



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 5th December 2025

Dear parent/ carer,

On Monday 1st December, we congregated together for our annual Christmas tree decorating collective worship. Every member of the school is invited to put a bauble on the tree as we sing carols. It is always a magical moment when the hall lights are turned off, the Christmas tree is lit and we share a Christmas story. I am sure you will agree that it looks beautiful.



Christmas Lunch

We would be grateful if you could place any orders for our Christmas Lunch, on the 16th December by Monday 8th December. This will allow our cooks to make sure they order enough food for what is without doubt the most popular meal of the year.

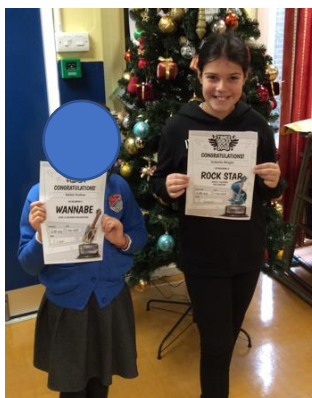
EYFS and KS1 Nativity

It has been wonderful to see and hear snippets of Nativity rehearsals this week – it is going to be so special for all the children involved.

The performance will start at 2.00pm; however, the main door will be open from 1.30pm for all to come and find their seats.

Once the Nativity has ended, parents/ carers in the audience will be invited to take their child home if they would like to. Please collect from the classroom door as normal in this instance.

Congratulations to all the children who have received Numbots/ TTRS certificates this week! Well done for all the work you are putting in at home and school!



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Times Tables Rock Stars – A handy guide for when your child uses the platform at home.

Parent Guide



We recommend a “little and often” approach; 3 minutes practice a day, 4 or 5 times a week is a good target.

What are the different Game Modes?

Single Player

Jamming 4 or 8 coins/correct answer	The only game mode without a timer, players chose the table and operation (x or ÷ or both) they want to practise. Answer 10, 20 or 30 questions.
Gig 10 coins per correct answer	Gig games last 5 minutes and contain up to 100 questions, which come in ‘waves’, starting with the 10s, then the 2s, 5s, 3s, 4s, 8s, 6s, 7s, 9s, 11s and 12s. Novices are not expected to get past the 5s. Gigs provide the child (and their teacher) with a simple measure of their current skills, which is why learners should concentrate fully for the whole Gig as they won’t get another try until next month.
Garage 10 coins per correct answer	Players are given a personalised set of 6 multiplication questions (and their matching division questions) in each round. The questions they get keep adjusting to provide the best fit for every learner’s needs. This is probably the best game made for improving their recall while they’re still learning.
Studio 1 coin per correct answer	Here your child earns their Rock Status, which is based on their Studio Speed. The faster they are the better their status. Studio Speed is the average of their most recent 10 Studio games. Suitable for confident players.
Soundcheck 5 coins per correct answer	Soundcheck games ask 25 multiplication questions (up to 12x12), allowing 6 seconds for each question. Suitable for confident players.

Multi Player

Festival 1 coin per correct answer	Children compete against others from around the world, with their identities protected behind their rock names. Suitable for confident players.
Arena 1 coin per correct answer	Children race against other members of their class who are logged in and choose the same arena name at the same time. Arena games use the same smart question algorithm as Garage games.
Rock Slam 1 coin per correct answer	Players challenge their classmates or teachers to answer as many questions as they can in 60 seconds, setting a score for the challengee to beat. Pupils don’t need to be online at the same time.
Tournaments	<p>Battle of the Bands – groups of children within the same school (usually classes, year groups or teams) compete to have the highest <i>average</i> score per player.</p> <p>Top of the Rocks – like a Battle of the Bands <i>between</i> schools. The winning class or school is the one with the most correct answers per person.</p> <p>Important: Each correct answer (in any game mode) earns 1 point towards the team’s total in addition to the coins earned. For example, in Garage games each correct answer is worth 1 point for the team and 10 coins for the player.</p>

Parent Guide



Learners with different needs

How can I hide the timer?	Start a game and press ⚙ > Hide Practice Clock. You could also play a game in Jamming.
How can I increase the length of Garage games?	Single player > Garage > press the little arrow below "play solo" > choose 1, 2 or 3 minutes.
The tables are too hard	Make sure your child is playing in Garage or Arena game modes. If this does not resolve the issue, please speak to your child's teacher. Remember that Jamming mode allows the child to choose the tables themselves.
My child gets anxious	Try the three above plus: setting mini goals (e.g. complete 2 minutes today, get 1 more point in the next game, pass 1 level); having a break from online play (come back in a couple of days); and reminding them of Baz's words: "A good rock star stays chillaxed by accepting they make mistakes."
My child has visual impairments; what settings are available?	Head to the Profile page where you can: change the colour scheme; reduce the visual stimuli with Declutter mode; increase the font size or switch to a dyslexia-friendly font called Lexie. play.ttrockstars.com is also screen reader compatible.
Can I turn off division?	Yes in Jamming mode but not in the other games. The reason for that is that practising multiplication and division at the same time supports the recall of both and is the most successful approach. If your child is finding division confusing, please speak to their teacher about starting with the 10s only and for advice on how to help at home.

Troubleshooting

My child's coins and/or Studio speed have suddenly dropped	Another child may have logged in as your child. Please reassure your child that this can be rectified. Contact their teacher who can set a new password, refund any coins, delete Studio games and talk to the class about online safety.
My child plays too much	Set firm TTRS time limits; reward healthy choices; take away devices before bed.
My child's name is showing on a school leader board.	Please ask your child's teacher to change the settings at their end so that rock names show on the leaderboards instead of real names.
What does the 🎧 mean?	If this symbol appears over a game tile (e.g. over Garage) it means the teacher has set your child a certain number of minutes to practise in that game mode for homework. Once they complete those minutes the other games unlock.
Is TTRS safe?	Yes. There are no adverts, no in-app purchases nor any chat functions. See more in our Privacy Notice (mathscircle.com/privacy-notice).

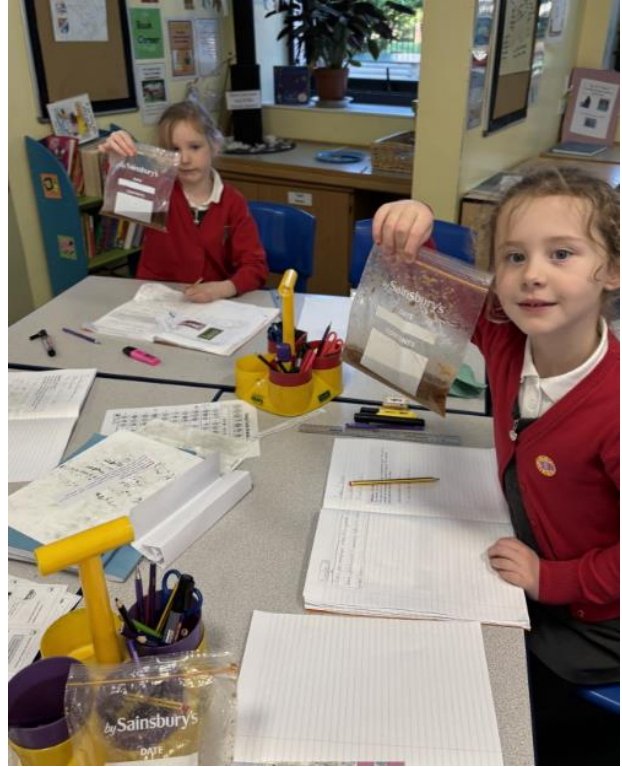
If your child is in year 4, they will sit their multiplication check in the summer term. TTRS have produced a letter explaining how you can use the platform to help your child to be prepared for the check. I will send this out as an attachment to this newsletter.

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Science – Owens Class

In Science, Owens class have been learning about human digestion. In the first lesson we learnt about what happens in our mouths and when we swallow to help digestion. This week we made models of the stomach (a plastic bag.) We added a digestive biscuit and some stomach acid (coca cola) and then we squeezed the bag to replicate the stomach squeezing the food. We remembered lots of difficult scientific vocabulary too.



RESPECT – Well done to the children who have particularly exemplified our values this week.



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Dates for your Diary

New dates will be added in bold each week

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	Tuesday 16 th December 2025
Christmas Lunch	Tuesday 16 th December 2025
Visit and Collective Worship led by the Lord Mayor	Wednesday 17 th December 2025
Christmas Service in St Nicholas Church	Thursday 18 th December 2025 KS1 10 am KS2 11 am
Mrs Bradley's last day before starting her maternity leave	Friday 19th December 2025
Last day of the Autumn Term	Friday 19 th December 2025
January 2026	
First day of the Spring Term – Children return to school	Monday 5th January 2026
Census Day – Please order a school lunch if you can!	Thursday 15th January 2026
Deadline to apply for primary school places	Thursday 15th January 2026
Ambulance service in school	Thursday 15th January 2026
SATS evening for year 6 parents	Tuesday 27th January 2026 @ 5pm
February 2026	
Imam visit	Wednesday 11th February 2026
Last Day of Spring 1	Friday 13th February 2026
Half term	Monday 16th February 2026 – Friday 20th February 2026
First day of Spring 2 – Children return to school	Monday 23rd February 2026
March 2026	
Yoyo Easter visit	Monday 23rd March
Last day of the Spring term for pupils	Thursday 26th March
Inset Day – School closed for pupils	Friday 27th March

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

With very best wishes,

Clare Thompson

Attachments:

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- YLT December Safeguarding Newsletter
- TTRS Multiplication Check Parent Letter
- Raise York Families Newsletter

<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKYC/bulletins/3fddf29>

JOY

DISCOVER CHRISTINGLE

Sunday 7th December

3pm crafts and activities

4pm Christingle service

Everyone is welcome to come along to all or part of the afternoon.
Children must be accompanied by a grown up.
Donations will be collected for the Children's Society

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND