



DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pear Tree Lane

Dunnington

York YO19 5QG

Tel 01904 552910

dunningtonprimary.school@york.gov.uk

www.dunningtonprimary.co.uk

Headteacher: Clare Thompson

head.dunningtonprimary@york.gov.uk

Friday 12th September 2025

Dear parent/ carer,

It really has been wonderful to welcome the children and staff back to school since the start of September. We have been unbelievably impressed with the way the children have settled into their new classes and we have no doubt that we are set for another great year ahead.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new children and their families who have joined Dunnington CE Primary School this year. We look forward to getting to know you and helping you to settle into our school community. The new reception cohort have taken everything in their stride and they should be so proud of themselves!



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I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of everyone who works in the school, to pass on a very big thank you to the children and families for all the cards, letters and gifts received at the end of last term. They were incredibly kind and very much appreciated.

Welcome Meetings

Our welcome meetings will be held at 4:30pm on the following evenings:

Key Stage Two Owens, Yousafzai and Turing Class	Key Stage One Attenborough and Jemison Class	EYFS Anning Class
Tuesday 16th September @ 4:30pm	Thursday 18th September @ 4:30pm	Wednesday 24th September @ 4:30pm <i>This meeting will have a phonics focus.</i>

Access to these meetings will be via the main entrance to the school. We will meet in the hall initially and then there will be the opportunity to visit your child's classroom and ask any additional questions.

Information will also be sent out in a class newsletter and published on the school website for those unable to attend.

We have had some feedback that some parents/ carers were disappointed the meetings had moved to 4:30pm from 6pm. We are sorry if this has caused inconvenience to anyone – many of us are working parents ourselves and really do understand how challenging it can be to balance both roles. We felt that moving the meetings to 4:30 would give most parents the opportunity to attend at the end of the working day, but would not infringe on tea time, bath time and bedtime routines.

Whilst we are unable to repeat the meeting, please don't hesitate to contact me if you are unable to attend and have any further questions after receiving the materials shared following the meeting. As always, we are happy to answer any queries you have.

Entry and Exit for Owens Class

From Monday, the year 4 children in Owens Class will be able to choose which door they enter school from – they are welcome to come in via the door they have been using so far this term, or via the door they used last year. We ask that the year 3 children continue to use the door in the small playground to enter school.

As the small school playground is rather congested at the end of the day, the whole of Owens class will now exit via the door used by Yousafzai and Turing class which leads out into the school car park.

Please do not worry if you have children in more than one class and need to move between the playgrounds at pick up or drop off time. We understand that this is inevitable and staff are more than happy to stay with the children until they are picked up.

We also ask that no one cuts through the small car park at the front of school at either pick up or drop off time – cars may be coming and going at this time and it is important that everyone stays safe by using the pavement and paths.

Medical Conditions and Allergies

Please let the school office know if there are updates regarding allergies or medical conditions for your child.

Water Bottles

The children are encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the school day so please ensure they have a named water bottle in school. Please encourage your child to bring their bottles home daily for a good wash!

Nut Free Zone

Please remember that we are a 'nut free zone'. This is because we have a number of children in school who have a severe nut allergy. We therefore ask that all parents avoid putting nuts or any product that contains whole nuts into packed lunches. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Birthdays

Children are welcome to wear non-uniform on their birthdays or on the school day that is nearest their birthday if it falls during a weekend/ school holiday.

Occasionally children have brought treats and sweets in from holidays and birthdays to share with their friends. Whilst we appreciate this is a really kind gesture, some parents would rather their children didn't eat sweets and others have food intolerances/allergies. We therefore request that children don't bring treats into school to share.

Bringing Cycles and Scooters to School/ Playground equipment before/ after school

Many children bring their cycles and scooters to school, which is a brilliant, healthy form of transport. In order to keep everybody safe, we ask that children dismount their cycles and scooters before they enter the school gates and walk them to the scooter parks and cycle sheds sensibly. Please do not allow your child to scoot or cycle in the playgrounds before or after school.

We also ask that children do not play with any of the equipment on the field, such as tyres, at the beginning or end of the school day.

Parking around School

It is really important that cars do not park/ drop-off on the double yellow lines or zig zags or block neighbouring driveways. Doing this makes it difficult for children to see and dangerous to cross near our school. Your help and consideration would be very much appreciated. For parents new to the school, please be aware that Hunter's Way is a private road - please refrain from parking down that street.

School Staff

Please find below updated information on our current staff roles:

	Mrs Thompson	Headteacher
EYFS	Mrs Elliot Mrs Downing Mrs Midgley	Senior Leader and Reception Teacher Teaching Assistants
Year 1	Mrs Priest Mr Gargiulo	Senior Leader and Year 1 (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) Senior Leader and Year 1 teacher (Wednesday)
Year 2	Mr Gargiulo Mrs Rowntree Mrs Perks	Senior Leader and Year 2 teacher (Monday-Tuesday) Year 2 teacher (Wednesday - Friday) Teaching Assistant
Year 3 / 4	Mrs Todd Mrs Jones Mrs Cathcart Mrs Collins	Year 3 / 4 Teacher (Monday – Wednesday) Year 3 / 4 Teacher (Thursday - Friday) Teaching Assistants
Year 4 / 5	Mrs Bradley	Senior Leader and Year 4 / 5 Teacher
Year 5 / 6	Miss Dickenson Mr Gargiulo	Senior Leader and Year 5 / 6 Teacher (Monday – Thursday) Senior Leader and Year 5 / 6 Teacher (Friday)
	Mrs Lockwood	HLTA – PPA cover and support in KS2 (Tuesday – Friday)
	Mr Sellers	Sports Coach (Wednesday)
	Mrs Allen	SENCO <i>(Mrs Allen will work in school one day a week. She is currently off work and Mrs Thompson will be fulfilling SENCO duties in the short term until she is able to return. This will mean there continues to be a qualified SENCO in school as Mrs Thompson has this qualification and lots of experience in the role)</i>
	Mrs Pearce Miss Hutchinson	School Business Manager School Administrator

If you have a message for your child's teacher, please email or call the school office (dunningtonprimary.school@york.gov.uk/01904 552910). The office will pass on the message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

We encourage staff to not send emails at weekends or between the hours of 5pm and 8am, to ensure a better work-life balance.

OPAL

One of the main areas of school improvement we are focussing on this year is improving the playtime and lunchtime experience for all children.

The 'Outdoor Play and Learning' (OPAL) initiative was officially introduced on 1st September during a session attended by all staff. The foundations for this were laid throughout Summer 2025 – we are so grateful to any of you who have contributed items to school to support this.

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Through the OPAL programme we aim to ensure that playtime and lunchtime, which accounts for 20% of a child's time at school, are used to their fullest potential, sustainably improving the quality of play whilst also improving wellbeing, playtime behaviour and developing skills such as cooperation, imagination, initiative and risk-taking. We believe that in today's society, where children perhaps do not spend as much time outside and playing as they previously did, it is more important than ever to develop these skills.

We have created a grounds plan, which details what we want our playtime to deliver by the end of this academic year, once all staff have had all of the necessary play work and risk training.



By the end of this term we hope to have the following in place:

- Covered welly storage
- Performance area with outdoor speakers and dressing up opportunities
- Logs and tyres creating a range of social spaces
- Slack lines and den building opportunities around existing tress
- Cosy chill out space in gazebo
- Digging area and mud kitchens
- Wheels
- Messy play and small world tuff trays
- Natural loose parts
- Planting area for Spring bulbs

In the Spring, we hope to add:

- Large loose parts construction
- Sandpit
- Tree Swings
- A wow social space
- Re-wilding areas
- Permanent mud kitchen with herb planters
- Opening up a forest school in our unused wildlife area
- Water features and play
- Willow structures

In the summer, we hope to add even more excitement, including:

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- roll over bars for the trim trail
- topography (mounds, tunnels, boulders)
- slides and steps
- sensory paths and journeys between zones
- imaginative playscapes (art, imagery, magical)
- foraging (apple, blackberries, elderflower, sloe)

All of this will be alongside traditional playground games, such as football, which will always be available to the children.

So far, we have introduced a range of tyres, opened the digging area and temporary mud kitchens and given the children access to cardboard to play and create with. We introduced small world play today. It is early days, but the children appear to be loving what is available so far, as are all of the staff.

As always, if you feel you have any resources or expertise to support us, we would love to hear from you.



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Year 5 trip to Murton Park

Year 5 had a fabulous time at Murton Park on Tuesday, learning about life in Anglo-Saxon times. They all enjoyed looking at historical housing and artefacts, making candles, playing dice games, writing illuminated letters, dressing up...and running with shields and spears!



Dates for your Diary

New dates will be added in bold each week

September 2025	
Luke Charters Visit	Friday 12 th September 2025
Welcome Meeting - Owens Class Yousafzai Class Turing Class	Tuesday 16 th September @ 4:30pm.
Welcome meeting – Attenborough Class Jemison Class	Thursday 18 th September @ 4:30pm

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NSPCC Workshops for years 2, 5 and 6	Friday 19 th September 2025
Welcome meeting – Anning Class	Wednesday 24 th September @ 4:30pm <i>This meeting will have a phonics focus.</i>
October 2025	
Harvest Service in St Nicholas Church	Tuesday 7th October 2025 KS1 10 am KS2 11 am
Last Day of Autumn 1 for children	Thursday 23 rd October 2025
School Disco	Thursday 23 rd October 2025 – timings TBC
Inset Day – no children in school Break up for half term	Friday 24 th October 2025
November 2025	
Children return to school	Monday 3 rd November 2025
Individual school photos	Thursday 13 th November 2025
Parent Consultations	Tuesday 18th November Wednesday 19th November Thursday 20th November <i>These will be in person in the school hall. Teachers will be available on 2 of the 3 evenings.</i>
December 2025 2025	
Tree Decorating Assembly	Monday 1 st December 2025
Flu vaccinations	Tuesday 2 nd December 2025
Christmas Service in St Nicholas Church	Thursday 18th December 2025 KS1 10 am KS2 11 am
Last day of the Autumn Term	Friday 19 th December 2025

The date and timings for the EYFS and KS1 Nativity will be shared next week.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

With very best wishes,

Clare Thompson

Attachments:

- Parent Carer Forum Newsletter
- Yorkshire Learning Trust Safeguarding Newsletter for Parents
- Brightsparks Parenting Toolbox - <https://www.brightsparkscic.org.uk/the-parenting-toolbox>
- Families Newsletter - <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKYC/bulletins/3f1ca64>

Violin and Recorder lessons - with Imogen Clarke

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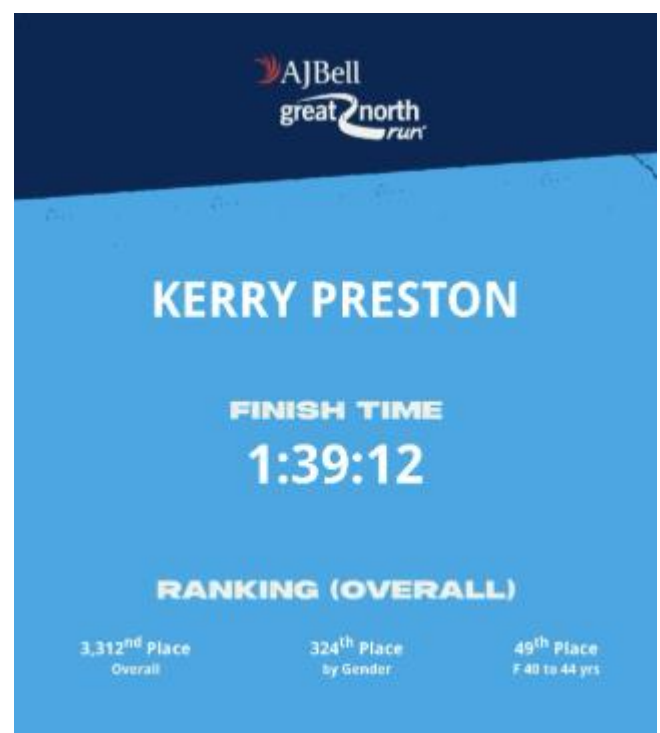
Imogen has several spaces available for new pupils on recorder or violin. Various different lesson options are available, as well as instrument hire. Please email ivc.clarke@gmail.com or call 07927752203 for more information.

Congratulations to Kerry, who completed the Great North Run in an amazing time, raising money for Oscars – this year's school charity

I successfully completed the GNR on Sunday and have raised £616 for Oscars so far and my employer (Aviva) will match up to £1,000.

The page is still open for donations if anyone wants to contribute.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/kerry-preston-gnr>





DUNNINGTON W.I. invite you to a

CEILIDH

with band Alterego + caller

Tickets £10.00 adult / £5 child

from Dunnington Newsagents or call Christine on 07546 224778

Saturday 13th September 2025 @ 7:30pm

at Dunnington Reading Room

Bring your own refreshments

Meet Children's Author Tom Palmer

Saturday 13 September 2025

10.30-11.30 am



The Blue House Bookshop 10 Bootham, York YO30 7BL



Register for our
Open Days





Find out more about the opportunities
St Peter's can give your child

Open Events

17 September 2025 - Sixth Form
20 September 2025 - Senior School



REGISTER

Co-educational | Bursaries available from 11+

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Parent Carer Forum York

We offer a **monthly events programme** during term time for parents and carers of children and young people with additional needs in York, with or without a diagnosis.

We look forward to welcoming you!



CUPPA AND CHAT

Join us at home with your cuppa to connect with others in our parent carer community, to share, celebrate, offload, ask questions and receive support.

- **First Monday in every month**, online from 7:00pm
- Email connect@pcforyork.co.uk for the meeting link.



PARENT CARER WELLBEING

Meet us for some light relief, to have a giggle, share some positives, talk to other parent carers, maybe learn a craft and enjoy a cuppa - on us!

- **First Tuesday in every month**, 10:30am - 12:00pm
- at New Earswick Folk Hall.



NEW TO SEND SIGNPOSTING

If you are new to the world of SEND or perhaps are new to living in York, join us online to find out what parent carers tell us are the most useful resources.

- **First Wednesday in every month**, online from 6:30pm
- Email connect@pcforyork.co.uk for the meeting link.



PARENT CARER VOICE

Meet other parent carers to discuss any issues you are having, receive support and find understanding in a safe, non-judgemental place.

- **Third Thursday in every month**, 10:30am - 12:00pm
- at SEND entral, Clifton Green Children's Centre.



LISTENING EVENTS

Join us to find out more about SEND services and updates, hear from key speakers, ask your questions and provide feedback to inform decisions about SEND services in York.

- **Monthly on varying dates**, online from 6.30pm
- Full detail on website Email connect@pcforyork.co.uk for the meeting link.



www.parentcarerforumyork.org



www.facebook.com/groups/pcforyork



YORK BOARD GAMES CONVENTION

St Peter's School, YO30 6AB
24TH - 26TH OCT 2025

YBGC.CO.UK

Exhibitors
Bring & Buy
The Forge (RPGs)
Games library
Giant Games
Clocktower

supported by
hachette
BOARDGAMES UK
I G

scan for tickets!

