

Dishforth Airfield Community Primary School

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Newsletter 1 Monday 7th September 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back everyone – Happy New School Year!

The children have come to school looking very smart and ready for the new academic year. It is that time of year where the weather could do anything from being lovely and sunny to sharp showers. Please can I ask that if it is going to be hot (like it is this week) that the children have sun cream on them and, just in case, always bring a waterproof coat so that they can get outside for some fresh air.

The school day times are 8.45am – 3.15pm. Please can children arrive at 8.40am on the playground (no earlier) ready for learning to start at 8.45am – thank you.

A newsletter is published every week throughout the school year. These are e-mailed via Arbor or a hard copy can be given to you if you request it through the School Office. The newsletters are also always on our school website and in the playground in the display case. Please ensure that you read the newsletter every week as they contain essential up-to-date information. At the end of the newsletter there are diary dates which also change and are added to so please do check!

Attached to this newsletter are the following documents:

- Autumn Term School Dinner Menu which runs up to February half-term
- Parental Controls Booklet to support families setting up devices safely
- Online Safety Newsletter
- Term Dates for 2026-2027 and 2027-2028
- Guide for parents on school attendance
- Checklist for school food other than school lunch – new food standards in schools for your information
- Information for parents on Reception baseline

There are many events to look forward to this term and I will share these with you over the coming weeks, however, as this is the first newsletter of the year it is quite lengthy, so I suggest you make yourself a drink, sit down with a calendar or diary and read on!!



Welcome please

A very warm welcome to all the children and families who have joined us over the summer holidays:

Nursery (FS1) – Henry, Dougie, Albie, Freya and Grace

Reception (FS2) – Thomas, Teagan and Thomas

Year 1 - Nikhsham

Year 3 - Regan and Api

Year 5 - Lincoln and Brooklyn

Year 6 - Bobby

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 Cunningham (Friday)
Year 5 and 6:	Mrs Falco (Monday – Thursday), Miss Arnold (Friday) Mrs Kestell

Staff goodbyes:

We have said goodbye to Mrs Parker over the summer as she has moved to working with the Highways department at the council.

We are saying goodbye to Mrs Crabtree this Friday as she is moving to a Vets in Thirsk.

Also, on Friday we will be saying goodbye for a short time to Miss Arnold who is starting maternity leave.

We wish all the staff the very best of luck for the future!

Homework

At our school, we believe that children learn best when parents, the school and children work together in partnership. Home Learning should be a positive experience which is manageable, meaningful and enjoyable for parents, teachers and children.

Reading books will be prioritised this week in school and homework will be sent out later in the week for children in Years 1 – 6. All the details about homework will be in the homework book - please speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions / queries.

School Uniform

A reminder about school uniform:

Grey trousers/skirt

Red polo shirt

Navy blue embroidered school sweatshirt or cardigan (branded optional)

Grey / black socks

Black school shoes – not trainers

PE kit

White loose plain T-shirt (no logos)

Blue or black plain shorts (no logos)

Socks

Plimsolls or trainers

Children can wear a plain black or navy tracksuit in the colder months.



Earrings must be removed.

Please put your child's name in everything including shoes and trainers. School bags need to be small in size to fit in the cloakroom.

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 metres 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.

PE Days – this 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.)

Early Reading and Phonics Session for Reception Parents

Mrs Hutchinson will be holding a meeting about our phonics scheme, Read Write Inc. on **Thursday 17th September at 2.30pm**. All parents of children in Reception need to attend this session please.

Autumn Term Curriculum Class Newsletters

Curriculum Class newsletters which give information about the subjects and content which are to be taught this term will be sent out to families this week. The class newsletters will also be uploaded to the school website and will be available for reference for the whole term.

Online Safety Newsletter

Please find attached to this newsletter the September edition of the online safety newsletter for your information. There is useful information on managing parental controls, AI -manipulated images and You Tube.

Parents Evening

Parents Evening will be week commencing the 19th October – further details will follow in due course.

Reward System

Our reward system in school is that each class has a jar that will be filled with marbles in Year 1-6 and bugs in a jug in EYFS. Children can be awarded bugs or marbles for following the School's Expectations, working hard and showing good manners. When the jar is full the class can then decide with their teacher which reward they would like.

Celebration Assembly

Every Friday the school gathers together for a Celebration Assembly. This is an opportunity for the children to share something which they have worked on during the week. In addition to this, we also have birthday celebrations, award a ribbon to one child in each class for hard work and hand out a cup to a pupil who has impressed the staff at the school either for their work, attitude or behaviour. The cup is to be returned the following Thursday for the next assembly and the ribbons can be kept. I will publish who has been awarded the cup and ribbon in each newsletter.

We also have a school values award where the children can nominate who is to receive the award. This celebrates the recognition of children carrying out our school values which are: compassion, commitment, co-operation, respect, responsibility and resilience.

Bikes & Scooters

Children are welcome to ride these to school in a safe, considerate manner wearing a helmet. Once they arrive at the school gate, we ask that they dismount at the first gate and then park them in the cycle/scooter rack provided. ***They are not to ride them on the school drive or playground at any time for safety reasons – thank you.***

Collecting children at home time

If you have arranged for another person to collect your child / children from school, then please ensure you have communicated this to the class teacher and / or the office staff otherwise we won't let them leave school!

Sporting Influence

As a school, we work with Sporting Influence who provide staff development for PE in school as well as organising sporting competitions throughout the year that the school can participate in.

Some of the competitions allow mass participation and some competitions are for one team of seven children or five children from each school, depending on the nature of the sport.

The competitions Dishforth Airfield will take part in are all held at Outwood Academy Ripon.

Sporting Influence Club

In addition to the PE in school, staff development and competitions, Sporting Influence will also provide a club after school on a Tuesday from 3.15pm-4.00pm. The first club will be **Tchoukball** for the first half term for a maximum of 18 children from Key Stage 2. A letter will go out this week for the children to sign up. If more than 18 children want to take part then we will pull names out of a hat!



Clarinet Lessons – Year 5 and 6 children

All the Year 5 and 6 children will be learning to play the clarinet this year as part of their music lessons in school and funded by school. This is a super opportunity for the children to learn an instrument and develop their knowledge and understanding of reading music.

Music Service – Instrumental Information

There are leaflets available in school providing information about instrumental and vocal tuition and how to apply for lessons.

Parents can also go direct to the North Yorkshire Music Hub website to find out about the lessons that can be provided and use the online form to apply for lessons.

www.northyorkshiremusichub.co.uk

The website includes details of the tuition fees and information about benefits which will qualify for remissions.

Playtime Snack – fruit only

Children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 receive a free fruit snack every day which is Government funded. Children in Year 3-6 can bring a piece of fruit in from home to keep in the classroom for playtime. I strongly recommend that you send fruit in for children in Year 3-6 as they have a long morning and often need a snack. Please can this be put in their book bag and not their packed lunch box as it is easier for them to access at break time – thank you.

Milk

Children under 5 are entitled to Free Milk. Older children can also receive milk (at a charge) and orders are made by yourself through the Cool Milk website. Forms are available outside the office in the foyer.

Water Bottles

We have provided, free of charge, a water bottle for every child in the school so that all children can have access to water throughout the day. We will be responsible for cleaning the bottles and filling them each day so your child does not need to bring one in from home.

Absence and Punctuality

If your child is absent from school through illness or appointments, please can you phone the school as early as possible each day they are absent. It is important that we keep our records accurate.

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 95% attendance across the school year, and any child with less than 90% attendance is recorded as a persistent absentee.**

Please can you also ensure that your child arrives to school promptly for 8.40am ready for the bell to ring at 8.45am as lateness will be recorded.

Leave of Absence in Term Time

The Government implemented amendments to the regulations regarding holidays in term time a number of years ago. The amendments remove references to family holiday and extended leave as well as the threshold of ten school days. Therefore, Head Teachers will only be able to grant leave of absence in **exceptional circumstances. There is no 'Holiday' code for absences at any school. Please refer to the leave of absence forms which are located next to the school office for full details. If a form is required then it must be filled out at least six weeks in advance or the absence is unauthorised. If a child misses a minimum of 10 sessions (one session is half a day) through unauthorised absence, then this can result in a 'notice to improve' (previously known as a penalty notice) being issued by the Local Authority.**

New guidance from the government came into force in the summer of 2024. Please refer to the attachment for parents which is with this newsletter.

The full guidance for schools can be found on the link below:



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 September for children in Year 3-6 will be £70.20 (18 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.

Food Standards guidance from the government

Eating in school should be a pleasurable experience. These school food standards are designed to help children develop healthy eating habits, and ensure that they have the energy and nutrition they need to get the most from their whole school day. For further information, please refer to the government's practical guide by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-food-standards-resources-for-schools/school-food-standards-practical-guide>

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/>

Kind regards,

Mrs Julie Lyon
Head Teacher

Diary Dates

September 2026	
Monday 7th September	School open for the Autumn Term – all children in school (there is no training day on this day)
9th September	School swimming starts at Thirsk swimming pool
17th September	RWI phonic session for parents of children in Reception at 2.30pm
October 2026	
1/10/26	Promotional school dinner – Best of British
5/10/26	Honey Pots of Imagination workshops celebrating 100 years of Winnie the Pooh
20/10/26	Individual School Photograph morning Parent / teacher / child consultations
21/10/26	Parent / teacher / child consultations
Thursday 22nd October	Harvest Festivals – further information to follow 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