



DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dunnington

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Headteacher: Clare Thompson

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Friday 12th December 2025

Dear parent/ carer,

SIAMS Report

We are delighted to be able to share the finalised SIAMS report following our recent inspection. We are really proud of the report: it is filled with lovely comments and observations that capture our school perfectly. The inspector identified so many strengths and agreed with the areas of development we had identified in our own self-evaluation.

The report states that:

Dunnington Church of England Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church school and is enabling pupils and adults to flourish. It has the following notable strengths.

Notable Strengths

- The Christian vision is at the heart of the school. It enriches daily life; guides decision making and inspires the drive for ongoing development as a Church school.
- The school is an inclusive and caring community where everyone is valued. This drives the work of leaders, including governors and trustees, to support pupils and adults to flourish.
- There is a well-developed and clearly articulated understanding of spirituality. This encourages pupils and adults, regardless of their beliefs, to reflect upon life's experiences and questions.
- Collective worship is valued as important by both pupils and adults and supports their spiritual growth. It is a time of togetherness, peace and thoughtfulness and has a positive impact on the life of the school and individuals.
- Pupils have a strong sense of their responsibility for each other and live out the school values. They demonstrate politeness, tolerance and respect, enthusiastically caring for and serving other people.

Development Points

- Identify and utilise opportunities for spiritual development across the curriculum in order to deepen the spiritual flourishing of pupils.
- Extend opportunities for pupils to consolidate their knowledge and understanding in religious education (RE). This is to enhance pupils' recall of their learning about religions and worldviews.

I have attached the full report to the newsletter – please do take the time to read it if you are able.

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Information for next week!

We know, whilst magical, this time of year is ridiculously busy for everyone. If you are struggling to keep up with any Christmas admin, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

We thought it might be helpful to outline everything that is going on next week to help you to keep on top of things. We have decided to postpone our DT week so that we can focus on it early in the New Year – we didn't want the DT activities to be lost amongst the festivities.

Monday	<p>A normal day!</p> <p>Mrs Pilkington is in all day to continue to ensure a thorough handover and to get to know the children in Yousafzai class.</p>
Tuesday	<p>Christmas Lunch. Children can wear their Christmas Jumpers/ Accessories If you are able to, we would be very grateful if you could make a donation to our school charity, Oscars: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/oscars-xmas-jumper-2025</p> <p>Mrs Pilkington is in all day to continue to ensure a thorough handover and to get to know the children in Yousafzai class.</p> <p>Yoyo in for Collective Worship and workshops with year 4 and 1.</p>
Wednesday	<p>Christmas Party Day – all children are welcome to wear their own clothes – sorry we are late getting this date to you.</p> <p>Lord Mayor Visit and attending Collective Worship.</p> <p>Mrs Pilkington is in all day to continue to ensure a thorough handover and to get to know the children in Yousafzai class.</p>
Thursday	<p>Church Services - The Christmas services will be at 10am for EYFS and KS1 and at 11am for KS2. If you are able to help is to walk to and from church, we would be really grateful – please let your child's teacher know if you are able to help.</p>
Friday	<p>Mrs Bradley's last day</p> <p>Break up for the Christmas Holidays!</p>

Nativity

What a spectacular show Baarmy Bethlehem was!

This week, the children have done three performances – a dress rehearsal to the whole school and two packed performances for parents and carers. We all loved every minute!

The confidence the children showed was so impressive: every line was delivered clearly and expressively. Well done to all the amazing actors in year 1 and 2, the superb dancers from reception and year 1 – we certainly have some funky movers in our midst – and to all the children for their beautiful singing. It was wonderful to see every single child up on the stage having so much fun. It really was joyful!

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers in reception, year 1 and 2, who have worked incredibly hard to put on these performances and to all the parents and carers for providing costumes and learning songs and lines.

Reception, year 1 and year 2 – you are all superstars and we are so proud of you.



School Car Park

A reminder that no one should be cutting through the car park to walk into school. Please use the pedestrian entrances and exits. It is really unsafe for children to be cutting through when cars are possibly entering/ exiting.

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



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Rock Band

We were treated to an amazing rock band performance from one of Wheldrake's School Bands on Thursday morning. They performed two songs for us – the children were transfixed!

Mr Crilley, who runs Bandy Rock School, delivers contemporary music lessons on acoustic and electric guitar, bass guitar, piano, drums and singing for children in years 1 to 6 and then sets up rock bands for children in year 5 and year 6 who have had lessons. He will be based here at Dunnington on Fridays.

We are keen to get a Battle of the Bands with Wheldrake started!

If your child is interested, they should have brought a flier home yesterday with more information.



Join your very own
Rock N' Pop Band!

RUN BY
Mr. Crilley

SCAN TO APPLY

MAIN SPONSOR FOR EASINGWOLD TOWN FC VETS



Well done to the choir who sang to the residents at Grimston Court Care Home last Friday. The residents loved the performance.

Mr Crilley

Multi-Instrumental Music Teacher and Band Tutor around Primary schools in York for over 10 years.

My philosophy...

"I believe in harnessing a child's creative potential through a nurturing approach to teaching with realistic goals suited to each individual."

Mr. Crilley is an experienced multi-instrumentalist primary school music teacher and has been teaching contemporary music lessons on acoustic and electric guitar, bass guitar, piano, drums and in singing around York and North Yorkshire for over ten years.

He has a professional and caring approach supporting the children to build confidence to develop their true potential making sure the children have fun along the way!

Fiona Jefferson
Mum of Alex, Lewis and Max

Andy has taught all three of my sons over the last ten years, in drums, keyboard and electric guitar, individually and in bands. He has a great way with kids, understanding their different learning styles, encouraging them and challenging them in equal measure. His friendly, engaging nature enabled him to foster great relationships with all three very different personalities, resulting in them looking forward to their lessons, creating a relaxed and productive learning environment. Whilst he supports those wishing to formalise their learning by working through their grades, he does not push this onto children, focusing on their enjoyment in playing, allowing them to make their own decisions. My sons have made different choices and have all been able to work towards their individual goals. As a parent, he is a pleasure to welcome him into my home and I would thoroughly recommend him to anyone wishing to learn.

SCAN TO APPLY

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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 15th December – Friday 19th December 2025 Postponed until January
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 Parties – Children welcome to wear their own clothes	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 19 th 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 5 th January 2026
Whole school DT week	Monday 5 th January – Friday 9 th January 2026
Census Day – Please order a school lunch if you can!	Thursday 15 th January 2026
Deadline to apply for primary school places	Thursday 15 th January 2026
Ambulance service in school	Thursday 15 th January 2026
SATS evening for year 6 parents	Tuesday 27 th January 2026 @ 5pm
February 2026	
Imam visit	Wednesday 11 th February 2026
Last Day of Spring 1	Friday 13 th February 2026
Half term	Monday 16 th February 2026 – Friday 20 th February 2026
First day of Spring 2 – Children return to school	Monday 23 rd February 2026
March 2026	
Yoyo Easter visit	Monday 23 rd March
Last day of the Spring term for pupils	Thursday 26 th March
Inset Day – School closed for pupils	Friday 27 th March

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

With very best wishes,

Clare Thompson

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Attachments:

- SIAMS Report
- Parent Carer York Newsletter



Fundraising Collection Of Plastic Tubs from Confectionery Crackers Biscuits



Please drop off **clean, empty**
tubs from biscuits, crackers or
confectionery
THROUGH JANUARY (ONLY)
in the Tower Room of
St Nicholas Church
for a Dunnington GIG volunteer
to feed into the
Tub2Pub fundraiser
for **Macmillan Cancer Support**.

Any questions on this, please e-mail DunningtonGIG@gmail.com .

