



DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pear Tree Lane

Dunnington

York YO19 5QG

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dunningtonprimary.school@york.gov.uk

www.dunningtonprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Clare Thompson

head.dunningtonprimary@york.gov.uk

Friday 14th March 2025

Dear parent/ carer,

OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

As a school, with the support of our amazing PTA, we have made the decision to invest in the OPAL programme. This programme operates on the principle that children not only learn in classrooms but also through play. 20% of a child's school time, equivalent to approximately 1.4 years of primary school, is dedicated to play. OPAL aims to ensure that this time and our school grounds are utilised to their fullest potential. The programme promises to sustainably improve the quality of play whilst also improving wellbeing, playtime behaviour and allowing children to develop skills such as cooperation, imagination, initiative, collaboration and risk taking.

The programme will run for approximately 18 months and includes:

- Observation and audits
- Development and action planning
- Risk management training
- Playwork essentials training
- An inset on play for all staff
- A parent meeting
- A grounds planning workshop
- Design advice

Throughout, we will be supported by a specialist team, including experts on risk and inclusion.

We are really excited about embarking on this programme and have a number of meetings scheduled, including a full audit of our grounds, before we begin next academic year with our inset on play.

At present we are trying to source resources to support the programme. The most urgent of these is outside storage. If anyone in the school community has an old shed/ outdoor storage that they no longer need, we would be very keen to take it off your hands. Alternatively, if anyone knows of anywhere where we can source affordable outdoor storage, we would love to hear about it – just let the school office know!

Prayer Spaces

Years 2-5 had a great time at St Nicholas Church this week creating prayer spaces with YOYO. They learnt that, if they choose to, there are many different ways to pray/ reflect and that they can do this in lots of creative ways.

They carried out a variety of activities linked to the story of David and Goliath. They made flowers (linked to compassion) where they thought about the qualities of one of their friends or a special person, made sunglasses to help them think about their own qualities and finally they made a pouch to carry little messages of reassurance to help them if challenges get too difficult.



Reverend Kath contacted me to let me know that the children had been great at engaging and that they were also super friendly and polite. Well done everyone!



RESPECT

Well done to Emily, Ceri, Alania, Fabian, Lexie, Jack and Alice and also to Henry, William, Sophie, Daria, Emily, Thomas, Luke and Pixie-Rose who have lived out our values over the last two weeks.



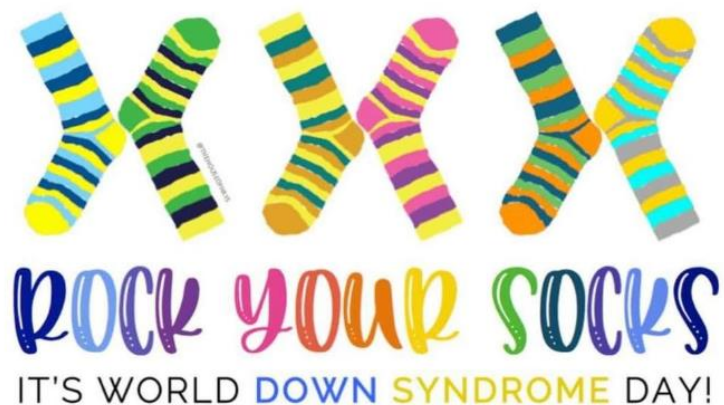
World Down Syndrome Day

Next Friday, the 21st March, is World Down Syndrome Day. Here at Dunnington we intend to celebrate the vibrant theme of World Down Syndrome Day by wearing brightly coloured or mismatched socks! This fun and playful gesture symbolises the uniqueness of individuals with Down Syndrome.

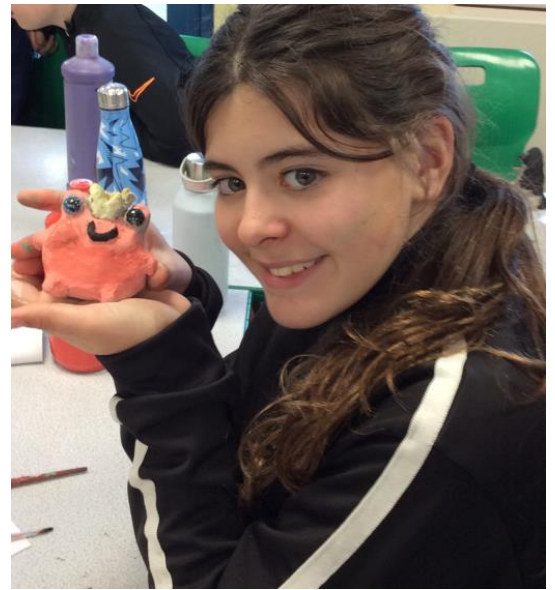
Whilst not compulsory, we are inviting everyone in the school community to join the celebration and encourage everyone around you to wear their most fabulous socks!

We will also hold an assembly to help the children understand what Down Syndrome is, to celebrate the differences we all have, to recognise that when a person has Down Syndrome, it is just one small part of who they are and to consider the importance of being a good friend.

Please note – children will be wearing normal school uniform/ PE kit alongside their spectacular socks!



The year 6s have produced some fabulous flamimals and dioramas in recent weeks. What a talented bunch they are!



Dates for your Diary

New dates will be added in bold each week

March 2025	
Swimming catch up for years 5 and 6	Tuesday afternoons
Parent Consultations	Tuesday 18 th March (until 7pm) Wednesday 19 th March (until 6pm) Thursday 20 th March (until 6pm) <i>Teachers will be available on two out of the three nights.</i>
Down Syndrome Awareness Day	Friday 21 st March 2025
Year 3 and 4 Production	Wednesday 26 th March 2025 (6pm)

	Thursday 27 th March 2025 (6pm)
Friday 28 th March	Yoyo assembly and workshops for year 2 and 5
April 2025	
Year 5 Virtual Reality Space and Robotics Day	Tuesday 1 st April 2025
Autism Awareness Day	Wednesday 2 nd April 2025
Easter Church Services	Thursday 3 rd April 2025 10 am KS1 11am KS2
Easter Disco	Thursday 3 rd April 2025
School closes for Easter	Friday 4 th April 2025

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. Don't forget to book your parent evening slot before Monday at 12.

With very best wishes,

Clare Thompson

Links/ Attachments:

- **York Families Newsletter**
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKYC/bulletins/3d645af>

Dunnington Girls' Football Team

The Dunnington Girls' Football Team is currently looking for new players from year 4 and year 5. Training sessions take place on Wednesday evenings and matches are held on Saturday mornings. All girls who are interested in joining and being part of a fun, supportive team environment are welcome.

If you are interested, please get in touch with the school office, and we will pass on the relevant details.

Help us build our

EASTER GARDENS

Wed 16th April 10am

St Nicholas Dunnington

Thurs 17th April 9.30am

St Mary Warthill



Join us for

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 30th March 10.30am

at St Nicholas Dunnington or St Mary Warthill

In our shorter, all-age informal services we'll be celebrating Mums, those who are like Mums to us and those who parent us in faith

DISCOVER EASTER

Thursday 10th April 2025

2-4pm

St Nicholas Church Dunnington



Learn about the Easter story as you...

decorate a Palm Sunday rock

add figures to our Easter story scenes

make an Easter garden

join a short worship time with

Reverend Kath.

There will be toddler toys, games and lego. As well as drinks, biscuits and of course.... Easter eggs.



Children of all ages are welcome accompanied by an adult. There is no need to book a place or pay.





DUNNINGTON WI



invites you to a free talk

‘Wills, Lasting Power of Attorney and other related matters’

given by Fiona McCulloch
of York Citizens’ Advice

Tuesday 8th April @ 6:30 pm

Dunnington Reading Room

Everyone is welcome



DUNNINGTON W.I.

There’s a lot more to the Women’s Institute than you think....



National Campaigns

Dental Health Matters
Stop Modern Slavery
Clean Rivers for People & Wildlife
No More Violence Against Women

Recent Outings

Ripon
Museum of the Royal Navy
Stamford Bridge Tapestry
Allerton Waste Recovery Plant
Christmas Dinner @ The Marina
Coxwolds holiday

Community

Afternoon Teas
Music Quiz
Village Show
Tree/Bulb Planting
Talk on Wills, etc.

Coming Up

Ceilidh
Federation Ramble/Lunch
Summer Outing to Richmond
‘Warhorse’ theatre trip
90th Anniversary celebrations

Recent Workshops/Tasters

Blacksmithing Axe Throwing
Crewel Embroidery
Gliding Paddleboarding
Amigurumi Crochet Gouache Painting
Pétanque

Regular Events

Guest Speakers Quizzes
Board Games Nights
Film & Theatre Visits
Lunches Craft Sessions

Find out more about joining the W.I.  chris.dunningtonwi@gmail.com  07546 224778



THE LITTLE GYM CAMPS

FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-12 YEARS

Our next camps are: 7th - 20th April

Scan below to learn more or contact: 01904 307404
york@thelittlegym.co.uk



The Little
gym[®]
Serious Fun.

