



DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dunnington

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Headteacher: Clare Thompson

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Friday 19th September 2025

Dear parent/ carer,

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the KS1 and KS2 class welcome meetings this week – it was lovely to have you in school, to be able to show you the classrooms and to be able to share exciting plans for the year ahead. The slides shared during the meetings will be sent out with this newsletter and relevant information will be added to the class pages on the school website over the next couple of weeks.

If you do have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself via the school office (email address listed above).

We are looking forward to the Anning Class meeting which is on Wednesday 24th September at 4:30pm. Mrs Elliott will particularly focus on our approach to teaching phonics during this meeting.

School Improvement 2025-2026

We are really proud of the progress we have made towards our school improvement drivers in recent years – school is a really happy place to be where the children continue to excel both socially and academically, as demonstrated by our wonderful results in KS2 last year.

We are determined to build on these successes this year, and our current drivers for school improvement are:

Quality of Education:

- Conduct a full review of the curriculum to ensure it is sustainable for new and evolving class structure, is a curriculum for Dunnington and ensures the progressive acquisition of disciplinary and substantive knowledge across all year groups.
- Increased number of children achieving greater depth in writing.

Behaviour and Attitudes:

- Embed culture of inclusion to ensure all children feel a sense of belonging at Dunnington Primary School.

Personal Development:

- Become an OPAL school, improving the playtime and lunchtime experience for all children.

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- Improve attendance of our most vulnerable learners.

Leadership and Management:

- Evaluate the impact of new curriculum plans within the classroom.
- Ensure everyone within the school community understands how our vision is the driver for all that we do.

Early Years:

- Develop outdoor provision in EYFS.

We will update you on the progress towards these drivers through the year.

Curriculum

We have already done lots of work on our curriculum to make it:

- sustainable for our new class structure,
- a curriculum for Dunnington which focuses on the people, places and events most relevant to our pupils whilst identifying and concentrating on potential gaps in their knowledge and cultural experiences,
- ensure the progressive acquisition of both substantive and disciplinary knowledge across year groups.

We have invested in resources created by Chris Quigley to support us with curriculum planning and we spent a lot of time before the summer and during the summer holidays producing curriculum plans that we are genuinely excited about delivering.

Principles behind the plans in history, geography, science and RE:

- Children will cover a range of micro-topics, which are revisited across a key stage, reinforcing concepts and knowledge and allowing children to make links, connections and transfer knowledge into long term memory.
- Over a key stage, pupils will look at different aspects of a topic in different classes, allowing them to move from a basic, to advancing, to deep knowledge.
- Repetition of content is important so that pupils:
 - retain knowledge
 - gain a gradual growing understanding of key concepts over time, rather than in a fixed block of time
 - re-visit the same knowledge, deepening understanding each time through carefully planned activities that advance their understanding.

Other Subjects

For other foundation subjects, we will continue to use our existing progression grids to focus on the skills and knowledge children should acquire in each key stage and target each year group as appropriate.

We will also look for possible opportunities for children to be taught in year groups, for example, we are looking to have DT days/ weeks at the end of a topic/ term where we will group children into year groups to complete some project-based work.

English and Maths

We are not changing the way these subjects are taught and year groups will be targeted within their classes.

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We will continue to use the NCETM spines to deliver maths, teaching the children the objectives within their year group. We will continue to follow the Ashley Booth Reading Curriculum, covering fiction and non-fiction texts whilst selecting other high-quality texts to fit in with curriculum areas as appropriate. We will continue to use the principles of the York Writing Project to teach writing with a renewed focus on genre and grammatical progression across year groups in order to allow more children to achieve greater depth in this subject.

Monitoring

One of the key objectives of our school development plan is for leaders to evaluate the impact of the new curriculum plans within the classroom.

Staff meeting time has been dedicated to planning units of work together to ensure the long-term plans are followed and that plans are ambitious and progressive. Time has been dedicated to look at books, conduct learning walks and gather staff and pupil voice to regularly evaluate the impact of these plans across the curriculum. Yorkshire Learning Trust will conduct peer reviews this term and later in the year to evaluate the impact and implementation of these plans.

We will share the outcomes of this monitoring and let you know what next steps are in place.

Luke Charters Visit

Last Friday, we were visited by our MP, Luke Charters.

Luke said:

"It was fantastic to meet with Headteacher Clare Thompson, her staff and many students at Dunnington Primary School last week.

After a busy week, I was glad that the quizzing didn't stop on Friday! The Year 5s and 6s asked thoughtful and challenging questions about Parliament, our community, and the future, it's inspiring to see such curiosity and engagement at such a young age."

It is wonderful to hear what a brilliant job our year 5 and 6 pupils did – we would expect nothing less!

Luke watched our Friday Celebration Assembly where he heard of all the wonderful ways our children uphold our school values. We talked about OPAL and Luke was really interested in everything the school is doing to develop outdoor play and learning. He has asked to visit again in the Spring term to see how our plans have moved forward and he has promised to bring his wellies so he can get stuck in!

Thank you to Mrs Todd for all her hard work arranging this visit.



RESPECT

We aim for our children at Dunnington CE Primary School to grow and learn together to be the best that they can be, in an environment based on Christian Values. Children learn to be **responsible**, to **enjoy** all aspects of their time in school, to feel safe and **secure**, to be consistently **polite** to all around them, to put in appropriate **effort** to all that they do, to **care** for everybody else within and beyond the school community and to **tolerate** and celebrate all differences. The children remember these values through the acronym **RESPECT**; those particularly epitomising them are celebrated in Collective Worship each Friday. This ensures children understand how to live out our values across a range of contexts and even during the most challenging of times. It is no exaggeration to say that most children could be picked every week!

Teachers found it particularly hard to select this week's children, as they have all had such a fantastic start to the school year. However, a few did particularly stand out: well done to Cassie, Ralph, Naomi, Wren, Riley, Olivia and Glenn – we are so proud of you!



A big thank you to local charity, **Edible York**, who provided the children in KS2 with some apples this week. They support the creation of communal growing spaces and also organise community harvesting through our Abundance project. This is where they pick and distribute fruit from local trees, so it can be put to good use, rather than going to waste. This typically saves and shares about 10,000 apples a year - all local, organic, and often including some rare and delicious varieties.

Choir - A message from Mrs Oldfield:

Dear parents/carers, please note the choir will take place on Monday mornings at 8am from next week (22nd September). Choir will continue on Mondays until half term with the last one being Monday 20th October.

Any new KS2 children who would like to join the choir are very welcome. Please email me on bek_19@hotmail.com to let me know they are interested.

Security Alert – Parentpay

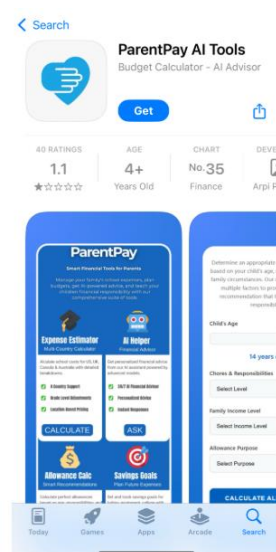
We have been made aware of a fraudulent app currently available on app stores that parents may need to be aware of.

The app mimics ParentPay's branding, but it is not affiliated with ParentPay. ParentPay has stated that it will release an app later this year, but it is not currently available.

Here is a screenshot of the fake app listing for your reference.

We understand that ParentPay may be sending out alerts to clients about this issue.

Please ensure you do not download this app or any other similar apps claiming to be affiliated with ParentPay. ParentPay will contact its customers when its new app goes live.



Dates for your Diary

New dates will be added in bold each week

September 2025	
Welcome meeting – Anning Class	Wednesday 24 th September @ 4:30pm <i>This meeting will have a phonics focus.</i>
NSPCC Workshops for years 2, 5 and 6	Friday 26 th September 2025
October 2025	
Harvest Service in St Nicholas Church If anyone could help us walk to and from church we would be really appreciative. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are available.	Tuesday 7 th 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

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November 2025	
Children return to school	Monday 3 rd November 2025
Individual school photos	Thursday 13 th November 2025
Parent Consultations	Tuesday 18 th November Wednesday 19 th November Thursday 20 th November <i>These will be in person in the school hall. Teachers will be available on 2 of the 3 evenings.</i>
Open Evening for New Starters September 2026	Tuesday 25th November 4pm – 5pm Please spread the word!
December 2025 2025	
Tree Decorating Assembly	Monday 1 st December 2025
Flu vaccinations	Tuesday 2 nd December 2025
EYFS and KS1 Nativity	Tuesday 9th December – Dress Rehearsal Performances for parents and carers on Wednesday 10th December @ 2pm
Christmas Service in St Nicholas Church	Thursday 18 th December 2025 KS1 10 am KS2 11 am
Last day of the Autumn Term	Friday 19 th December 2025

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

With very best wishes,

Clare Thompson

Attachments:

- **KS1 presentation**
- **KS2 presentation**
- **What parents and carers need to know about Snapchat**
- **KS1 Welcome Letter**