted to take out or replace children's earrings if they are unable to do so themselves, therefore, it would be helpful if earrings could be taken out at home on PE days.

If a child has recently had their ears pierced and is unable to remove their earrings, they will not be permitted to take part in the practical aspect of PE lessons for six weeks, after which time they will be expected to remove their earrings in order to participate in PE lessons. During this six-week period the child will be able to take on the role of umpire, referee or coach where appropriate.

Please be aware that this policy will be followed by school staff and Sport coaches.

If your child is going to have their ears pierced, please do so at the start of the summer holidays rather than during term time.

PE Days – next term

Please see below when your child / children are having PE next term.

EYFS: Please have PE kit in every day

Year 1 and 2: Tuesday and Thursday

Year 3 and 4: Monday and *Wednesday

Year 5 and 6: Tuesday and *Wednesday

***Children in Y3-6 who are swimming will need their swimming kit on Wednesdays – the children who are not swimming will need their PE kit.**

Summer Reading Challenge!

The Summer Reading Challenge, coordinated by The Reading Agency, is run in 95% of UK public libraries and is the biggest annual national reading initiative. Targeted at 4–11-year-olds, it runs in public libraries throughout the school summer holidays from the first Saturday in July.

The aim of the challenge is to encourage children and families to visit libraries, borrow books, read for pleasure, and enjoy stories together. Libraries offer a range of activities, events, and incentives designed to create excitement around reading and highlight the enjoyment of books and storytelling.

In addition to promoting reading for fun, the challenge helps children maintain and develop their reading skills over the summer break.

Read to the Beat! – 2026 Theme:

The 2026 theme, *Read to the Beat!*, sees The Reading Agency partnering with Universal Music Group UK.

This theme celebrates the connection between storytelling and music, with curated reading lists and activities exploring diverse musical genres and cultural influences.



This year's challenge also forms part of the government-led National Year of Reading, encouraging a renewed culture of reading for pleasure across the UK.

A representative from Boroughbridge library is coming into school tomorrow to talk to the children about this summer's reading challenge.

Autumn Term School Dinner Menu

Please find attached to this newsletter the new autumn term school dinner menu which will take effect in September and run through until February half term. Hard copies of the menu are available from Mrs McBride in the school office.

Term dates

Attached to this newsletter are the term dates for the 2026-27 academic year for your information and newly released dates for academic year 2027-28.

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: **Cow**



Here is a link to the Makaton site:

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

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 £2.40

Please note that the cost of a school dinner is £3.90 for children in Years 3-6.

The cost for the month of July for children in Year 3-6 will be £50.70 (13 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/>

Summer FEAST Activities – information from North Yorkshire

We have issued FEAST vouchers to all families whose children/young people receive benefits-related free school meals. These vouchers entitle your child to **fully-funded** places on FEAST activities this summer holiday, where they'll also receive a free heathy meal. You should have received this voucher via email or text, from a platform called HolidayActivities. Follow the link to redeem your voucher and book your child's place on some of the fantastic activities on offer in our area.

If you believe your child is eligible and you have not yet received your voucher, or you have lost it, please contact the school office.

To learn more about FEAST, and for information on activities, eligibility and how to manage your bookings, [visit the website](#).

[FEAST Summer 2026 Activity Listings](#)

[FEAST POSTER](#)

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 worked incredibly hard this year. They have shown dedication throughout the year across the curriculum. This person thrives in a challenge and enjoys getting stuck into some tricky Maths problems.



This person is a kind friend and we have enjoyed seeing their confidence grow and personality shine through.

We know you will go on to do great things at your new school and we wish you luck as you move into Year 7.

Congratulations and well done to

Samuel!



Ribbons



EYFS – This week the ribbon goes to someone who has had purpose in mind during their creative independent learning time. Making a magnificent semi-detached house out of junk modelling. Well done Ateca!

Year 1 / 2 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who has been working particularly hard in Maths. This person has listened carefully to the teaching input on subtraction and they have used the equipment carefully to exchange. Well done, Poppy!

Year 3 / 4 – This week the ribbon goes to someone who has made a super effort with their learning. This person's can-do attitude and enthusiasm towards their learning is wonderful to see. They are a kind and caring friend and we are lucky to have them in our class. Keep up the super work, Audrey!

Year 5 / 6 – The ribbon this week goes to someone who put their heart and soul into our production. This person sang their heart out, learnt many dances, sang beautifully and played their role amazingly. This person also gives their all in every lesson across the curriculum. We are so impressed with the year you have had - well done to Millie!

Values in Action

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

This person has been nominated because they are a kind friend and always show respect to me.

The values award goes to Oscar who was nominated by Elliot.

Well done, Oscar!



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 6th July 2026

Reception	Year 1 / 2	Year 3 / 4	Year 5 / 6
100%	92%	97%	96%



Leavers

Goodbye and Good Luck to all the children and families who are leaving Dishforth Airfield over the summer. It has been a pleasure to have the children in the school and we are all going to miss you!

I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work, dedication and commitment over the last year – we have a fabulous team of staff who work incredibly hard to ensure that the children have an exciting curriculum and make excellent progress.

On behalf of the staff and governors, may we wish you a relaxing, peaceful summer break. We look forward to seeing you all on Monday 7th September at 8.45am.

Kind regards,

Mrs Julie Lyon
Head Teacher

Diary Dates

July 2026	
13/7/26	Sports Day for children in Reception to Year 6 – 10.00am start School reports home
15/7/26	Year 6 Treat
16/7/26	Year 6 Leavers Service – afternoon
17/7/26	Promotional school dinner – Leavers' Lunch – Y6 choice Break-up for the Summer Holidays at 2.30pm
September 2026	
Monday 7th September	School open for the Autumn Term – all children in school (there is no training day on this day)
October 2026	
5/10/26	Honey Pots of Imagination workshops celebrating 100 years of Winnie the Pooh
20/10/26	Individual School Photograph morning
Thursday 22nd October	School closes for October half term at 3.15pm
Friday 23rd October	Staff training day – school closed to children
November 2026	
2/11/26	School open
2nd and 3rd November	Year 6 Bikeability – further details to follow
December 2026	
16/12/26	Christmas School Dinner
17/12/26	Christmas Party afternoon
18/12/26	Break-up for Christmas at 2.30pm
January 2027	
4/1/27	Staff training day – school closed to children
5/1/27	School open for the spring term