



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 November 2025

Dear parent/ carer,

Parent/Carer Consultations

Thank you to all of you who have booked appointments for parent/ carer consultations. I am so sorry we had to delete the original bookings; we really do appreciate your patience, understanding and cooperation in re-booking appointments.

In response to parent voice gathered last year, the consultations are face to face this year and will take place in the school hall. Teachers will be sitting around the side of the hall and benches will be situated in the middle of the hall where you will be able to wait for your appointment, where children will be able to sit if they need to accompany you and for you to look through your children's books after your appointment. Please enter school via the main entrance, which we will leave open, and make your way through to the school hall.

The appointments are ten minutes long – we do need to be tight on timings to avoid impacting on other people's appointments. If your child is on the Special Educational Needs register, you should have been contacted to book a longer or separate appointment to review their Individual Education Plan (IEP). Please do let us know if an appointment for this has not yet been scheduled so that we can facilitate it.

Clubs next week

There have had to be some changes to clubs next week as a result of parent/ carer consultations. Multiskills will go ahead on Wednesday, but it will be outdoors so please ensure your child has their outdoor PE kit, and dance will be held in the classroom next to year 2 on Thursday.

Staffing

We successfully appointed a teacher to cover Mrs Bradley's maternity leave before the half-term. Mrs Pilkington performed brilliantly in both her lesson and interview, showing real alignment with our vision and related values: we are certain she will be a fantastic member of the team. Mrs Bradley is intending to teach up until Christmas and Mrs Pilkington will take up her post from after Christmas.

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We have arranged a number of visits between now and Christmas so that Mrs Bradley is able to handover to Mrs Pilkington and so Mrs Pilkington has the opportunity to get to know the children really well.

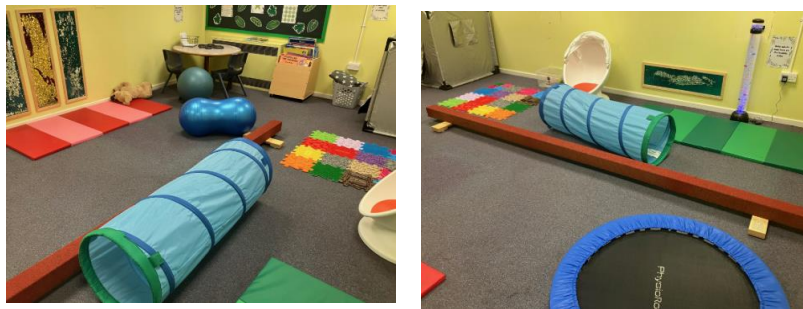
Mrs Elliott is recovering well and missing everyone at school. She is hoping to return to work after the Christmas Holidays. Mrs Lawrence will continue to teach the reception class alongside Mr Gargiulo until Mrs Elliott returns.

PTA: What a great year of fundraising!

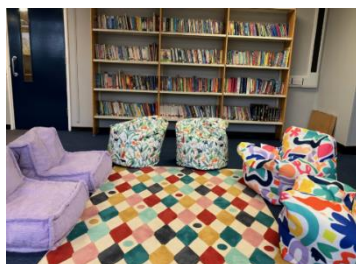
I would just like to thank each and everyone of you who were able to support the PTA either through volunteering or through spending money at the various events over the past year. You have helped to raise a lot of money and this has all gone back into the school to support the pupils with their education and enrichment.

Because of the money raised last year via the PTA, we have been able to create two new areas in school - a sensory room and a library.

The sensory area that we have managed to create is already providing the necessary space for pupils to interact with. We were able to buy a range of different sensory items such as a black out tent, bubble tube and sensory boards for hands and feet. It is a lovely and calm place that all children can use and access.



The library has been created in what was an unused classroom. The large space is perfect for the library and we are now able to take whole classes in at a time. Children have the space to relax and read as a group or enjoy a book alone in a quiet and calm spot. The funds raised have helped to buy colourful rugs, squishy beanbags and soft cushions to make a few cosy reading nooks. We have also purchased new chairs for children to use when they are sat in the library for studying. We know that the library will be well used and loved by all.



The funds raised by the PTA have also been used to pay for part of our OPAL program. OPAL is already having a huge impact on the quality of outdoor play and all children are thoroughly enjoying exploring our grounds and playing - even in the rain!

(Please note that there will be an OPAL progress update in the coming weeks!)

This year all events will be focused on raising funds to purchase new Chromebooks, more books for Little Wandle, which support our phonics education, and also a range of specialty bikes to develop gross motor skills as part of our OPAL provision.

A huge thank you to everyone who continues to be a part of and supports the PTA - all the staff greatly appreciate your hard work and dedication to our school. Every pound spent at an event, is helping to grow our provision available for all pupils. You are all wonderful!

Many thanks, Mrs Priest and the team at Dunnington

Bookmarks for all -

To celebrate the opening of our library, Nola, a pupil in yr5 who has a keen interest in illustration and art, has been busy making handmade bookmarks. Each is based on a recommended reading book available in the school library. These bookmarks are available in the library and pupils can choose which they would like to take home and use when reading.

Thank you Nola for all your hard work creating a wonderful token for all pupils to celebrate our library opening!



OPAL – Wheels

From next week, the children will be able to use a range of ride on toys such as scooters in a designated area of the playground. We showed the children how to use these safely in assembly today and explained where they could be used as well as speed expectations.

Children will not be wearing helmets whilst on these ride ons. This follows OPAL guidance, which states that as the children will not be near a road or riding at speed it is safer for them to be helmet-less rather than wear a potentially badly fitted helmet.

OPAL produce clear guidance on a range of activities such as this which we make sure we take on board when completing our risk assessments – if you ever have any questions about this please don't hesitate to ask.

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Attendance

We were really pleased to receive an email from the DFE this week naming us as a high performer for attendance compared to a group of similar schools. It said that our attendance outcomes are amongst the strongest in overall attendance and persistent absence and that we have been named so that other schools can seek advice from us.

We work really hard to make school a happy place where every child feels valued and welcomed and we were pleased to see this reflected in our attendance figures.

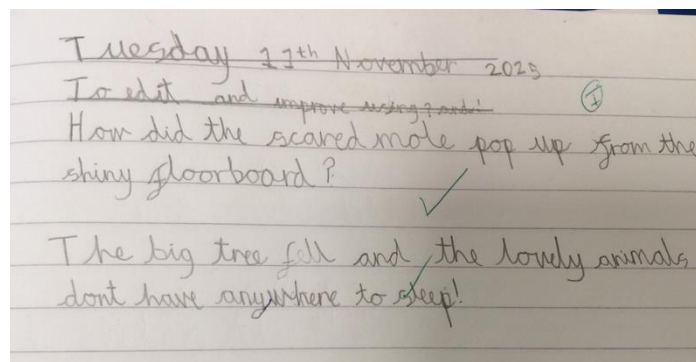
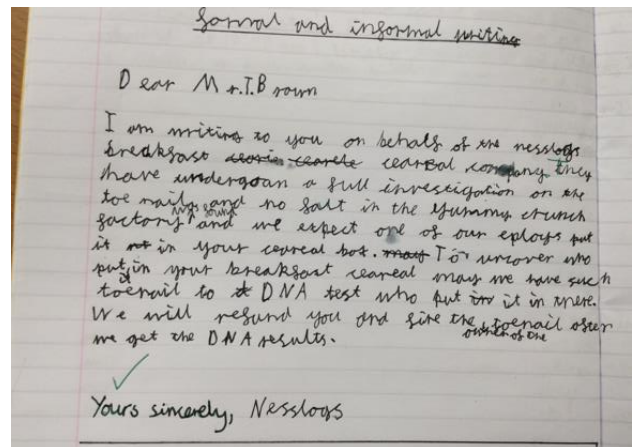
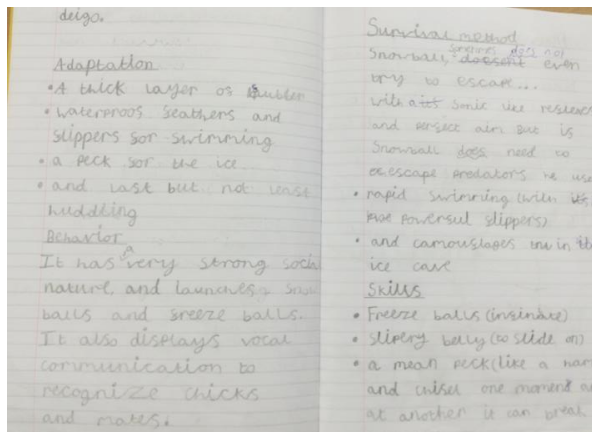
If you ever have any concerns or need any support with anything linked to your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Writing

Mrs Bradley has been looking at writing across the school this week and she has been incredibly impressed by what she has seen. There is brilliant writing going on around the school as a result of really effective teaching. The children are excited about what they were writing and have a real enjoyment of the subject, which is not always seen in every school.

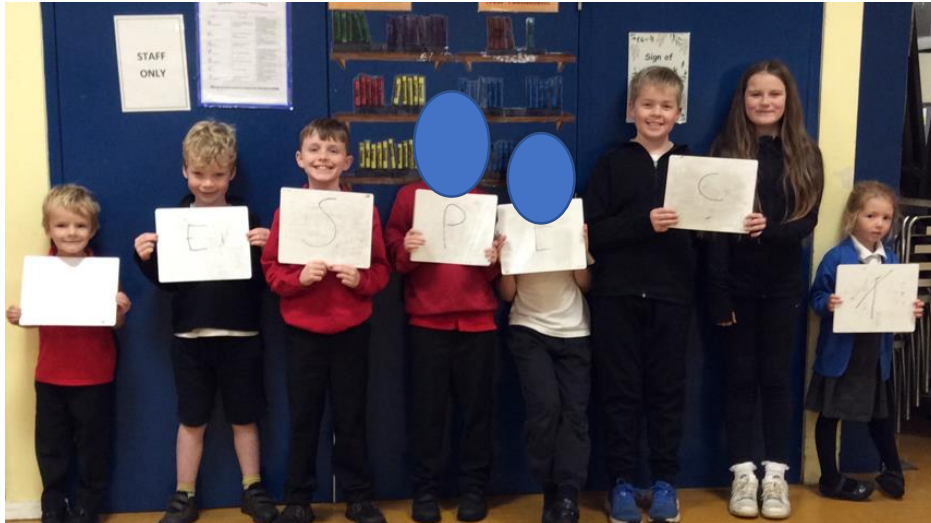
Areas of strength include creativity, vocabulary, topic choices that excite the children and excellent modelling by teachers.

There are always areas to work on – in particular we are going to have a look at our approach to handwriting to make sure that handwriting does not become a barrier for children as they become older.



Nine Edges Challenge: The challenge is taking place on May 3rd, which is the anniversary of Oscar's death. It is open to anyone age 5 and up. Details are here: <https://oscarscharity.org/events/nine-edges-challenge/>

RESPECT



Congratulations to this week's **RESPECT** children – making us so proud in so many different ways.

BRAND NEW PICKLEBALL VENUE
LAUNCHING THIS WEEKEND
10am-5pm **15th -16th NOVEMBER 2025**

Come and try out this fast-growing sport and watch some of England's Top Players perform

The Pickleball SHED
Green Park Business Centre,
Goose Lane, York YO61 1ET

Discover us just 15 minutes north of York. Contact us at info@thepickleballshed.co.uk

Five competition level cushioned acrylic courts

www.thepickleballshed.co.uk

Introduction to Pickleball * Exhibitions * Open Play * Raffle * Refreshments * Free Parking

Some eagle-eyed readers may be able to spot a familiar face on the poster!!

If any child wants to come and try out Pickle Ball for free, Mrs Jones would love to see you there!

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Dates for your Diary

New dates will be added in bold each week

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 25 th November 4pm – 5pm Please spread the word!
PTA Non Uniform Day – wear pyjamas (or our own clothes if you are not keen on pyjamas)! More details to be shared next week.	Friday 28th November
PTA Christmas Film Evening	Friday 28th November 3:15 – 5:15
December 2025	
Tree Decorating Assembly	Monday 1 st December 2025
Flu vaccinations	Tuesday 2 nd December 2025
EYFS and KS1 Nativity	Tuesday 9 th December – Dress Rehearsal Performances for parents and carers on Wednesday 10 th December @ 2pm and Thursday 11 th December @ 2pm
Whole school Christmas Themed DT week	Monday 15 th December – Friday 19 th December 2025
Christmas Jumper Day – Raising money for OSCAR'S	Monday 15th December 2025
Christmas Lunch	Monday 15th December 2025
Visit and Collective Worship led by the Lord Mayor	Wednesday 17th December 2025
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:

Parent Carer Forum Newsletter

SEND Central – Timetable of events - <https://www.yorksend.org/parents/send-central/4>

For children starting school in
September 2026, we invite families to
come and visit our welcoming school.

OPEN EVENT



Growing and learning
together and aiming to be
the best that we can be, in
an environment based on
Christian values

This will be a drop in event where you will
have the chance to see our EYFS area and to
meet staff and ask questions.

DAY	TIME	
NOV 25	4 - 5PM	Dunnington CE Primary School

Inclusive Carol Concert

YIKs 3rd Inclusive Carol Concert takes place on Sunday 7 December 2025 at 1.45pm. Lots
of our SEN children are taking part and it would be wonderful if you could join us.

Tickets are FREE but please prebook them

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/yorkinspirationalkidscic/1846504>

It promises to be a great service.



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Pocklington Town Council

CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Sun 23 Nov | 1–5pm

2025

By the Christmas Tree
(Newly pedestrianised area)

Outside
Judson's

1.00pm	Fun Fair on Railway Street	Lucy's Pop Choir	1–1.30pm	
1.30pm		Garrowby Singers	1.40–2pm	Dangerous Steve
2.00pm				1.45–2.15pm
2.30pm		Pocklington Singers	2.35–2.45pm	
3.00pm		All for One Choir	3–3.45pm	
3.30pm				Dangerous Steve
4.00pm		Malton White Star Band	4–5pm	3.30–4pm
4.30pm				

TOWN CENTRE EVENTS during the Christmas Festival:

Santa's Grotto at Little Bea's

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON
4.30pm around the Christmas Tree



SCAN FOR
MORE INFO

ALSO AT
POCKLINGTON
ARTS
CENTRE
1–4pm

Artisan indoor market
Hand-crafted items by local artists
Christmas café



Full of classic Christmas tunes and original songs, humour, local references and a whole load of festive fun, don't miss this brand new show this winter!

11–23 December



pocklington
arts
centre.co.uk

£16 Adults | £12 Child
£49 Family (max 4)
Ages 5–100



Save the dates

Pocklington's Christmas Festivities 2025

Pocklington Businesses Decorative
Windows Competition
w/c Mon 1 Dec | Town Centre

Christmas Tree Festival
Sat 29 Nov – Wed 10 Dec | All Saints' Church

Carols with the Mayor
Thu 11 Dec | Pocklington's Christmas Tree

Pocklington Lions Relaxed Santa's Grotto
Sun 21 Dec | 10am – 12pm | The Old Courthouse
Email john.eeles@btinternet.com to book

Dowse's Winter Village
Sat 20 – Sun 21 Dec | Town Centre

'Elf Trail'

Sun 23 Nov – Wed 31 Dec

Take part in our FREE
competition!

Collect your entry form at
Pocklington Arts Centre Box
Office and use your detective
skills to track down Rex &
Rosie popping up in local
shop windows.

Drop your completed entry
off at either Pocklington Arts
Centre or Town Council
office on George St.

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FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 5-11

JOIN US AT ARCHBISHOP HOLGATE'S SECONDARY, YORK!!



totalsports

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY CLUBS

OPEN MONDAY 22ND & TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER 8AM-5:30PM

JOIN OUR ARTY | CRAFTY | SPORTY | ADVENTURE | FUN HOLIDAY CLUBS THIS CHRISTMAS AT ARCHBISHOP HOLGATE'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, YORK!!

TOTAL ENERGY PROGRAMME RUNNING - 50+ ACTIVITIES WITH 2 CHOICES EVERY HOUR, IN SPLIT AGE GROUPS!!

TOTAL FOOTBALL PROGRAMME RUNNING - JOIN OUR FA QUALIFIED COACHES ON BOTH DAYS FOR FOOTBALL FUN!!

SWIMMING RUNNING AS PART OF THE ENERGY PROGRAMME ON BOTH DAYS!!

CHRISTMAS THEMED ACTIVITIES - SANTA VISIT, SNOWBALL FIGHT, SNOWMAN DODGEBALL & CRAFTS!!

BOOK NOW, PLACES GO FAST AT ALL VENUES! WWW.TOTALSPORTSLIMITED.CO.UK

